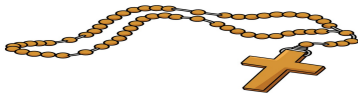


During May we shall be reciting the rosary before 10.00 am Sunday Mass so please aim to be seated by 9.45 am.



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

17th May 2026
The Ascension of the Lord
Celebrated by
Fr. George Debincat

*Today our Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven;
let our hearts ascend with him*

First Reading Acts 1:1-11

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.' As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm 46(47):2-3,6-9

**(R) God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.**

All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must
fear,
great king over all the earth. **(R)**



♪ Hymns for Today ♪

37 Alleluia Sing to Jesus
830 Be not afraid
477 Majesty

Second Reading Ephesians 1:17-23

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named not only in this age but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The Word of the 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

God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. **(R)**

God is king of all the earth,
sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. **(R)**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia !
Go, make disciples of all the nations.
I am with you always; yes, to the end of
time.
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 28:16-20

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Communion Reflection

As one sacred host, from among the million of hosts on the earth, is enough to nourish us with God, so one brother or sister, the one whom God's will puts next to us, is enough to give us communion with humanity, which is the mystical Jesus. My God, let me be in this world the tangible sacrament of your Love, of your being Love; let me be your arms that press to themselves and consume in love all the loneliness of the world.

Chiara Lubich, Essential writings,
New City Press 2007)

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.

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

The discourse of Jesus given by John after the Last Supper is of a special literary genre. It was a convention that the final instructions of a great leader for his future community should be gathered together in the context of a final meal. Jesus' life and purpose is summed up in this great prayer. The discourse is shot through with the warmth of the relationship of Jesus to his Father and with the fact that Jesus came to do the will of the Father. But most striking of all is the stress on the glorification of Jesus. The earliest kerygma about the Resurrection, as we have it in Paul's writings, is not about the empty tomb, but is about the glory of the risen Christ, that Christ is lifted up to his full participation in the divine glory of the Father. The hymn in Colossians puts him as first-born in creation and now first-born from the dead, so that he can be first in every way. Philippians declares that he must receive the homage of bending the knee in the worship due only to God. This is not blasphemy, for it is 'to the glory of the Father' that the Risen Christ should share in this glory. In a way this gospel reading is a meditation on the effects of the culmination of the Ascension for the

And "Last Will and Testament" from the Association of Catholic Priests

In the gospel we have just heard Our Lord's final instructions, his Last Will and Testament. Just before leaving them, he reminds them of what he expects of them. Earlier he had sent them out to spread the Kingdom of God. Those who go in his name, do so with his authority. The authority goes with the mission, so to speak. In Matthew's version he now adds this great promise, "I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Mark says that the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it". And Luke emphasises that they will be "clothed with power from on high", that is, with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is very definite about what he has to say. Like any gathering of people, the feelings of his disciples were varied. But he sends them out to speak and act in his name. Their mission was both easy and hard: easy to understand but hard to carry out. It was to teach others all that he had taught them. Just as he asked them to follow his way, they were to ask that others should follow that way too. Has a doctor ever put you on a course of antibiotics. The most basic guidance about antibiotics is to complete the course. Even if the patient starts to feel well after a few days, to discontinue taking the medicine can let their condition grow worse. Similarly, the message of salvation must continue to be shared until the end of time. With all the changes in the church and in society, neither Jesus nor his message have changed. His Gospel remains a call to live our lives to the full. You write a new page of the gospel each day, through all that you do and whatever you say. Others read what you write, be it faithful or true. So what is the gospel according to you? He is with us always. This can be a real help against loneliness. Being alone is not the same as being lonely. One can feel lonely in a crowded street; or alternatively, like Cicero, never less alone than when alone ("minus solum, quam cum solus"). This applies especially to those who believe the promise, "I am with you always." Talking with him doesn't even need words. If we are open to His presence in our heart, and treasure it, we can experience fully that "Joy of the Gospel" so warmly described for us by our good Pope Francis.

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
 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.
11th June 2026 3.30 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in English at Ghasri church followed by refreshments.

See Noticeboard attached for additional notices from our community

CELEBRATIONS IN MAY
Birthdays
 11th Brian Coen
 18th Rachel Holland

Money Matters
 The collection for last Sunday was € 333.56
 All monies collected are deployed to cover the costs of running our community and for good causes

Eucharistic Ministers

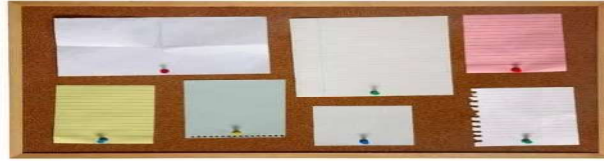
17-May-26	Mary Newman	Johanna Marks
24-May-26	Iain Dando	Monique Sant Georges
31-May-26	Ben Miltenburg	Mary Newman
07-Jun-26	Johanna Marks	David Felice Pace
14-Jun-26	Ben Miltenburg	Iain Dando

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

17-May Readings	Chris Holland	Prayers	John Attard
24-May Readings	John Attard	Prayers	Angelika Camilleri
31-May Readings	Angelika Camilleri	Prayers	Johanna Marks
07-Jun Readings	Johanna Marks	Prayers	Stella Woodgate
14-Jun Readings	Vince Vella	Prayers	Mary Newman

Chaplain Fr. Loretu Tabone
 21561824/99001829
 Email: 32northnadur@gmail.com
Council Members:
John & Veronica Grech 21551180
David Felice Pace 79560051
Marcel & Sylwia 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

NOTICEBOARD



CATENIANS

May, the month of Mary
Pray the Rosary with us this May



Never be afraid of loving the
Blessed Virgin too much.
You can never love her more
than Jesus did.

Catenian Association

in Gozo

Interested?

Contact one of us:

Reg on 79923118

Lorne on 79452685

George on 79008936

Walter on 79022602