



# CORIO LARA

CATHOLIC PARISH

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

## Fourth Sunday of Lent (A) 15 March 2026

### *Rejoice, Jerusalem!*

Uninterrupted sorrow is just as hard for man as uninterrupted joy. Who knows this better than the "mistress of psychology, Mother Church? She, therefore, inserts into this "season of affliction" a day of rest and joy" that we may have relief by the comfort of God's grace" (collect). Her altars are adorned with flowers, her chants perfumed with the music of the organ, her ministers clothed in the "dalmatic of joy," of a colour which unites the *purple* of the forty penitential days with the *white* of the fast-approaching fifty Paschal days. "*Laetare, Jerusalem,*" and so she rejoices today with all her children. Joy is the keynote of the Mystical Body. Did not God's angel say so on the birthday of its divine Head? "I bring you tidings of great joy that shall be to all the people." "*Laetare, Jerusalem!*" These two words are a message, a powerful reminder that, where the Holy Ghost operates and where souls co-operate with Him, there also must be joy, which is a fruit of the Holy Ghost.

Why is it that Christians often are so joyless? They act as though they were not redeemed, as though they were not branches of Him who is the cause and fountain of all joy. They walk as children of the "bond woman," the Testament of fear, when in reality they should live as sons and daughters of the "free woman," the Church of love, our Jerusalem, our Mother at whose eucharistic breasts of consolation we drink the joyous "liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free". True, our whole life is a texture of sorrows and joys. Good Fridays and Easter days accompany us on our journey to the land of perennial Easter. But as there is no Good Friday without the assurance that "by the wood of the Cross joy has come into the whole world," so in the soul of a true Christian there is no sorrow bereft of the joy that will come from living faith, strong hope and sincere love: a joy ever sustained and increased by that wonderful Bread which Christ's loving hand multiplies for us in this desert of life.

How strikingly this truth is shown forth by the rose which our holy Father blesses on this day. Does not this queen of all flowers crown a stem of many thorns? Sorrows and joys! Such was the life of our Lord. Thirty-three years filled with thorns of sorrows until on the stem of the Cross He bloomed like a glorious rose filling the whole world with the fragrance of redemption and life. So it must be in the life of His followers, who are not greater than "the First-born among many brethren." Remember the station of today: Holy Cross! By the wood of this Cross joy has come into the world, into your heart also. Endure the thorns of life courageously. *Super-naturalize* them. The rosebud of joy is opening more and more until it reaches its perfection on the day when you will be able to chant: "*I rejoice at the things that were said to me: we shall go into the house of the Lord,*" we shall now make our glorious "introit" into the eternal Jerusalem. Then there will be no more thorns, only the rose of celestial fragrance, the rose that grew out of a thorn-clad rod of sorrow, blooming to your joy and to the joy of Him who by His precious blood obtained for you an unending "*Laetare Jerusalem.*"

—By Martin Hellriegel, *Vine and Branches*, Pio Decimo Press, 1948 (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. 6.00pm | *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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# Fourth Sunday of Lent (A)

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## Entrance Antiphon | Cf. Is 66: 10-11

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

## First Reading | 1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him: God does not see as man sees: man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

## Responsorial Psalm | Psalm 22(23)

*R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me,  
to revive my drooping spirit. **R.**

He guides me along the right path;  
he is true to his name.

If I should walk in the valley of darkness  
no evil would I fear.

You are there with your crook and your staff;  
with these you give me comfort. **R.**

You have prepared a banquet for me  
in the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing. **R.**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me  
all the days of my life.

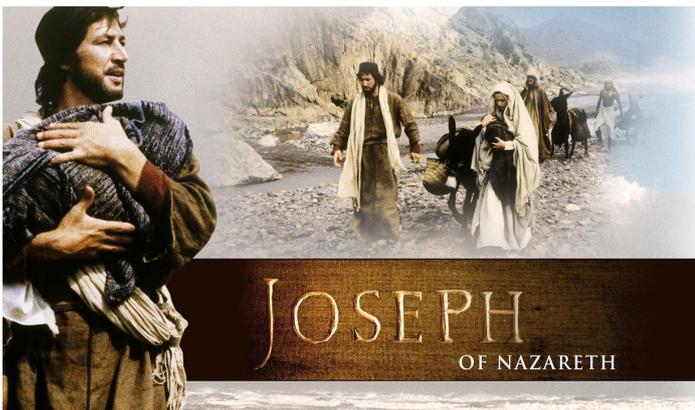
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
for ever and ever. **R.**

## Second Reading | Ephesians 5:8-14

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

## Gospel Acclamation | John 8:12

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!  
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
whoever follows me will have the light of life.  
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!



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## Joseph of Nazareth: The Story of the Man Closest to Christ

Celebrate the feast of Christ's foster father with even more joy and respect this year by watching a movie about him! Enter into the life of this great saint through the movie Joseph of Nazareth!

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# Fourth Sunday of Lent (A)

## Gospel | John 9:1-41

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?' 'Neither he nor his parents sinned,' Jesus answered 'he was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him. 'As long as the day lasts I must carry out the work of the one who sent me; the night will soon be here when no one can work. As long as I am in the world I am the light of the world.' Having said this, he spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man, and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored. His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.'

The man himself said, 'I am the man.' So they said to him, 'Then how do your eyes come to be open?' 'The man called Jesus' he answered 'made a paste, daubed my eyes with it and said to me, "Go and wash at Siloam"; so I went, and when I washed I could see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man. However, the Jews would not believe that the man had been blind and had gained his sight, without first sending for his parents and asking them, 'Is this man really your son who you say was born blind? If so, how is it that he is now able to see?' His parents answered, 'We know he is our son and we know he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that he can see now, or who opened his eyes. He is old enough: let him speak for himself.' His parents spoke like this out of fear of the Jews, who had already

agreed to expel from the synagogue anyone who should acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. This was why his parents said, 'He is old enough; ask him.' So the Jews again sent for the man and said to him, 'Give glory to God! For our part, we know that this man is a sinner.' The man answered, 'I don't know if he is a sinner; I only know that I was blind and now I can see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He replied, 'I have told you once and you wouldn't listen. Why do you want to hear it all again? Do you want to become his disciples too?' At this they hurled abuse at him: 'You can be his disciple,' they said 'we are disciples of Moses: we know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man replied, 'Now here is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes, and you don't know where he comes from! We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but God does listen to men who are devout and do his will.; if this man were not from God, he couldn't do a thing.' 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away. Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him. Jesus said: 'It is for judgement that I have come into this world, so that those without sight may see and those with sight turn blind.' Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him, 'We are not blind, surely?' Jesus replied: 'Blind? If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, "We see," your guilt remains.'

## Communion Antiphon

The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.

THIS WEEK   14th & 15th March 2026		NEXT WEEK   21st & 22nd March 2026	
5.00pm   Corio	Welcome VOLUNTEER Reader Frank Moloney	5.00pm   Corio	Welcome VOLUNTEER Reader Ben Bekema
9.00am   Lara	Rosary Bernie Hyland Welcome Angelica Jones Reader Val Brennan	9.00am   Lara	Rosary John Cook Welcome Dee & Zion Arends Reader Angela Pearson
11.00am   Corio	Rosary LOM/Augustino Welcome VOLUNTEER Reader Ivy Parkinson EMHC Mercy Leszyk Vicky Neri	11.00am   Corio	Rosary Luce Rasic Welcome VOLUNTEER Reader Kim Tancio EMHC Vicki Neri Johnny Gundayao

*Oremus pro invicem*

**The sick**  
Julie Horkings

**The faithful departed**

**Seminarians**  
Rev. Rhys Lowther



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# Parish Noticeboard

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**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. Holy Hour and Confessions available 6.00pm-7.00pm as usual. This one-off change will enable Fr Marcus to attend a meeting in Melbourne.

**SOUP & STATIONS—LENT STATIONS OF THE CROSS.** On Fridays in Lent a soup dinner is available at 6.00pm in the Xavier Centre. Stations of the Cross at 7.00pm in St Francis Xavier Church. All welcome! Thanks to Legion of Mary for providing the soup.

**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 27th March, and 7.00pm Wednesday 1st April. All parishioners are welcome to join the choir for Holy Week.

## NEWS & EVENTS

**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](http://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](http://coriolaracatholicparish.com.au/lent-women)

**STATUE OF MARY HOME VISITS .** Provided by the Legion of Mary. Parishioners can host the statue for one week in their own homes. Bookings will be taken after the 9am and 11am Masses next Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March from both Church foyers.

**MASS OF THE OILS.** 10am Tues 31<sup>st</sup> March at St Patrick's Cathedral. Parishioners are encouraged to attend. At this Mass the holy oils are consecrated and priests renew their promises.

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

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

**PROJECT COMPASSION.** Donation envelopes and boxes available from church foyers.

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## 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'.** In recess until further notice.

**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 March.

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## FORMATION

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## 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. Thank you to all our generous sponsors.

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

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