

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

28th June 2026
11th Sunday Ord A
Celebrated by
Padre Jose Camilleri

Themes of Service, Prophets and hospitality

First Reading 2 Kings 4:8-11,13-16

One day as Elisha was on his way to Shunem, a woman of rank who lived there pressed him to stay and eat there. After this he always broke his journey for a meal when he passed that way. She said to her husband, 'Look, I am sure the man who is constantly passing our way must be a holy man of God. Let us build him a small room on the roof, and put him a bed in it, and a table and chair and lamp; whenever he comes to us he can rest there.' One day when he came, he retired to the upper room and lay down. He said to his servant Gehazi, 'Call our Shunammitess. Tell her this: "Look, you have gone to all this trouble for us, what can we do for you? Is there anything you would like said for you to the king or to the commander of the army?"' But she replied, 'I live with my own people about me.' 'What can be done for her then?' he asked. Gehazi answered, 'Well, she has no son and her husband is old.' Elisha said, 'Call her.' The servant called her and she stood at the door. This time next year,' he said 'you will hold a son in your arms.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm 88(89):2- 3,16-19

(R) I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **(R)**

Happy the people who acclaim such a king,
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,



Second Reading Romans 6:3-4,8-11

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life. But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord

**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 as well as those who have died

who find their joy every day in your name,
who make your justice the source of their bliss. **(R)**

For it is you, O Lord, who are the glory of their strength;
by your favour it is that our might is exalted;
for our ruler is in the keeping of the Lord;
our king in the keeping of the Holy One of Israel. **(R)**

♪ Hymns for Today ♪

572 O The Word Of My Lord
128 Come Lord Jesus Come
812 Will You Come And Follow Me

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia !
Open our heart, O Lord,
to accept the words of your Son.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 10:37-42

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. 'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me. 'Anyone who welcomes a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man will have a holy man's reward. 'If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Communion Reflection

St John Paul II indicated St Thomas More is a witness for political leaders to revere and an intercessor under whose protection to place their work. He was faithful to his civic responsibilities, a perfect servant of the state precisely because of his faith, which led him to view politics not as a profession but as a mission for the spread of truth and goodness. He placed his commitment; and he promoted the integral education of youth (Apostolic Letter E Sancti Thomae Mori, 31 October 2000). The courage he showed by his readiness to sacrifice his life rather than betray the truth makes him a martyr for freedom and for the primacy of conscience. May his example be a source of inspiration and guidance for each of you!

POPE LEO XIV FROM ADDRESS TO MEMBERS OF THE INTER-NATIONAL INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION, 21 JUNE 2025

Thank you all who attended our Sunday celebration in honour of our Patron St Thomas More, and to all who helped to make it a special day. Special thanks to those who treated us afterwards with food and drinks. The food was excellent and we are very grateful to all those who provided all that was shared - a real Agapè on the altar and another one in the hall. Thank you all. Father Loretu



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

In today's passage from Romans, Paul gives a very succinct account of the Christian faith in the Resurrection of Jesus, as being the means, through baptism, of the resurrection of those who believe in him. Such would most certainly not be the faith of Elisha and the people of his time. For them future hope was always tied up in the reality of offspring; those descendants who would ensure that there would be a record of them and therefore a future for them. By giving the woman of Shunem a son through the prophet, God ensures her destiny. The passage of Jesus' from Matthew's Gospel offers a radical alternative vision. In a very challenging passage - challenging both traditional understanding and also in offering a very challenging style of life - Jesus ties future promise and hope directly onto present practice. The future destiny of each disciple is directly related to living each day in response to the gospel. The first part of Jesus' teaching is deliberately a call to renunciation, but the second part is a promise of the benefits of fidelity. The reward promised the one who welcomes a prophet is an allusion to the Elisha story in the first reading, but the greatest consolation is the assurance that in encountering his disciples - that is those who seek to follow Jesus' teaching - Christ himself is encountered. The Lord himself is truly with those who carry the gospel and seek to live it out.

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 these masses please.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in English at Ghasri church will take a break and resume later in the year. More details as they become available

Birthdays in June

- 17th Johanna Marks
- 28th Francesca Coen

Money Matters



The collection for last Sunday was €288.60

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

Eucharistic Ministers

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

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

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
26-Jul Readings	Chris Holland	Prayers	Rachel Holland

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Marcel & Sylvio 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