

The English Speaking Roman Catholic Community on Gozo

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

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

18th May 2025
5th Sunday of Easter
Celebrated by
Fr. Loretu Tabone

God meets us where we are

First Reading Acts 14:21-27

Paul and Barnabas went back through Lystra and Iconium to Antioch. They put fresh heart into the disciples, encouraging them to persevere in the faith. 'We all have to experience many hardships' they said 'before we enter the kingdom of God.' In each of these churches they appointed elders, and with prayer and fasting they commended them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe. They passed through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia. Then after proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia and from there sailed for Antioch, where they had originally been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now completed. On their arrival they assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith to the pagans.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm 144(145):8-13a

(R) I will bless your name for ever, O God my King.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures. **(R)**

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord, and your friends shall repeat their blessing.

They shall speak of the glory of your reign and declare your might, O God, to make known to men your mighty deeds and the glorious splendour of your reign. **(R)**

Yours is an everlasting kingdom; your rule lasts from age to age. **(R)**



Second Reading Apocalypse 21:1-5

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, and the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, as beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne, 'You see this city? Here God lives among men. He will make his home among them; they shall be his people, and he will be their God; his name is God-with-them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone.' Then the One sitting on the throne spoke: 'Now I am making the whole of creation new.'

The Word of the Lord

Memorial Acclamation

He is Lord, he is Lord; he is risen from the dead, and he is Lord; Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord

We Pray For

Those in our community especially **Tom Welch** recuperating with a fractured spine and all our relatives and friends who need our prayers as well as those who have died

Hymns for Today

106 Christ Be Beside Me
4 A New Commandment
567 Oh Lord All The World

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia!

**I give you a new commandment:
love one another just as I have
loved you,
says the Lord.**

Alleluia!

Gospel John 13:31-33,34-35

When Judas had gone Jesus said: 'Now has the Son of Man been glorified, and in him God has been glorified. If God has been glorified in him, God will in turn glorify him in himself, and will glorify him very soon. 'My little children, I shall not be with you much longer. I give you a new commandment: love one another; just as I have loved you, you also must love one another. By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Prayer Intention

Through Christ's resurrection, new light, life and peace have come into the world. We confidently offer our prayers of intercession to God, who changes all mourning into dancing. We pray for our Pope Leo XIV and all leaders in our Church.





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

Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection.

From now until Pentecost the readings from St John's Gospel are taken from the great final teaching of Jesus at the Last Supper about the future of his Church and his disciples. From the sayings of Jesus the evangelist has composed a great discourse of Jesus about the obligations, duties and dangers which will come upon his disciples after his own death and resurrection. There were probably slightly different versions of this discourse, which were handed down by word of mouth; the impression of repetition in the discourse probably results from the evangelist recording three versions one after another. As we approach the Birth of the Church at Pentecost we need to listen to how Jesus envisaged his community. Today's reading gives the essentials. At the head of the Christian community stands the glorified Son of Man, in whom God is glorified. But this Son is no distant figurehead, for he will come to be present among his disciples. How will this happen? Answer: in the love which his disciples show for one another. One is reminded of the legend about the aged St John, wheeled into the church at Ephesus. When asked for the message of Jesus, all he would say was, 'My little children, love one another.' How has Jesus shown his love for us? How do you show that same love for someone else?

And that of Fr. Robert Draper

In-the readings for today we have a bit of a geography lesson. The reading from the Acts of the Apostles may pose a challenge for some as they try and get their tongues around these exotic sounding place name. But Luke is not just trying to impress - this part of the Book of Acts is essentially very practical. Luke does give us an idealized picture of the early Church - as in the reading two weeks ago - but he is also concerned that we see the reality of the situation.

These are actual communities where the gospel has to be lived, and that requires organisation and practical work. And that is the way Luke paints the picture of the early Church and that is the reality of church communities still - Christians with their foibles and charisms live in a complex world made up of fallen human beings, and in order to live as a community bound by the gospel, and in the wider (perhaps hostile) community, there is the requirement for some order and structure. That is true, but of course, that is not enough, for the Church is not simply a human society. The book of Revelation offers us a very different geography, a spiritual one which is equally important. We are not just a people who live in this place and time, with its real issues and its structures and all the decisions that need to be made here and now. We also belong to the heavenly Jerusalem come down from God, as beautiful as a bride come to the wedding feast of the lamb. And that is why we need the poetic language and exotic imagery of the book of Revelation - in case we start to think that it depends on the institutional Church and getting the structures right. The heavenly Jerusalem comes down from God, because she is the gift from God, the vision and hope of all God's people, and such a vision and yearning can only be expressed in visionary language - which is why we do need to take the imagery and the insights of the Book of Revelation seriously. Linking both readings and emphasizing a central truth of the Christian faith are Jesus' words which insists that it is his love that makes all this possible and that inasmuch as we love as he loves - and that is what it is to keep his commandments - then the reality of Jesus' love can become present. For that love is made present in a practical way in the here and now, in this world in this community, with these people, and at the same time inspired by - and ultimately realised in - the New Jerusalem, the vision of the bride of the Lamb.

PRAYER AT THE END OF MASS

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

18th Rachel Holland

Dates and Information for your diaries



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

12th June 2025 3.30 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in English at Ghasri followed by refreshments .



Money Matters



The collection for last Sunday was €263.76 . All monies collected are deployed to cover the costs of running our community and for good causes



Please enter and leave the chapel silently before and after mass

Readers Rota

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
15-Jun Readings	Johanna Marks	Prayers	Angelika Camilleri
22-Jun Readings	Angelika Camilleri	Prayers	Vince Vella

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