CORIO LARA
CATHOLIC PARISH

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

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
18th October 2026

God and Caesar: Preparing for the State Election

The Victorian State election will be held on Saturday 28th November 2026. Early voting will open on Wednesday 18th November 2026. This Sunday's Gospel is, therefore, a timely reminder for us about how we as Catholics participate in the political process.

In the Gospel, Jesus makes a revolutionary distinction: "Give to Caesar that which is Caesar's and to God that which is God's." Caesar was the supreme political leader of the Roman Empire. The Caesars were venerated as gods. Jesus, however, distinguishes between God and Caesar. *Caesar is not God. The state is not God. The government is not God.* Jesus puts a clear limit on the authority of the state and government.

At the same time, Jesus' distinction between God and Caesar acknowledges that the state and government do have legitimate authority that we must respect. Each nation has it's own form of political process. In Australia, we have a form of the Westminster system that blends constitution, monarchy, and a democratically elected parliament. We are required by law to participate in voting at elections for our local, state and federal leaders. The Catholic Church has always strongly encouraged Catholics to pray for our political leaders. The Church also strongly encourages Catholics to participate in politics, whether that be as political candidates, party members, or voters.

Importantly, Jesus' teaching also means that our engagement in the political process has moral significance. Our participation in the political process has consequences for our relationship with God. We may never participate in the political process in a way that causes us to commit sin or participate in evil. We may not separate our politics from our faith. This applies to those who hold political office as well as to those who vote in elections.

In a democracy such as ours, therefore, voting is a moral act. The way we vote has consequences for our relationship with God. You can sin by voting for a candidate who supports evil policies. Their sin becomes your sin. When we vote, we must do our best to vote in a way that accords with God's law as taught by the Catholic Church.

If voting is a moral act, then we must inform ourselves about who we are voting for and the policies they support. It is not always easy to determine which candidate's policies are most in keeping with what we believe. Nevertheless, we can all do a Google search for the candidates standing in our electorate, and another Google search for the policies of each candidate.

There are many issues at play in the next election, but some issues are of more moral weight than others. One of the most weighty moral issues is the sanctity of human life. As Catholics, we want a government that respects human life from natural conception to natural death.

It was extremely disappointing to see the Labor and Liberal parties this week pledge to provide free abortions if they win the next election. This is already party policy for the Greens. A Catholic cannot, in good conscience, support a candidate or party who advocates for abortion or euthanasia.

We also want a government that, among other things, respects religious freedom, respects the rights of the family, ensures workers are remunerated justly, cares prudently for the natural environment, and cares for the poor. We want a government that respects the limits of its own authority and uses that authority responsibly in service of the citizenry, not itself.

As the state election approaches, I encourage everyone to inform themselves about their local candidates and each candidate's policies. If you want help understanding a particular political policy from a Catholic perspective, you are welcome to speak to me.

Fr Marcus Goulding, Parish Priest

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
Saturday	5.00pm (Vigil) | *Corio*
Sunday	9.00am | *Lara*
	11.00am | *Corio*

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES
Tuesday	5.30pm | *Corio*
Wednesday	9.15am | *Lara*
Thursday	9.15am | *Corio*
Friday	5.30pm | *Lara*
Saturday	9.15am | *Corio*

CONFESSIONS
Tuesday	5.00pm - 5.20pm | *Corio*
	6.00pm - 7.00pm | *Corio*
Friday	5.00pm - 5.20pm | *Lara*
1st Friday	6.00pm - 7.00pm | *Lara*
Saturday	8.45am - 9.10am | *Corio*
	4.30pm - 4.55pm | *Corio*
Sunday	8.30am - 8.55am | *Lara*

THE ROSARY
Tues-Sat	25 mins prior to Mass
Sunday	8.30am | *Lara*
	10.30am | *Corio*

HOLY HOUR
Tuesday	6.00pm - 7.00pm | *Corio*
1st Friday	6.00pm - 7.00pm | *Lara*

MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP NOVENA
Wednesday	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

Let us pray

MELBOURNE SEMINARIANS

Deacon Rhys Lowther

THE SICK

Josephine Juresko

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Peter Yates

Ruberto Garcia

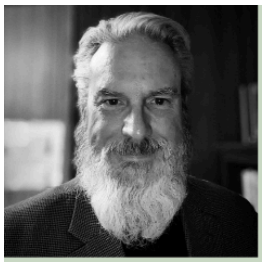
Liturgy Roster

THIS WEEKEND | 17/18 October 2026

5.00pm	Welcome	George Underwood
	Reader	Frank Moloney
9.00am	Welcome	Angelica Jones
	Rosary	Rob & Lynne
	Reader	Jo-Anne Dean
11.00am	Welcome	Aleena & Luka
	Rosary	LOM / Augustino
	Reader	Gudrun Philipp

NEXT WEEKEND | 24/25 October 2026

5.00pm	Welcome	George Underwood
	Reader	Ben Bekema
9.00am	Welcome	Dee & Zion
	Rosary	John Cook
	Reader	Rochelle Martis
11.00am	Welcome	Ivy & Tom
	Rosary	Luce Rasic
	Reader	Kim Tancio



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.

