



CORIO LARA

— CATHOLIC PARISH —

First Sunday of Lent (Year B) 18th February 2024

Lent and the Holy Mass

On the first Sunday of Lent, we hear of the Lord's retreat into the wilderness for forty days. The wilderness is a place of deprivation. The Lord is deprived of all natural supports except the one thing that matters most: His Father. The wilderness, then, is about getting back to basics. Everything non-essential is left aside so that attention can be given to that which matters most. During the forty days of Lent, we imitate Our Lord. We get back to basics. We give our attention to God alone, voluntarily renouncing certain lesser goods that we sometimes allow to come between us and God.

During Lent, the Church's liturgy reflects this spirit of simple attention to the essentials. We omit the 'Glory to God' and the 'Alleluia'. We refrain from using flowers. From the Fifth Sunday of Lent, the crucifixes, statues and images will be covered with purple cloth. In this way, the sacred liturgy reminds us that the supreme focus of our lives and the Mass is God.

In this spirit, there will be a couple of adjustments to Sunday Masses from this weekend. The introduction before Mass will be omitted, as will be the parish prayer from the Prayers of the Faithful. The beginning of Mass will henceforth be indicated by the ringing of a bell. The introduction and parish prayer have served good purposes, but they are also impositions upon the rites of the Mass. The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, which contains the rubrics (rules) for the celebration of Mass, cautions us against such impositions: "[T]he priest will remember that he is the servant of the Sacred Liturgy and that he is not permitted, on his own initiative, to add, to remove, or to change anything in the celebration of Mass." The structure of the Mass, as it is given to us by the Church, serves a very specific purpose: to unite us with the Son in offering loving worship to the Father.

During the week, we received delivery of new altar cloths for both churches. The cloths have been blessed and now adorn our altars. These cloths are made from white Irish linen and were sewn by the nuns of the Carmelite Convent in Launceston, Tasmania. These remarkable women devote their lives to the service of God and the Church in the obscurity of enclosed monasticism. They have assured me of their prayers for Corio Lara Parish. Please pray for them and consider supporting them: www.launcestoncarmel.com.

The use of cloths to cover the altar during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is very ancient. We have testimony from the AD300s that all Christians knew altar cloths were a necessity, suggesting that the cloths were in universal use from the second or even first century. Like everything used in the Mass, altar cloths have a practical use but are also highly symbolic. The altar, on which the unbloody Sacrifice is offered, signifies the Body of Christ, through which the blood Sacrifice was offered. The altar cloths, therefore, signify the white burial cloths of Christ. They also remind us of our white baptismal garment, which itself signifies the gift of sanctifying grace, merited by the sacrifice of Christ.

Fr Marcus Goulding, Administrator

CHURCHES

St Francis Xavier Church, Corio
St Anthony of Padua Church, Lara

ADMINISTRATOR

Fr Marcus Goulding
marcus.goulding@cam.org.au

WEBSITE

www.pol.org.au/corio

PARISH OFFICE

Jasna Brdar | *Parish Secretary*
Tuesday – Friday | 10am – 3pm
143 Bacchus Marsh Rd, Corio 3214
T. 03 4212 0791
E. corio@cam.org.au

PERMANENT DEACON

Rev. Royden D'Souza

EVANGELISATION LEAD

Gudrun Philipp

MASS TIMES

Tue. 9.15am | Corio
W. 9.15am | Lara
Th. 9.15am | Corio
F. 9.15am | Corio
Sat. 7pm (Vigil) | Corio
Sun. 9am | Lara
11am | Corio

THE ROSARY

8.50am | Prior to weekday Masses

HOLY HOUR & CONFESSIONS

Tue. 7.30pm – 8.30pm | Corio

FIRST SATURDAYS

8.30am Confessions | Corio
9.30am Weekday Mass | Corio
5.30pm Vietnamese Mass | Corio

PRESBYTERY GIVING

St Francis Xavier Presbytery Account
BSB 083 347
ACC 543 292 126

CHURCH GIVING

St Francis Xavier Church Account
BSB 083 347
ACC 674 963 655

Please consider making a regular gift.

Mass Readings

Entrance Antiphon | Cf. Ps 90:15-16

When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

First Reading | Genesis 9:8-15

Responsorial Psalm | Psalm 24(25):4-6,7b-9

R. Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

Second Reading | 1 Peter 3:18-22

Gospel Acclamation | Matthew 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel | Mark 1:12-15

Communion Antiphon | Mt 4: 4

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

NEXT WEEK | Gen 22:1-2,9-13,15-18; Romans 8:31-34; Mark 9:2-10

MASS ROSTER NEXT WEEKEND (24/25 Feb)

7pm Corio	<i>Comm. Reader</i> EMHC	Ken McCarthy Jim Forssman Larry Pankhurst
9am Lara	<i>Comm. Reader</i> EMHC	Nola Meade Val Brennan Sarah Jackson
11am Corio	<i>Comm. Reader</i> EMHC	Nina T-Singh Kim Tancio VOLUNTEER Mercy Leszyk

PLEASE PRAY FOR

The faithful departed: Reynante Macaraig, Norma Astilla, Dana Brdar.

The sick.

Pray for Seminarians! Pray for Vocations!

Parish Notices

NEW PARISH EMAIL ADDRESS. All email correspondence should now be directed to corio@cam.org.au.

COMBINED CHOIR FOR HOLY THURSDAY, GOOD FRIDAY, EASTER VIGIL. Parishioners are invited to join a combined choir for the Sacred Triduum (instrumentalists have already been appointed). No musical knowledge necessary. Rehearsals will be led by Fr Marcus from 7.00pm – 8.30pm at St Francis Xavier on Wednesday evenings throughout Lent beginning 21/02/24. Participants will need to attend all rehearsals.

HOLY WEEK 2024 TIMETABLE NOW AVAILABLE. Take a copy home or download a copy from the website.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT. 7.30pm in St Francis Xavier church every Friday during Lent. The Stations run for approximately 30 minutes and be led by Fr Marcus.

EXTRA CONFESSION TIMES DURING LENT:

7.00pm | Fridays, prior to Stations of the Cross (Corio)

8.30am | Sundays, prior to Mass (Lara)

To learn more about how to make a good confession, visit www.pol.org.au/corio/reconciliation.aspx

'SPARK' U18 YOUTH GROUP LAUNCHING 18/02/24. The first session of our new under 18s youth group will be held from 6.00pm–8.30pm on Sunday 18th February 2024. We will meet in St Francis Xavier Church foyer. Pizza dinner will be provided. Donations from attendees appreciated. Simply turn up, or email Gudrun (gudrun.philipp@cam.org.au) to register your interest.

PROJECT COMPASSION. Boxes and donation envelopes now available for collection in the church foyers.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER. An ecumenical service, "Praying for Peace," will be held at Lara Uniting Church at 1.30pm on Friday 1st March. There will be a guest speaker and afternoon tea will be provided. For transport or more information contact Val Brennan on 0437 132 049.

CHURCH CAFÉ. Every Sunday after the 11am Mass at St Francis Xavier. First and third Sundays of the month after the 9am Mass at St Anthony of Padua.

MONTHLY PARISH BBQ AT CORIO. Second Sunday of the month after the 11am Mass at St Francis Xavier from Feb to Nov. We are seeking sponsors to each donate \$200 to cover the cost of one of our ten BBQs for the year. If you can sponsor one of our monthly BBQs, please contact the Parish Office or speak to Fr Marcus.



HERE FOR YOU
Kingsfunerals.com.au
Ph. 5248 3444

OUR PARISH IS COMMITTED TO THE SAFETY AND WELLBEING
OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS