



# CORIO LARA

CATHOLIC PARISH

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

## Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

8 February 2026

### *Being Light in a World full of Darkness*

Pope Saint John Paul II's apostolic exhortation *Christifideles Laici* (1988), meaning the *Laitly Faithful to Christ*, calls lay people to be engaged in the sanctification of the world and to accept the teaching of Jesus to be both light and salt. Salt gives flavour and preserves from corruption. Light casts out not only shadows, but darkness. How can each of us be the light of Christ in the world?

**1. FIRST COME AND THEN GO.** For us to go out to preach, and teach, and convert souls, we must first come to Christ. We must form a deep friendship with Jesus. If we sincerely desire to bring the wandering and lost sheep home to the arms of the Good Shepherd, we have to first experience a deep union with the Good Shepherd.

**2. STUDY.** Many adult Catholics had their last religious formation as teenagers or children. Physically and intellectually their formation is complete, but their spiritual formation was stunted at a juvenile level at best. We must make a concerted effort to study our faith seriously, methodically, orderly and systematically. Study the *Catechism of The Catholic Church!* If we can master the major concepts in the CCC then we have a solid foundation on which to build a sturdy spiritual edifice.

**3. SPIRITUAL DIRECTION.** We all have spiritual, moral, and catechetical blind spots. One of the benefits of competent, methodical, and efficacious Spiritual Direction is that through the help of a spiritual guide we are able to perceive ourselves with greater honesty and clarity.

**4. READ THE SIGNS OF THE TIME.** We have to be keenly aware of the social and political milieu. Presently, we must address attacks against human life from conception to the last moments of life. A well-educated Catholic must respond with answers on how to defend the basic building blocks of society. By uniting prayer, study, and proper spiritual direction with an astute awareness of current happenings, we can respond responsibly according to God's law.

**5. DROP THE NETS IN YOUR BACKYARD.** Each one of us should prayerfully look at where God has placed us, then drop the nets and reap the harvest. For many, family is the first missionary field. We should beg the Lord for the grace to see how we can draw family closer to Him. If it is not possible to evangelize by word, then we can do so by our lives. Punctuality, honesty, and hard work performed with joy could be the most efficacious means to evangelise. Is there a friend or colleague who shows openness to God? Time to drop the net for a big catch. We should all have a daring desire to talk about the Lord Jesus and invite a wandering and lost soul to meet Him. And especially to pray for the many who are in danger of being lost for eternity. Ultimately it is up to each person to accept or reject Jesus' offer of salvation. But let us not fail to do our part in being the light of Christ for the salvation of souls.

Adapted from <https://catholicexchange.com/being-light-in-a-world-full-of-darkness/> by Fr. Ed Broom OMV.

#### 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

coriolacatholicparish.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

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

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## Entrance Antiphon | Ps 94: 6-7

O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.

## Collect

Keep your family safe, O Lord, with unfailing care, that, relying solely on the hope of heavenly grace, they may be defended always by your protection. 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 | Isaiah 58:7-10

Thus says the Lord: Share your bread with the hungry, and shelter the homeless poor, clothe the man you see to be naked and do not turn from your own kin. Then will your light shine like the dawn and your wound be quickly healed over. Your integrity will go before you and the glory of the Lord behind you. Cry, and the Lord will answer; call, and he will say, 'I am here.' If you do away with the yoke, the clenched fist, the wicked word, if you give your bread to the hungry, and relief to the oppressed, your light will rise in the darkness, and your shadows become like noon.

## Responsorial Psalm | Psalm 111(112):4-9

**R. A light rises in the darkness for the upright.**

He is a light in the darkness for the upright:  
he is generous, merciful and just.  
The good man takes pity and lends,  
he conducts his affairs with honour. **R**

The just man will never waver:  
he will be remembered for ever.  
He has no fear of evil news;  
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord. **R**

With a steadfast heart he will not fear;  
open-handed, he gives to the poor;  
his justice stands firm for ever.  
His head will be raised in glory. **R**

## Second Reading | 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

## Gospel Acclamation | John 8:12

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
the man who follows me will have the light of life.

Alleluia



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Forming Catholics for *Life*.

## Beloved | Trailer

Beloved uncovers the mystery and the meaning of the sacrament of marriage. What if marriage is more than you think it is? What if God has woven into the very fabric of your humanity a purposeful need and desire that can only be fulfilled in your marriage? Beloved invites all couples to experience firsthand the wonder, mystery, and joy behind that first "I do" ... whether you said it last year or many years ago.

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# Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

## Gospel | Matthew 5:13-16

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men. 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'

## Prayer over the Offerings

O Lord, our God, who once established these created things to sustain us in our frailty, grant, we pray, that they may become for us now the Sacrament of eternal life. Through Christ our Lord.

## Communion Antiphon | Cf. Ps 106: 8-9

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.

## Prayer after Communion

O God, who have willed that we be partakers in the one Bread and the one Chalice, grant us, we pray, so to live that, made one in Christ, we may joyfully bear fruit for the salvation of the world. Through Christ our Lord.

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## WE PRAY FOR THOSE RECEIVING THE LIFE OF GOD IN BAPTISM THIS MONTH

Hendrix, Harvey, Elby

THIS WEEK   7th & 8th February 2026		NEXT WEEK   14th & 15th February 2026	
5.00pm   Corio	Welcome VOLUNTEER Reader Bernard Lewis	5.00pm   Corio	Welcome Baello Family Reader VOLUNTEER
9.00am   Lara	Rosary Georgio Romagnoli Welcome Jen Reader Jo-Anne Dean	9.00am   Lara	Rosary Bernie Hyland Welcome Angelica Jones Reader Elisa Ballesteros
11.00am   Corio	Rosary T & T V.D Hoeven Welcome Maricar & Lara Reader Ivy Parkinson EMHC Vicki Neri Mercy Leszyk	11.00am   Corio	Rosary LOM/Augustino Welcome Dayla & Yara Reader Lara Mesoga EMHC Mercy Leszyk Johnny Gundayao

## *Oremus pro invicem*

**The sick**  
Pedro Pegan

**The faithful departed**  
Jeanette Egan  
Fr Leo Donnelly

**Seminarians**  
Rev. Rhys Lowther  
Greg Lewis



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www.kingsfunerals.com.au  
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# Parish Noticeboard

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**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.corioharacatholicparish.com.au/apply](http://www.corioharacatholicparish.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.

## NEWS & EVENTS

**PROJECT COMPASSION: LET'S UNITE AGAINST POVERTY THIS LENT.** Donation envelopes and boxes will be available from Ash Wednesday.

**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.

**FORMING FAITHFUL FAMILIES: CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT IN FAITH.** Parish families are invited to come together for an afternoon of prayer, fellowship and formation on Sunday 22nd February 2026. The afternoon will begin with BYO lunch at 12.30pm in the Xavier Centre. At 1.30pm, former principal and RE curriculum writer Dr Gerard O'Shea will speak to us about the stages of childhood development in faith. The afternoon will close with the rosary at 2.30pm. Free childcare available.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2026.** 11am on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March at St Anthony's church. This year's theme country is Nigeria and the struggles of Christians there. We are hosting this year's service for the Christian churches of Lara; a planning meeting will be held at 10am on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February. Contact Val Brennan 0437 132 049 if you can assist or for more information.

**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.

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**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.

## KIDS, YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

**CHILDREN'S CATECHESIS.** Supporting the faith formation of primary-school-aged children. Fridays at 4pm in the St Francis Xavier Church Foyer 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.

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## FORMATION

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## 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. If you would like to sponsor a monthly BBQ from May to December 2026 please contact the Parish Office.

**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.