



CORIO LARA

CATHOLIC PARISH

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

Third Sunday of Lent (A) 8 March 2026

Archdiocesan Synod convoked by Archbishop Comensoli

This Sunday, Archbishop Comensoli will convoke an Archdiocesan Synod. The Synod is being convoked in fulfillment of a pledge made by the bishops at the Plenary Council to hold local synods in their dioceses within five years of the completion of the Council.

There is much talk in the Catholic Church these days about so-called 'synodality', so it is important to begin by clarifying what the Archdiocesan Synod is and what it is not.

Canon Law defines and regulates a diocesan synod. In Canons 460 and following, we read: "A diocesan synod is a group of selected priests and other members of the Christian faithful of a particular church who offer assistance to the diocesan bishop for the good of the whole diocesan community... The diocesan bishop alone convokes the synod... The only legislator in a diocesan synod is the diocesan bishop; the other members of the synod possess only a consultative vote."

The Archdiocesan Synod, therefore, is not a platform to change divinely revealed truths or universal ecclesial practices, nor is it an ideological or political platform. The Archdiocesan Synod exists strictly to advise the Archbishop on matters of local governance nominated by him. It is entirely under his authority and at his service.

Thus, in his pastoral letter announcing the Synod, Archbishop Comensoli explains: "The purpose of this Synod is to help shape our evangelical and missionary priorities for the years ahead. It will be a time for our local Church to listen attentively to the Holy Spirit and to discern how we are called to proclaim the Gospel more faithfully in our time and place."

The Archbishop goes on to specify the three "themes" which he will put before the Synod members: (i) young discipleship; (ii) missionary leadership; (iii) formation and participation.

The task of governing and guiding the Archdiocese is both a privilege and responsibility, entrusted to the Archbishop by Christ through the Pope. It is commendable that the Archbishop is seeking the assistance and input of the clergy and faithful of the Archdiocese in these three areas.

Dates for Synod's sessions and details of the Synod's membership are yet to be announced.

I conclude with the words of the Archbishop: "As we begin this journey, I entrust our Archdiocese to Mary, Mother of the Church... May she guide us to be a Church that listens with faith, loves with generosity, and follows Christ with renewed confidence and hope."

Fr Marcus Goulding PP

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

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. 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

Third Sunday of Lent (A)

Entrance Antiphon | Cf. Ps 24: 15-16

My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

First Reading | Exodus 17:3-7

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' the Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

Responsorial Psalm | Psalm 94(95):1-2,6-9

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. **R.**

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us:
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. **R.**

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **R.**

Second Reading | Romans 5:1-2,5-8

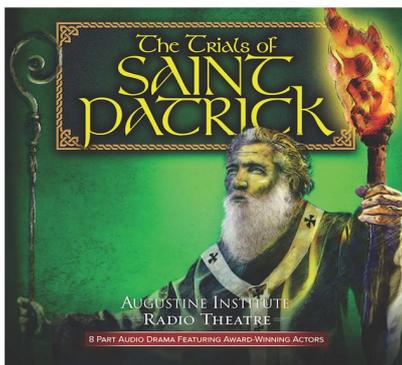
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. And this hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Gospel Acclamation | Cf John 4:42. 15

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel | John 4:5-42

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied: 'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.' 'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied: 'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.' 'Sir,' said the woman 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water.' 'Go and call your husband' said Jesus to her 'and



formed
Forming Catholics for Life.

The Trials of Saint Patrick

The Trials of Saint Patrick, a powerful journey through hardship, loss, mercy, and forgiveness. With skilled actors and cinematic elements, this captivating story comes to life, stirring the imagination and sparking inspiration.

For free access to our parish subscription to FORMED,
visit coriolaracatholicparish.com.au/formed.

