



CORIO LARA

CATHOLIC PARISH

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

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) 27th September 2026

Talk is Cheap

There will never be a shortage of words. Words are plentiful because talk is cheap. It's easy to *make* a promise. *Keeping* a promise is an entirely different matter, as this Sunday's gospel makes abundantly clear.

There are over a billion people on the planet who have solemnly promised to live a life of loving service to God. For that is what baptism and confirmation really mean. Millions renew this promise each Sunday. That's what saying the creed and receiving communion mean. But what do our actions say? Sadly, many baptized Christians have lifestyles that don't quite match the words they profess.

Actions speak louder than words. The tongue often lies. But body language never lies. It reveals our true trajectory, our real priorities. God's Word is more than words. His Word is so substantial that it is a Person, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. And this Word was not satisfied to say "I love you." Rather He leapt into action, stripped Himself of glory, assumed the form of a slave, healed the sick, and washed feet. The last and ultimate word of the Word was the Cross, the most eloquent love letter ever written, the final PS of a 33 year life of love in action (Phil 2:1-11).

We don't need to win God's favour through perfect deeds. The Son did this for us because we were unable. But we do need to admit our need for him, repent of our sins, accept what Jesus did for us, and seek the will of the Father in the power of the Spirit. We say "sorry." But contrition is more than saying sorry. It includes the determination to change one's life with the help of God's grace and to avoid "the near occasion of sin." If we say we regret falling off a cliff and then, soon after, walk right up to the edge again, our actions drown out our weak words. If we go to confession for sexual sin yet fail to pull the plug on pornography, we may be fooling the priest and maybe even ourselves, but we aren't fooling God.

When in the parable of the two sons, one boy says yes to the will of His Father yet fails to do it, there were probably excuses given. "I forgot." "I'll get around to it later." "I was too busy." "I do more than my fair share—let my brother do it." God is wise to all this. He hears the real answer being given—"No." The younger son shouldn't have said no to the Father verbally. But he had a change of heart. And his actions revealed that change of heart. Many can't see how a loving God could possibly condemn anyone to hell. I think the answer is simple. Yes, he is a loving God who happens also to be an honest God. And he insists that the people he has endowed with free will be honest with themselves and accept responsibility for the answer they freely choose to give to his call.

No "maybes." No "let me think about it." Just a simple yes or no. Up until the very end, we have the freedom to change our answers. But the final answers which God reads are not written in either Hebrew, Greek, or Roman script, but in the characters formed by our deeds.

By Marcellino D'Ambrosio, PH.D <https://bit.ly/4xyIPtk>

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

The Pearl of Great Price

Parish Mission

Over three evenings,
learn how to meet and love Jesus
in daily life.



Talk 1 | Tuesday, 20th October 2026 **Capernaum and Calvary**

Discover how to encounter the Presence and
Passion of Christ in parish life.

Talk 2 | Wednesday, 21st October 2026 **Behold the Bridegroom**

Jesus comes among us in the parish to unite
Himself to us in a covenant relationship.

Talk 3 | Thursday, 22nd October 2026 **Love above all**

United to Christ, we are made like God. Through
parish life, we offer ourselves as a gift to the Father.

7.00pm | Talk commences

8.00pm | Wine & Cheese

The Xavier Centre
143 Bacchus Marsh Road, Corio



Fr Michel Corriveau **Mission Preacher**

Fr. Michel Corriveau came from America to Australia in 2012. He is currently the parish priest of Mount Evelyn in the Yarra Valley. Fr Michel was late to the priesthood. He first spent 15 years in the American Air Force then entered the seminary in Ohio. He was ordained in 2005 for the Fathers of Mercy and spent some years preaching parish missions before being led, by God's grace, to Australia.

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

First Reading | Ezekiel 18:25-28

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

Responsorial Psalm | Psalm 24(25):4-9

Remember your mercies, O Lord. R.

Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. **R.**

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. **R.**

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
He guides the humble in the right path,
He teaches his way to the poor. **R.**

Second Reading | Philippians 2:1-11

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be

no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus: His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Acclamation | John 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia!
My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.
Alleluia!

Gospel | Matthew 21:28-32

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

THIS WEEK 26th & 27th Sep 2026			NEXT WEEK 3rd & 4th Oct 2026		
5.00pm Corio	Welcome Reader	VOLUNTEER Reno Demicoli	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 Carolina & Brianna Ana Cesar
11.00am Corio	Rosary Welcome Reader	Luce Rasic Ivy & Tom Ivy Parkinson	11.00am Corio	Rosary Welcome Reader	Diane Vine Dalya & Yara Joe Brdar
<i>Oremus pro invicem</i>			 HERE FOR YOU www.kingsfunerals.com.au 03 5248 3444		
The sick	The faithful departed	Seminarians			
	Millie Marsetti	Rev. Rhys Lowther			

Parish Noticeboard



MILLIE MARSETTI FUNERAL DETAILS. Millie passed away last Monday. Millie lived on Princess Road and has been part of the fabric of St Francis Xavier for many years. Parishioners are strongly encouraged to attend Millie's funeral.
Monday 28/09/2026 at SFX Corio | 7.00pm Reception of the Body and Rosary
Tuesday 29/09/2026 at SFX Corio | 11.00am Requiem Mass

PARISH TRIVIA NIGHT. Thank you to the Social Committee for all their work in organising the Trivia Night! This year's profit was an amazing \$3,796.11, our best yet!

COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISHES RAFFLE 2026. Tickets are on sale from both church foyers after all Masses from 26/27 September. Tickets \$2.00 each, books for \$20.00. Fantastic prizes! 1st prize Coles/Myer gift card \$12,000, 2nd prize Coles/Myer gift card \$4,000, 3rd prize Coles/Myer gift card \$2,000, 4th prize Coles/Myer gift card \$1,000, 5th prize Coles/Myer gift card \$500. All raffle proceeds support our parish.

NEWS & EVENTS

PARISH MISSION | "THE PARISH: A PEARL OF GREAT PRICE" | 20/10–22/10. Refer to the flyer in this Sunday's newsletter for more information.

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 this Sunday 27th September from both Church foyers.

PARISH PUBLIC ROSARY. October is dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary. At 8.30am on Saturday 10th 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.

DEACON RHYS LOWTHER—ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD AND FIRST MASS. Deacon Rhys has received notice that he will be ordained to the priesthood at St Patrick's Cathedral at 10am on Saturday 14th November 2026. He will then offer his first Mass at St Anthony of Padua, Lara at 1pm on Sunday 15th November. All are invited! We are organising a bus to the ordination and a collection for Rhys' gift. Details on how to book seats for the bus will be provided in next week's newsletter.

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 CHOIR. Rehearsals are held at 9.45am on the first Sunday of each month in the Fr Ron Lowe Room. Next children's choir: Sunday 4th October. To register your child or for more information, please contact Nina on 0431 003 280.

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.

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. 1st & 3rd 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 11th October. Thank you to all our generous sponsors.

SATURDAY SUPPER. Third Saturday of each month following the 5pm Vigil Mass at Corio. Next Supper Saturday 17th October.