

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

21st June 2026
12th Sunday (Ord) A
(Feast of St John Fisher
and St Thomas More)
Concelebrated by
Fr. Loretu Tabone, Fr. George
Debrincat and Padre Jose
Camilleri

First Reading Jeremiah 20:10-13

Jeremiah said: I hear so many disparaging me, "Terror from every side!" Denounce him! Let us denounce him! All those who used to be my friends watched for my downfall, 'Perhaps he will be seduced into error. Then we will master him and take our revenge!' But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero; my opponents will stumble, mastered, confounded by their failure; everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be theirs. But you, O Lord of Hosts, you who probe with justice, who scrutinise the loins and heart, let me see the vengeance you will take on them, for I have committed my cause to you. Sing to the Lord, praise the Lord, for he has delivered the soul of the needy from the hands of evil men.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

68(69):8-10,14,17,33-35

(R) In your great love, answer me, O Lord.

It is for you that I suffer taunts, that shame covers my face, that I have become a stranger to my brothers,

an alien to my own mother's sons. I burn with zeal for your house and taunts against you fall on me.

(R)

This is my prayer to you, my prayer for your favour.

In your great love, answer me, O God,

with your help that never fails:

Lord, answer, for your love is kind; in your compassion, turn towards me. (R)



Second Reading Romans 5:12-15

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law. Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift.

The Word of the Lord

♪ Hymns for Today ♪

156 Faith of Our Fathers
147 Do Not Be Afraid
176 For All The Saints

Memorial Acclamation
We proclaim your death, O Lord and profess your Resurrection until you come again

We Pray For

Those in our community and all our relatives and friends who need our prayers as well as those who have died

The poor when they see it will be glad and God-seeking hearts will revive; for the Lord listens to the needy and does not spurn his servants in their chains.

Let the heavens and the earth give him praise,

the sea and all its living creatures. (R)

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia !

The Word was made flesh and lived among us:

to all who did accept him

he gave power to become children of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 10:26-33

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the housetops. 'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows. 'So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord

St Thomas More (1478 - 1535) is the Patron Saint of our community. His feast is on 22nd June. We are celebrating it today.

On the feast of St Thomas More, patron of our worshipping community, we give thanks for his inspiring witness of faith, integrity, and courage. A devoted husband, father, scholar, and public servant, Thomas More remained faithful to Christ and to his conscience even when it cost him his position, his freedom, and ultimately his life. His example reminds us that true discipleship is not measured by success or popularity, but by fidelity to God in the choices we make each day. As a community gathered in prayer and worship, may we follow his example by seeking God will above all else, speaking the truth with charity, and living our faith with courage and joy. Through the intercession of St Thomas More, may our community continue to grow in holiness, unity, and faithful witness to the Gospel. A Happy Feast Day to all. St Thomas More, pray for us.



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

This whole chapter of Matthew brings together and sums up what Jesus has to say to his apostles about declaring his teaching in the face of hostility and persecution. Jesus himself was fearless in proclaiming his message. He 'taught with authority', as the gospel constantly tells us. His disciples are sent out to do the same. We do not often meet with real persecution, although it may yet happen. The martyrs of communist Russia or Vietnam lived many years of peaceful Christianity before unexpectedly facing martyrdom. The monk martyrs of Algeria did not reckon on martyrdom when they went to Algeria. The only preparation for martyrdom can be fidelity and prayer. More often we face mockery for holding to Christian principles, and that too can be difficult to bear. We can be accused of narrow mindedness, lack of appreciation of human values, blind obedience, sentimentality, naivety, and a host of other hurtful slurs. Jesus did not promise that the Father would prevent the sparrows falling to the ground! Neither is it always easy to respond to such slurs with the patience and generosity as well as the truthfulness which Jesus would have shown. 'A spoonful of honey attracts more flies than a barrelful of vinegar', said St Francis de Sales. Do I fearlessly proclaim the Gospel? What situations in the coming week might require courage? How can I grow in courage?

And from Fr. Robert Draper

Jesus' instructions to the Twelve and the words of Jeremiah remind us that discipleship is not necessarily for the faint of heart! Jeremiah is confronted by Terror from every side even his friends are against him; and that is the case even though Jeremiah is trying to follow the explicit command of God to speak the words given to him. The Twelve are similarly commanded to speak out Jesus words from the house-tops though the next sentence tells them that it will bring persecution and even death. This is part of Matthew's second great discourse - the first being the Sermon on the Mount. This missionary discourse is a call to fidelity rooted in trust - the disciples are not to be afraid because they are intimately known and loved by the Father who has counted every hair in their head. Although Matthew writes Jesus' words as being to the Twelve at the time of their calling, their significance is addressed to those of the early Church, and indeed of all times when Christians face hostility and persecution. In that sense, Jesus' words in this passage are always relevant because there are always parts of the world where the gospel has to be proclaimed in a hostile environment. These words pondered today can challenge even those who live in a benign culture and society - they will always be a call to be wary of being too comfortable. Ultimately, of course, the security of the disciples rests in the hands of the one who calls and chooses them as disciples, and as Jeremiah knew, in spite of his struggles, the Lord has delivered the soul of the needy.

Eucharistic Ministers		
21-Jun-26	Johanna Marks	Ben Miltenburg
28-Jun-26	Mary Newman	David Felice Pace
05-Jul-26	Iain Dando	Monique Sant Georges
12-Jul-26	Johanna Marks	Ben Miltenburg

Readers Rota – If you would like to join please contact Johanna on			
21-Jun Readings	Stella Woodgate	Prayers	Andy Young
28-Jun Readings	Andy Young	Prayers	Johanna Marks
05-Jul Readings	Johanna Marks	Prayers	Angelika Camilleri
12-Jul Readings	Angelika Camilleri	Prayers	Vince Vella
19-Jul Readings	Rachel Holland	Prayers	Chris Holland

Pope Leo XIV's prayer intention for June
For the values of sports
Let us pray that sports be an Instrument of peace, encounter, and dialogue among cultures and nations, and that they promote values such as respect, solidarity, and personal growth.

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

TODAY after 10.00 am mass you are all cordially invited to a finger food celebration of the feast of our Patron Saint Thomas

Birthdays in June
17th Johanna Marks
28th Francesca Coen

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

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Would you like to join us on the Council and help in running our community?
Contact johannamarks3@gmail.com