

**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

**16th August 2026
20th Sunday Ord A
Celebrated by
Fr. George Debrincat**



**Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia Alleluia!!**

The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice,
says the Lord,
I know them and they follow me.
Alleluia!

First Reading Isaiah 56:1,6-7

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest. Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm 66(67):2-3,5-6,8

(R) Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

O God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us.

So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. **(R)**

Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice.

With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth **(R)**

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him. **(R)**

♪ Hymns for Today ♪

859 As, I kneel before you

678 Take our bread, we ask you

769 We are one in the Spirit

**Second Reading Romans
11:13-15,29-32**

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice. Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

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

Gospel

Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

The Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION REFLECTION

Humanity, created by God in all its grandeur, is today facing a pivotal choice: either to construct a new Tower of Babel or to build the city in which God and humanity dwell together. Each generation inherits the task of shaping its own era, of guiding history to become a place where the dignity of every person is safeguarded, justice is promoted and fraternity is made possible. Yet every era also runs the risk of creating an inhumane and more unjust world. Whenever humanity is in danger of marring its true identity, we Christians lift our eyes to the Incarnate God, knowing that it is "only in the mystery of the Word made flesh that the mystery of humanity truly becomes clear." In Jesus Christ, this humanity in its grandeur becomes the Way, the Truth and the Life, opening the path for each of us to grow toward fullness. (From *Magnificas Humanitas*, Pope Leo)



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

The core of this gospel reading is Mary's canticle of thanksgiving for God's gifts to her. It is, however, fitting that, on the Feast of the bodily Assumption of Mary, it should begin with her bodily attention to the bodily needs of her elderly relative. With her own baby on the way, she would have plenty of other priorities, making her long journey a real act of kindness. Her canticle, sung daily in the liturgy of Evening Prayer, sums up God's faithfulness to his promises, focussed on his gifts to this simple peasant girl. It combines a wonderful sense of the holiness of God with warmth of gratitude, showing the thoughts that revolved constantly in Mary's mind. As is fitting in the mouth of a girl whose only knowledge of books was the Bible, Mary's song is a texture of scriptural phrases. We cannot assume that Luke wrote it down at Mary's dictation, for putting words in the mouth of his characters is a feature of Luke the historian; but it must reflect her thinking. If any theme resounds again and again throughout the Bible, it is God's care for the poor, for the simple and for those in need. It is this which sets the Hebraeo-Christian tradition apart from the ways of the world. What was Mary thinking as she walked to Elizabeth's home and back again? How may we

And from Fr. Robert Draper

Unusually, all three readings today have a common theme – the announcement that salvation is open to those outside the covenant made with the people of Israel. Apart from today section, there are several passages in the prophet Isaiah that suggest this openness: (e.g. 2.3; 62.2.) In the passage from Paul this is part of his exposition of the relationship of Jews to pagans, how the offer of salvation, made initially to the people of Israel, has now been opened to any who have faith, regardless of ethnicity. The incident recorded in Matthew is quite a poignant picture. Matthew is sometimes described as the most Jewish of the gospels, and certainly he does have passages which like this one imply Jesus exclusive ministry to Israel (e.g. 10.6 – the explicit command not to go into pagan territory; but also note the command of the Lord after the Resurrection to all make disciples of all the nations. The mother in this passage has a symbolic as well as a real status. The universal care of a parent for their offspring overcomes any boundary set by ethnicity or culture – it points directly to the nature of being human (and therefore made in the image of God). And this woman not only is driven by her maternal care, but also, in her desperation, receives the gift of faith which ensures her plight is answered. Today's readings invite a response of generosity and an acknowledgement that God's power is not inhibited by human concerns, but is accessible to all who seek it in faith.

Eucharistic Ministers

16-Aug-26	Johanna Marks	Ben Miltenburg	David FP
23-Aug-26	Monique Sant Georges	Ben Miltenburg	
30-Aug-26	Iain Dando	Mary Newman	
06-Sept-26	Monique Sant Georges	Johanna Marks	
13-Sept-26	Mary Newman	Iain Dando	Ben

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

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
13-Sept Readings	Mary Newman	Prayers	Stella Woodgate
20-Sept Readings	Stella Woodgate	Prayers	Johanna Marks

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

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.

Adoration will recommence on 8th Oct.

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 €194.78 . All monies collected are deployed to cover the costs of running our community and for good causes

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