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

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

25th October 2026

Who will stand for the least among us?
Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli

Published in the Herald Sun on Wednesday 21 October 2026

Australians were rightly horrified by the announced livestream execution of a convicted mass murderer. While US authorities have seen sense and cancelled the livestream, they still plan to execute the man. This isn't the only execution to grab our attention recently. The failed execution of another prisoner in the US has shown there is no neat, 'dignified' way to take someone's life, despite the promises of advocates.

To many Australians, this culture of death seems foreign to us. The truth, however, is that the taking of lives does occur here. The termination of the unborn at one end of life and the terminally ill at the other end is just as brutal and should be just as shocking. But, like capital punishment, the reality of these deaths is often hidden from us.

In the past week, the Labor Party proudly announced that, if reelected, Victorian taxpayers would cover the full cost of abortions for expectant mothers in Victoria. The Liberal/ National Coalition swiftly confirmed they would follow suit.

Last year, Victoria made so-called 'Voluntary Assisted Dying' easier to access. Despite advocate promises about 'dying with dignity', it's not hard to find accounts of patients whose attempts to end their life using VAD have not been quick or easy or painless. Australian authorities don't often publish this sort of data, so this reality is largely hidden from us.

But do we hold in our mind and heart the stark reality of what is occurring when human lives are deliberately ended? Each person is unique and unrepeatable; made in the image and likeness of God, with inherent dignity and infinite worth that is never lost. Sadly, this is too often ignored.

Australia rightly recognised decades ago that it could no longer justify capital punishment, if it ever could. We have the means to safely incarcerate convicted criminals for the rest of their lives if necessary.

How then can we justify ending the lives of the unborn, whatever the reason given? Do we not have the means to support the least among us and their mothers? And with the sick and the terminally ill, don't we have the means to support them fully with love, compassion and medical care, to the end? Will politicians who advocate to fully fund one 'choice' also advocate to fully fund the alternatives?

Sadly, no major political party—Labor, Liberal, National—or the Greens or One Nation is offering to really turn back the tide on this culture of death. True, no candidate or political party can ever solve every issue or be a perfect representative. When casting our votes in November we will need to weigh up the full range of issues and policies before us to decide who would best serve the common good—or least harm it. Let us pray that those we choose will govern wisely and prudently, upholding the good of all, especially the least among us.

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
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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 29/10	7.30am | *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

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Veronica Mahoney

formed
Forming Catholics for Life.



What Catholics Believe About Halloween | All Saints, All Souls

Is Halloween really a pagan holiday—or is it deeply Christian? In this episode of What Catholics Believe, Dr. Ben Akers explains the Catholic roots of Halloween, its connection to All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, and how Catholics can celebrate it faithfully. Discover the history of trick-or-treating, the dangers of the occult, the meaning behind costumes, and even the Catholic perspective on vampires and zombies.

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An offering from the Augustine Institute

Liturgy Roster

THIS 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

NEXT WEEKEND | 31/10 & 1/11 2026

5.00pm	Welcome	George Underwood
	Reader	Bernard Lewis
9.00am	Welcome	Carolina & Brianna
	Rosary	Legion of Mary
	Reader	Elisa Ballesteros
11.00am	Welcome	Dalya & Yara
	Rosary	Diane Vine
	Reader	Lara Mesoga

NOVEMBER HOMILY SERIES: PREPARING FOR DEATH AS A CATHOLIC

November begins with All Souls' Day and is a time of special prayer for our deceased relatives and friends. It is a good time to deepen our understanding of how we, as Catholics, approach death. Over the four weekends in November, Fr Marcus will preach a series of homilies:

1/11 - Homily 1: "How Catholics prepare for death"
8/11 - Homily 2: "The Catholic Funeral Explained"
15/11 - Homily 3: "Caring for the Body after Death"
22/11 - Homily 4: "Caring for the Soul after Death"

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.

Visit www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund
or call our team on 1800 134 135 for more information

Parish Noticeboard

CHANGE OF MASS TIME THURSDAY 29/10 ONLY. Mass will be at 7.30am at Corio instead of 9.15am so that Fr Marcus can attend an Archdiocese clergy formation day.

LAST CHANCE: 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!

THIS SUNDAY: STATUE OF MARY HOME VISIT BOOKINGS. 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 25th October from both church foyers.

BOOKINGS CLOSE 26/11: 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 by 26/11 is essential at www.trybooking.com/DQKKB. For more info, contact Fr Marcus Goulding corio@cam.org.au.

All SOULS' DAY MASS TIMES MONDAY 2nd NOVEMBER 2026
9.15am | Mass | Lara 7.00pm | Confessions | Corio 7.30pm | Mass | Corio

NOVEMBER MASS OFFERINGS FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED. During November, we pray for the eternal repose of our deceased relatives and friends. The greatest prayer we can offer for the dead is the Mass. When we make a donation to have a Mass offered for our deceased loved-ones, the merits of our sacrifice are joined to the merits of Christ's sacrifice and applied to the souls of the dead, assisting their purification in purgatory. To have Mass offered for your deceased relatives, complete a Yellow Mass Offering envelope from the church foyers, enclose a donation, and give it to Fr Marcus or the Parish Office.

BOOKINGS CLOSE 2/11: 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.

SIGN UP: WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH LUNCH AFTER DEACON RHYS' FIRST MASS. A celebratory lunch will be held in MacKillop Hall after Deacon Rhys' first Mass at St Anthony's on 15/11. We need people to help set up, serve food, and pack up. If you can help, please put your name on the sign-up sheets in the church foyers.

WE NEED PEOPLE TO HELP COUNT OUR SUNDAY COLLECTIONS: EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST. 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.

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.

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.

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

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 104: 3-4*

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

First Reading | *Exodus 22:20-26*

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this:

'"You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

'"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

'"If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."'

Responsorial Psalm | *Psalm 17(18):2-4,47,51*

R. I love you, Lord, my strength.

I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise,
when I call I am saved from my foes. ***R.***

Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me,
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed. ***R.***

Second Reading | *1 Thessalonians 1:5-10*

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

Gospel Acclamation | *John 14:23*

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.

Alleluia!

Gospel | *Matthew 22:34-40*

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: You must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

Communion Antiphon | *Cf. Ps 19: 6*

We will ring out our joy at your saving help and exult in the name of our God.

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