



CORIO LARA

CATHOLIC PARISH

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

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

21 June 2026

Christian Persecution Today

Christianity is, by order of magnitude, the most persecuted religion in the world today. Between 360-380 million Christians face high degrees of hostility. Conservative estimates are that more than 5,000 Christians are killed annually for their faith, especially in places such as Nigeria and Burkina Faso. But the killing, torture and imprisonment are taking place across the globe. In many Western countries, a less lethal but still severe form of persecution is visited upon Christians by ideological secularists, who see Christianity as its principal intellectual and cultural opponent.

In June 2007 Father Ragheed Aziz Ganni, a Chaldean priest in Mosul, was murdered with a group of subdeacons. Again and again, he received bullets in the mail and calls demanding that he shut his church. Despite conditions that he described as 'worse than hell', he refused to close the Church of the Holy Spirit. Apparently, one of the terrorizers asked him why he didn't acquiesce to their demand, and he replied "*How can I close the Church of God?*" In late 2014 ISIS kidnapped 21 construction workers, most of them from Egypt and members of the Coptic Orthodox Church, who were living in Libya. ISIS published an appalling video...it showed the captives, dressed in orange jumpsuits being paraded onto to a beach...it subsequently showed the grisly beheading of the 21 men. It also reveals many of them shouting in Arabic "*Ya Rabb Jesua*", indicating that they were professing their faith in the face of death. In 2020, a Catholic seminarian in Nigeria named Michael Nnadi, only 18, was kidnapped with 3 classmates. While the others were freed, Nnadi remained, apparently because he consistently proclaimed his faith and even upbraided his captors, encouraging them to repent. In time, the leader Mustapha Muhammed killed Michael, and later confessed that he respected the young man for his 'outstanding bravery'.

Just as Jesus was opposed, his Church has been opposed from the beginning, and this antagonism is a very function of the nature of Christianity. Didn't Jesus Himself make this eminently clear? "*If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me before it hated you...(John 15:18-19)*" Whenever we are tempted to understand Christianity as a bland ethical program, we should remember those words. It is not that Christians are inviting persecution, much less revelling in it, rather it is that they *expect* persecution. But their expectation of this particular form of suffering is mitigated by their confidence that God has '*conquered the world*' (16:33). So what can we do? Pray. Stay informed. Follow trusted sources and provide aid to reputable organisations such as 'Aid to the Church in Need'. Persuade the government to take action. Actively resist the 'soft' persecution in 'woke' culture. I encourage Christians to live their faith boldly, unapologetically, and even with a bit of swagger. Don't be intimidated by silence or privatizing your faith. Wear a sign of your Christianity. Let the name of Jesus come readily on your lips. Pray in public places, say grace at restaurants. Bring explicitly biblical language to your political debates and conversations. In the face of this outrage, we Christians cannot remain silent...on behalf of our brothers and sisters in the Lord, let us raise a cry. Let us get in the fight!

Edited Excerpts from Bishop Robert Barron, 'What Do Their Deaths Demand?'

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. 5.30pm | Lara
Sat. 9.15am | Corio

CONFESSIONS

Tue. 5.00pm-5.20pm | Corio
6.00pm-7.00pm | Corio
Fri. 5:00pm-5:20pm | Lara
1st Fri. 6:00pm-7:00pm | Lara
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
1st Fri. 6:00pm-7:00pm | Lara

MOTHER 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

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Entrance Antiphon | Cf. Ps 27: 8-9

The Lord is the strength of his people, a saving refuge for the one he has anointed. Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage, and govern them for ever.

Collect

Grant, O Lord, that we may always revere and love your holy name, for you never deprive of your guidance those you set firm on the foundation of your love. 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 | Jeremiah 20:10-13

Jeremiah said: I hear so many disparaging me, "Terror from every side!" Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" All those who used to be my friends watched for my downfall, 'Perhaps he will be seduced into error. Then we will master him and take our revenge!' But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero; my opponents will stumble, mastered, confounded by their failure; everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be theirs. But you, O Lord of Hosts, you who probe with justice, who scrutinise the loins and heart, let me see the vengeance you will take on them, for I have committed my cause to you. Sing to the Lord, praise the Lord, for he has delivered the soul of the needy from the hands of evil men.

Responsorial Psalm | Psalm 68(69)

R. Lord, in your great love, answer me.

It is for you that I suffer taunts,
that shame covers my face,
that I have become a stranger to my brothers,
an alien to my own mother's sons.
I burn with zeal for your house
and taunts against you fall on me. **R.**

This is my prayer to you,
my prayer for your favour.

