CORIO LARA
CATHOLIC PARISH
24/01/2026 | 50TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR | 24/01/2027

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
11th October 2026

An update on the tragedy of euthanasia in Victoria

Adapted from Michael Cook, The Catholic Weekly, 7 October 2026

Cases of voluntary assisted dying (VAD i.e. euthanasia) in Victoria have grown by 300 per cent since VAD became legal there in 2019.

The annual report of the state's Voluntary Assisted Dying Review Board for 2025-2026 was released quietly in late September. It shows that 512 people died, compared with 129 in 2019-20. The increase from the 2024 financial year to 2025 was 32 per cent, from 389 to 512. These startling statistics went almost completely unnoticed in the media – even though the report included a shocking incident with implications for VAD regulation across Australia.

A patient was approved for VAD and received the lethal drug in February this year. However, he or she died a natural death in a hospital in April. Two days later the applicant's grieving partner took the lethal dose and died. The same distressing abuse of the law has already happened twice in Queensland, although one of the two who attempted suicide there was saved. The coroner who reviewed the first of these cases said that there would be "further calamity and heartbreak" for patients and families unless the system for self-administration were reformed. The Victorian incident has confirmed his prediction. The Victorian Board said, however, that "this incident [in Victoria] does not alter the Board's assessment of the safety and integrity of the VAD framework."

VAD deaths in 2025-26 accounted for 1.1 per cent of all deaths in Victoria. They have risen significantly since the first full year of operation, in 2019-20, when they accounted for 0.3 per cent. From 2019 to 30 June this year, 2,188 people have ended their lives by assisted suicide or euthanasia in Victoria.

Last year the state parliament relaxed some of the safeguards in the 2017 VAD legislation. As of 19 April, doctors, nurses, and psychologists will be able to suggest that patients access VAD. Patients used to need to have a life expectancy of six months, but the timeframe has been extended to 12 months. Patients will also be able to choose whether they prefer euthanasia by a doctor or assisted suicide. Doctors with a conscientious objection will be required to provide information about VAD to their patients. "These changes, and the other amendments to the Act will greatly improve the safe and timely provision of VAD to Victorians," says the report. Permitting a choice between self-administration of a lethal drug (assisted suicide) or practitioner-administration (euthanasia) is likely to increase the number of VAD deaths.

The board also strongly supports VAD by telehealth – which is currently banned and can only be authorised by the Federal Parliament. The ban is "unnecessary and inhumane", the board says, although it also observes that "access to VAD does not appear to be more difficult for regional Victorians than it is for those living in metropolitan Melbourne".

Even though VAD is strictly regulated, there were 21 cases (2 per cent) in which the deaths were deemed "non-compliant" because of "administrative errors" – *which included the suicide death of the applicant's partner.*

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 | *Corio (this week only)*
Th. 9.15am | *Corio*
Fri. 5:30pm | *Corio (this week only)*
Sat. 9.15am | *Corio*

CONFESSIONS
Tue. 5.00pm-5.20pm | *Corio*
6.00pm–7.00pm | *Corio*
Fri. 5:00pm-5:20pm | *Corio*
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



CORIO LARA
CATHOLIC PARISH

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.

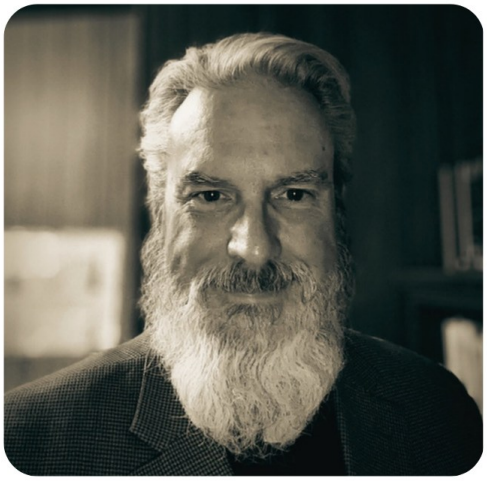
Talk 2 | Wednesday, 21st October 2026
Behold the Bridegroom
Jesus comes among us in the parish to unite Himself to us in a covenant relationship.

