



CORIO LARA

— CATHOLIC PARISH —

The Nativity of the Lord 25th December 2025

SUMMER WEEKDAY MASS & CONFESSION SCHEDULE. From 26/12/25 to 30/1/26, all Masses on Tuesdays (Corio), Wednesdays (Lara), Thursdays (Corio) and Fridays (Lara) will be at 5.30pm, with confession available from 5pm.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE. The Parish Office will close at midday on Christmas Eve and reopen at 10am on Tuesday 13th January.

NO MASS ROSTERS FROM 26/12 TO END OF JANUARY. If you can volunteer as a reader or extraordinary minister at Sunday Masses, please speak to Fr Marcus before Mass.

NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS. Confession will be available from 5.00pm and Mass will be offered at 5.30pm at St Anthony's on New Year's Eve. The *Te Deum* hymn will be recited at the end of Mass in thanksgiving for the Lord's blessings over the year. A plenary indulgence is available to those practice this devotion.

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS. Confession will be available from 5.00pm and Mass will be offered at 5.30pm at St Francis Xavier on New Year's Day (the Solemnity of the Mother of God). The *Veni Creator Spiritus* hymn will be recited at the end of Mass to ask the Lord's blessings for the coming year. A plenary indulgence is available to those who practice this devotion.

EPIPHANY CHALK BLESSING. Chalk will be blessed and distributed at Mass on Sunday 4th January 2026. Parishioners are encouraged to use the chalk and associated prayers to bless their homes.

SEÑOR SANTO NINO FIESTA. Saturday 17th January 2026 at St Francis Xavier. 10.30am Procession, 11.00am Mass. There will be no 9.15am Mass that day. See the flyer for details about the Santo Nino novena.

SACRAMENT OF FIRST RECONCILIATION APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED. Our preparation program for children in grade 3 and above who do not attend our Parish schools will commence on Wednesday 28th January 2026 from 4.30 to 6.00pm at St Anthony's, Lara. Children must have been baptised Catholic, or received into the Catholic Church, to attend. Please refer to our Parish website to obtain an application form or contact the Parish Office. Enrolments close Friday 16th January.

CHURCHES

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

PARISH PRIEST

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

PERMANENT DEACON

Rev. Logona Tu'ui

WEBSITE

coriolaracatholicparish.com.au

PARISH OFFICE

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

SUNDAY MASS TIMES

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

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES (SUMMER)

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

CONFESSIONS (SUMMER)

Tue. - Fri. 5.00pm-5.25pm
Tue. 6.00pm-7.00pm | 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 8.30am (Lara)
10.30am (Corio)

HOLY HOUR

Tue. 6.00pm – 7.00pm | Corio

LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP NOVENA

Wed. 5.00pm | 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

PLEASE TAKE THE BULLETIN HOME

Christmas Greetings from Fr Marcus

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The celebration of the birth of the Lord Jesus reminds us that Jesus is God's greatest gift to us. He is our Saviour, who redeems us from sin, sustains us by grace through His Church, and offers us eternal life. Jesus reveals that God is not aloof and distant from us; rather, He draws close to us because He loves us. The Lord Jesus is the center and life of our parish. Together, it is Him we love and serve.

It is important to take a moment to give thanks to God for the many blessings He has showered upon our parish over the course of the year.

The year began with the news that Deacon Royden D'Souza would be bringing his appointment at Corio and Lara to a conclusion due to the birth of his first grandchild. In February, Dee Arends and Johanna Crooks commenced as our parish catechists, preparing children for the sacraments. Thanks to a generous donation, we acquired a new organ and built a new choir area at St Francis Xavier Church.

Our Lenten devotions were enriched by new Stations of the Cross at St Francis Xavier Church. The beautiful Holy Week ceremonies culminated in Taryn, Michael, Angelica, Rebecca, Josh and Cruz becoming Catholic at the Easter Vigil.

At the start of April, Archbishop Comensoli appointed me parish priest of Corio and Lara. At the end of April, we learned of the death of Pope Francis. Over several evenings, our parishioners gathered to pray for the cardinals in conclave. On the 8th of May, the first north American pope was elected—Cardinal Robert Prevost—who took the name Pope Leo XIV.

In June, Bishop Martin Ashe celebrated Mass installing me as parish priest, after which a wonderful celebratory dinner was held at the Shell Club. We also welcomed the appointment of Deacon Logona Tuii to the parish. In July, much-needed renovations to the presbytery were commenced.

Around that time, our next Alpha course commenced under the leadership of Ken and Rita McCarthy. Pleasingly, several of the Alpha participants continued into RCIA. Around fourteen adults in total are preparing for reception into the Catholic Church at Easter 2026.

In August, we held our second consecutive Trivia Night, so well-organized by our new Social

Committee. The proceeds from the Trivia Night, together with other generous donations, helped us install new air-conditioning in St Francis Xavier Church.

In September, we celebrated Fr Daryl's 10th anniversary of ordination as a priest.

In October, the sanctuary at St Anthony's was reconstructed. This project was supported by generous donations of cash and timber from parishioners. Through October and November, around forty parishioners participated in a seven-week bible study on Mary, held in the Xavier Centre.

On 1st November (All Saints Day), the parish was blessed to host the ordination of Rhys Lowther as deacon. St Anthony's was full to overflowing as priests and people from across the Archdiocese came to support Rhys. The ordination lunch in MacKillop Hall was a wonderful success thanks to the mountains of food supplied by parishioners. The year concluded with the exciting news that Josie Ringdal, one of our RCIA candidates who attends the 9am Sunday Mass at Lara, won the major prize in the Combined Catholic Parishes Raffle—a new Kia Picanto!

The day to day activities and life of the parish is only made possible thanks to our army of generous volunteers and donors, including those who have helped in the following areas: gardening and maintenance, catechesis and youth formation, setting up for Mass, reading at Mass, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, visiting the sick, arranging flowers, altar serving, music at Mass, collecting and counting, catering and serving at Church Café, the parish BBQ and Saturday Supper. My gratitude also goes to the volunteers at Bay Leaf, St Vincent de Paul and the Legion of Mary for their dedication to the spiritual and material needs of people in our community. I am also grateful to my secretary Jasna Brdar, as well as the members of the Mission Team, Finance Committee and Social Committee, who have helped guide the life of the parish over the year.

Finally, I thank each and every one of you for your prayerful and generous participation in the life of the parish. I wish all of you a most happy and holy Christmas!

Sincerely,

Fr Marcus Goulding PP

