

The English-Speaking Roman Catholic Community on Gozo

Patron Saint—St. Thomas More
Our website: www.esccgozo.org

Fourth Sunday of Easter (B)

21st April 2024
Celebrated by:
Padre Jose Camilleri



Hymns for Today "To sing is to pray twice"

- 699 The King Of Love My Shepherd Is
706 The Lord's My Shepherd
175 Follow Me Follow Me

Second Reading : 1 John 3:1-2

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

The Word of the Lord

We Pray For...

Those in our community who need our prayers and all our relatives and friends who are in need and those who have died.

Memorial Acclamation

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your death O Lord, until you come again.

The collection for last Sunday was €175.60. All monies collected are deployed to cover the costs of running our community and for good causes The previous week's collection was €211.50

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my own sheep and my own know me.
Alleluia

Gospel John 10:11-18

Jesus said:

'I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep. The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep. 'I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep. And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well. They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock, and one shepherd. 'The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again; and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord



23rd April 4.30 to 5.30 pm

Catholic Action /
Bible Study Group at
Santa Lucija Church

28th April – Bishop's Visit

See attached poster for details

Good shepherd Sunday

First Reading : 4:8-12

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: 'Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence, today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in men;
it is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes. (R)

I will thank you for you have answered and you are my saviour.

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. (R)

Blessed in the name of the Lord is he who comes.

We bless you from the house of the Lord;

You are my God, I thank you.

My God, I praise you.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good: for his love has no end. (R)

Commentaries on Today's Readings

After listening to today's readings pause now to consider the following:

Fr. Robert Draper's reflections:

The use of 'Good Shepherd' teaching in Chapter 10 of John's Gospel, which we hear each year on the fourth Sunday of Easter – a day of prayer for vocations – comes today prefaced by two unequivocal assertions. Peter addresses the Sanhedrin and boldly asserts: 'For all of the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.' In his letter to the community, the writer of 1 John insists: 'My dear people, we are already the children of God.' These voices from the earliest proclamation of the faith speak directly to the Church of today and remind us of the reality of the faith we profess. When we approach the Gospel for today, we are prepared for the total lack of compromise that Jesus expresses. In any human terms, it is absurd to suggest that a real shepherd would give up his life for the sake of his sheep. A shepherd would certainly seek to protect his sheep from wolves – they are his livelihood after all – but to use the language of sacrifice is extraordinary. Jesus, however, insists that it is because he has concern for his sheep that he is prepared to lay down his life – it is the language of love. And that language of love for the sheep is rooted in the love of the Father for Jesus. The love of the Good Shepherd is totally giving – 'I lay down my life of my own free will' – but because it is a divine love, it overcomes even death: 'it is my power to take it up again.' That is the love that is expressed in the Resurrection and in which believers are invited to participate. This is the nature of the love that 1 John speaks of so expressively: 'Think of the love that the Father has lavished upon us.' That is the love that leads the Good Shepherd to lay down his life for his sheep – and that is the love that enables him to raise up those whom he acknowledges as his own – and that includes all those who hear these words today.



Sacred Heart Seminary Chapel Enrico Mizzi Street Victoria

(car park available on Sundays & Holy Days
opposite Seminary)

Sunday Mass at 10.00 am

**The Sacrament of
Confession**

is heard before Mass. Please allow
time before Mass is due to
commence

Our chaplain:

Father Loretu Tabone:

Tel: 21561824 or 99001829

Email: tabonel@hotmail.com

Council Members:

John & Veronica Grech 21551180

David Felice Pace 79560051

**Marcel & Sylvia Grech-Marguerat
77051050**

Johanna Marks 99950596

Mary Newman 77047872

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for April

**Let us pray that the dignity and
worth of women be recognized in
every culture, and for an end to
the discrimination they face in
various parts of the world.**

PRAYER AT THE END OF MASS

As suggested by His Holiness, Pope Francis:

Holy Michael, Archangel,
defend us in the day of battle:
Be our safeguard against the
wickedness and snares of the devil.
May God rebuke him, we humbly
pray: and do thou, Prince of the
heavenly host, by the power of
God thrust down to hell, Satan,
and all wicked spirits who wander
through the world for the ruin of
souls.

And from Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

Each year on this 4th Sunday of Easter there is a reading from John about the Good Shepherd. To think of ourselves as woolly and cuddly sheep, obedient to the shepherd, would be a mistake. Sheep are renowned as being silly, contradictory creatures, always starting off in the wrong direction, getting themselves into tangles and difficulties. In the Holy Land they are scraggy beasts, pastured on rocky and often dangerous ground, amid boulders and cliffs, threatened by wild animals and marauders. It was not simply a matter of the shepherd sitting on a rock and idly playing his pipe. He needed to be on the alert to save the sheep from hurting themselves. So Jesus as the good shepherd is kept well occupied by our foibles, our stubbornness, our mistakes and our fears. Again, as in this Sunday's other two readings, there the reassurance of a close relationship with the Father. Jesus knows us intimately, just as he knows the Father. It is questionable whether in real life a shepherd should lay down his life for his sheep. What would happen to the remainder of the flock? But it is an expression of Jesus' whole-hearted devotion to the flock that he shepherds. What is a shepherd's job with herd? Who do you think of as shepherds in your life? What do you value most in those who guide you? Wednesday 17th April 2024 THE YEAR OF PRAYER Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep. The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep. And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well. They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock and one shepherd. The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again; and this is the command I have been given by my Father."

Readers Rota

21-Apr Readings	Chris Holland	Prayers	Rachel Holland
28-Apr Readings	Rachel Holland	Prayers	Aimee Vant
05-May Readings	Emilia Aquilina-Gray	Prayers	Andy Young
12-May Readings	Andy Young	Prayers	Mary Newman
19-May Readings	Mary Newman	Prayers	Emilia Aquilina-Gray



SAINT THOMAS MORE DAY

28TH APRIL 2024

His Excellency Mgr Anton Teuma will be celebrating Mass at 10.00 am at the Seminary in Victoria.

The Mass will be a Concelebration involving our Chaplain Fr Loreto Tabone, possibly together with other priests who would be able to make it on the day.

The image of our Patron Saint will be exhibited during the Mass for veneration.

We are also taking this opportunity to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the ordination to the priesthood of Fr Loreto who has served this community for many years and still does. His actual anniversary falls in a few weeks' time, but the presence of the Bishop with us on Sunday 28th persuaded us to have it on such an auspicious occasion.

We invite everyone to join us at a reception which will be held at 11.00 am at the Seminary Hall. If you wish to bring a guest with you, particularly partners who do not attend Mass for any reason, please do so. There will be plenty of food, so no need to rush out to have lunch at home.

ANYONE WITH ANY DIETARY REQUIREMENTS, LIKE GLUTEN FREE, PLEASE, SEE MARY NEWMAN TODAY.

We have been asked by the Rector of the Seminary to leave the hall as we find it as a group is expected to use the hall in the afternoon. We plan to be out of the Seminary by 12.30 pm the latest.