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-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

First Reading | *Isaiah 25:6-10*

On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines, of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines. On this mountain he will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations, he will destroy Death for ever. The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek; he will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth, for the Lord has said so. That day, it will be said: See, this is our God in whom we hoped for salvation; the Lord is the one in whom we hoped. We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us; for the hand of the Lord rests on this mountain.

Responsorial Psalm | **Psalm 22(23)**

R. *I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.*

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. ***R.***

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. ***R.***

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. ***R.***

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. ***R.***

Second Reading | **Philippians 4:12-14,19-20**

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation and now I am ready for anything anywhere: full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength. All the same, it was good of you to share with me in my hardships. In return my God will fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation | **cf. Ephesians 1:17. 18**

Alleluia, alleluia!
May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.
Alleluia!

Gospel | **Matthew 22:1-14**

Jesus began to speak to the chief priests and elders of the people in parables: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell those who have been invited" he said "that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He despatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants went out on to the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests. When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, "How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?" And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

THIS WEEK | 10th & 11th Oct 2026			**NEXT WEEK | 17th & 18th Oct 2026**		
5.00pm | Corio	Welcome Reader	George Underwood VOLUNTEER	5.00pm | Corio	Welcome Reader	George Underwood Frank Moloney
9.00am | Lara	Rosary Welcome Reader	Georgio Romagnoli Jen Angela Pearson	9.00am | Lara	Rosary Welcome Reader	Rob & Lynne Angelica Jones Jo-Anne Dean
11.00am | Corio	Rosary Welcome Reader	VOLUNTEER Lara & Maricar Luka Brdar	11.00am | Corio	Rosary Welcome Reader	LOM/Augustino Aleena & Luka Gudrun Philipp

Oremus pro invicem

The sick

The faithful departed

Frank Kevric
Salvatore Servello

Seminarians

Rev. Rhys Lowther

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Parish Noticeboard

NEWS & EVENTS

Let us pray for the children receiving the Sacrament of Baptism this month: Hugh, Flynn, Saxon, Sierah, Isaiah, Hailey.

ST ANTHONY'S CHURCH CLOSURE Mon 12/10 — Sat 17/10. St Anthony's will be closed for ALL Masses and activities due to building works. Wednesday and Friday Masses will be moved to Corio. The church will be open for Sunday Mass. Any church users can call the Parish Office to arrange another meeting space if required.

PARISH MISSION | "THE PARISH: A PEARL OF GREAT PRICE" | 20/10—22/10. See the flyer for more information.

VOLUNTEER EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST SOUGHT. We are looking for parishioners to assist with the counting of our Mass collections once every two weeks. Counting takes approx. 90 minutes. Previous cash handling experience preferred but not compulsory. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

GEELONG TERTIARY STUDENTS END OF YEAR MASS & DINNER. Catholic university and TAFE students who live in the Geelong region are invited to celebrate the end of the academic year with Mass and Dinner on **Sunday 1st November 2026**. Mass will be at 5pm at Sts Peter & Paul Catholic Church, Geelong. Family and friends are welcome to the Mass. Dinner will follow at 6.30pm at Edge Bar & Restaurant Geelong. Attendance at the dinner is limited to students and partners – booking for dinner is essential at **www.trybooking.com/DQKKB**. For more info, contact Fr Marcus Goulding corio@cam.org.au.

NEW MONTHLY ROSARY AT FLINDERS MEMORIAL PARK. Led by the Legion of Mary commencing at 10.30am on Sunday 1st November and then each first Sunday of the month.

All SOULS' DAY MASS TIMES FOR MONDAY 2nd NOVEMBER. 9.15am at Lara and 7.30pm at Corio with Confessions from 7.00pm.

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! A collection for Rhys' gift will be organised in coming weeks.

BUS TO DEACON RHYS LOWTHER'S ORDINATION ON SATURDAY 14TH NOVEMBER. We are arranging a bus to take parishioners to St Patrick's Cathedral. Tickets are $25. To book, visit **www.coriolaracatholicparish.com.au/ordination** or call the Parish Office. The bus will leave SFX Corio at 8.15am sharp.

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 20th October.

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 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.