

**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

**19th July 2026
16th Sunday Ord A
Celebrated by
Padre Jose Camilleri**

God as a compassionate and merciful judge

First Reading Wisdom 12:13,16-19

There is no god, other than you, who cares for every thing, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly. Your justice has its source in strength, your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all. You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience, for you have only to will, and your power is there. By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, and you have given your sons the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm 85(86):5-6,9-10,15-16

(R) O Lord, you are good and forgiving.

O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of love to all who call.
Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer and attend to the sound of my voice.
(R)

All the nations shall come to adore you
and glorify your name, O Lord:
for you are great and do marvellous deeds,
you who alone are God. **(R)**

But you, God of mercy and compassion,
slow to anger, O Lord,
abounding in love and truth,
turn and take pity on me. **(R)**



♪ **Hymns for Today** ♪

40 Amazing Grace
757 Vaster Far Than Any Ocean
159 Father I Place Into Your Hands

Second Reading Romans 8:26-27

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

The Word of the Lord

**Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia Alleluia!**

**May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our mind,
so that we can see what hope his call holds for us.
Alleluia!**

**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 and those who have died especially **Vicki Marks** whose anniversary occurs at this time

Gospel

Matthew 13:24-43

Jesus put another parable before the crowds: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn.'" He put another parable before them: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.' He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.' In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfil the prophecy: I will speak to you in parables and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world. Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

The Gospel of the Lord



COMMUNION REFLECTION

In this age of artificial intelligence, we cannot forget that poetry and love are necessary to save our humanity. No algorithm will ever be able to capture, for example, the nostalgia that all of us feel when we recall how we first used a fork to seal the edges of the pies that we helped our mothers or grandmothers to make at home. It was a moment of culinary apprenticeship, somewhere between child-play and adulthood, when we first felt responsible for working and helping one another. Along with the fork, I could also mention thousands of other little things that are a precious part of everyone's life: a smile we elicited by telling a joke, a picture we sketched in the light of a window, the first game of soccer we played with a rag ball, the worms we collected in a shoebox, a flower we pressed in the pages of a book, our concern, for a fledgling bird fallen from its nest, a wish we made in plucking a daisy. All these little things, ordinary in themselves yet extraordinary for us, can never be captured by algorithms. POPE FRANCIS FROM THE ENCYCLICAL DILEXIT NOS

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

The Gospel of Matthew gathers together a whole set of pictures which Jesus used to describe the society of God's servants which he was intent on setting up. Matthew calls it 'the Kingdom of Heaven'. Jews avoided bandying around the name of 'God', so Matthew calls it by the place where God is enthroned, Heaven. The first picture, the wheat and the darnel, shows that in some of those called the good seed has been overlaid by weed. In its early growth this weed, the inedible darnel, is incredibly difficult for a non-farmer to distinguish from good barley. No more can we presume to sort out who is seeking God and who is not; it is dangerous to despise or to dismiss anyone at all. The explanation given by Matthew constitutes a warning that the harvest, the judgment, will come in the end. Do we have any right to judge others (or may we be mistaking wheat for darnel)? What is the darnel in us that needs weeding out before the judgment?

And from Fr. Robert Draper

The contemporary world is the most structured and organised it has ever been. At the level of national states and global trade and communication, we can see formal ways of connecting and forms of accountability. It is easy to assume this organisational model with its various demands and guarantees is the natural form that life must take to ensure the protection and safety of citizens. That is why Jesus' parables today are so important - the contemporary model is far from the nature of the kingdom of heaven -of which we are invited to be members. The three parables here all have a dynamism that is not constrained by endeavour. The wheat grows and is harvested, the mustard seed grows and shelters the birds of the air, the woman kneads the flour and yeast to make bread. Jesus may explain the first parable to his disciples, but all three are offered primarily to be pondered, so as to enable the recipient (and us) to see things differently. We are called to be people of the kingdom, and that requires us to be engaged, not as units in an organisation, but as people engaged in living out a different vision, so as to witness to a different model of existence.

Eucharistic Ministers

19-Jul-26	David Felice Pace	Mary Newman
26-Jul-26	Iain Dando	Johanna Marks
02-Aug-26	Monique Sant Georges	David Felice Pace
09-Aug-26	Mary Newman	Iain Dando

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

19-Jul Readings	Rachel Holland	Prayers	Chris Holland
26-Jul Readings	Chris Holland	Prayers	Rachel Holland
02-Aug Readings	Johanna Marks	Prayers	John Attard
09-Aug Readings	John Attard	Prayers	Vince Vella
16-Aug Readings	Chris Holland	Prayers	Rachel Holland

Pope Leo XIV's prayer intention For July

For respect for human life

Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.

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

Celebrations in July

Birthdays

16th Charlotte Carrington, Julie Vella & David Felice Pace

Anniversaries

18th Sylvia & Marcel Marguerat-Grech



Money Matters

The collection for the Earthquake appeal last

Sunday was € 382.79 and was rounded up to €400. Thanks for your generosity.

From Mary Newman

I would like to thank you all for your many prayers, love and support given to me and Paul over these last few months. They have propped me up and continue to do so as I face the future with the enormous void Paul's death has left in my life. Thank you to those of you who were able to attend Paul's funeral.. The donations received for the Friends of the Sick and Elderly of Gozo amounted to €1017.61. What generosity! God bless you.
Mary

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