



CORIO LARA

CATHOLIC PARISH

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

Good Shepherd Sunday (A) 26 April 2026

Building a Culture of Vocations for Young People

The Church has been facing a monumental priestly and religious vocation crisis for the last few decades. Young adults are struggling to find their place in the world and in God's plan. They have had very few guides along the way to explain and authentically witness to a God-given vocation. The majority of young Catholic men have never considered the priesthood because no one ever taught them that *they* might be called by the Lord. Young men assume that they are called to marriage. Some of this is due to open hostility within Catholic families, when parents actively discourage any semblance of a priestly or religious calling. Some of it comes from parish cultures that are closed to praying in a devoted manner or to encouraging priestly or religious vocations in their pews. As one priest friend recently put it: "These parishes want priestly vocations to come out of someone else's parish." For some men, God calls them in a more pronounced and direct way that allows them to follow Him on their own without initial guidance. For many, this is not the case. The latter need the support and guidance of the Church to help them be open to God's calling. The idea that priestly vocations just fall out of the sky is failing miserably. We have a massive shortage of priests.

For those who think that having one priest in every parish is enough, they haven't spent much time talking to overworked, burned out, and overwhelmed priests. Only one priest in a parish or borrowing many priests from other nations does not solve the vocations problem. We are failing to raise up homegrown vocations while current priests suffer the fallout. The Lord has not stopped calling men to the priesthood. The same is true for religious life, especially for young women. We need to build a culture of vocations. We need to provide greater witnesses in our own vocations, engage in encouraging discussions with young people, provide better marriage preparation, and create parish environments grounded in prayer that foster and encourage vocations. We need to stop being ashamed of the priesthood. Corruption and sexual abuse do not take away from the great dignity, goodness, and gift that is the priesthood. The priesthood belongs to the Eternal High Priest, not the men who chose to betray and abandon Him and His flock.

We also need to stop filling young people with worldly ambitions and ideals. Young people are lost and broken because the Church has become too worldly and focuses on worldly rather than spiritual successes. A worldly church has a difficult time fostering vocations because those callings are eschatological in their nature. They point us to heaven and our ultimate union with Christ. Part of the Church's mission is to raise up holy marriages, priests, religious, and at times, lay consecrated vocations. We are suffering from a vocational crisis. This crisis comes in the form of parents who are not raising their children Catholic; over 95% of Catholics contracepting; divorce; rampant pornography addiction in the pews; widespread promiscuity among college students raised Catholic; the majority of young people who come to the Church for marriage prep cohabitating; low priest and religious numbers, and the Sacraments being used as a conveyor-belt system for people who aren't actively following Christ and are just checking boxes.

We should be actively encouraging young people to seek their calling from the Lord. Not in a controlling, disordered way, rather, in a prayerful manner that allows God's will to unfold in their heart over time. They need you and me to encourage them in being open to any vocation the Lord may call them to. They need us to teach them the basics of the spiritual life, not assume that they know, because they don't. It's time for us to fulfill our call of building up holy vocations in the Church. It's time to stop pretending that holy vocations simply fall from the sky.

By Constance T Hull, <https://bit.ly/4mBNYvz> (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*
Tues - Fri | 10am - 3pm
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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

Good Shepherd Sunday (A)

Entrance Antiphon | Cf. Ps 32: 5-6

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, lead us to a share in the joys of heaven, so that the humble flock may reach where the brave Shepherd has gone before. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

First Reading | Acts 2:14,36-41

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.' Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

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.**

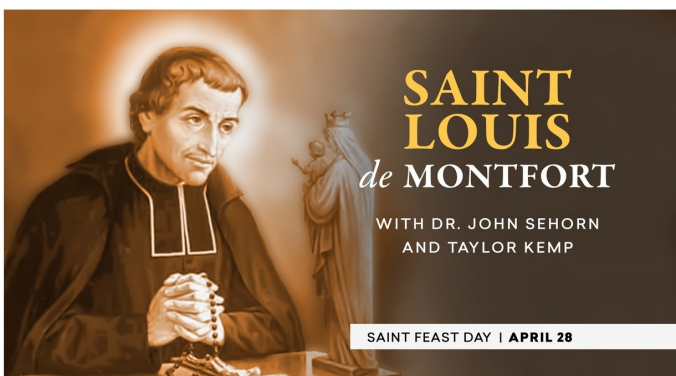
He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. **R.**

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 | 1 Peter 2:20-25

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty. This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.



