

**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

**9th August 2026
19th Sunday Ord A
Celebrated by
Fr. George Debrincat**



**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 1 Kings 19:9,11-13

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm 84(85):9-14

(R) Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give us your saving help.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land.
(R)

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven.
(R)

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. **(R)**

♪ Hymns for Today ♪

**388 Shine Jesus Shine
578 One Bread, One Body
80 Bind us together**

Second Reading Romans 9:1-5

What I want to say now is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

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

PRAYER VIGIL . 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.

Gospel

Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION REFLECTION

I thank all of you, and all those responsible for preparing this wonderful meal, because when we live this spirit of encounter, all together with a seat at the table - where Jesus is also present with us - we are truly building a different world: a world of hope, a world that is a light in the midst of a world that is so often broken apart by violence, hate, and discrimination. Let us strive to become that experience of Church: a Church of justice, a Church of peace, a Church of love. 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 SI', 11 JULY 2026



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

The Christian people are often depicted as a boat, with Peter at the helm. As in a boat, everyone has their part to play: kids to bring the excitement and the challenge, parents to take the responsibility, grandparents just to be there to comfort and reassure. Without Jesus the disciples were getting exhausted, frustrated and probably bad-tempered and quarrelling. When Jesus appears everything changes: first, terror and awed amazement, then Peter rushes to meet him – and loses confidence, only to be swiftly rescued. How does Jesus come to me? In the joys of family? In the unwelcome criticism of an angry neighbour who tells me the truth about myself? In the worries of a job or the agonies of a failed relationship? In the staggering beauty of creation? In physical pain? In all these situations we may discover God's presence, and without that presence we cannot expect to cope. Jesus does not force himself upon us. He just jogs us, and says, 'Here I am if you want me.' He may disappear into the sea-mist again for a time, and we may sink into the water like mistrustful Peter. But it all ends with a welcome and a recognition that Jesus can help, even in a life-threatening situation. Why is Peter such a good role-model for us?

And from Fr. Robert Draper

Despite the modern ability to live in air-conditioned, centrally heated, water-tight, insulated houses there are constant reminders on the news of the power of nature in the form of floods, storms and earthquakes which can make the most hardy flinch. Elijah on Mount Horeb and the disciples in the boat find themselves at risk from the elements and experience their awesome power. The scripture writers use the Imagery of the forces of nature to emphasise the otherness of God – they are not describing weather conditions but the presence of the One who controls the forces of nature. And it is the presence of God that matters – Elijah is not offered a show of power, but an opportunity to discern the presence of God (and that presence is not about might but gentleness). Jesus does not appear to the disciples to display his might, but in reality, to call them to himself. When Paul says: What I want to say is no pretence, I say it in union with Christ, he is emphasising his utter commitment to the statement he is making. This is not hyperbole; it is his complete honesty in insisting on his love for the people of Israel and his acknowledgement of their place in salvation history – the covenant that God has made and which abides. The recent canonisations of John XXIII and John Paul II has picked up many aspects of the modern church, one of which was the change in relationship between the Church and the Jewish people. Both popes made very significant statements and gestures which invited a radical re-exploration of the relationship of the peoples of the two covenants. The letter to the Romans invites all hearers to do just that and ensure that no hidden prejudices are left unacknowledged for what they are.

Bible Study Group.

Sadly Fr. Magro is now unable to be with us on the 23rd so the meeting for those interested in a Bible Study Group has to be postponed . New date to follow.

Eucharistic Ministers

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
06-Sept-26	Ben Miltenburg	Johanna Marks

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

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
06-Sept Readings	Andy Young	Prayers	Mary Newman

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

10th August – Prayer Vigil See notice

12th August – 11.15 am Mass in English at Ta Pinu

15th August – Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary . Mass 10.00 am at Seminary – See Page 3

Birthdays

Celebrations in August

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 € 173.64. All monies collected are deployed to cover the costs of running our community and for good causes

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Council Members:

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Johanna Marks 99950596
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15th August 2026
The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Celebrant: Fr. Loretu Tabone

Hymns for Today

238 Hail Queen Of Heaven

859 As I Kneel Before You

684 Tell Out My Soul

First reading: Apocalypse 11:19; 12:1-6.10

The sanctuary of God in heaven opened, and the ark of the covenant could be seen inside it. Now a great sign appeared in heaven; a woman, adorned with the sun, standing on the moon, and with the twelve stars on her head for a crown. She was pregnant, and in labour, crying aloud in the pangs of childbirth. Then a second sign appeared in the sky, a huge red dragon which had seven heads and ten horns, and each of the seven heads crowned with a coronet. Its tail dragged a third of the stars from the sky and dropped them to the earth, and the dragon stopped in front of the woman as she was having the child, so that he could eat it as soon as it was born from its mother. The woman brought a male child into the world, the son who was to rule all the nations with an iron sceptre, and the child was taken straight up to God and to his throne, while the woman escaped into the desert, where God had made a place of safety ready. Then I heard a voice shout from heaven,
"Victory and power and empire for ever have been won by our God, and all authority for his Christ."
The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm 44:10-12.16R.v.10

(R.) On your right stands the queen, in garments of gold.

The daughters of kings are among your loved ones.
On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.
Listen, O daughter, give ear to my words:
forget your own people and your father's house. **(R.)**

So will the king desire your beauty:
He is your lord, pay homage to him.
They are escorted amid gladness and joy;
they pass within the palace of the king. **(R.)**

Second Reading: Corinthians 15:20-26

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be put under his feet.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Mary has been taken up into heaven;
all the choirs of angels are rejoicing.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 1:39-56

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, "Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled." And Mary said: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit exults in God my saviour; because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid. Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed, for the Almighty has done great things for me. Holy is his name, and his mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear him. He has shown the power of his arm, he has routed the proud of heart. He has pulled down princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things, the rich sent empty away. He has come to the help of Israel his servant, mindful of his mercy - according to the promise he made to our ancestors - of his mercy to Abraham and to his descendants for ever." Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Reader: Johanna Marks

Eucharistic Ministers: