



# CORIO LARA

CATHOLIC PARISH

24/01/2026 | 50TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR | 24/01/2027

## Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 February 2026

### *The Poor in Spirit*

The first of the Beatitudes proclaimed by Jesus is 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven'. This is the source of all the other; it contains them all, as a seed contains a plant. What does this spiritual poverty consist of? I would say it is a form of freedom, *the freedom to receive and to give everything freely.*

There is a humility that comes from suffering, in which we experience our limits, our weakness, and become progressively humble. But there is another source of humility, far deeper and radical: the experience of God. Such an encounter with the living God destroys all pride: in knowing God in His power and majesty, we understand that we are nothing compared to Him. There is no real humility except participating in divine humility, which is revealed to us so perfectly in Christ, especially in His obedience and humiliation on the Cross. We are all capable of false modesty. We must, as St Paul says, put on the humility of Christ.

Poverty means being truthful before God. Realizing our radical limitations as creatures, our total dependence on His love. It also means recognizing our condition as sinners who so badly need his mercy and pardon. This realization brings about humility and repentance, but never sadness or discouragement. Hope in infinite mercy must always accompany one's consciousness of sin, for without this hope we have not entered the fullness of truth.

To be poor in relation to God means recognizing that everything is given us as a free gift of His mercy. All we have, all we are, all the good we accomplish is given us, and we can never boast of it. We tend to make ourselves the owners of God's gifts, for example, by using the good we accomplish to make a little pedestal for ourselves to stand on, judging others and thinking ourselves superior to them! When we are poor of heart, we are always grateful. We consider nothing as ours by right, and so we consider all the good in our lives as a gift, and this feeds our gratitude. True humility has nothing to do with sadness. On the contrary, it is a source of joy, the joy of receiving everything freely from the hand of God and thanking Him for it.

Why are we so strongly inclined to use God's gifts to inflate our ego? This comes from our psychological need for recognition. This is a legitimate need, but seeking glory in our good works is not the legitimate way and never works. I am a child of God, freely loved and receiving all His mercy. The only real riches are God's infinite love for us. We save ourselves many torments if we give up constantly looking in the mirror, asking ourselves if we are or aren't worthy, fretting what others think of us, and instead look only to God. To be poor in spirit means having nothing, being nothing on one's own, but receiving everything, fully realizing the complete beneficence of God's gifts, which we could never deserve. Paradoxically, this is the source of freedom and happiness.

*Excerpt from 'The Eight Doors of the Kingdom,' by Fr Jacques Philippe, Scepter 2018 (Edited)*

#### CHURCHES

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

#### PARISH PRIEST

Fr Marcus Goulding

#### PERMANENT DEACON

Rev. Logona Tu'ui

#### WEBSITE

[coriolaracatholicparish.com.au](http://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](mailto:corio@cam.org.au)

#### 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. 5.00pm-5.25pm | Corio  
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 (1<sup>st</sup> Collection)

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

#### CHURCH GIVING (2<sup>nd</sup> Collection)

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

---

# Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

---

## Entrance Antiphon | Ps 105: 47

Save us, O Lord our God And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.

## Collect

Grant us, Lord our God, that we may honour you with all our mind, and love everyone in truth of heart. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

## First Reading | Zephaniah 2:3,3:12-13

Seek the Lord, all you, the humble of the earth, who obey his commands. Seek integrity, seek humility: you may perhaps find shelter on the day of the anger of the Lord. In your midst I will leave a humble and lowly people, and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge in the name of the Lord. They will do no wrong, will tell no lies; and the perjured tongue will no longer be found in their mouths. But they will be able to graze and rest with no one to disturb them.

## Responsorial Psalm | Psalm 145(146):6-10

**R. Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!**

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R.**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. **R.**

It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. **R.**

## Second Reading | 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Take yourselves for instance, brothers, at the time when you were called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense of the word, how many were influential people, or came from noble families? No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen – those who are nothing at all to show up those who are everything. The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: *if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord.*

## Gospel Acclamation | Matthew 5:12

Alleluia, alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad; your reward will be great in heaven.

Alleluia!



**formed**<sup>™</sup>  
Forming Catholics for *Life*.

## The Martyrs | Littlest Saints

When a young Christian girl is arrested and imprisoned in ancient Rome, she hears stories of martyrs like St. Catherine of Alexandria and St. Lawrence the Deacon—will she find the strength to make the ultimate sacrifice for her faith?

For free access to our parish subscription to FORMED, visit [coriolaracatholicparish.com.au/formed](http://coriolaracatholicparish.com.au/formed).

# Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Gospel | Matthew 5:1-12a

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them: 'How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage. Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted. Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied. Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them. Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God. Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God. Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

## Prayer over the Offerings

O Lord, we bring to your altar| these offerings of our service: be pleased to receive them, we pray, and transform them into the Sacrament of our redemption. Through Christ our Lord.

## Communion Antiphon | Cf. Ps 30: 17-18

Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in your merciful love. O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

## Prayer after Communion

Nourished by these redeeming gifts, we pray, O Lord, that through this help to eternal salvation true faith may ever increase. Through Christ our Lord.

*Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible are published and copyright © 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Hodder & Stoughton and Doubleday, a division of Random House, Inc, and used by permission of the publishers. Text of the Psalms: Copyright © 1963, The Grail (England). Used with permission of A.P. Watt Ltd. All rights reserved. The English translation of the Psalm Responses from "Lectionary for Mass" © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation (ICEL). Excerpts from the English translation of "The Roman Missal" © 2010, ICEL. All rights reserved.*

THIS WEEK   31st Jan & 1st Feb 2026		NEXT WEEK   7th & 8th February 2026	
5.00pm   Corio	Welcome Reader Becky Watson VOLUNTEER	5.00pm   Corio	Welcome Reader VOLUNTEER Bernard Lewis
9.00am   Lara	Rosary Welcome Reader Legion of Mary Koekemor Family Ana Cesar	9.00am   Lara	Rosary Welcome Reader Georgio Romagnoli Pedro & Jen Jo-Anne Dean
11.00am   Corio	Rosary Welcome Reader EMHC Diane Vine Luka & Kual Gudrun Philipp Tony V.D. Hoeven Trudie V.D. Hoeven	11.00am   Corio	Rosary Welcome Reader EMHC T & T V.D. Hoeven Maricar & Lara Luka Brdar Vicki Neri Mercy Leszyk
<i>Oremus pro invicem</i>			
<b>The sick</b> Ken McCarthy	<b>The faithful departed</b> Geoff Gayner	<b>Seminarians</b> Rev. Rhys Lowther Greg Lewis	 <b>HERE FOR YOU</b> <a href="http://www.kingsfunerals.com.au">www.kingsfunerals.com.au</a> 03 5248 3444

---

# Parish Noticeboard

---

## NEWS & EVENTS

**MASS & CONFESSION SCHEDULE.** Weekday Mass times return to the normal schedule from Tuesday 3rd February. See the front of the newsletter or the parish website for Mass and Confession times.

**WE ARE HIRING—PARISH FINANCE OFFICER.** We are looking to hire an enthusiastic and capable finance officer. The role is for 3 hrs per week permanent part time. Familiarity with Xero accounting software and bookkeeping qualification/experience preferred. Apply here: [www.coriolaracatholicparish.com.au/apply](http://www.coriolaracatholicparish.com.au/apply).

**WE ARE ESTABLISHING A COLLECTORS ROSTER—CAN YOU HELP?** From March, we are going to be rostering the collectors for the Saturday night and Sunday Masses. If you are happy to help take up the collections at Mass, please put your name and contact information on the Expression of Interest form in the foyer.

**ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES.** Ash Wednesday falls on Wednesday 18th February 2026. On Ash Wednesday, there will be a 9.15am Mass at St Anthony's (Lara) and a 7.30pm Mass at St Francis Xavier (Corio). Confessions will be heard from 7.00pm.

**SOUP & STATIONS—LENT STATIONS OF THE CROSS.** On Fridays in Lent a soup dinner will be available at 6.00pm in the Xavier Centre. Stations of the Cross will follow at 7.00pm in St Francis Xavier Church. The first Soup & Stations will be held on Friday 20th February. All welcome! Thanks to the Legion of Mary for providing the soup.

**MASS ROSTER FOR FEBRUARY NOW AVAILABLE.** Please pick up your copy from the sacristies.

**CHURCH CAFÉ—VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.** Would you like to be part of our parish's wonderful hospitality team? We are looking for a new team to run the Corio Church Café on the 1st Sunday of each month. Tasks include setting up, serving, and cleaning up. Catering is provided each month by another parishioner. Instructions will be provided, no previous experience necessary. If you can assist or would like more information, please contact the Parish Office.

---

## KIDS, YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

**LITTLE DISCIPLES PARISH PLAYGROUP.** Meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays following 9am Sunday Mass at St Anthony's church. Contact Angelica 0422 585 223 or Dee 0430 302 969.

**CHILDREN'S CATECHESIS.** Supporting the faith formation of primary-school-aged children. Fridays at 4pm in the Ron Lowe Room during school term. Restarting Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February.

**U18 YOUTH GROUP: 'SPARK'.** For high-school-aged youth. 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month from 6pm - 8pm in the Xavier Centre, includes dinner. Next meeting Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February. Donations welcome.

**YOUNG ADULTS GROUP: 'HEARTS FOR CHRIST'.** Ages 18-30. 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month from 7pm to 8.30pm in St Francis Xavier church foyer. Next meeting Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February.

---

## FORMATION

**FORMED SUBSCRIPTION.** Discover amazing Catholic media content and learn about your faith with FORMED. Access our free parish subscription at [coriolaracatholicparish.com.au/formed](http://coriolaracatholicparish.com.au/formed).

---

## FELLOWSHIP

**CHURCH CAFÉ.** 1st & 3rd Sundays after 9am Mass at Lara. Every Sunday after 11am Mass at Corio. Resuming Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February.

**PARISH BBQ.** Second Sunday of each month following 11am Mass at Corio. Resuming Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February.

**SATURDAY SUPPER.** Third Saturday of each month following the 5pm Vigil Mass at Corio. Next supper Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February. Bring a plate to share.

---