



CORIO LARA

CATHOLIC PARISH

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

The Ascension of Our Lord (A) 17 May 2026

The Ascension and the New Evangelisation

Christianity is about a kind of love we call agape or charity. It is love that looks away from itself to another and gives itself away for another. The Divine Word did not become man or endure the cross because something was in it for Him. Charity shares in the beloved's joys and sorrows (John 14:28). The first thing to remember about the Ascension is that it is about sharing in Jesus' joy. It is about celebrating his return to the heavenly glory to which he refused to cling (Phil 2:6-11). It is about rejoicing that his crown of thorns has been replaced with the kingly crown, that the mocking crowd at Calvary has been replaced with myriads of adoring angels. The Ascension is about Jesus' triumph and glorification.

But the Ascension is not just about charity. It is also a feast of hope. He goes to prepare a place for us (John 14:2). We will also one day wear crowns made of gold instead of thorns. For us to endure until that blessed moment, we need divine power. That's another reason we ought to rejoice in his Ascension. He takes his place at God's right hand so that he can pour out the promise of the Father, the Holy Spirit, upon his disciples. As he ascends, he tells the disciples to wait for this power. But notice that he does not tell them to wait passively for the rapture. He does not instruct them to pour over Bible prophecies, debating about how and when he will return. In fact in Acts 1:11, after the Lord ascends out of their sight, the angels ask why the disciples just stand there, staring into space. The waiting is not to be a squandering of precious time. It is waiting for a purpose, nine days of prayer (the first novena!) leading to empowerment. Why empowerment? Because they have challenging work to do. "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations." (Matthew 28: 16-20). We used to think that evangelization was something that happened in mission countries far away, carried out by priests and religious. But our own neighbourhoods are mission territory, and every single Catholic is called to be an evangelist. Pope John Paul II proclaimed this as the "New Evangelization" because the place is new-right next door—and the missionaries are new since they include all us all.

I'm really not sure that St. Francis of Assisi ever said "*Preach the Gospel always; when necessary, use words.*" But if he did, note this—Francis often thought it *very necessary* to use words. His words could be heard in marketplaces, on street-corners, in Churches, wherever there were people. Of course, preaching without an authentic witness of life is certainly counterproductive. But forget about the idea that just the witness of our lives is enough. It is not. You may not be called to preach on street corners, but Vatican II and subsequent popes, echoing 1 Peter 3:15, say that we all must be ready to articulate what Jesus has done for us, what he means to us, and why he is the answer to the world's problems. Feel inadequate to the task? You're in good company. Pope Benedict's first public statement was an admission of his inadequacy. Do as he does—pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to move in and through you, and take the time to keep learning more about your faith so that you can share it with ever greater confidence.

By Marcellino D'Ambrosio, <https://catholicexchange.com/the-ascension-and-the-new-evangelization/> (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

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. 5.00pm | 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

The Ascension of Our Lord (A)

Entrance Antiphon | Acts 1: 11

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

Collect

Gladden us with holy joys, almighty God, and make us rejoice with devout thanksgiving, for the Ascension of Christ your Son is our exaltation, and, where the Head has gone before in glory, the Body is called to follow in hope. 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 1:1-11

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout

Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.' As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

Responsorial Psalm | Psalm 46(47):2-3,6-9

R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. **R.**

God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. **R.**

God is king of all the earth,
sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. **R.**

Second Reading | Ephesians 1:17-23

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he



formed™
Forming Catholics for *Life*.

Saint Rita

St. Rita of Cascia is immortalized in this wonderful, deeply moving film. This story is about the brave woman who married her knight, helped him overcome his dark past and convert to faith, happily bore him two children, and later endures immense pain as she loses everything in her life. Her story and love for Christ will inspire you to great holiness!

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

The Ascension of Our Lord (A)

has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named not only in this age but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

Gospel Acclamation | Matthew 28:19. 20

Alleluia, alleluia!
Go and teach all people my gospel.
I am with you always, until the end of the world.
Alleluia!

Gospel | Matthew 28:16-20

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands

I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

Prayer over the Offerings

We offer sacrifice now in supplication, O Lord, to honour the wondrous Ascension of your Son: grant, we pray, that through this most holy exchange we, too, may rise up to the heavenly realms. Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon | Mt 28: 20

Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

Almighty ever-living God, who allow those on earth to celebrate divine mysteries, grant, we pray, that Christian hope may draw us onward to where our nature is united with you. Through Christ our Lord.

CONGRATULATIONS
MR. ANGAS & MRS. ISABELLE BUTTERWORTH
Married by Fr Marcus
at St John the Baptist Winchelsea
on Saturday 16th May 2026
Angas and Isabelle attend the 11am Sunday Mass

THIS WEEK 16th & 17thMay 2026			NEXT WEEK 23rd & 24th May 2026		
5.00pm Corio	Welcome Reader	VOLUNTEER Bernard Lewis	5.00pm Corio	Welcome Reader	VOLUNTEER Reno Demicoli
9.00am Lara	Rosary Welcome Reader	Bernie Hyland Angelica Jones Elisa Ballesteros	9.00am Lara	Rosary Welcome Reader	John Cook Dee & Zion Rochelle Martis
11.00am Corio	Rosary Welcome Reader EMHC	LOM/Augustino Dalya & Yara Kim Tancio Mercy Leszyk Vicky Neri	11.00am Corio	Rosary Welcome Reader EMHC	Luce Rasic Aleena Joe Brdar Vicky Neri Johnny Gundayao
<i>Oremus pro invicem</i>					
The sick	The faithful departed		HERE FOR YOU		
	Claire Muhlebach		www.kingsfunerals.com.au		
	Daniel Stolk		03 5248 3444		
	Seminarians				
	Rev. Rhys Lowther				

Parish Noticeboard

PENTECOST CULTURAL FESTIVAL SUNDAY 24th MAY. 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 from 12.15pm 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.corioaracatholicparish.com.au/pentecost.

CONFIRMATION MASS CHOIR REHEARSALS. The Confirmation Mass for children from St Francis Xavier PS, St Anthony of Padua PS, and the parish sacrament program will be held at St Mary of the Angels Basilica at 6pm on Wednesday 27th May. Our parish will be providing the music. If you would like to be part of the choir for the Confirmation Mass, please attend the rehearsals at 6pm Thursday 21/05 at SFX Corio, and 5.15pm Wednesday 27/05 at the Basilica.

BOOK NOW: BUS TO CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION. The Melbourne Corpus Christi Procession will be held on Sunday 7th June. The procession will begin at 2pm at St Patrick's Cathedral and move to Federation Square. We are arranging a bus to take parishioners to the procession. The bus will leave Corio at 12.30pm. \$25 for adults, \$15 for under 18's. To book, visit www.corioaracatholicparish.com.au/procession.

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.

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 23rd May from both Church foyers.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION ENROLMENTS NOW OPEN. Children who are baptised, in grade four or above, and attend a non-Catholic school need to be prepared to receive First Holy Communion through the parish. To enrol your child in our preparation course, visit www.corioaracatholicparish.com.au/children and submit a completed enrolment form to the Parish Office. The course commences on 15/07/26. Registrations close on 01/07/2026.

REQUESTING FOOD DONATIONS FOR ST VINCENT DE PAUL. Non-perishable food items are gratefully appreciated e.g. long life milk, pasta, pasta sauce. Please place in the large white donation boxes in the church foyers.

FORMED SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL. Our parish's annual subscription to FORMED is due for renewal. If you would like to make a donation towards the cost, please deposit electronically into our Church Account or contact the Parish Office. Use reference "Formed donation".

BEYOND THE VOWS: A ONE DAY MARRIAGE RETREAT. Saturday 30th May 9.45am to 5.00pm at Catholic Regional College, Caroline Springs. A practical, faith-grounded day with real insights, communication tools, and quality couple time. All married couples welcome! For more information and to register www.trybooking.com/DLAGK

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 26th May.

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. 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.