



CORIO LARA

CATHOLIC PARISH

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

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) 16th August 2026

How Our Lord elicits faith

We might well imagine the media explosion if Our Lord were among us today and someone posted a video of his exchange with the Canaanite woman. *"Jesus uses racial slur to deter Gentile woman!" "Jewish rabbi humiliates Palestinian woman asking for healing!"* Our Lord's followers might have defended him by pointing out his kindness to non-Jews, the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well, the Roman centurion whose faith he praised, prostitutes and tax collectors, and the woman who was unclean who grabbed hold of the edge of his garment. They might mention the parable of the Good Samaritan or his mercy to those outside the law. His followers, orthodox Jews would have understood the Galilean rabbi's words and gesture of healing as part of his teaching. Jesus was drawing out of the Canaanite woman acts of deep humility and faith driven by her love for her daughter. This scene would teach his followers that his initial ministry was to them, the Jews, but was eventually to be preached throughout the world as he commissioned them to go out and preach to all nations.

Today, the vast numbers of Christians in the world are of Gentile stock. Any believing Gentile Christian today would rather experience the challenging exchange with the Lord that the Canaanite woman underwent than to lack the faith and humility that obtained for her to become a grateful believer in Jesus. **The Lord is often tough with those he loves.** Think of how he called Peter "Satan" and told him to get away from him, right after giving him his honorific name and vocation in the Church. But what about the ethnic slur? He calls the Canaanites, "dogs," *unclean animals*. The charming and rhetorically adept Canaanite woman does him one better and calls her people "whelps" or "puppies" in the original Greek. Our Lord, whose divinity is implied in the woman's repeated pleas for healing, knew the inner workings of the heart of this lady who so loved her daughter. He knew that his initial ignoring of her, and then his rude words to her, would elicit her intrepid faith, confidence and true humility. He was not just indulging a racist slur, but rather moving to restore her and her daughter's full dignity as a daughter of God.

The Saviour came to bring us salvation. He was not a social revolutionary calling for the overthrow of the established order. He chose to *"suffer under Pontius Pilate"* condemned both by the Romans and by the leaders of his own people. He was motivated by insight and love, and he set free the woman's daughter, even though she was not a Jew. Racism is an error and a sin that deprives people of their dignity as men and women made in the image and likeness of God...It is a sin against justice. Jesus committed no such sin; rather he redeemed us from it and longs for his gifts to be given to all indiscriminately. Rather than demonizing a person for belonging to a certain culture, time and place, we should demonize the real demons, like the one who vexed the woman's daughter, and who *"prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls."* We should fight the real sources of injustice: sin, pride, and faithlessness, and look to the example of the Saviour of all.—By Fr Hugh Barbour, <https://bit.ly/4bEamQZ> (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

coriolacatholicparish.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

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Entrance Antiphon | Ps 83: 10-11

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts, is better than a thousand elsewhere.

Collect

O God, who have prepared for those who love you good things which no eye can see, fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of your love, so that, loving you in all things and above all things, we may attain your promises, which surpass every human desire. 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 | Isaiah 56:1,6-7

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest. Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

Responsorial Psalm | Psalm 66(67):2-3,5-6,8

O God, let all the nations praise you! R.

O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. **R.**

Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth. **R.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. **R.**

Second Reading | Romans 11:13-15,29-32

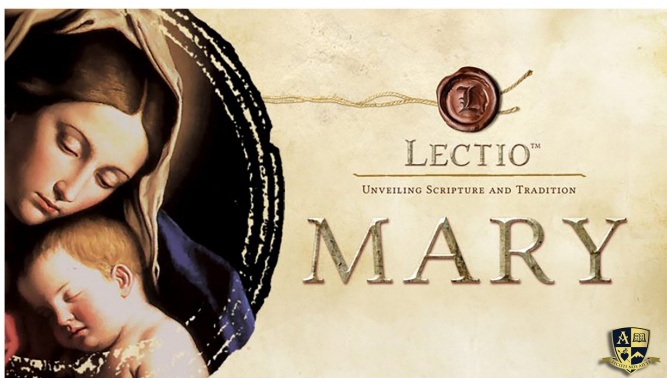
Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice. Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

Gospel Acclamation | Matthew 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!



