



# CORIO LARA

CATHOLIC PARISH

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

## Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) 13th September 2026

### *Letter from Fr Marcus (cont. over page)*

Dear parishioners,

In this letter, I will share information about three projects related to our parish churches. There is a lot going on at the moment!

#### **Water leak in St Francis Xavier church**

On Monday 7th September I went into St Francis Xavier church to find half the foyer and part of the church flooded. The water was coming from the foyer kitchen hot water system, which was spewing water from a leak in the top of the system. With the help of some parishioners, we managed to mop up most of the water. I contacted our insurers and they arranged for the installation of drying equipment. A large frame has been built around the affected area to control airflow. Heaters and suction fans have been running since Monday night.

The main infrastructure affected is the cabinetry in the church foyer kitchen, the vinyl flooring in the foyer kitchen, and the carpet in the foyer and church. A preliminary insurance assessment has been undertaken, and another will be conducted once the area has dried. We do not yet know what needs to be replaced and how much of that cost will be covered by insurance.

I had hoped that the church would be dry by Saturday 12th September so we could use it over the weekend, but unfortunately the carpet is still damp. As a result, we will need to use the Xavier Centre for Masses/activities until the church dries out. Confessions will continue to be heard in the church at the usual times. Thankyou for your patience during this inconvenience. I will continue to update you as the situation progresses.

#### **New fencing at St Francis Xavier church**

As you know, St Francis Xavier church is built with its main entrance opening into the schoolyard. This creates a problem for the security of the school. Currently, it is possible for people in the church to access the school through the foyer doors. This also means it is not possible for us to open St Francis Xavier church for prayer during the day. Fr Manoj, Fr Daryl and I have all worked with the school to come up with different solutions to the problem. The school and I have now arrived at an agreement which we are both happy with.

At some point from mid-October to early November, a fence will be installed around the porch area of the church entrance. The fence will include lockable pedestrian and car gates. The layout is designed to give us easy access to the basketball courts for weekend parking, whilst also maintaining security during school hours. Once the fence is installed, and some other security measures taken, we will be able to open St Francis Xavier church for prayer during the day.

#### **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](http://coriolaracatholicparish.com.au)

#### **PARISH OFFICE**

Tues – Fri | 10am – 3pm  
143 Bacchus Marsh Rd, Corio 3214  
T. 03 4212 0791  
E. [corio@cam.org.au](mailto: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 (1<sup>st</sup> Collection)**

St Francis Xavier Presbytery Account  
BSB 083 347 | ACC 674 963 655

#### **CHURCH GIVING (2<sup>nd</sup> Collection)**

St Francis Xavier Church Account  
BSB 083 347 | ACC 543 292 126

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# *Letter from Father Marcus (cont.)*

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## **Works at St Anthony's church**

From the late 1970's, the Catholic community in Lara began to develop a bold vision for their future. At that time, we had a small weatherboard church on Flinders Avenue, no school and no hall. The first part of the plan was to build a school on a new site—90 Kees Road, our current site. St Anthony's school was opened in 1983. The second part of the plan was to build a new multipurpose community centre—the current church—that could serve as both a larger church, as well as a hall for the parish and school. An extendable dividing wall was installed to close off the sanctuary from the rest of the church building. I have deep admiration for these parishioners. Their faith and their desire to provide their children with a Catholic education drove them to make great sacrifices. These sacrifices have provided us with the facilities we have today.

From the time St Anthony's church opened until 2020, the 'hall area' of the church has been used for many memorable parish and school events, include Christmas lunches, school discos, and funeral wakes. It has been a place of fellowship as well as worship.

In 2009-2010, the MacKillop Hall was built in St Anthony's Primary School. This hall is available for parish use outside of school hours. In recent times, we used MacKillop Hall for Rhys' diaconate ordination lunch and the St Anthony's feast day celebration. The availability of MacKillop Hall means that St Anthony's church no longer needs to be a multipurpose facility.

