



CORIO LARA

CATHOLIC PARISH

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

Fifth Sunday of Lent (A) 22 March 2026

The Resurrection of the Body

What was Lazarus's experience? Why do we not hear a report about it? We are fascinated with "near-death" experiences and have this feeling that if someone could scout beyond the veil of death and come back to tell us, we would more easily believe (and behave)! Perhaps we do not get more about Lazarus's experience because it is simply a distraction. Indeed, the law and the prophets, the Gospels and epistles bring us closer to understanding the meaning of life (and eternal life) than someone who comes back from the dead. How can this be?

Resurrection is more than a resuscitated corpse. Pope John Paul II explained: "Eternal life should be understood...as the full and perfect experience of the grace of God...in which man can share through faith during his earthly life...". It will "only be revealed to those who will participate in the 'other world' in all its penetrating depth, [and] will also be experienced in its beatifying reality." This transformation does not involve any "disincarnation" or "dehumanization." Rather, there is a continuum between the human experience of this life, the way we are permeated by truth and love, and the divinized experience of the "other world." At the same time, our divinization in the other world is "incomparably superior to what can be reached in earthly life" (*Theology of the Body* 67:3-5).

Pope Benedict XVI called the resurrection 'the greatest mutation'. "...Of what exactly does this 'rising' consist? What does it mean for us, for the whole world, and the whole of history?...Christ's Resurrection...is the greatest 'mutation'...the most crucial leap into a totally new dimension that there has ever been...into a completely new order which does concern us, and concerns the whole of history". (*Easter Vigil Homily, April 15, 2006*). Pope John Paul II described our resurrected life as being perfectly integrated, and "the powers of the spirit will permeate the energies of the body" These refer to things like the intellect and the will and the memory. That means that we will have absolute control over our bodies to the most refined degree—having intelligent fingers, for example or eyes that can make their own choices. Our whole person will receive "God's most personal self-communication" because all of these powers will be oriented towards love. Our bodies will be a perfectly harmonized integration totally open and oriented to receiving God's love and through Him open to everyone else. (TOB 64-72)

Whatever Lazarus's experience of life after death was, we can be sure it was not like that. There will be no turning back. In the Resurrection we have a future that is unimaginably beautiful and therefore a hope that helps us to say with St Paul, "For his sake I have accepted the loss of all things and I consider them so much rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him...to know him and the power of his resurrection and [the] sharing of his sufferings by being conformed to his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead." (Phil 3:8,10-11) And "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us." (Romans 8:18)

By Fr Boniface Hicks <https://bit.ly/4rEFEfy> (edited)

CHURCHES

St Francis Xavier Church, Corio
St Anthony of Padua Church, Lara

PARISH PRIEST

Fr Marcus Goulding

PERMANENT DEACON

Rev. Logona Tui'i

WEBSITE

coriolaracatholicparish.com.au

PARISH OFFICE

Jasna Brdar | Parish Secretary
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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. 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

Fifth Sunday of Lent (A)

Entrance Antiphon | Cf. Ps 42: 1-2

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

First Reading | Ezekiel 37:12-14

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

Responsorial Psalm | Psalm 129(130)

R. With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading. **R.**

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you. **R.**

My soul is waiting for the Lord.
I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.
(Let the watchman count on daybreak
and Israel on the Lord). **R.**

Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity. **R.**

Second Reading | Romans 8:8-11

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

Gospel Acclamation | John 11:25. 26

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel | John 11:1-45

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' The disciples said, 'Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?'

Jesus replied: 'Are there not twelve hours in the day? A man can walk in the daytime without stumbling



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The Annunciation

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Fifth Sunday of Lent

as the Twin – said to the other disciples, ‘Let us go too, and die with him.’

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, ‘If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.’ ‘Your brother’ said Jesus to her ‘will rise again.’ Martha said, ‘I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.’ Jesus said: ‘I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’ ‘Yes, Lord,’ she said ‘I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.’

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, ‘The Master is here and wants to see you.’ Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’ At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight

from the heart, ‘Where have you put him?’ They said, ‘Lord, come and see.’ Jesus wept; and the Jews said, ‘See how much he loved him!’ But there were some who remarked, ‘He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man’s death?’ Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, ‘Take the stone away.’ Martha said to him, ‘Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.’ Jesus replied, ‘Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?’ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said: ‘Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.’

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, here! Come out!’ The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, let him go free.’

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

Communion Antiphon

Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.

THIS WEEK 21st & 22nd March 2026		NEXT WEEK 28th & 29th March 2026	
5.00pm Corio	Welcome VOLUNTEER Reader Ben Bekema	5.00pm Corio	Welcome TBA Reader TBA
9.00am Lara	Rosary John Cook Welcome Dee & Zion Arends Reader Angela Pearson	9.00am Lara	Rosary TBA Welcome TBA Reader TBA
11.00am Corio	Rosary Luce Rasic Welcome VOLUNTEER Reader Kim Tancio EMHC Vicky Neri Johnny Gundayao	11.00am Corio	Rosary TBA Welcome TBA Reader TBA EMHC TBA TBA

Oremus pro invicem

The sick

Julie Horkings

The faithful departed

Graeme Munro

Kirk Watson

Seminarians

Rev. Rhys Lowther



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Parish Noticeboard

NEWS & EVENTS

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE. The Parish Office will be open on Monday and Friday this week but closed from Tuesday-Thursday.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE. Please take a flyer or refer to our parish website.

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 follows at 7.00pm in St Francis Xavier Church. All welcome!

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 this Sunday 22nd March from both Church foyers.

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.

MASS OF THE OILS. 10am Tues 31st 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 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.

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD DONATIONS. Non-perishable food items for families in need, e.g. pasta, pasta sauce, are gratefully appreciated. Please place in the donations boxes in both Church foyers.

HOLY WEEK FLOWER DONATIONS. If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of beautifying our Churches for Holy Week, please deposit electronically into our Church Account or contact the Parish Office. Use reference 'Easter Flowers'.

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY LANDS. Please consider supporting this annual collection.

EASTER SUNDAY EASTER EGG HUNT DONATIONS. Donations of eggs and chocolates welcome; baskets have been placed in both Church foyers.

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.

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.

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. Thank you to all our generous sponsors.

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