Parish Mission

The Pearl of Great Price

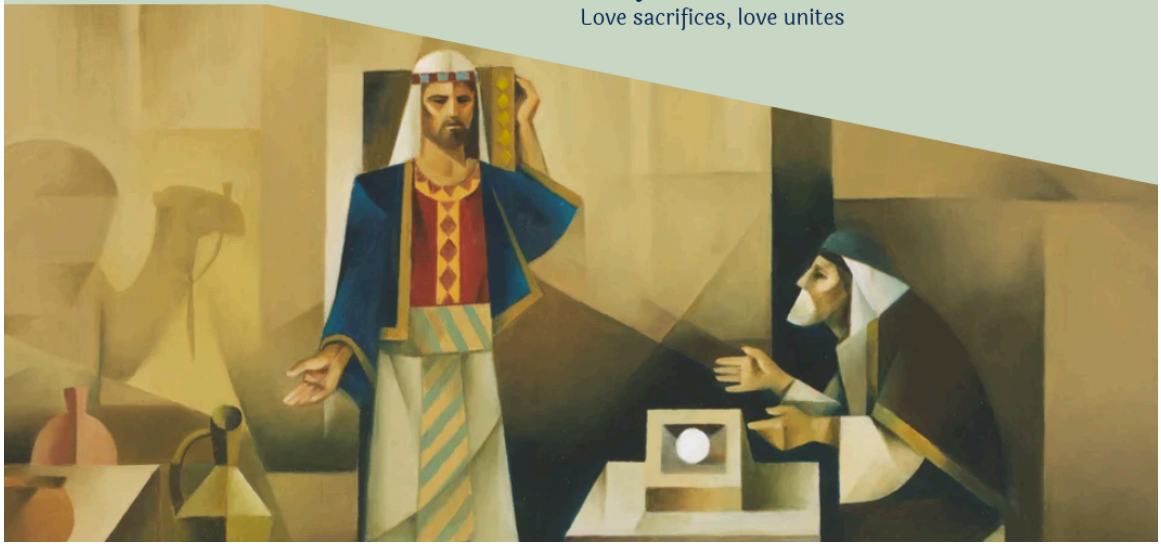
Corio Lara Catholic Parish
The Xavier Centre | 143 Bacchus Marsh Road, Corio

7pm | Talk commences
8pm | Wine & Cheese

Talk 1 | Capernaum and Calvary
Tuesday, 20th October 2026
Encounter the presence of Jesus

Talk 2 | Behold the Bridegroom
Wednesday, 21st October 2026
Enter the marriage of God and humanity

Talk 3 | Love above all
Thursday, 22nd October 2026
Love sacrifices, love unites



CDF

Save for a Greater Reward

Help fund projects across Catholic organisations, including parishes, hospital wings and classrooms, with a CDF Community Fund savings account.

With competitive interest rates, it's a greater reward than money alone.

Scan the QR code to visit our website or call our team on 1800 134 135 for more information.

Parish Noticeboard

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

UPDATE ON WORKS AT ST ANTHONY'S CHURCH. The beam that ran across the interior of the church has been successfully removed. Masses return to St Anthony's this week as per the usual schedule. A big thank you to the incredible team of parishioners who donated their time and talents. Special thanks to Joe for managing the project and Adam for his skills cutting and welding. Thanks also to Marcus, Marty, Gerard, Michael, Rad, Pat M, Pat C, and Chris for helping out in different ways during the week. Over the next two weeks, the ceiling will be tidied up.

COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISHES RAFFLE. Tickets will be sold after Sunday Masses. $2 each. This is a wonderful fundraiser for our parish. Thank you for your support!

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 to express interest.

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 25th October from both church foyers.

THEFT FROM ST FRANCIS XAVIER AFTER MASS LAST SUNDAY 11th OCTOBER. Some items were stolen from a bag left in the women's toilet. The police are investigating. If you have any information please contact the parish office.

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 1st November. To register your child or for more information, please contact Lani on 0404 690 773 or Nina on 0431 003 280.

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.

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 MONDAY 2nd NOVEMBER 2026
9.15am | Mass | Lara 7.00pm | Confessions | Corio 7.30pm | Mass | Corio

DEACON RHYS LOWTHER ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD
10.00am | Saturday, 14th November 2026 at St Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne

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

DEACON RHYS LOWTHER FIRST MASS SUNDAY 15th NOVEMBER 2026
1.00pm | Mass | St Anthony's, Lara 2.30pm | Lunch | MacKillop Hall, Lara

Children & Youth

PARISH PLAYGROUP
2nd & 4th Sundays after the 9am Mass
Contact Angelica 0422 585 223
or Dee 0430 302 969

CHILDREN'S CATECHESIS
Primary-school aged children
Fridays at 4pm during school term
in St Francis Xavier foyer

YOUNG ADULTS
Ages 18-30
2nd & 4th Tuesdays of each month
Meet in St Francis Xavier foyer

Fellowship

PARISH BBQ
2nd Sunday after the 11am Mass

CHURCH CAFE
1st & 3rd Sundays after the 9am Mass
Every Sunday after the 11am Mass

SATURDAY SUPPER
3rd Saturday after the 5pm Mass

Readings

Entrance Antiphon | *Cf. Ps 16: 6, 8*

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.

First Reading | *Isaiah 45:1,4-6*

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more:

'It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me. I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.'

Responsorial Psalm | *Psalm 95(96):1,3-5,7-10*

R. *Give the Lord glory and honour.*

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
Tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. ***R.***

The Lord is great and worthy of praise,
to be feared above all gods;
the gods of the heathens are naught.
It was the Lord who made the heavens, ***R.***

Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Bring an offering and enter his courts. ***R.***

Worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'
He will judge the peoples in fairness. ***R.***

Second Reading | *1 Thessalonians 1:1-5*

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

Gospel Acclamation | *Philippians 2:15-16*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.

Alleluia!

Gospel | *Matthew 22:15-21*

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

Communion Antiphon | *Cf. Ps 32: 18-19*

Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.