



The English Speaking Roman Catholic Community on Gozo

Patron Saint—St. Thomas More

Our website: www.escgozo.org

Sacred Heart Seminary Chapel—Enrico Mizzi Street , Victoria
Sunday Mass 10.00 am (Confession available prior—please allow ample time)

27th April 2025
Divine Mercy Sunday
(2nd Sunday Easter)
Celebrated by
Fr. George Debrincat

God's infinite mercy and forgiveness.

First Reading Acts 5:12-16

The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else ever dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping-mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm 117(118):2-4,22-27

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

Let the sons of Israel say:

'His love has no end.'

Let the sons of Aaron say:

'His love has no end.'

Let those who fear the Lord say:

'His love has no end.' **(R)**

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

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

This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. **(R)**

O Lord, grant us salvation;

O Lord, grant success.

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

We bless you from the house of the Lord; the Lord God is our light. **(R)**



Second Reading Apocalypse 1:9-13,17-19

My name is John, and through our union in Jesus I am your brother and share your sufferings, your kingdom, and all you endure. I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God's word and witnessed for Jesus; it was the Lord's day and the Spirit possessed me, and I heard a voice behind me, shouting like a trumpet, 'Write down all that you see in a book.' I turned round to see who had spoken to me, and when I turned I saw seven golden lamp-stands and, surrounded by them, a figure like a Son of man, dressed in a long robe tied at the waist with a golden girdle.

When I saw him, I fell in a dead faint at his feet, but he touched me with his right hand and said, 'Do not be afraid; it is I, the First and the Last; I am the Living One, I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of the underworld. Now write down all that you see of present happenings and things that are still to come.'

The Word of the Lord

We Pray Especially For
for the repose of the soul of **His Holiness Pope Francis** together with those in our community and all our relatives and friends who need our prayers and those who have died

Memorial Acclamation

Lord by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.

♪ Hymns for Today ♪

673 Sweet Heart of Jesus

210 God Gives His People Strength

239 Hail Redeemer, King Divine

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus said: 'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

Alleluia!

Gospel John 20:19-31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.' Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

The Gospel of the Lord



After listening to today's readings let us now consider the following reflections:

Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection.

Two aspects of this meeting with the risen Jesus are especially striking. This is the last scene of the Gospel of John, for chapter 21 is an appendix. At the end, before the concluding reflection, Thomas gives the only direct acclamation in the New Testament of Jesus as God: nowhere else is Jesus hailed as 'God', though there are other ways in which his divinity has been indicated. So in a way Thomas' greeting of the risen Christ is the climax of the New Testament. Secondly, it is striking that Jesus' final blessing is one of peace and forgiveness. The mission of all Christians is to bring these gifts to a troubled world. Throughout the Bible God is a God of forgiveness. The Old Testament consists of a series of covenants, each in turn broken by God's chosen people, but then re-created by a forgiving God. There was the covenant with Noah after the Flood, the covenant with Abraham, the covenant with Moses after the worship of the Golden Calf, and finally the new covenant is promised by Jeremiah after unfaithful Israel had been exiled to Babylon. Christianity is not for the perfect but for the sinner, who is surrounded by other sinners. As forgiven sinners we are exhorted to bring forgiveness to all those around us. How, as a forgiven sinner and part of a community of forgiven sinners, do I demonstrate the power of God's forgiveness?

And that of Fr. Robert Draper

In many ways today's gospel is the culmination of the whole gospel story. It is true that there is a subsequent chapter to this one but in every sense of the word it is an epilogue or post script from another hand. This ending very much concludes the gospel: These are recorded so that ... you may have life through his name.' And yet there is a real sense in which this is not a conclusion but a beginning. Jesus says to his joyful disciples; 'As the Father sent me so am I sending you.' In writing the Book of Acts (which we will read from daily during Eastertide) Luke wanted to show how the resurrection is the beginning of the story of the Church, in his gospel John simply pronounces that truth in words from the Lord. The whole gospel has been an account of what it means to be sent from the Father, and to live that sending is now the task of the 'friends' whom Jesus calls and commissions. These are those present to Jesus in the upper room, but also those who will take up the commission generation after generation; the ones who are happy because they 'have not seen and yet believe.' These are the ones who will receive the Holy Spirit, these are the ones who will hear this-gospel and recognize themselves and accept the commissioning of being sent by the Lord.. The idealized picture given by Luke in the first reading invites its readers to believe what is possible when the Spirit is given to

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.

Celebrations in May

Birthdays

11th Brian Coen
18th Rachel Holland

Dates and
Information for
your diaries



27th April 2025 – Feast of Divine Mercy . See notice

29th April 2025: 4.30 pm to 5.30 pm
Bible Study Group in English at
Santa Lucija Church

8th May 2025 3.30 pm Adoration of
the Blessed Sacrament in English at



Please leave Chapel
quietly after mass



Money Matters

The collections over the
Easter period are our gifts to our
priests with thanks for all their hard
work. In general, all monies
collected are deployed to cover the
costs of running our community
and for good causes

Feast of Divine Mercy 27 April

There will be a special celebration in English for the Feast of the Divine Mercy on Sunday 27 April at Ghasri Parish Church from 3.30 pm to 4.30 pm. The service will include Adoration, Hymns, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and the Litany to Divine Mercy. All welcome. Books and leaflets of the Divine Mercy will be available from Palm Sunday so that those who wish can participate in the Novena which commences on Good Friday.

Thank You

From Margaret and Tom Welch for your prayers regarding their Grandson Cameron's life changing surgery which happily was successful

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for April

Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

Next Sunday 4th May, members of Life Network will be with us to talk briefly about their work in favour of unborn children and their mothers, before and after birth. Our collection on that day will go towards the work of Life Network.

Readers Rota

27-Apr Readings	Chris Holland	Prayers	Mary Newman
04-May Readings	Mary Newman	Prayers	Vince Vella
11-May Readings	Angelika Camilleri	Prayers	Johanna Marks
18-May Readings	Vince Vella	Prayers	Andy Young
25-May Readings	Andy Young	Prayers	Stella Woodgate
01-Jun Readings	Stella Woodgate	Prayers	Tom Welch
08-Jun Readings	Tom Welch	Prayers	Johanna Marks

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