



CORIO LARA

CATHOLIC PARISH

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

First Sunday of Lent (A)

22 February 2026

Few Love the Cross of Jesus

Jesus has many lovers of His Heavenly Kingdom, but few willing to bear the cross. He has many who desire comfort, but few of tribulation. He has many companions of His table, but few to share His fast. All wish to rejoice with Him, few will suffer for Him. Many follow Him to the breaking of the bread, but few to His passion. Many love Jesus so long as they have no adversity and receive consolations from Him. But if Jesus hides and leaves them a little while, they complain or become excessively dejected. Others though, love Jesus for His own sake and not for any comfort, bless Him both in consolation or anguish of heart, always praise and give Him thanks. How much the pure love of Christ is able to do, when not tainted by self-interest or self-love! Where can one be found who desires to serve God for nothing?

If a man gives all he owns, it is nothing; if he do great penance, it is yet little; if has all knowledge, he is still far off, if he have great virtue, there is still much lacking, and especially, the one thing that is most necessary. And what is that? That having left all things, he completely renounce himself and be emptied of all self-love. Then, when he has done all that he knows ought to be done, let him think he has done nothing, let him in truth consider himself an unprofitable servant. No one is indeed richer than such a man; none more powerful or free, than he who knows how to leave himself, and all things, and put himself in the lowest place.

To many this seems a hard saying: "*Deny thyself, take up thy cross and follow Me,*" but it will be much harder to hear that final word: "*Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire.*" Those who willingly hear the word of the cross and follow it now, shall not then fear eternal condemnation. Then all who during life conformed themselves to Christ Crucified, will confidently draw near to Christ, the judge. Why, then, do you fear to take up the cross when through it you can win a kingdom? In the cross is salvation and life; protection from enemies, heavenly sweetness, strength of mind, joy of spirit, height of virtue and perfect sanctity, Take up your cross, therefore, and you shall enter eternal life. Jesus has gone before you carrying His cross, and upon it He died for you, that you may also bear your cross and die with Him. If you die with Him, you will also live with Him, and if you share His suffering, you shall also share His glory.

It is not man's natural inclination to bear and love the cross, to chastise the body and bring it to subjection, to flee honours, to be willing to suffer reproaches, to despise self and wish to be despised, to bear all adversity and loss, to desire no prosperity in this world. On your own you can do nothing- but if you trust in the Lord, strength will be given you from heaven and the world and the flesh will be made subject to your word. Neither shall you fear the devil, if you are armed with faith and signed with the cross of Christ. Set yourself, then, like a good and faithful servant of Christ, to bear courageously the cross of your Lord, who was crucified for love of you.

From The Imitation of Christ, by Thomas A Kempis (edited) 1417-1418

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
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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. 6.00pm | 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

First Sunday of Lent (A)

Entrance Antiphon | Cf. Ps 90: 15-16

When he calls on me, I will answer him;
I will deliver him and give him glory,
I will grant him length of days.

Collect

Grant, almighty God, through the yearly observances of holy Lent, that we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ and by worthy conduct pursue their effects. 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 Genesis 2:7-9,3:1-7

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being. The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden. Now the serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death."' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

Responsorial Psalm | Psalm 50(51):3-6,12-14,17

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin. **R.**

My offences truly I know them;
my sin is always before me
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done. **R.**

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **R.**

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise. **R.**

Second Reading | Romans 5:12-19

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law. Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that



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he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these' he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says: *You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.*' Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

Gospel Acclamation | Matthew 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Prayer over the Offerings

Give us the right dispositions, O Lord, we pray, to make these offerings, for with them we celebrate the beginning of this venerable and sacred time. Through Christ our Lord.

Gospel | Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says: *Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.*' The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God' he said 'throw yourself down; for scripture says: *He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.*' Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: *You must not put the Lord your God to the test.*' Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed

Communion Antiphon | Mt 4: 4

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

Prayer after Communion

Renewed now with heavenly bread, by which faith is nourished, hope increased, and charity strengthened, we pray, O Lord, that we may learn to hunger for Christ, the true and living Bread, and strive to live by every word which proceeds from your mouth. Through Christ our Lord.

THIS WEEK 21st & 22nd February 2026		NEXT WEEK 28th Feb & 1st March 2026	
5.00pm Corio	Welcome Reader Becky Watson Frank Moloney	5.00pm Corio	Welcome Reader VOLUNTEER Becky Watson
9.00am Lara	Rosary Welcome Reader John Cook Dee & Zion Arends Rochelle Martis	9.00am Lara	Rosary Welcome Reader Legion of Mary Koekemor family Ana Cesar
11.00am Corio	Rosary Welcome Reader Luce Rasic Aleena & Marianne Kim Tancio EMHC Mercy Leszyk Vicky Neri	11.00am Corio	Rosary Welcome Reader Diane Vine Ivy P & Tom O Gudrun Philipp EMHC Mercy Leszyk Johnny Gundayao

Oremus pro invicem

The sick
Pedro Pegan

The faithful departed
Bridget Moloney, Sr Mary Padua Gleeson, Elizabeth Gleeson, Chaiel Balcombe, Dana Brdar, Leonila Baron, Antonio Romero

Seminarians
Rev. Rhys Lowther



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Parish Noticeboard

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.

STATUE OF OUR LADY HOME VISITS. Provided by the Legion of Mary, parishioners can host the statue for one week in their homes. Bookings will be taken after the 9am and 11am Masses this Sunday 22nd February in both Church foyers.

NEWS & EVENTS

PROJECT COMPASSION: LET'S UNITE AGAINST POVERTY THIS LENT. Donation envelopes and boxes are available from both Church foyers.

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.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2026. 11am on Friday 6th March at St Anthony's Church. An ecumenical service for the Churches of Lara, theme country is Nigeria. As hosts, we are providing a lunch after the service. Your assistance with savoury and sweet food would be greatly appreciated on the day. Please fill in the clip board in the Lara church foyer or contact Val Brennan for more information 0437 132 049.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION ENROLMENTS NOW OPEN. This preparation course is available for children in Grade 6 or above who do not attend a Catholic school. Visit the Parish website for more info.

PARISH BBQ SPONSORSHIPS NOW BEING TAKEN. If you would like to sponsor a monthly BBQ from May to December 2026 please contact the Parish Office.

KIDS, YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

LITTLE DISCIPLES PARISH PLAYGROUP. 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.

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.

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

FELLOWSHIP

PARISH BBQ. Second Sunday of each month following 11am Mass at Corio. Next BBQ 8th March.

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