



CORIO LARA

CATHOLIC PARISH

Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year B) | 'Gaudete' Sunday
10th March 2024

Persevering through Lent

Lent often begins with a holy excitement, a genuine desire to shed our comforts and attachments and draw closer to Christ. Our foreheads display sombre ash crosses that reflect the quiet resoluteness in our souls.

As the weeks progress, the walk to Calvary often becomes a slow trudge as we inevitably confront our wretchedness. Unexpected circumstances shake our resolve. We joyfully surrendered social media, sweets and coffee, yet now our flesh pines for relief. We are tested in charity by unwanted visitors, difficult people and stressful situations. We fall back into grumbling and gossiping. The early consolations disappear, and prayer is dry and difficult. The silent time we planned with God is disrupted by the incessant chatter of our thoughts. We asked God for spiritual maturity, and much to our dismay, He granted our request. Indeed, we wanted holiness, but only on our terms.

Our failures can sometimes lead to frustration with ourselves. Some will grow discouraged and give up. Some cling to self-will and grit their way through miserably. The saints, however, tell us that victory over sin comes from meekly offering our nothingness to Jesus and fully relying on His transformative grace to heal us.

Father Jacques Phillippe states that "The repeated experience of one's own poverty and misery can sometimes drive a person to abandon the ambition of becoming holy. The remedy is humility, recognition of one's powerlessness, together with *audacious hope and blind faith* in the power and mercy of God".

Each of us will eventually come to know our true condition. We are fickle and proud; woefully inept at loving God and neighbour. This should not surprise us or cause despair. In the wilderness of self-knowledge, Christ meets us, ministering to our hearts and binding up our wounds. Redemption is the balm He offers to those who those who sincerely seek Him.

Let us expect a struggle and we will be better prepared when it comes. One desert monk taught that "*It is by warfare that the soul makes progress*", and it is here saints are made. We can take comfort in the chaos of our lives, our interior turbulence, our natural inclination to rebel. Does not the enemy roar when we take steps towards God? The lifelong journey of sanctification can be sweaty and unglamorous. Habitual sins need repeated washing in the Blood of Christ. Our minds are renewed and reoriented by constant immersion in prayer, Scripture and the Sacraments.

We fight so that we may win Heaven, but we fight not in our own strength. In the end, we are naked and poor, and have nothing but the free will that God gave us. Our weapon, in this season of trial, is simply our Yes- we can repeatedly choose Christ even if we fall, fumble, and don't feel like it. It is our perseverance and humility in the great battle that will ultimately win us His eternal friendship.

Gudrun Philipp, Corio Lara Evangelisation Coordinator

CHURCHES

St Francis Xavier Church, Corio
St Anthony of Padua Church, Lara

ADMINISTRATOR

Fr Marcus Goulding
marcus.goulding@cam.org.au

WEBSITE

www.pol.org.au/corio

PARISH OFFICE

Jasna Brdar | *Parish Secretary*
Tue, Wed, Fri | 10am – 3pm
143 Bacchus Marsh Rd, Corio 3214
T. 03 4212 0791
E. corio@cam.org.au

PERMANENT DEACON

Rev. Royden D'Souza

EVANGELISATION LEAD

Gudrun Philipp

MASS TIMES

Tue. 9.15am | *Corio*
W. 9.15am | *Lara*
Th. 9.15am | *Corio*
F. 9.15am | *Corio*
Sat. 7pm (Vigil) | *Corio*
Sun. 9am | *Lara*
11am | *Corio*

CONFESSIONS

Tue. 7.30pm – 8.30pm | *Corio*
Sun. 8.30am – 8.55am | *Lara*

THE ROSARY

8.50am | Prior to weekday Masses

HOLY HOUR

Tue. 7.30pm – 8.30pm | *Corio*

FIRST SATURDAYS

8.30am Confessions | *Corio*
9.30am Weekday Mass | *Corio*
5.30pm Vietnamese Mass | *Corio*

PRESBYTERY GIVING (1st Collection)

St Francis Xavier Presbytery Account
BSB 083 347
ACC 543 292 126

CHURCH GIVING (2nd Collection)

