



CORIO LARA

CATHOLIC PARISH

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

28th July 2024

What is the deal with the fish?

Did you know that Jesus performed the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes *exactly* one year before the Last Supper? Saint John tells us that the Last Supper was held “before the Feast of the Passover,” (John 13:1). As we hear today, Saint John describes the multiplication of loaves and fish as occurring at exactly the same time, just one year earlier: “Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand,” (John 6:3).

There are other connections between this miracle and the Last Supper. At the miracle, Jesus is sitting on mountain; at the Last Supper, Jesus is sitting on a mountain (Jerusalem is built on Mount Sion). At the miracle, Jesus commands the crowds to “sit down” to eat; at the Last Supper, Jesus commands the apostles to sit down to eat.

Saint John continues to describe the miracle in precisely the same way that the other Gospel writers describe the Last Supper. Saint John tells us that, at the miracle, Jesus first “took the loaves (of bread), gave thanks, and gave them out” (Jn 6:11). At the Last Supper, Jesus “took bread,” “gave thanks,” and “gave it to his disciples,” (Mt 26:26-27; Mk 14:22-23; Lk 22:19).

There is one significant difference between the miracle of the multiplication and the Last Supper. During the miracle, there is fish but no wine. During the Last Supper, there is wine but no fish. What’s the deal with the fish?

This is a question I have pondered a lot over the years. It seems to me that there are two reasons for the fish. First, fish is a type of meat or “flesh”. By multiplying fish with the bread, Jesus is building a connection in the minds of the crowds between bread and flesh. After the miracle of the multiplication, Jesus gives a long sermon explaining the miracle. We will hear that sermon over the next four Sundays. During the sermon, Jesus explains that he will soon give a different type of bread, bread that is his “flesh”. No wonder, then, that Jesus says of the bread at the Last Supper: “This is my body.”

From what I can tell, the second reason for the fish is this: fish are forms of life that live in water. Throughout the Old Testament, water refers to new life. Passing through the waters of the Flood, Noah and his family begin a new life. Passing through the waters of the Red Sea, the Israelites also begin a new life. This is also why we use water in Baptism. Water gives life on a natural level, so it is used by God as a sign and instrument of the gift of the spiritual life of grace. Now fish are living creatures that live in water. In other words, the fish also represents “life”.

In the early church, the fish became a symbol for Jesus. The Greek word for fish (ICHTHUS) became an acronym for “Iesus Christus Theou Uios” (Jesus Christ, the Son of God). This is because the early Christians understood the real meaning of the fish from the miracle of the multiplication. The fish, with its “flesh” and “life,” is a symbol for Jesus’ “flesh” and “life”.

To put it simply, the fish explains the meaning of the bread. The fish tells us that the bread will become the flesh and life of Jesus at the Last Supper.

Fr Marcus Goulding, Administrator

CHURCHES

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

ADMINISTRATOR

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WEBSITE

coriolaracatholicparish.com.au

PARISH OFFICE

Jasna Brdar | *Parish Secretary*
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PERMANENT DEACON

Rev. Royden D’Souza

EVANGELISATION COORDINATOR

Gudrun Philipp

SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Sat. 5pm (Vigil) | *Corio*
Sun. 9am | *Lara*
11am | *Corio*

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Tue. 5.30pm | *Corio*
Wed. 9.15am | *Lara*
Th. 9.15am | *Corio*
Fri. 9.15am | *Lara*
Sat. 9.15am | *Corio*

CONFESSIONS

Tue. 7.30pm–8.30pm | *Corio*
Sat. 8.45am–9.10am | *Corio*
4.30pm–4.55pm | *Corio*
Sun. 8.30am–8.55am | *Lara*

THE ROSARY

Weekdays | 25 mins prior to Mass
Sunday | 10.30am (Corio)