Third Sunday of Lent (A)

come back here.' The woman answered, 'I have no husband.' He said to her, 'You are right to say, "I have no husband"; for although you have had five, the one you have now is not your husband. You spoke the truth there.' 'I see you are a prophet, sir' said the woman. 'Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know: for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come - in fact it is here already - when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshiper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah - that is, Christ - is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.' At this point his disciples returned, and were surprised to find him speaking to a woman, though none of them asked, 'What do you want from her?' or, 'Why are you talking to her?' The woman put down her water jar and hurried back to the town to tell the people. 'Come and see a man who has told me everything I ever did; I wonder if he is the Christ?' This brought people out of the town and they started walking towards him. Meanwhile, the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, do have something to eat; but he said, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples asked one another, 'Has someone been bringing him food?' But Jesus said: 'My food is to do the will of the one who sent me, and to complete his work. Have you not got a saying: Four months and then the harvest? Well, I tell you: Look around you, look at the fields; already they are white, ready for harvest! Already the reaper is being

paid his wages, already he is bringing in the grain for eternal life, and thus sower and reaper rejoice together. For here the proverb holds good: one sows, another reaps; I sent you to reap a harvest you had not worked for. Others worked for it; and you have come into the rewards of their trouble. 'Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done', so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

Communion Antiphon

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.

WE PRAY FOR THE CHILDREN RECEIVING THE LIFE OF GOD IN THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM THIS MONTH

Caitlin, Audrey, Evie, Allie, Rylee, Kade

| THIS WEEK 7th & 8th March 2026 | | NEXT WEEK 14th & 15th March 2026 | |
|----------------------------------|--|---|---|
| 5.00pm Corio | Welcome Reader VOLUNTEER Ken McCarthy | 5.00pm Corio | Welcome Reader VOLUNTEER Frank Moloney |
| 9.00am Lara | Rosary Welcome Reader Georgio Romagnoli Jen Rossana Vasquez | 9.00am Lara | Rosary Welcome Reader Bernie Hyland Angelica Jones Val Brennan |
| 11.00am Corio | Rosary Welcome Reader EMHC T & T V.D Hoeven Lara & Maricar Luka Brdar Tony V.D Hoeven Trudie V.D. Hoeven | 11.00am Corio | Rosary Welcome Reader EMHC LOM/Augustino Dalya & Yara Ivy Parkinson Mercy Leszyk Vicki Neri |
| <i>Oremus pro invicem</i> | |  | |
| The sick Pedro Pegan | The faithful departed Cindy Cheung | Seminarians Rev. Rhys Lowther | HERE FOR YOU www.kingsfunerals.com.au 03 5248 3444 |

Parish Noticeboard

NEWS & EVENTS

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. All welcome! Thanks to the Legion of Mary for providing the soup.

MASS TIME CHANGE TUES 17th MARCH. On Tuesday 17/03/2026 (St Patrick's Day), Mass will be offered at 7.00pm instead of 5.30pm. This change enables Fr Marcus to attend a meeting in Melbourne. Holy Hour and Confessions will be available from 6.00pm-7.00pm as usual.

CHOIR REHEARSALS FOR HOLY THURSDAY, GOOD FRIDAY, EASTER VIGIL. There Choir rehearsals for the Holy Week ceremonies will be held at St Francis Xavier church at 7.30pm Friday 13th March, 7.30pm Friday 27th March, and 7.00pm Wednesday 1st April. All parishioners are welcome to come and join the choir for Holy Week.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2026. A big thanks to anyone who helped in any way during World Day of Prayer at St Anthony's last Friday, including the school who gave us access to MacKillop Hall. Your assistance and presence on the day were much appreciated.

EASTER SUNDAY EASTER EGG HUNT DONATIONS. Donations of eggs and chocolates are welcome; baskets will be placed in both Church foyers from next weekend.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY 12TH APRIL. 2.00pm Holy Hour with Chaplet. 3pm Mass. 4.00pm Veneration of Relic of St Faustina. Confessions available from 2.00pm-4.30pm.

PROJECT COMPASSION. Donation envelopes and boxes are available from the church foyers.

LENT RETREAT FOR MEN. St Bernard's Bacchus Marsh are hosting a Lent retreat for men on Saturday 14th March. Register: coriolaracatholicparish.com.au/lent-men

LENT RETREAT FOR WOMEN. St Bernard's Bacchus Marsh is hosting a Lent retreat for women on Saturday 21st March. Register: coriolaracatholicparish.com.au/lent-women

PARISH BBQ SPONSORSHIPS WELCOME. 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. Second & fourth 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. Second and fourth Sundays of each month from 6pm - 8pm in the Xavier Centre, includes dinner. Next meeting Sunday 22nd March. Donations welcome.

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

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.

FELLOWSHIP

CHURCH CAFÉ. First and third 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. Next BBQ Sunday 12th April.

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