

Second Sunday of Lent (Year B)

25th February 2024

All questions are good questions!

As we have gotten to know each other over the last few weeks, a few people have asked about certain aspects of the way I celebrate the Mass. As I often say to people, all questions are good questions! I offer the following thoughts, mindful that others might have similar questions.

The manner in which a priest celebrates Mass is called 'ars celebrandi' or 'art of celebrating'. This topic was, in fact, the theme of last year's Melbourne clergy conference. Abbot Paul Gunter, a Benedictine from England, spoke to us on the importance of the priest's manner of celebrating. He drew on insights from Pope Francis' recent apostolic exhortation, *Desiderio Desideravi* (2022), as well as the teaching of Pope Benedict XVI.

Abbot Gunter explained that the priest's style of celebrating should be, above all, an expression of faith in the mystery of God and the sacrifice of Christ. In the words of Pope Benedict, the "ars celebrandi is the fruit of faithful adherence to the liturgical norms in all their richness." The late Pope also emphasised that such a style of celebrating the Mass is not opposed to the participation of the faithful in the Mass. "The primary way to foster the participation of the People of God in the sacred rite is the proper celebration of the rite itself," he observed. By faithfully observing the liturgical norms with profound faith in the reality of God, the priest assists the people to encounter God in the Mass.

Pope Francis also emphasises that "ordained ministers must have a very particular concern" for their *ars celebrandi*. He observes that "there are different 'models' of presiding." Nevertheless, some of these "characterise a way of presiding that is certainly inadequate." He pinpoints the root of an inappropriate style of offering Mass: "a heightened personalism of the celebrating style which at times expresses a poorly concealed mania to be the centre of attention." A true and authentic style of celebration enables the person of the priest to 'disappear' so that Christ the High Priest may be encountered by the faithful.

A faithful art of celebration helps the congregation grasp the essence of the Mass: the Mass is a dialogue of love between God and humanity in Christ. There are parts of the Mass where the priest, in the name of Christ, addresses the people directly, such as when he says, "The Lord be with you." The vast majority of the words the priest says in the Mass, however, are prayers addressed to God through Christ on behalf of the congregation. The Collects (Let us pray...), Prayers of the Faithful, Preface, and Eucharistic Prayer are all prayers directed to God. You will notice that when I address the congregation, I look at the congregation. When I address God, however, my eyes are turned elsewhere, usually to the crucifix, altar, or the Eucharist itself. In my previous parishes, I have found that this shift in focus helps the congregation understand when God is talking to them through Christ and when they are talking to God through Christ. I am optimistic that, over time, you will also find my manner of offering Mass a help to your faith.

If you have other questions, please do not hesitate to ask!

Fr Marcus Goulding, Administrator

CHURCHES

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

ADMINISTRATOR

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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

CONFESSIONS

Tue. 7.30pm – 8.30pm | *Corio* **Sun.** 8.30am – 8.55am | *Lara*

THE ROSARY

8.50am | Prior to weekday Masses

HOLY HOUR

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

Mass Readings

Entrance Antiphon | Cf. Ps 26:8-9

Of you my heart has spoken, 'Seek His face.' It is Your face, O Lord, that I seek: hide not Your face from me.

First Reading | Genesis 22:1-2,9-13,15-18

Responsorial Psalm | *Psalm* 115(116):10,15-19

R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

Second Reading | Romans 8:31-34

Gospel Acclamation | Matthew 17:5 Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel | Mark 9:2-10

Communion Antiphon | Mt 17:5

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

NEXT WEEK | Exodus 20:1-17; 1 Cor 1:22-25; John 2:13-25

MASS ROSTER NEXT WEEKEND (2/3 March)		
7pm Corio	Comm. Reader EMHC	Ken McCarthy Jim Forssman Maria Delac
9am Lara	Comm. Reader EMHC	R. Vasquez Ana Cesar Val Brennan
11am Corio	Comm. Reader EMHC	Sandra Peters Gren Peters J. Gundayo Mercy Leszyk

PLEASE PRAY FOR

The faithful departed: Frank Jones, Bridget Moloney, Sr Mary Padua Green, Elizabeth Gleeson.

The sick: Prue Batty.

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. Next rehearsal 7.00pm - 8.30pm Wednesday 28th February at St Francis Xavier Church. New singers welcome, no musical knowledge necessary.

HOLY WEEK 2024 TIMETABLE NOW AVAILBLE. 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. Confession available from 7.00pm.

EASTER EGG HUNT DONATIONS. Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will again be held after the 11am Mass at Corio on Easter Sunday, 31st March. A basket will be placed in the Corio church foyer for newly-purchased chocolate donations. You contributions will be greatly appreciated. For inquiries or offers to assist on the day, contact Gudrun at the Parish Office.

'SPARK' U18 YOUTH GROUP. Open to high-school-aged children. Next meeting 6.00pm - 8.30pm 3rd March 2024 in the Xavier Centre. Pizza dinner will be provided. Contact Gudrun for more information.

PROJECT COMPASSION. Boxes and donation envelopes 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. If you can volunteer your time to help run our Church Café, please contact Gudrun or the Parish Office.

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.

TUTORS NEEDED. CatholicCare is seeking volunteer tutors to work with refugee and migrant students at North Geelong Secondary College. Contact Jaclyn Fraser on jaclyn.fraser@catholiccarevic.org.au.



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