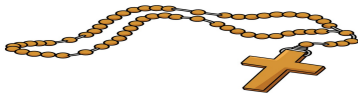


During May we shall be reciting the rosary before 10.00 am Sunday Mass so please aim to be seated by 9.45 am.



26th April 2026
5th Sunday Easter (A)
Celebrated by
Fr George Debrincat

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

First Reading Acts 6:1-7

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm 32(33):1-2,4-5,18-19

(R) May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp, with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. **(R)**

**The English Speaking
Roman Catholic Community on Gozo**
Patron Saint – St. Thomas More
Our website: www.escgozo.org
Seminary guest WiFi: Letmein123!
Sacred Heart Seminary Chapel – Enrico Mizzi Street, Victoria



♪ **Hymns for Today** ♪

- 633 Seek Ye First
- 730 This is my Body
- 812 Will you come & follow me

Second Reading 1 Peter 2:4-9

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

The Word of the Lord

For the word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. **(R)**

The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. **(R)**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia!
Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.
No one can come to the Father except through me.'
Alleluia!

Gospel John 14:1-12

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.' Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me? 'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.

The Gospel 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 and all our relatives and friends who need our prayers especially **Marcel Grech-Marguerat and Lilian Fitzpatrick** hopefully both improving, as well as those who have died

Communion Reflection: If we find it hard to trust others because we have been hurt by lies, injuries, and disappointments, the Lord whispers in our ear: "Take heart, son!" (Matthew 9:2), "Take heart, daughter!" (Matthew 9:22). He encourages us to overcome our fear and to realise that, with him at our side, we have nothing to lose. POPE FRANCIS FROM THE ENCYCLICAL LETTER Dilexit nos.

After listening to today's readings let us now consider the following :
Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection.

As the festival of the Ascension approaches, Jesus begins to prepare his followers for his own departure from the world. There are two aspects to this teaching. Firstly Jesus speaks of the final purpose, union with the Father, and his preparation of a place for us there. He says that there is a 'room' for each of them, suggesting not that there are plenty of separate cubicles for different sets of people (bishops, babies, monks and maniacs), but that there is no lack of space in heaven. No problem of 'only one wins the prize' in this case. The second aspect is preparation for the future Church on earth, and the almost shocking promise that in the absence of Jesus - but in the strength of his Spirit - his people will do 'even greater works'. Paul teaches that believers 'make up what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ', for in every age the Church fills up the measure of Christ's sufferings; it is a Church which shares its Master's trials. In the same way in every age the Church must carry on the works of Christ. In John the 'works' of Jesus are the marvellous deeds, beyond mere human powers, which show who Jesus is. We too are called on to perform marvellous deeds, beyond mere human powers, works of grace and generosity. What is the real joy and excitement of heaven? How may we best carry on the 'work' of Christ?

And of Fr. Robert Draper

The passage from St Peter and the section of the Gospel of John we are given today have a very clear emphasis: the utter centrality of Jesus in all things. 'The Lord is the living stone ... set yourself close to him; says Peter, those who do not accept Jesus 'will stumble because they do not believe'. In the Gospel, Jesus is equally emphatic about his role: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life no one can come to the Father except through me: Authentic Christianity must always be directly rooted in the relationship with the Lord, which is why these two readings offer an important commentary on the significant reading from Acts. After Pentecost, the community grew rapidly and attracted a great variety of people from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds; Luke lists the great variety in his account of the first preaching of the apostles on the day of Pentecost. The description of the early community as including Hellenists and Hebrews reflects this. This was a situation that had not arisen in the time of Jesus. Similarly, while the Twelve had a very important role in the ministry of the Lord, the growth of the Church meant they could not take control of all aspects of the life of the community but had to prioritise their ministry. If the apostles were to 'devote themselves to prayer and the service of the word, then others were needed to 'give out food'. (It is worth noting that although the Seven were appointed to this duty, within a very short time Stephen and Philip at least were preaching and evangelising with great success.) The selection of the seven appears to be the work of the wider group of disciples, who present their candidates to the apostles for ratification. Throughout the early chapters of Acts, Luke recounts the developments that the growing Church adopted in response to changing situations. But Luke never suggests that such developments were simply organisational changes for convenience. For Luke, they are always in continuity with the original group of disciples whom the Lord called and chose and who now lay hands on the seven as a confirmation of this. Like the early Church, the faithful today are constantly required to examine how the teaching of the gospel needs to adapt and be expressed for the contemporary world, but always and only in conformity with the one who is 'the living stone' and 'the Way, the Truth and the Life'.

Pope Leo XIV's prayer intention for May

That everyone might have food

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

FOR YOUR DIARY

TODAY 3rd May 2026. 12.00 for 12.30 pm Community lunch at Valley View Xlendi.

2nd May Shema. See attached flyer

Commencing **Wednesday 6th May**, and on the 15 Wednesdays up to the feast of the Assumption of Our Lady on Saturday 15th August, there will be a **Mass in English at Ta Pinu at 11.15a.m.** Readers are needed for these masses please.

14th May 2026 3.30 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in English at Ghasri church followed by refreshments.



CELEBRATIONS IN MAY

Birthdays

11th Brian Coen

18th Rachel Holland



Money Matters

The collection for last Sunday was € 189.62

All monies collected are deployed to cover the costs of running our community and for good causes

Eucharistic Ministers

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 03-May-26 | Monique Sant Georges | Iain Dando |
| 10-May-26 | Ben Miltenburg | David Felice Pace |
| 17-May-26 | Mary Newman | Johanna Marks |
| 24-May-26 | Iain Dando | Monique Sant Georges |

Readers Rota – If you would like to join please contact Johanna on johannamarks3@gmail.com

- | | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 03-May Readings | Stella Woodgate | Prayers | Rachel Holland |
| 10-May Readings | Rachel Holland | Prayers | Chris Holland |
| 17-May Readings | Chris Holland | Prayers | John Attard |
| 24-May Readings | John Attard | Prayers | Angelika Camilleri |
| 31-May Readings | Angelika Camilleri | Prayers | Johanna Marks |

Chaplain Fr. Loretu Tabone
 21561824/99001829

Email: 32northnadur@gmail.com

Council Members:

John & Veronica Grech 21551180
David Felice Pace 79560051
Marcel & Sylvia Grech-Marguerat 77051050

Johanna Marks 99950596
Mary Newman 77047872

Would you like to join us on the Council and help in running our community?

Contact johannamarks3@gmail.com



shema

Lejl Imdawwal



Photo: Jim Haberman

Lecture

Presentation on the archaeological findings at the Huqoq Synagogue in Galilee (c. 5th century AD) and talk about the Dead Sea Scrolls by Dr Dennis Mizzi, from the Department of Middle Eastern and Asian Languages and Cultures at the University of Malta

Saturday 6 May | 10.00am - 12.00pm
The Bishop's Curia - Republic Street, Victoria



Join us for SHEMA 2026
A NIGHT ILLUMINATED BY THE EUCHARIST
◇ SATURDAY 02nd MAY 2026 ◇
between 7pm and 12am.

An enriching Eucharistic and Spiritual Evening that brings together **Art, Music, Literature, Engaging Discussions, Exquisite Gastronomy, Theatre, and Deep Spirituality.** It's a unique opportunity to nourish both the soul and senses in a harmonious blend of creativity and reflection. Don't miss out on this transformative experience for the mind, body, and spirit! **See detailed programme of events on Diocese of Gozo Facebook Page.**