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St. Louis de Montfort | Catholic Saints

Dr. John Sehorn joins Taylor Kemp to discuss the life of St. Louis de Montfort. Born in western France, St. Louis had a great love for Mary and the Rosary. His work True Devotion to Mary helps Catholics grow in their relationship with Jesus through his Mother, Mary.

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

Good Shepherd Sunday (A)

Gospel Acclamation | John 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.
Alleluia!

Gospel | John 10:1-10

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.' Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them. So Jesus spoke to them again: 'I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold. All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them. I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe: he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.'

Prayer over the Offerings

Grant, we pray, O Lord, that we may always find delight in these paschal mysteries, so that the renewal constantly at work within us may be the cause of our unending joy. Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

Look upon your flock, kind Shepherd, and be pleased to settle in eternal pastures the sheep you have redeemed by the Precious Blood of your Son. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

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THIS WEEK 25th & 26th April 2026			NEXT WEEK 2nd & 3rd May 2026		
5.00pm Corio	Welcome Reader	VOLUNTEER Ken McCarthy	5.00pm Corio	Welcome Reader	VOLUNTEER Becky Watson
9.00am Lara	Rosary Welcome Reader	John Cook Dee & Zion Arends Val Brennan	9.00am Lara	Rosary Welcome Reader	Legion of Mary Koekemoer Family Ana Cesar
11.00am Corio	Rosary Welcome Reader EMHC	Luce Rasic Aleena Luka Brdar Vicky Neri Johnny Gundayao	11.00am Corio	Rosary Welcome Reader EMHC	Diane Vine Ivy & Tom Lara Mesoga Mercy Leszyk Johnny Gundayao

Oremus pro invicem

The sick
Michael Fromholz
Francesco
Gugliandolo

The faithful departed
Michelle Mahoney
Rik van Gemert
Bridget McCloskey

Seminarians
Liam Bui
Rev. Rhys Lowther



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Parish Noticeboard

SEMINARIAN VISITING FOR GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY. We 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 on Sunday 26th April from both Church foyers.

PENTECOST CULTURAL FESTIVAL. As part of our parish's 50th anniversary year, we are holding a Cultural Festival on Pentecost Sunday 24th May. The festival will begin with the 11am Mass at St Francis Xavier, followed by lunch and performances in the Xavier Centre. We are calling on parishioners to wear your national dress, bring a cultural dish to share, and/or perform a cultural dance or musical item at lunch. To register your food or performance, call the Parish Office or visit www.coriolaracatholicparish.com.au/pentecost.

NEWS & EVENTS

FUNERAL FOR RIK VAN GEMERT. 11am 29/04/2026 at Sts Peter & Paul Church, Geelong.

CATHOLIC CARE SUNDAY APPEAL on 2nd & 3rd May. We will have an extra collection next weekend to support CatholicCare's work.

ALPHA—DISCOVER MEANING & FAITH TOGETHER starting on Friday 1st May. 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. For more information and to register, visit www.coriolaracatholicparish.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.

ANNUAL MASS COUNT STARTING NEXT WEEK. Over the first 4 weeks in May we will count attendance at all Sunday Masses.

CONSULTATION ON MOVING VIGIL MASS TO SUNDAY NIGHT. For people who attend the 5pm Saturday Mass, a forum will be held after Mass on 16th May. For people who attend the 11am Mass, Fr Marcus will ask some questions at the end of Mass on 17th May.

SAVE THE DATE: CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION. Sunday 7th June 2pm from St Patrick's Cathedral to Federation Square. We will arrange a bus for parishioners, more details to follow.

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 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. No BBQ Sunday 10 May due to Mother's Day. Thank you to all our generous sponsors.

SATURDAY SUPPER. Third Saturday of each month following the 5pm Vigil Mass at Corio. Next supper Saturday 16th May. Bring a plate to share.
