

**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

**26th July 2026
17th Sunday Ord A
Celebrated by
Fr. George Debrincat with
Fr. George Gyasi from
Ghana**



**Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia Alleluia!**

I call you friends, says the Lord,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father.
Alleluia!

First Reading 1 Kings 3:5,7-12

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its number cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

The Word of the Lord

**Responsorial Psalm 118
(119):57,72,76-77,127-130**

(R) Lord, how I love your law!

My part, I have resolved, O Lord,
is to obey your word.
The law from your mouth means
more to me
than silver and gold. **(R)**

Let your love be ready to console me
by your promise to your servant.
Let your love come and I shall live
for your law is my delight. **(R)**

**♪ Hymns for Today ♪
633 Seek Ye First
106 Christ Be Beside Me
209 Freely, Freely**

**Second Reading Romans
8:28-30**

We know that by turning everything to their good, God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

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 prayers and
those who have died

That is why I love your com-
mands
more than finest gold,
why I rule my life by your pre-
cepts,
and hate false ways. **(R)**

Your will is wonderful indeed;
therefore I obey it.
The unfolding of your word
gives light
and teaches the simple **(R)**

Gospel

Matthew 13:44-52

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.' Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it. 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. 'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

The Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION REFLECTION

Be daring, be courageous, but never over-particular, for the courage you need means that you must always declare resolutely: "Rejoice in the Lord!" without reserve, and never worry whether the times are sweet or bitter, or you are passing through light or darkness. So let us go forward fearlessly, rejoicing in the truly profound, firm and unyielding love of our God. ST JANE FRANCES DE CHANTAL FROM CONSECRATED SPIRITS, COMPILED BY FELICITY LENG (CANTERBURY PRESS,

Our Community has been invited to take an active part in a Vigil of Prayer to be held at Cathedral Square on Monday 10th August from 7.30 p.m to 8.30 p.m. All are invited. Would anyone like to volunteer to lead some prayers - e.g one decade of the Rosary? Contact Johanna or Fr Loreto. Thank you



After listening to today's readings let us now consider the following :

Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection.

St Matthew presents us this week with three final pictures from his collection of Jesus' images about the Christian community. Matthew likes pairs of parables: the dragnet pairs with last week's darnel-parable, the treasure pairs with the pearl. The Kingdom is an exciting and unexpected treasure which can change our whole life; it's like winning the pools or the lottery – except that God's gifts change us only for the good, and fill our lives with meaning and joy. Of course we know that God's call is demanding: you've got to pay a price for the field in which the treasure lies, or for the genuine pearl found in a junk-shop! The very last picture - the householder bringing down different food-packets, pots and jars off the shelf - is encouraging too: some are old favourites (perhaps like the Christian values and prayers which we inherited from our families), but some add new flavours too, which we have discovered or been taught ourselves. If we listen, the Spirit is always there to show us new ways of living out our Christian calling, revealing to us an opportunity for prayer or help or service. This 'householder' is often thought to be Matthew's secret signature for himself: he brings out old and new in the Christian message. How can we learn new ways of living out our Christian calling?

And from Fr. Robert Draper

An important key to the Gospel is offered by the selected first reading from the first book of Kings. It is Solomon's great prayer for Wisdom. The young king approaches God and does not ask for the presumed gifts he might need as king - power, long life, success over enemies, glory. He asks for wisdom, for the ability to discern and understand. That is deemed by God as being truly astute and so Solomon becomes the great wise king. When faced with the great number of parables that Matthew gives us in this part of his Gospel - three more today - we can only enter into them if we follow Solomon and seek wisdom. Anyone could make a quick superficial judgement about the 'meaning' of each parable, but that would actually defeat the intention of Jesus in giving us so many and such varied images of the kingdom. Parables are to be pondered, to be reflected on. Wisdom is the process of using experience and knowledge to interpret what is presented in line with the understanding that comes from faith. Human experience is an essential part of the process - that is why so many parables present ordinary and homely images. They are not intellectual puzzles but experiences to be interpreted in the light of faith. An important aspect of wisdom is that it is a collective process - it is not that each individual has to start with a blank sheet and work everything out personally. The wisdom sought is the wisdom of the community that has pondered across the generations - hence the section of the Hebrew Scriptures known as the Wisdom Literature has perennial value. That is why the image of the householder bringing out things both old and new is a fascinating one and an encouraging one. For a generation that has come to appreciate so much the great insights of John Henry Newman it is worth recalling that his great work was rooted in his researching the early Fathers of the Church. It was in the exploring of that ancient wisdom that so much of his great work originated. That is why the Church constantly seeks to hold on to what it has received, but also present it for the current generation in terms of the culture and insights that are newly available. Fidelity is neither simply holding on to the past, nor in seeking to find new insights; it is the work of wisdom in discerning and presenting as a faithful disciple of the kingdom.

Eucharistic Ministers

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

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

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 needed for these masses please.

Celebrations in July

Birthdays

16th Charlotte Carrington, Julie Vella & David Felice Pace

Anniversaries

18th Sylvia & Marcel Marguerat-Grech

Money Matters



The collection for last Sunday was € 285.61 All monies collected are deployed to cover the costs of running our community and for good causes

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