In your great love, answer me,
O God, with your help that never fails:
Lord, answer, for your love is kind;
in your compassion, turn towards me. **R.**

The poor when they see it will be glad
and God-seeking hearts will revive;
for the Lord listens to the needy|
and does not spurn his servants in their chains.
Let the heavens and the earth give him praise,
the sea and all its living creatures. **R.**

Second Reading | Romans 5:12-15

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law. Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift.



Saint Thomas More: The Age of the Author

This engaging series delves into the lives of the saints who led the Catholic Counter-Reformation. In this episode, learn about St. Thomas More, a patient witness to the faith who endured a heroic martyrdom at the hands of Henry VIII.

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

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Gospel Acclamation | John 15:26,27

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord, and you also will be my witnesses.
Alleluia.

Gospel | Matthew 10:26-33

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the housetops. 'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows. 'So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.'

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive, O Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation and praise and grant that, cleansed by its action, we may make offering of a heart pleasing to you.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon | Ps 144: 15

The eyes of all look to you, Lord, and you give them their food in due season.

Prayer after Communion

Renewed and nourished by the Sacred Body and Precious Blood of your Son, we ask of your mercy, O Lord, that what we celebrate with constant devotion may be our sure pledge of redemption.
Through Christ our Lord.

We pray for those receiving the life of God in Baptism in July

Atlas, Jensen, Aung Min, Nereh, Pleh Meh



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or call our team on 1800 134 135 for more information



THIS WEEK 20th & 21st June 2026			NEXT WEEK 27th & 28th June 2026		
5.00pm Corio	Welcome Reader	VOLUNTEER Ben Bekema	5.00pm Corio	Welcome Reader	VOLUNTEER Bernard Lewis
9.00am Lara	Rosary Welcome Reader	Bernie Hyland Angelica Jones Elisa Ballesteros	9.00am Lara	Rosary Welcome Reader	John Cook Dee & Zion Arends Rochelle Martis
11.00am Corio	Rosary Welcome Reader	LOM/Augustino Yara Ramzi Lara Mesoga	11.00am Corio	Rosary Welcome Reader	Luce Rasic Aleena & Luka Kim Tancio
<i>Oremus pro invicem</i>			 HERE FOR YOU www.kingsfunerals.com.au 03 5248 3444		
The sick Julie Horkings Carlo Romagnoli Sam Caruana	The faithful departed Silvana Santospirito	Seminarians Rev. Rhys Lowther Nicolas Calandra			

Parish Noticeboard

NEWS & EVENTS

WELCOME TO SEMINARIAN NICOLAS CALANDRA. During his holidays, Nicolas will stay with Fr Marcus from 13/06 – 12/07. To learn more about Nicolas' journey towards the priesthood, see the 14 June newsletter on the parish website.

NEW THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES FOR THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR. For parishioners who support our Parish using donation envelopes, your new envelopes for July '26 to June '27 will be available from this weekend from both Church foyers.

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 28th June from both Church foyers.

PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION AT ALL MASSES NEXT SUNDAY 28TH JUNE. This annual global collection supports the charitable works of our Pope.

NEW CHILDREN'S CHOIR COMMENCING 5th JULY. Does your child like to sing? Primary-school-aged children are welcome to join our new children's choir. The choir will sing with our young adults at the 11am Mass on the first Sunday of each month. Rehearsals will be held at 9.45am on the first Sunday of each month in the Ron Lowe Room. The first rehearsal and Mass will be Sunday 5th July. To register your child or for more information, please contact Lani on 0404 690 773 or Ninia on 0431 003 280.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION ENROLMENTS CLOSE ON 1/7/26. 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.coriolaracatholicparish.com.au/children. The course commences on 15/07/26. Registrations close on 01/07/2026.

DO YOU KNOW AN ADULT WHO WANTS TO BECOME CATHOLIC? Our formation course for adults who want to become Catholic is called the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA). This course commences this September and runs weekly until Easter 2027. The course is run by Fr Marcus and lay catechists. To learn more or to register for the course, visit www.coriolaracatholicparish.com.au/rcia.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR GENEROUS 'FORMED' DONORS. Our parish's annual subscription to FORMED has now been covered. Thankyou for your support!

FATHER MARCUS' ANNUAL LEAVE. Fr Marcus will be taking annual leave from Monday 13th July until Monday 3rd August. Details about supply priests and the Mass schedule will be available later in June.

CLONARD COLLEGE 70TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DINNER ON 28TH AUGUST. To book visit www.trybooking.com/DKEPU.

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 23 June.

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. Thank you to all our generous donors.

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 on 12 July. Thank you to all our generous sponsors.

SATURDAY SUPPER. Third Saturday of each month following the 5pm Vigil Mass at Corio. Next supper Saturday 20 June. Bring a plate to share.