The mission of the parishioners who built St Anthony's church should be our mission today: to provide facilities that meet the needs of the parish today and into the future.

With this mission in mind, I have worked with the Mission Team, Finance Committee and donor parishioners to carry out several improvements to the facilities at St Anthony's. Last year, the sanctuary was rebuilt to improve the functionality and aesthetics of this important part of the church. This year, we have undertaken landscaping works to improve the appearance of the church precinct. This week, the last part of the landscaping project will be undertaken: timber bollards will be installed along the Kees Road boundary to prevent cars from digging up the grass/dirt. Moreover, earlier this year I acquired a number of church pews from Meredith parish. These pews are similar in style to the pews already in St Anthony's church, but they are in poor condition. Once a month, a group of men from the parish have been meeting to sand, repair and stain these pews. Progress is steady, and we hope to be able to install the pews in St Anthony's church in coming months.

There is plenty more work that needs to be done around St Anthony's, such as the installation of new signage and the upgrading of the projector. We also

need to create a way for people to pray before the Blessed Sacrament outside of Mass times. In time, it is my hope to transform the storage room on the western side of St Anthony's church into an adoration chapel that can be accessed 24-hours a day by key fob. I also hope to be able to transform the northern meeting room into a new multipurpose foyer with doors opening from the carpark into the main aisle of the church. These plans and ideas have been developed in response to requests and suggestions from parishioners.

Over the course of this year, I have also been consulting with an engineer about the possibility of removing the steel beam that runs across the interior of St Anthony's church. This beam supports the extendable door that can be pulled across the church to separate the sanctuary area from the rest of the building. As mentioned earlier, we no longer need the church to be a multi-purpose space. Now that we have MacKillop Hall, we need our church to be an inviting and inspiring place of prayer. Removing the beam is one more step in improving the church. Last month, the engineer gave us the green light to remove the beam. I have also consulted the Archdiocese property team about the project and they see no problems with removing the beam.

At this stage, we plan to remove the steel beam in mid October 2026. The beam would be removed in stages. During one week, the timber cladding and door track would be removed. Then, over a second week, the beam would be unbolted from the main building structure, lowered, and removed. During the works, we will be able to use the church on Sundays, but weekday activities will need to be temporarily moved to St Francis Xavier.

I know that some of the parishioners who were involved in designing and building St Anthony's might be concerned about the removal of the beam and the door-track, since it will mean that St Anthony's can no longer be easily used as a multipurpose space. If this is you, I hope that, with reflection, you can see this project as consistent with your original vision for St Anthony's: to provide a place that meets the needs of the parish today and into the future. Your decision to move the church from Flinders Avenue to Kees Road was momentous, but it was not a rejection of the past. Instead, it was a bold next step forward with God. In the same way, works that we undertake in 2026 are not a rejection of your vision, but the application of your vision to the needs of the parish today.

As always, I welcome your feedback and thoughts. I am always available after Mass or for an appointment through the Parish Office.

In Christ, Fr Marcus Goulding PP

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# Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

## Entrance Antiphon | Cf. Sir 36: 18

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

## First Reading | Ecclesiasticus 27:33-28:9

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

## Responsorial Psalm | Psalm 102(103):1-4,9-12

**R.** *The Lord is kind and merciful: slow to anger, and rich in compassion.*

My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
all my being, bless his holy name.  
My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
and never forget all his blessings. **R.**

It is he who forgives all your guilt,  
who heals every one of your ills,  
who redeems your life from the grave,  
who crowns you with love and compassion. **R.**

His wrath will come to an end;  
he will not be angry for ever.  
He does not treat us according to our sins  
nor repay us according to our faults. **R.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth  
so strong is his love for those who fear him.  
As far as the east is from the west  
so far does he remove our sins. **R.**

## Second Reading | Romans 14:7-9

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we

die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life: it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

## Gospel Acclamation | John 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!  
I give you a new commandment:  
love one another as I have loved you.  
Alleluia.