HOLY HOUR

Tue. 6.00pm – 7.00pm | *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



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Mass Readings	<i>Oremus pro invicem</i>
Entrance Antiphon Cf. Ps 67: 6-7, 36 God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people. First Reading 2 Kings 4:42-44 Responsorial Psalm Psalm 144(145):10-11,15-18 R. The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs Second Reading Ephesians 4:1-6 Gospel Acclamation Luke 7:16 Alleluia, Alleluia! My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me. Alleluia! Gospel John 6:1-15 Communion Antiphon Ps 102:2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits. NEXT WEEK: Exodus 16:2-4,12-15 Eph 4:17,20-24 John 6:24-35	The sick Prue Richmond Batty Amber Molloy The faithful departed Richard Nieuwenhuizen Don Watson Wanda Iskierka Seminarians Rhys Lowther Greg Lewis

MASS ROSTER 27 TH & 28 TH JULY 2024		MASS ROSTER 3 RD & 4 TH AUGUST 2024	
5.00pm Corio	<i>Welcome</i> Volunteer <i>Reader</i> Ken McCarthy <i>EMHC</i> Reno Demicoli	5.00pm Corio	<i>Welcome</i> Lani <i>Reader</i> Frank Moloney <i>EMHC</i> Larry Pankhurst
9.00am Lara	<i>Welcome</i> Tracey/Josh & Jen <i>Reader</i> Jo-Anne Dean <i>EMHC</i> Sarah Jacksons	9.00am Lara	<i>Welcome</i> Johanna <i>Reader</i> Anna Cesar <i>EMHC</i> Di Whelan
11.00am Corio	<i>Welcome</i> Luka & Gabe <i>Reader</i> Chris Kenworthy <i>EMHC</i> Merci Leszyk Johnny Gundayo	11.00am Corio	<i>Welcome</i> Elena, Jalil & family <i>Reader</i> Mary Salazar <i>EMHC</i> Tony van der Hoeven Trudy van der Hoeven

Parish Notices

PLEASE DESTROY OLD STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES. All envelope givers are requested to use the NEW weekly envelopes. Please discard any old envelopes.

FORMATION FLYERS. A stand featuring pamphlets on faith topics has been installed in St Francis Xavier foyer. The flyers are free, but please only take one at a time. If you would like to financially support this initiative, donate using the QR code on the front of the bulletin.

PARISH TRIVIA NIGHT FUNDRAISER. Save the date! Our trivia night will be held at 7pm on Saturday 12th October in the Xavier Centre. This event aims to raise much needed funds for the Parish.

SACRAMENT PREPARATION FOR CHILDREN ATTENDING NON-CATHOLIC SCHOOLS. Enrolments for the Confirmation course close on 9th August. To enrol, visit coriolaracatholicparish.com.au/children.

FORMED SUBSCRIPTION AVAILABLE. Access our parish subscription at coriolaracatholicparish.com.au/formed.

CHILDREN'S CATECHESIS. After school catechesis will be offered later this year for children Grade 2-6. This is a structured and fun program aimed to enhance the existing faith and formation of children. Please submit expressions of interest at www.coriolaracatholicparish.com.au/catechesis. Please book early as spaces are limited.

'HEARTS FOR CHRIST' YOUNG ADULTS GROUP. Ages 18-30. Launching Tuesday 13th August at Corio. 6pm Holy Hour, 7pm Dinner, 7.45pm Bible Study. Contact Gudrun to express interest.

'SPARK' U18 YOUTH GROUP. Open to high-school-aged youth. Next session is Sunday 4th August 6.00pm - 8.00pm in the Xavier Centre. Contact Gudrun for more information.

THINKING OF BECOMING CATHOLIC? Our next RCIA formation course for adults interested in becoming Catholic starts in September. Register at www.coriolaracatholicparish.com.au/rcia.

CHURCH CAFÉ. Every Sunday after the 11am Mass at Corio. 1st & 3rd Sundays after the 9am Mass at Lara.

PARISH BBQ. 2nd Sunday of the month after the 11am Mass at Corio. Next BBQ is Sun 11 August. **If you can sponsor one of our parish BBQs (\$200) please contact the Parish Office.**

SATURDAY SUPPER: Resumes Sat Aug 17th after 5pm Corio Mass. 3rd Saturday of each month. Bring a plate.



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

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