



CORIO LARA

CATHOLIC PARISH

Fourth Sunday of Easter (B) | Good Shepherd Sunday 21st April 2024

The necessity of the Catholic priesthood in God's plan

Our Lord used many images and analogies to help us understand the supernatural and sacred mysteries. On one occasion (John 10), He used the image of sheep-farming. Jesus compares Himself to a good shepherd, His disciples to sheep, and the devil to a hireling or predator.

Jesus describes His shepherding work in terms that remind us of the Catholic priesthood. Good shepherds do three key things: first, they teach their sheep by speaking to them; second, they lead or govern their sheep; third, they give life to their sheep by feeding them and protecting them from harm. In the ancient world, shepherds sometimes had to lead their flocks through the wilderness to find food, but the goal of the shepherd was always to bring the flock to the safety of the sheepfold. Jesus does these things for us. He is our Teacher, He is our life-giving Sanctifier, He is our King. He leads the flock of the Church through the wilderness of this earthly life towards the safe and green pastures of eternal life.

Our Lord appointed the apostles as cooperators with Him in His work of priestly shepherding. From the day of Pentecost onwards, the apostles shepherded the Church in Christ's name: they taught God's truth to the flock, they led the flock towards eternal life, and they administered the supernatural life of Christ's grace to the flock. The apostles then shared this priestly work with other men, the bishops, priests and deacons.

The analogy of sheep-farming teaches us about the very nature of the Catholic Church as Christ established it. In particular, this image emphasizes the vital and essential role of the Catholic priesthood. To put it bluntly, without the shepherd, the sheep are literally dead meat. The same is true for us. Without priests to teach the truth of Christ, administer sanctifying grace, and lead the Church, we are spiritually dead meat.

For this reason, Saint John Vianney, the patron saint of priests, taught his congregation: "What is a priest? A man who holds the place of God – a man who is invested with all the powers of God... [E]verything has come to us through the priest; yes, all happiness, all graces, all heavenly gifts. If we had not the Sacrament of Holy Orders, we should not have our Lord... The priest is not a priest for himself; he does not give himself absolution; he does not administer the Sacraments to himself. He is not for himself, he is for you... The priesthood is the love of the Heart of Jesus. When you see the priest, think of Our Lord Jesus Christ."

Despite the necessity of the priest in the order of salvation, Our Lord is realistic: not all shepherds are good. We know this all too well in our own day. Wicked shepherds serve themselves rather than their sheep. There are priests who use the priesthood and the Church for their own gain, rather than the salvation of souls.

All the more reason, then, to pray for our priests, for the men preparing for the priesthood in our seminary, especially Rhys and Greg, and for more priestly vocations. May more young men from our parish generously offer their lives as Catholic priests, so that we will always have good shepherds to lead us to eternal life.

Fr Marcus Goulding

CHURCHES

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

ADMINISTRATOR

Fr Marcus Goulding
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WEBSITE

coriolaracatholicparish.com.au

PARISH OFFICE

Jasna Brdar | Parish Secretary
Tues, Wed, Fri | 10am – 3pm
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E. corio@cam.org.au

PERMANENT DEACON

Rev. Royden D'Souza

EVANGELISATION COORDINATOR

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 Mass of Saturday | Corio
5.30pm Viet. Vigil Mass | Corio

PRESBYTERY GIVING (1st Collection)

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

CHURCH GIVING (2nd Collection)

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

Mass Readings

Entrance Antiphon | *Cf. Ps 32:5-6*

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

First Reading | *Acts 4:8-12*

Responsorial Psalm | *Psalms 117(118)*

R. The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.

Second Reading | *1 John 3:1-2*

Gospel Acclamation | *John 10:14*

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me! Alleluia!

Gospel | *John 10:11-18*

Communion Antiphon

The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

Next Sunday: Acts 9:26-31 | 1 John 3:18-24 | John 15:1-8

MASS ROSTER NEXT WEEKEND 27th & 28th April 2024

7.00pm Corio	<i>Reader</i> EMHC	Bec Watson Reno Demicoli
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9.00am Lara	<i>Reader</i> EMHC	Ana Cesar Sarah Jackson
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11.00am Corio	<i>Reader</i> EMHC	Kim Tancio Adela Buaya Vicky Neri
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PLEASE PRAY FOR

The sick:

The faithful departed: Natalina De Giorgio

Pray for vocations to the priesthood!

Seminarians: Rhys Lowther, Greg Lewis

Parish Notices

PRESENCE: THE MYSTERY OF THE EUCHARIST. 7pm-9pm in the Xavier Centre over four Thursdays, commencing Thursday 2nd May 2024. Registration essential. Register at coriolaracatholicparish.com.au/formation or by phone at the Parish Office. Course costs \$30 to cover the workbook. Join Fr Marcus for this series that will explore Catholic teaching on the Eucharist, the biblical foundations of the Eucharist, and the place of the Eucharist in our lives.

SUNDAY ROSARY IN MAY. The rosary will be prayed 30 minutes before the 9am and 11am Sunday Masses throughout May to honour the month of Our Lady. In preparation, rosaries will be blessed and distributed at the 9am and 11am Masses next Sunday 28th April. We thank the parishioners who have donated the rosaries. Come and join in praying the rosary before Mass for the needs of the world, the parish, and your family.

TRAINING SESSION FOR CURRENT AND NEW READERS. The session will provide training for reading God's Word at Mass. New readers are most welcome. Readers should be comfortable in front of large crowds and should be able to read English clearly and competently. All current readers who want to continue reading at Mass are required to attend. The same training will be offered on two different dates. Attend whichever suits.
Readers Training Session at Corio | 9.30am Saturday 11th May 2024
Readers Training Session at Lara | 9.30am Saturday 18th May 2024

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SEEKING DONATIONS. Our parish St Vincent de Paul Conferences are seeking donations of long-life food items for their regular hamper distribution. If you can pick up an extra item or two during your next shop, drop them into the large boxes in the foyer of each church.

SACRAMENT PREPARATION FOR CHILDREN ATTENDING NON-CATHOLIC SCHOOLS. For more information and to enrol, visit coriolaracatholicparish.com.au/children.

'SPARK' U18 YOUTH GROUP. Open to high-school-aged youth. Next meeting 6.00pm - 8.30pm on Sunday 14th April 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.

PARISH BBQ. Second Sunday of the month after the 11am Mass at Corio. Next BBQ on Sunday 12th May.

SATURDAY SUPPER. Third Saturday of the month after the 7pm Vigil Mass at St Francis Xavier. Next Supper on 20th April.



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

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