



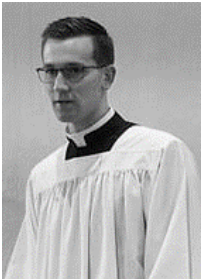
CORIO LARA

CATHOLIC PARISH

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

11th August 2024

Lara's own Rhys Lowther speaks to Melbourne Catholic



In his first year at Corpus Christi College, the diocesan seminary for Victoria and Tasmania, Rhys Lowther was sent to visit a nursing home. There, he got to know an old nun, who gave him a copy of *True Devotion to Mary* by St Louis de Montfort. 'She looked me in the eye,' Rhys remembers, 'and said, "The priesthood of Jesus was formed in the womb of Mary. You'll never have a priestly heart unless you allow Mary to form it in you."'

From his high-school years, Rhys knew that he wanted to enter the seminary. As he grappled with the 'big questions' in life—'Is there meaning to life? What is my place in the world?'—he started attending Mass and getting involved in the life of the Church, especially through the sacrament of Confession. 'That marked a big time for me,' Rhys says. '[It] led me to have a more personal relationship with Our Lord.'

It became clearer to Rhys that God was preparing him for something. 'God was working in my life,' Rhys says, 'preparing me to give myself to the mission of the Church ... He was asking me to be a priest and to serve him as a priest.'

In his discernment, Rhys found—and continues to find—great inspiration in the life of St John Mary Vianney, the 'Curé of Ars' and patron saint of parish priests. 'I always think, "He is not a saint because he converted the town of Ars; he converted the town of Ars because he is a saint."' For Rhys, St John Vianney exemplifies the qualities that lie at the heart of priestly life: 'the overflow of our union with Christ, our desire for holiness and, ultimately, being a saint, which is something applicable to all states of life'.

Now in his fifth year as a seminarian, Rhys is currently doing his pastoral year at St Peter's Parish in Epping. This time spent in the parish serving the needs of God's people has helped him understand more about priestly fatherhood. 'Seeing the way God's people invite me into their lives has been incredibly humbling,' he says, observing that it has allowed him to take on 'a very privileged role that is greater than what I am ... My presence reminds them of God—and not just God, but God as Our Father, who is present to us.'

Rhys hopes that by being truly present to God's people in the parish he might 'remind them that God is present to them, that God loves them, that God is their father, and that he is very interested in them and is calling them to be holy and to become saints.' The ministerial priesthood, he believes, 'is there to empower the priesthood of the baptised and their call to holiness and, through the sacraments, give them the necessary grace to become saints.'

Rhys likens the image of the priestly father to that of the pelican piercing its side to feed its young—an image that appears on the seminary's crest. A crucial element of seminary life, he says, is 'learning how to suffer. Without that, I could never be a good priest, because the priesthood of Our Lord is shown on the cross; it's at its fullest on the cross.'

Rhys is aware of how important the prayers of others are in his journey towards the priesthood. To those who pray faithfully for seminarians, he says, 'I just want to say thank you.' – *Written by Andrea Cano Botero*

CHURCHES

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

ADMINISTRATOR

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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



SCAN TO DONATE

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Mass Readings	<i>Oremus pro invicem</i>
Entrance Antiphon Cf. Psalm 73:20,19,22,23 Look to your covenant, O Lord, and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever. Arise, O God, and defend your cause, and forget not the cries of those who seek you.	The sick Brian Harris Augustine Joseph
First Reading 1 Kings 19:4-8 Responsorial Psalm Psalm 33(34):2-9 R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.	The faithful departed Patricia Hagebols
Second Reading Ephesians 4:30-5:2 Gospel Acclamation John 6:51 Alleluia, Alleluia! I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord; whoever eats this bread will live for ever. Alleluia!	Seminarians Rhys Lowther Greg Lewis
Gospel John 6:41-51 Communion Antiphon Psalm 147:12,14 O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord, who gives you your fill of finest wheat.	 HERE FOR YOU Kingsfunerals.com.au Ph. 5248 3444
NEXT WEEK: Proverbs 9:1-6 Eph 5:15-20 John 6:51-58	

MASS ROSTER 10 TH & 11 TH AUGUST 2024		MASS ROSTER 17 TH & 18 TH AUGUST 2024	
5.00pm Corio	<i>Welcome</i> Becky <i>Reader</i> Bernard Lewis <i>EMHC</i> Marian Delac	5.00pm Corio	<i>Welcome</i> Elnore & family <i>Reader</i> Lani Victoria <i>EMHC</i> Reno Demicoli
9.00am Lara	<i>Welcome</i> Pedro & Jen <i>Reader</i> Val Brennan <i>EMHC</i> Lorraine Kulic	9.00am Lara	<i>Welcome</i> Bree <i>Reader</i> Rosanna Vasquez <i>EMHC</i> Di Saliba
11.00am Corio	<i>Welcome</i> Luma & family <i>Reader</i> Luka Brdar <i>EMHC</i> Adela Buaya Vicky Neri	11.00am Corio	<i>Welcome</i> Merry <i>Reader</i> Lara Mesoga <i>EMHC</i> Merci Leszyk Johnny Gundayo

Parish Notices

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION: THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION. Thursday 15th August is a Holy Day of Obligation in celebration of Our Lady's Assumption into heaven. On this day, Catholics are obliged to attend Mass in the same way they are obliged to attend Sunday Mass. Two Masses will be offered on this day: 9.15am Mass at St Francis Xavier Corio and 7.30pm Mass at St Anthony of Padua Lara. Confessions will be available from 7pm at Lara. Please remember to fast from food one hour before Mass.

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.**

'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.

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

'SPARK' U18 YOUTH GROUP. Open to high-school-aged youth. Next session is Sunday 18th August 6.00pm - 8.00pm in the Xavier Centre. Contact Gudrun for more information.

CORIO WORKING BEE. Can you help look after our parish? Come along from 10am - 12.30pm on Saturday 24th August to lend a hand. Tasks include: cleaning the Xavier Centre kitchen, cleaning gutters, garden maintenance, planting new garden beds, moving furniture. Advise the parish office of your attendance and skills.

MARIAN MOVEMENT OF PRIESTS GEELONG CENACLE. Celebrate the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday 7th September at St Francis Xavier Corio. Commences with 9.15am parish Mass, then a Marian procession and fellowship. Contact Lina Tancio 0411 839 827.

PARISH TRIVIA NIGHT. 7pm, Saturday 12th October in the Xavier Centre. \$20 tickets. 18+ only. \$1000 prize for winning table. Amazing auction items. Book now at www.corioaracatholicparish.com.au/trivia.

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

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

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