St Francis Xavier Church Account
BSB 083 347
ACC 674 963 655

Mass Readings

Entrance Antiphon | *Cf. Is 66:10-11*

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

First Reading | *2 Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23*

Responsorial Psalm | *Psalm 136(137):1-6*

R. Let my tongue be silenced if I ever forget you!

Second Reading | *Ephesians 2:4-10*

Gospel Acclamation | *John 3:16*

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
God loved the world so much, He gave us His only Son,
that all who believe in Him might have eternal life.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel | *John 3:14-21*

Communion Antiphon | *Cf. Ps 121, 3-4*

Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together. It is there that
the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, to praise the name of the
Lord.

MASS ROSTER NEXT WEEKEND (16/17 March)

7pm Corio	<i>Reader</i>	Marla Drake
	<i>Prayers</i>	Reno Demicoli
	<i>EMHC</i>	Frank Moloney
9am Lara	<i>Reader</i>	Brian Rainbow
	<i>Prayers</i>	Angela Pearson
	<i>EMHC</i>	Di Whelan
11am Corio	<i>Reader</i>	J. Xuiamco
	<i>Prayers</i>	H-G Xuiamco
	<i>EMHC</i>	Trudy v. d. Hoeven Tony v.d. Hoeven

PLEASE PRAY FOR

The sick: Erminio Perich.

The faithful departed: Andrew Fischer.

Pray for Seminarians! Pray for Vocations!

Parish Notices

HOLY WEEK MINISTRIES – EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST. Readers and Extraordinary Ministers are invited to indicate their availability for the Holy Week ceremonies on the clipboards in the church foyers.

ADJUSTED OFFICE HOURS. Please note that the Parish Office will be closed on Thursdays for the next few weeks to enable us to focus on some behind-the-scenes projects.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY. Celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday on 7/4/2024 at St Francis Xavier. 2pm Holy Hour and Divine Mercy Chaplet. 3pm Holy Mass. 4pm Veneration of Relics. Confessions available from 2pm – 4.30pm. Divine Mercy Sunday Mass fulfills the Sunday obligation.

CORIO WORKING BEE. A big thank you to those who turned out to help on Saturday 9th March!

HOLY WEEK CHOIR. Next rehearsal 7.00pm - 8.30pm Wednesday 13th March at St Francis Xavier Church. New singers welcome.

HOLY WEEK 2024 TIMETABLE. Take a copy home or download a copy from the website.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS & CONFESSION. 7.30pm in St Francis Xavier church every Friday during Lent. The Stations run for approximately 30 minutes and be led by Fr Marcus. Confession available from 7.00pm.

EASTER SUNDAY EGG HUNT – DONATIONS NEEDED. Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held after the 9am Mass at Lara and the 11am Mass at Corio on Easter Sunday, 31st March. Donations of newly-purchased chocolate eggs will be greatly appreciated. Donations can be placed in the basket in the church foyers. For inquiries or offers to assist on the day, contact Gudrun at the Parish Office.

'SPARK' U18 YOUTH GROUP. Open to high-school-aged youth. Next meeting 6.00pm - 8.30pm on Sunday 17th March 2024 in the Xavier Centre. Pizza dinner provided. Donations appreciated. Contact Gudrun for more information: gudrun.philipp@cam.org.au.

CHURCH CAFÉ. Every Sunday after the 11am Mass at St Francis Xavier. First and third Sundays of the month after the 9am Mass at St Anthony of Padua. If you can volunteer your time to help run our Church Café, please contact Gudrun or the Parish Office.

MONTHLY PARISH BBQ AT CORIO. Second Sunday of the month after the 11am Mass at St Francis Xavier from Feb to Nov. We are seeking sponsors to each donate \$200 to cover the cost of one of our ten BBQs for the year. If you can sponsor one of our monthly BBQs, please contact the Parish Office or speak to Fr Marcus.



HERE FOR YOU
Kingsfunerals.com.au
Ph. 5248 3444

OUR PARISH IS COMMITTED TO THE SAFETY AND WELLBEING
OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS