



CORIO LARA

CATHOLIC PARISH

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

Third Sunday of Easter (A) 19 April 2026

Letter #2 from Fr Marcus regarding parish growth

Dear parishioners of St Francis Xavier and St Anthony of Padua,

Last week I wrote to you about the growth that our parish is experiencing and is expected to continue experiencing in the years ahead. Together with the Archdiocese, the Mission Team, and the Finance Committee, I am beginning to think through how we cater for this growth. This letter is about one short-term solution, though we are also considering long-term plans.

My immediate focus is the 11am Sunday Mass at St Francis Xavier. This is our most vibrant and well-attended Mass. Though the church only seats 250 people, we regularly have 300-350 people in attendance. We only have two toilets and parking is limited.

It is important to understand why this Mass is so well attended. One factor is the reverence and solemnity in the Mass: the 11am Mass is always sung and features servers and incense. Another factor is fellowship: church cafe runs every week after the 11am Mass and people make an effort to get to know each other. A third factor is timing: I suspect that many people and families find the 11am time convenient. A fourth factor is location: there are a number of people who come to our parish from other parts of Geelong, and Corio is a more convenient location for them than Lara.

One idea that the Mission Team have discussed is to move the 5pm Saturday Vigil Mass to Sunday nights. It is my sense that a number of people/families would find a Sunday night Mass more convenient than Saturday night. Moving the evening Mass from Saturday to Sunday could ease some pressure on the 11am Mass. I am also mindful that there is no Sunday night Mass in the Geelong region (the nearest Sunday night Masses are in Torquay and Werribee), whereas there are plenty of Vigil Masses. At the same time, I recognise that moving the Saturday night Mass to a Sunday night could be inconvenient or disruptive for those parishioners who regularly attend the Saturday night Mass.

Therefore, **before making a decision about whether we move the Saturday night Mass to Sunday night, I want to hear from you.** I want to know how it would affect the people who attend the Saturday night Mass. I also want to know whether (and how many) people from the 11am Mass would attend a Sunday night Mass (either occasionally or regularly).

For the people who attend the 5pm Saturday night Mass, we will hold a forum after Mass on Saturday 16th May 2026.

For the people who attend the 11am Mass, I will put a couple of questions to you at the end of Mass on Sunday 17th May 2026, asking you to respond by raising your hands.

The weekend after, I will share the results of your feedback in the newsletter.

If you would like to share your thoughts by email or at other times, don't hesitate to reach out.

Fr Marcus Goulding, Parish Priest

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*
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 Easter (A)

Entrance Antiphon | Cf. Ps 65: 1-2

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

Collect

May your people exult for ever, O God, in renewed youthfulness of spirit, so that, rejoicing now in the restored glory of our adoption, we may look forward in confident hope to the rejoicing of the day of resurrection. 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 | Acts 2:14,22-33

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him: I saw the Lord before me always, for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me. So my heart was glad and my tongue cried out with joy; my body, too, will rest in the hope that you will not abandon my soul to Hades nor allow your holy one to experience corruption. You have made known the way of life to me, you will fill me with gladness through your presence. 'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to

the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

Responsorial Psalm | Psalm 15(16):1-2,5,7-11

R. Lord, you will show us the path of life.

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.
I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.
O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize.' **R.**

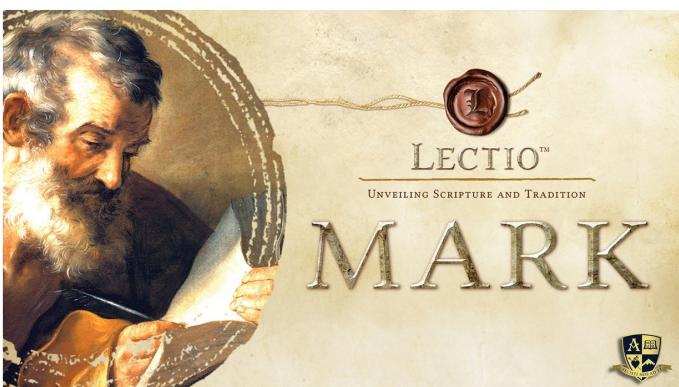
I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,
who even at night directs my heart.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. **R.**

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay. **R.**

You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness for ever. **R.**

Second Reading | 1 Peter 1:17-21

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.



