



CORIO LARA

CATHOLIC PARISH

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

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time 15 February 2026

Preparing for Lent: A Season of Spiritual Warfare

The holy season of Lent commences this week with Ash Wednesday. The forty days of Lent are to be a time of intensified penance that leads up to the annual celebration of the Lord's Death and Resurrection.

Penance is the way we change our hearts, uprooting our inclinations toward sin and giving deeper roots to our love of God. We all suffer from the spiritual wound of concupiscence. Our hearts are unruly and do not perfectly love God. Even when we follow God's law, we sometimes wish we could disobey God or have things our own way. This unruliness, which is present in us from birth, and remains in us even after Baptism, is aggravated by personal sin. Concupiscence makes itself felt through the pride of life (disordered love of self), lust of the eyes (disordered love of created goods, whether people or possessions), and lust of the flesh (disordered love of bodily pleasure). This unruliness limits both the effectiveness of God's grace in our lives and our ability to love God.

Followers of Jesus must do battle every day against their inner unruliness in order to grow in love for God. Catholics aged 14 years or older are obliged to do some specific form of penance every Friday of the year (unless it is a solemnity).

Nevertheless, during Lent, we put extra effort into changing our hearts and should strive to do penance every day, not just on Fridays. During Lent, Jesus gives us extra graces to help and sustain our practices of penance. At the same time, we should not be surprised if the Devil tries harder to discourage us during this season.

The three key weapons of penance are prayer, self-denial and almsgiving. These are the instruments we must use to change our hearts. Prayer heals the pride of life, self-denial heals the lust of the flesh, and almsgiving heals the lust of the eyes. We should choose penances that focus on areas in us that we know need attention.

Examples of prayer include attendance at weekday Mass, family prayer, visiting a church or cemetery, reading the Bible, making the Stations of the Cross, attending Eucharistic Adoration, or praying the rosary. Examples of self-denial include not eating meat, not eating sweets or desserts, giving up entertainment/screens/phones, not listening to music or the radio. Examples of almsgiving include visiting the elderly or sick, making food for someone, doing acts of service, giving money to the poor (such as through Project Compassion).

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of intense penance. On those days, Catholics aged 14 or older must abstain from meat, and Catholics aged 18-60 must fast. Fasting means eating at most only one main meal, as well as two smaller meals that, together, do not amount to a main meal. If possible, the Good Friday fast should continue until the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday.

The schedule for Ash Wednesday and Stations of the Cross are available on the back of the bulletin.

Fr Marcus Goulding, Parish Priest

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
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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 (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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Entrance Antiphon | Cf. Ps 30: 3-4

Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

Collect

O God, who teach us that you abide in hearts that are just and true, grant that we may be so fashioned by your grace as to become a dwelling pleasing to you. 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 | Ecclesiasticus 15:16-21

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

Responsorial Psalm | Psalm 118(119)

R. Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

They are happy whose life is blameless,
who follow God's law!
They are happy who do his will,
seeking him with all their hearts. **R.**

You have laid down your precepts
to be obeyed with care.
May my footsteps be firm
to obey your statutes. **R.**

Bless your servant and I shall live
and obey your word.
Open my eyes that I may see
the wonders of your law. **R.**

Teach me the demands of your statutes
and I will keep them to the end.
Train me to observe your law,
to keep it with my heart. **R.**

Second Reading | 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: *the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.* These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

Gospel Acclamation | Cf Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

Gospel | Matthew 5:17-37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, not one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps



formed
Forming Catholics for Life.

Whole 40: Making a Spiritual Plan for Lent

Sit down with Dr. Ben Akers and Dr. Elizabeth Klein to discuss the purpose of the season of Lent, how to prepare for it, and why it is such a fruitful season in our life of faith.

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them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven. 'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven. 'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: *You must not kill*; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny. 'You have learnt how it was said: *You must not commit adultery*. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell. 'It has also been said: *Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal*. But I say this to you: everyone who

divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery. 'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: *You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord*. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

Prayer over the Offerings

May this oblation, O Lord, we pray, cleanse and renew us and may it become for those who do your will the source of eternal reward. Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon | Cf. Ps 77: 29-30

They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

Prayer after Communion

Having fed upon these heavenly delights, we pray, O Lord, that we may always long for that food by which we truly live. Through Christ our Lord.

THIS WEEK 14th & 15th February 2026		NEXT WEEK 21st & 22nd February 2026	
5.00pm Corio	Welcome Baello Family Reader VOLUNTEER	5.00pm Corio	Welcome Becky Watson Reader Frank Moloney
9.00am Lara	Rosary Bernie Hyland Welcome Angelica Jones Reader Elisa Ballesteros	9.00am Lara	Rosary John Cook Welcome Dee & Zion Arends Reader Rochelle Martis
11.00am Corio	Rosary LOM/Augustino Welcome Dayla & Yara Ramzi Reader Lara Mesoga EMHC Mercy Leszyk Johnny Gundayao	11.00am Corio	Rosary Luce Rasic Welcome Aleena & Marianne Reader Kim Tancio EMHC Vicki Neri Johnny Gundayao
<i>Oremus pro invicem</i>			
The sick Pedro Pegan	The faithful departed Sagaya Sargunam	Seminarians Rev. Rhys Lowther Greg Lewis	HERE FOR YOU www.kingsfunerals.com.au 03 5248 3444

Parish Noticeboard

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.

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

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.corioaracatholicparish.com.au/apply.

WE ARE ESTABLISHING A COLLECTORS ROSTER—CAN YOU HELP? From March, we will roster 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.

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. Begins 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 about the stages of childhood development in faith. We will close with the rosary at 2:30pm. Free childcare available.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2026. 11am on Friday 6th 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 11th February. Contact Val Brennan 0437 132 049 if you can assist or for more information.

LITTLE DISCIPLES PARISH PLAYGROUP. Meets on the 2nd & 4th 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 St Francis Xavier Church Foyer during school term.

U18 YOUTH GROUP: 'SPARK'. For high-school-aged youth. 2nd & 4th Sundays of each month from 6pm - 8pm in the Xavier Centre, includes dinner. Next meeting Sunday 22nd February. Donations welcome.

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP: 'HEARTS FOR CHRIST'. Ages 18-30. 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of each month from 7pm to 8.30pm in St Francis Xavier church foyer. Next meeting Tuesday 24th Feb.

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

PARISH BBQ. Second Sunday of each month following 11am Mass at Corio. 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 21st February. Bring a plate to share.

NEWS & EVENTS

KIDS, YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

FORMATION

FELLOWSHIP