



CORIO LARA

— CATHOLIC PARISH —

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B) Sunday, 21st January 2024

Dear parishioners of Corio and Lara, in this first newsletter for 2024 I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself to you more fully.

Prior to my appointment as Administrator of Corio Lara Parish, I could count the number of times I have visited Geelong on one hand! I am the eldest of three sons to John and Fran. I spent my childhood and teenage years in Melbourne's north-eastern suburbs. Growing up, we moved between Eltham, Bundoora, Macleod and Greensborough. I completed my primary schooling at St Martin of Tours in Rosanna and my secondary schooling at the nearby Viewbank College. During these years, I also studied the Viola and played cricket for Macleod and Ivanhoe cricket clubs. I was an active member of my local parish and altar-served regularly at Mass.

In this Sunday's Gospel, the Lord calls Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John to be his disciples and first priests. Jesus comes to them in the midst of their daily lives and says simply, "Follow me." That invitation first echoed in my heart when I was in grade six. I was serving at Mass and, as the priest elevated the Sacred Host at the Consecration, a question formed in my mind: "I wonder if I could do that?" Instinctively, I sensed that this was a thought introduced by God. By His grace, He drew my attention to the beauty and mission of the Catholic priesthood. He helped me realise that this vocation was a possibility for me, despite my unworthiness.

There are many stories about the years of discernment that followed, and over time I look forward to sharing them with you. The main point is that I never said no to the possibility of the priesthood. In prayer, I surrendered to God's will and resolved that, if He made it clear to me that the priesthood was His will for me, then I would say yes.

I completed year twelve in 2009 and was accepted into Law/Arts at La Trobe University. I deferred that course and eventually abandoned it because I was also admitted to Corpus Christi College as a student for the priesthood at the beginning of 2010. After seven and a half years of formation, I was ordained a priest by Archbishop Hart on the 24th of June 2017, the Solemnity of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist. On my ordination card I placed the words of Saint the Baptist: "He must increase, I must decrease." This phrase captures the essence of the priesthood. I am not a priest for me. I am a priest for you and for Jesus. My mission is to continue Jesus' work of bringing God to humanity and humanity to God. The tools of this mission are the sacraments, the teaching of the Catholic faith, and the forming of a vibrant community of grace.

After my ordination, I served as assistant priest in Box Hill (2017-2020), Altona Meadows (2020), Melton South and Bacchus Marsh (2020-2022), and Keilor Downs (2022-2023). Through the long journey of discernment, formation, and priestly ministry, the good God has led me here, to the parish of Corio and Lara. I am grateful to Archbishop Comensoli for entrusting me with this responsibility and to you for your incredibly warm welcome. Please pray for me as I will pray for you.

Fr Marcus Goulding, Administrator

CHURCHES

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

ADMINISTRATOR

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

PARISH OFFICE

Jasna Brdar | *Parish Secretary*
Tuesday – Friday | 10am – 3pm
143 Bacchus Marsh Rd, Corio 3124
T. 03 4212 0791
E. fxcorio@iinet.net.au
W. www.pol.org.au/corio

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*

THE ROSARY

8.50am | Prior to weekday Masses

HOLY HOUR & CONFESSIONS

Tue. 7.30pm – 8.30pm | *Corio*

FIRST SATURDAYS

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

CONNECT WITH US!

@CorioLaraCatholic



Mass Readings

Entrance Antiphon | Cf. Ps 95:1,6

O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.

First Reading | Jonah 3:1-5,10

Responsorial Psalm | Psalm 24(25):4-6,7b-9

R. Teach me your ways, O Lord.

Second Reading | 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Gospel Acclamation | Mark 1:15

Alleluia, alleluia!

The kingdom of God is near: believe the Good News!

Alleluia!

Gospel | Mark 1:14-20

Communion Antiphon | Cf. Ps 33:6

Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.

UPDATED MASS ROSTER THIS WEEKEND

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 7pm Corio | <i>Comm. Reader</i> EMHC | Larry Pankhurst Larry Pankhurst Frank Maloney |
| 9am Lara | <i>Comm. Reader</i> EMHC | Bernie Hyland B Rainbow Val Brennan |
| 11am Corio | <i>Comm. Reader</i> EMHC | Luka Brdar Lara Mesoga Adela Buaya Mercy Leszyk |

PLEASE PRAY FOR

The faithful departed: John de Philips

The sick:

Pray for Seminarians! Pray for Vocations!

Parish Notices

PARISH OFFICE OPEN. After a restful break, parish secretary Jasna Brdar is back in the parish office. The office will be open Tuesday to Friday from 10am to 3pm.

HOLY HOUR. Please note that, from now on, the Tuesday evening Holy Hour will commence at 7.30pm.

CHANGE OF MASS TIME THIS TUESDAY. On Tuesday 23 January, the weekday Mass at Corio will be held at 8.00am. Fr Marcus will be attending the funeral of Monsignor Gerard Diamond in Melbourne later that day and will therefore be unavailable at 9.15am.

GUDRUN'S NEW ROLE. In the latter part of 2023, Gudrun Philipp began work 6 hours a week as the parish Evangelisation Lead. Commencing 29th January 2024, Gudrun's hours will increase to 20 hours per week. This increase is made possible by a grant from the Archdiocese, initiated by Father Daryl prior to his transfer. Gudrun will assist Father Marcus and the Parish Leadership Team in delivering faith formation for children, teenagers, youth and adults.

ALPHA 2024. After two successful courses in 2023, we are pleased to announce the next Alpha Experience will begin on 12th February 2024. The course will be held on Monday evenings in the Xavier Centre. Registrations are now open via <https://bit.ly/3Z1vlnA?r=qr> or see the notices in the church foyers for more info.

AUSTRALIA DAY 2024. This year, Australia Day (26 Jan) falls on a Friday. If you have the day off work, consider attending our 9.15am weekday Mass at St Francis Xavier Church to pray for our nation. The rosary will be recited at 8.50am.

REOPENING OF CHURCH CAFÉ. After a well-earned break, our café teams at St Francis Xavier and St Anthony of Padua will be back from 3/4 February 2024. A big thank you to everyone involved in making our church cafés such a success.

NEXT MONTHLY SAUSAGE SIZZLE AT CORIO. Our next monthly sausage sizzle at St Francis Xavier will be held after the 11am Mass on Sunday 11th February. Put it in your diary and we hope to see you there! Thank you to the team who provide such wonderful hospitality in our parish.

U18 YOUTH GROUP STARTING SOON. As announced last year, a youth group for high-school age parishioners will launch in February. Father Marcus supports this initiative and will announce more details next weekend.



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Ph. 5248 3444

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