

The English-Speaking Roman Catholic Community on Gozo

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

Pentecost

19th May 2024

Celebrated by

Fr. Loretu Tabone

The beginning of the Christian church's mission to the world.



Hymns for Today

"To sing is to pray twice"

126 Come Holy Ghost

873 Holy Spirit We Welcome You

914 The Spirit Lives (Walk In The Light)

First Reading : Acts 2:1-11

When Pentecost day came round, they had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech. Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome - Jews and proselytes alike - Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm : 103(104):1,24,29-

31,34

(R) *Send forth your spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.*

Bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God, how great you are,
How many are your works, O Lord!
The earth is full of your riches.(R)

You take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth. (R)

May the glory of the Lord last for ever!

May the Lord rejoice in his works!
May my thoughts be pleasing to him.

I find my joy in the Lord. (R)

Second Reading : Galatians 5:16-25

If you are guided by the Spirit you will be in no danger of yielding to self-indulgence, since self-indulgence is the opposite of the Spirit, the Spirit is totally against such a thing, and it is precisely because the two are so opposed that you do not always carry out your good intentions. If you are led by the Spirit, no law can touch you. When self-indulgence is at work the results are obvious: fornication, gross indecency and sexual irresponsibility; idolatry and sorcery; feuds and wrangling, jealousy, bad temper and quarrels; disagreements, factions, envy; drunkenness, orgies and similar things. I warn you now, as I warned you before: those who behave like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. What the Spirit brings is very different: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self-control. There can be no law against things like that, of course. You cannot belong to Christ Jesus unless you crucify all self-indulgent passions and desires. Since the Spirit is our life, let us be directed by the Spirit.

The Word of the Lord

SEQUENCE

Holy Spirit, Lord of Light,
From the clear celestial height
Thy pure beaming radiance give

Come, thou Father of the poor,
Come with treasures which endure;
Come, thou light to all that live!

Thou, of all consolers best,
Thou, the soul's delightful guest,
Dost refreshing peace bestow;

Thou in toil art comfort sweet:
Pleasant coolness in the heat:
Solace in the midst of woe.

Light immortal, light divine,
Visit thou these hearts of thine,
And our inmost being fill:

If thou take thy grace away,
Nothing pure in man will stay;
All his good is turned to ill .

Heal our wounds, our strength renew;
On our dryness pour thy dew:
Wash the stains of guilt away:

Bend the stubborn heart and will:
Let the frozen, warm the chill;
Guide the steps that go astray.

Thou, on us who evermore
Thee confess and thee adore,
With thy sevenfold gifts descend:

Give us comfort when we die;
Give us life with thee on high;
Give us joys that never end.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia Alleluia!

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Alleluia !

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

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Gospel : John 15:26-27,16:12-1

Jesus said to his disciples:
 'When the Advocate comes,
 whom I shall send to you from the
 Father, the Spirit of truth who issues
 from the Father, he will be my witness.
 And you too will be witnesses, because
 you have been with me from the outset.
 'I still have many things to say to you
 but they would be too much for you
 now. But when the Spirit of truth comes
 he will lead you to the complete truth,
 since he will not be speaking as from
 himself but will say only what he has
 learnt; and he will tell you of the things
 to come. He will glorify me,
 since all he tells you will be taken from
 what is mine. Everything the Father has
 is mine; that is why I said:
*All he tells you will be taken from what is
 mine.'*
The Gospel of the Lord



**DATES FOR
YOUR DIARY**

1) **Friday 17th May , starting at 4:30pm**, the **WUCWO Activity** (World Day of Prayer for Women). The activity will be held **at the Catholic Action Headquarters, at Sir Arturo Mercieca Street in Victoria Gozo**. A Holy Mass (in Maltese) will be celebrated at 4:30pm and the Activity (in Maltese and English), which will include a power-point presentation and prayers, will start at 5:00pm. The Activity will end by 6:00pm.

2) **Saturday 18th May** The **Pentecost Vigil** will be celebrated **will start at 8:00pm in front of Ta' Pinu Sanctuary**. During this Vigil an adult will receive the sacrament of Confirmation by the bishop of Gozo, H.L. Anton Teuma. The Vigil will end by 10:30pm.... See poster below

3: **Tuesday 21st May 4.30 pm to 5.30 pm** the Catholic Action/Bible Study Group meet at Santa Lucija Church.