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The Queen Mother | Lectio: Mary | Episode 4

Mary serves as our Queen Mother. What does that mean? Join Dr. Brant Pitre as he explores the scriptural roots of this title.

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visit coriolaracatholicparish.com.au/formed.

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Gospel | Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

Prayer after Communion

Made partakers of Christ through these Sacraments, we humbly implore your mercy, Lord, that, conformed to his image on earth, we may merit also to be his coheirs in heaven. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

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Prayer over the Offerings

Receive our oblation, O Lord, by which is brought about a glorious exchange, that, by offering what you have given, we may merit to receive your very self. Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon | Ps 129: 7

With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.

THIS WEEK 15th & 16th Aug 2026			NEXT WEEK 22 & 23rd Aug 2026		
5.00pm Corio	Welcome Reader	VOLUNTEER Reno Demicoli	5.00pm Corio	Welcome Reader	VOLUNTEER Becky Watson
9.00am Lara	Rosary Welcome Reader	Bernie Hyland Angelica Jones Val Brennan	9.00am Lara	Rosary Welcome Reader	John Cook Dee & Zion Arends Angela Pearson
11.00am Corio	Rosary Welcome Reader	LOM/Augustino Aleena & Luka Joe Brdar	11.00am Corio	Rosary Welcome Reader	Luce Rasic Ivy & Tom Gudrun Philipp
<i>Oremus pro invicem</i>			 HERE FOR YOU www.kingsfunerals.com.au 03 5248 3444		
The sick	The faithful departed Ken Knight	Seminarians Rev. Rhys Lowther			

Parish Noticeboard

NEWS & EVENTS

PARISH 50th ANNIVERSARY YEAR MASS. Celebrated by Most Reverend Peter A. Comensoli at 11.00am Sunday 30th August at St Francis Xavier. Lunch to follow in the Xavier Centre. Parishioners are invited to bring a dish to share, and to help with set-up, serving on the day, and pack-up. To assist with planning, sign up rosters are available from both Church foyers. Let's show our Archbishop our famous Corio Lara hospitality!

50th ANNIVERSARY MASS CHOIR REHEARSAL. All parishioners are welcome to join the choir for the 50th anniversary Mass with the Archbishop. Please attend the rehearsal at 6.30pm on Thursday 20th August at St Francis Xavier.

CORIO WORKING BEE SATURDAY 22nd AUGUST. Between 9am to 12pm at Corio to tidy up the gardens at the front of the Church and Xavier Centre, in preparation for our 50th Anniversary Mass and celebratory lunch. If you can spare an hour or three, please join us. Many hands make light work!

LEGION OF MARY RETREAT. Members of the Legion are invited to attend the Legion retreat at St Francis Xavier on Saturday 22nd August. The day commences with Mass at 9.15am, includes a talk, Holy Hour and lunch, and concludes at 1.30pm.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS AT LARA ON SUNDAY 23rd and 30th August. Children from St Anthony's PS will be receiving their First Communion at the 9am Mass.

ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN 2026. Supporting retired priests, the seminary, chaplaincy to prisons and hospitals, and other initiatives of evangelisation. We will take up a cash collection for the Archbishop's Campaign at Mass on 22/23 August. If you would like to donate electronically, please visit www.melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign. Donation envelopes are also available from both Church foyers during August.

STATUE OF MARY HOME VISITS. Provided by the Legion of Mary. Parishioners can host the statue for one week in their homes. Bookings will be taken after the 9am and 11am Masses next Sunday 23rd August from both Church foyers.

DO YOU KNOW AN ADULT WHO WANTS TO BECOME CATHOLIC? Our formation course for adults who want to become Catholic commences in September and runs weekly until Easter 2027. To learn more or register, visit www.corioaracatholicparish.com.au/rcia.

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 after Holy Hour. Meet in St Francis Xavier Church foyer. Next meeting Tuesday 25th August.

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. 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 13th September. Thank you to all our generous sponsors.

SATURDAY SUPPER. Third Saturday of each month following the 5pm Vigil Mass at Corio. Next supper Saturday 15th August. Bring a plate to share.