## Gospel | Matthew 18:21-35

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times. 'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time" he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me" he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

## Communion Antiphon | Cf. Ps 35: 8

How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

| THIS WEEK   12th & 13th Sep 2026 |                       |                                               | NEXT WEEK   19th & 20th Sep 2026 |                       |                                              |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 5.00pm   Corio                   | Welcome Reader        | VOLUNTEER Ben Bekema                          | 5.00pm   Corio                   | Welcome Reader        | VOLUNTEER Bernard Lewis                      |
| 9.00am   Lara                    | Rosary Welcome Reader | Georgio Romagnoli Pedro & Jen Rochelle Martis | 9.00am   Lara                    | Rosary Welcome Reader | Rob & Lynne Angelica Jones Elisa Ballesteros |
| 11.00am   Corio                  | Rosary Welcome Reader | Tony & Trudie Lara & Maricar Kim Tancio       | 11.00am   Corio                  | Rosary Welcome Reader | LOM/Augustino Luka Brdar Rossana Vasquez     |

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# Parish Noticeboard

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**PARISH TRIVIA NIGHT—BOOK NOW.** Book at [coriolaracatholicparish.com.au/trivia](http://coriolaracatholicparish.com.au/trivia). The annual Corio Lara Parish Trivia night will be held on Saturday 19th September from 7pm to 10:30pm in the Xavier Centre. Come along and enjoy a great evening of trivia fun, games, and lots of prizes! Tickets are \$20. Groups of 8 – book for a whole table or just book for a few! BYO alcohol and food. Tea and coffee provided. Strictly over 18 years. Each **member** of the winning table receives a \$50 Coles Myer Voucher.

**PARISH MISSION | “THE PARISH: A PEARL OF GREAT PRICE” | 20/10—22/10.** As part of our 50th anniversary year celebrations, we will hold a Parish Mission in October. The Parish Mission will give us the opportunity for spiritual renewal. The Parish Mission will be preached by Fr Michel Corriveau. On the weekend of 17/18 October, Fr Michel will preach at all Masses to explain the Parish Mission and invite you along. Then he will give three talks, one each night from 7.30pm—8.15pm from Tuesday 20th to Thursday 22nd October. A flyer will be available from next weekend.

## NEWS & EVENTS

**Let us pray for the children receiving the Sacrament of Baptism this month:** Arabella, Munro, Lachlan, Appleby. We will pray for them at the 11am Mass.

**Let us pray for the children receiving First Holy Communion at St Anthony’s this Sunday:** Christina, Cyrich, Maxwell, BJ Gabriel, Arya.

**COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISHES RAFFLE 2026.** Tickets will be on sale after all Masses from 26th/27th September. More details to follow.

**PARISH PUBLIC ROSARY.** October is dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary. At 8.30am on Saturday 3rd October, parishioners are invited to gather outside St Francis Xavier church on Bacchus Marsh Road for a public rosary. We will pray for the conversion of Australia and the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

**MARCH FOR THE BABIES 2026.** The annual March for the Babies will be on Saturday 10th October 2026. It will commence at 1pm in Treasury Gardens, Melbourne. It is estimated that 25-33% of the children conceived between 2004-2020 were aborted. The March for the Babies peacefully affirms the right to life of every unborn child, the need for better assistance for women in crisis pregnancies, and the right to freedom of conscience for healthcare workers opposed to abortion.

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD DONATIONS.** Our local St Vincent de Paul branch is in need of more long-life food donations. Please think about picking up a couple of extra items when you are next at the shops. Donations can be placed in the large white boxes in the foyers of each church.

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## 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 22nd September.

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## 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](http://coriolaracatholicparish.com.au/formed). Thank you to all our generous donors.

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## 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. No supper Saturday 19th September due to Trivia Night.

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