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Saint Mark the Evangelist

Just who is St. Mark, the author of this short but action-packed Gospel? Using outside sources, other books of the Bible, and the Gospel itself, Dr. Gray takes a closeup look at St. Mark, and his connection with St. Peter and the Christians of Rome.

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

Third Sunday of Easter (A)

Gospel | Luke 24:13-35

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast. Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.' Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself. When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost

over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?' They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive, O Lord, we pray, these offerings of your exultant Church, and, as you have given her cause for such great gladness, grant also that the gifts we bring may bear fruit in perpetual happiness. Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon | Lk 24: 35

The disciples recognized the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

Look with kindness upon your people, O Lord, and grant, we pray, that those you were pleased to renew by eternal mysteries may attain in their flesh the incorruptible glory of the resurrection. Through Christ our Lord.

THIS WEEK 18th & 19th April 2026		NEXT WEEK 25th & 26th April 2026	
5.00pm Corio	Welcome VOLUNTEER Reader Frank Moloney	5.00pm Corio	Welcome VOLUNTEER Reader Ken McCarthy
9.00am Lara	Rosary Bernie Hyland Welcome Angelica Jones Reader Rochelle Martis	9.00am Lara	Rosary John Cook Welcome Dee & Zion Arends Reader Val Brennan
11.00am Corio	Rosary LOM/Augustino Welcome Dalya & Yara Reader Gudrun Philipp EMHC Mercy Leszyk Vicky Neri	11.00am Corio	Rosary Luce Rasic Welcome Aleena Reader Luka Brdar EMHC Vicky Neri Johnny Gundayao

Oremus pro invicem

The sick

Julie Horkings
Michael Fromholz
Pedro Pegan

The faithful departed

Denis Cogle
Francis Moloney
Mary Moloney
Brian Herbert

Seminarians

Rev. Rhys Lowther



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Parish Noticeboard

GREETINGS FROM THE ARCHBISHOP. Following the fire at the Viva Refinery during the week, I had a call from Archbishop Comensoli. He was very kindly checking in to see how the parishioners of Corio and Lara were faring. Please be assured that you are all in his thoughts and prayers.

SEMINARIAN VISITING FOR GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY. Next Sunday 26th April is Good Shepherd Sunday. We will welcome Liam Bui, a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Melbourne, who will speak at all Masses. Please give him a warm welcome and keep him in your prayers. Fr Marcus will give a gift to him from our seminarian fund. If you would like to donate towards the gift, please make a deposit into the Church Account with reference "seminarian".

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 26th April from both Church foyers.

NEWS & EVENTS

PROJECT COMPASSION. Please return donation donations to the sacristies by **Sunday 26/04**.

ALPHA—DISCOVER MEANING & FAITH TOGETHER. Alpha is a warm, friendly way to explore life, purpose and the Christian faith. If you are thinking about God for the first time or would like to reconnect with God and the Church, Alpha is perfect for you. Our next Alpha Experience commences on Friday 1st May. For more information and to register, visit www.corioaracatholicparish.com.au/alpha. Flyers in the foyers.

MENALIVE WEEKEND. Hosted by Meredith Parish on 2nd & 3rd May, open to all men in the Geelong region. Refer to posters & flyers for more information, or contact Danny Colla mob 0493 229 944.

50th ANNIVERSARY YEAR EVENT: PENTECOST CULTURAL FESTIVAL. Our parish is made up of people from all over the world. As part of our parish's 50th anniversary year, we are holding a Cultural Festival on Pentecost Sunday 24/05/26. The festival will begin with the 11am Mass at St Francis Xavier, followed by lunch in the Xavier Centre. We are calling on parishioners to:

- Bring along a cultural dish to share
- Wear your national dress to Mass and lunch
- Perform a dance or musical item at lunch

See a member of the Social Committee to register your dish or dance/music item. We will be in the foyer after each Mass this Sunday.

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD DONATIONS. Non-perishable food items for St Vincent De Paul, e.g. pasta, pasta sauce, are gratefully appreciated. Please place in the boxes 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 28th April.

FORMATION

FORMED SUBSCRIPTION. Discover amazing Catholic media content and learn about your faith with FORMED. Access our free parish subscription at corioaracatholicparish.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. No BBQ Sunday 10th May due to Mother's Day.

SATURDAY SUPPER. Third Saturday of each month following the 5pm Vigil Mass at Corio. Next supper Saturday 18th April. Bring a plate to share.