4) **Tuesday 21st May at 7:00pm at the Munxar Parish Church** , The Parish Community in Munxar is inviting all Communities residing in Gozo to participate in the **Novena, in preparation for the Feast of Saint Paul**, The Holy Mass will end by 8:00pm.
ALL ARE INVITED.

Memorial Acclamation

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



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for May

Pope Francis asks that we pray that "men and women religious, and seminarians, grow in their own vocational journey through human, pastoral, spiritual, and community formation, that leads them to be credible witnesses of the Gospel".

Readers Rota

19-May Readings	Mary Newman	Prayers	Emilia Aquilina-Gray
26-May Readings	Emilia Aquilina-Gray	Prayers	Mary Newman
02-Jun Readings	Aimee Vant	Prayers	Angelika Camilleri
09-Jun Readings	Angelika Camilleri	Prayers	Johanna Marks
16-Jun Readings	Johanna Marks	Prayers	Stella Woodgate
23-Jun Readings	Stella Woodgate	Prayers	Johanna Marks
07-Jul Readings	Andy Young	Prayers	Rachel Holland
21-Jul Readings	Rachel Holland	Prayers	Stella Woodgate

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Commentaries on Today's Readings

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

Fr Robert Draper's commentary

After seven weeks, the Feast of Pentecost (= 50 days) concludes the season of Easter with the celebration of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The Liturgy of the Word for the Eucharistic celebrations offers the faithful the chance to perceive the presence of the Holy Spirit by presenting Scripture which focusses on the working of the Spirit in the life of the community of the faithful. The Church therefore offers us the opportunity to celebrate this great feast in a very solemn way. The first option given in the Missal is for a solemn vigil which in some ways mirrors the Easter Vigil in terms of the extended Liturgy of the Word with readings from the Old Testament, psalms and special prayers. Where communities have a well-developed liturgical tradition, this option could indeed be a rich experience where the significance of this solemnity could be opened up to the faithful. The story of Babel, the account of the theophany on Sinai, the vision of the dry bones and the prophecy of Joel all give an opportunity to explore the (inevitably) mysterious working and effects of the Holy Spirit. The Readings of the Day offer two different accounts of the giving of the Spirit - the account from Luke of the Upper Room from Acts and the giving of the Spirit by Jesus on the evening of Easter Day from John. It is worth drawing attention to the tension which two such very different accounts might present. The workings of God cannot be contained in simple human categories of time and space, and this should emphasise both the mystery and reality of the Holy Spirit throughout the Christian tradition. It is the very essence of God as Holy Spirit that the person of the Spirit may not be restricted and contained by language and human constructs. That may be a limit to our understanding, but the Spirit, as God, is inevitably beyond comprehension, and so we are invited always to enter deeper into mystery. The reading from Paul to the Corinthians, or the reading from Galatians as an option for Year B, give us a way of perceiving the Spirit in the effects that the Spirit brings - and such effects are surely able to be experienced, recognised and spoken about. That has been the reality that the faithful have known since the first Pentecost.



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

The collection for last
Sunday was €198.75. All
monies collected are
deployed to cover the costs
of running our community
and for good causes

And Commentary by Thomas R Whelan,
C.S.Sp

Jesus is strengthening his disciples at his final meal with them before his death. The promise to send the Counselor to them after his departure suggests both his positive view of his impending death and his own unique, intimate relationship with the Father, from whom this Counselor originates. Since Jesus is the 'truth' (14:6), this person, being the 'Spirit of truth', is the Spirit of Jesus. He will be Jesus spiritually present within the disciples, testifying to Jesus and, thereby, empowering them to be his witnesses in their turn. Corresponding to Jesus as 'the way' (14:6), the Spirit of truth will lead the disciples along this same way 'into' all truth. Jesus is God's incarnate Word (1:14), which is 'truth' (17:17); the Spirit of truth will empower the disciples from within, not adding to the unique revelation, completed at Jesus's death, but enabling them continuously to understand, assimilate and mediate Jesus as the Father's final revelation, including the ultimate event of Jesus's suffering and death, shortly to take place. The Spirit's power and mission presuppose an intimate relationship with the Father, with

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.

Footnotes

"There is nothing impossible to them who will try."

– Alexander the Great

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."

- Winston Churchill

. "It always seems impossible until it's done."

– Nelson Mandela