

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

God's care for people

2nd August 2026
18th Sunday Ord A
Celebrated by
Fr. Loretu Tabone



Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia Alleluia!
.Blessings on the King who comes,
in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven
and glory in the highest heavens
Alleluia!

First Reading **Isaiah 55:1-3**

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk. Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy. Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live. With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm 144(145):8-9,15-18
(R) You open wide your hand, O Lord; you grant our desires.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures.
(R)

The eyes of all creatures look to you
and you give them their food in due time.
You open wide your hand,
grant the desires of all who live.
(R)

The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts.
(R)

♪ Hymns for Today ♪

517 O Bread Of Heaven
90 Blest Are You Lord God
272 I Am The Bread Of Life

Second Reading **Romans 8:35,37-39**

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us. For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

is an enemy; where all of us know how to live reconciliation, forgiveness, and peace. The Pope has, among his many titles, that of a builder of bridges. And today we too would like to build a bridge with all of you, with your families, and with the society in which we want to live - but to live with justice, to live where the causes of poverty can be eliminated, to live where the causes of injustice that still exist in our world can be eliminated. This is the Church we want to be. And now let us ask the Lord to bless us, to bless the food, and to bless the table we wish to share with each other ... in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. POPE LEO XIV GRACE BEFORE LUNCH WITH THE POPE IN THE BORGO LAUDATO 11 JULY 2026

Gospel **Matthew 14:13-21**

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick. When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining; twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

The Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION REFLECTION

I came without a speech, but I came here with hunger. I came with a hunger for justice; I came with a hunger for genuine charity; I came with a hunger for a Church that truly knows how to open its doors, welcome, and receive everyone; where there is love for everyone and where no one



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

Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection.

Every mother knows the disaster-situation of the family day out when the shops turn out to be closed and the emergency supplies have been left at home. This lot have been following Jesus three days on the trot, and there must have been nothing left at all to eat. Jesus turns the disaster into a party for that huge crowd of people. Left to our own resources we are helpless, but Jesus can deal with that. How many were there? We don't know, for the numbers are symbolic. In the Bible 'twelve' alerts us to the tribes of Israel. So the twelve baskets of scraps show that the crowd is the twelve tribes of Jesus' new Israel. The way Jesus takes the bread and says the blessing must remind any Christian of the Eucharist. So this gigantic field-party was a sort of Eucharist, Jesus at the centre of his people, entertaining them and cheering them. It probably wasn't very orderly. There would have been children enjoying the food and then running around and tripping up themselves and others. An African Mass is often like that, with lots of singing and dancing and celebration. That is why the Sunday Mass is so important: meet your friends and celebrate Christ together! What does this Gospel teach us about the Eucharist?

And from Fr. Robert Draper

The Isaiah reading speaks of the generosity of God who offers drink without money and bread without cost. To those who choose to listen there will be an abundance. The universal symbol of good food and drink in abundance is linked very deliberately to listening to God's word: 'Listen, listen to me and you will have good things to eat. The one who provides a bountiful table is the one who speaks words of life. In John's gospel this connection is fully developed in chapter 6 – the great discourse on the bread of life that follows his account of the feeding in the desert. The gospel today is from Matthew's account of the feeding of the five thousand. The crowd has simply arrived – they have come for the healing of their sick, but they have come without the usual preparation and so they find themselves lacking food. Paul in our second reading lists of the misfortunes that can attend those who follow the Lord – and here it is in reality. The miracle graphically reveals that nothing can come between us and the love of Christ. The crowd are fed generously – with more than they need (twelve baskets remain – a symbolic as well as significantly large number). Jesus raises his eyes to heaven, takes the bread, says the blessing, breaks the bread and hands it out; the same fourfold sequence that happens every time the Eucharist is celebrated and God's people are fed generously with the bread of life. While the Isaiah and gospel readings point to the bounteousness of God, the Pauline reading reminds us, who are like the hungry crowd, that, given this great gift, nothing can come between us and the love of God. And indeed for Catholics with the great tradition of the reality of Christ's presence in the Eucharist the reality that Paul affirms is made manifest – it is the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord – a truly munificent gift.

Bible Study Group. There have been requests for a Bible Study Group to be organized within our Community. John Attard has been in contact with Fr Manuel Magro who has accepted to lead the Study Group. There will be an informal meeting at the seminary on Sunday, August 23rd after Mass with Fr Magro, with those interested, to discuss the type, method, frequency and day of the future meetings, and to get a feel for likely attendance.

Eucharistic Ministers

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

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

02-Aug Readings	Johanna Marks	Prayers	John Attard
09-Aug Readings	John Attard	Prayers	Vince Vella
16-Aug Readings	Chris Holland	Prayers	Rachel Holland
23-Aug Readings	Rachel Holland	Prayers	Chris Holland
30-Aug Readings	Sylvia Fernandes	Prayers	Andy Young

**Pope Leo XIV's prayer intention
For August**

For evangelization in the city

Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

FOR YOUR DIARY

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.

23rd August . Meeting at 11.15 am after 10.00 am mass for those interested in forming a Bible Study Group led by Fr. Magro . See notice.

Celebrations in August

Birthdays

18th – Chris Holland
21st – Monique San George
23rd – Jean Kennedy
24th – Lilian Fitzpatrick

Anniversaries

20th– Rachel & Chris Holland
27th – Veronica and John Grech

Money Matters

 **The collection for last Sunday was € 308.57 of which €275 has been donated to Fr. George from Ghana for his Seminary**

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