

**The English Speaking  
Roman Catholic Community on Gozo**  
Patron Saint – St. Thomas More  
Our website: [www.escgozo.org](http://www.escgozo.org)  
Seminary guest WiFi: Letmein123!  
Sacred Heart Seminary Chapel – Enrico Mizzi Street , Victoria

**6th September 2026  
23rd Sunday Ord A  
Celebrated by  
Fr. Loretu Tabone**

Responsibility, love and community

**First Reading      Ezekiel 33:7-9**

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

*The Word of the Lord*

**Responsorial Psalm    94(95):1-2,6-9**

**(R) O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;  
hail the rock who saves us.  
Let us come before him, giving thanks,  
with songs let us hail the Lord. **(R)**

Come in; let us bow and bend low;  
let us kneel before the God who made us:  
for he is our God and we  
the people who belong to his pasture,  
the flock that is led by his hand. **(R)**

O that today you would listen to his voice!  
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert  
when your fathers put me to the test;  
when they tried me, though they saw  
my work.' **(R)**



♪ Hymns for Today ♪  
**490 Morning Has Broken**  
**730 This Is My Body**  
**769 We Are One In The Spirit**

**Second Reading    Romans  
13:8-10**

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

*The Word of the Lord*

**We Pray For**  
Those in our community and  
all our relatives and friends  
who need our prayers  
and those who have died

**Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel**

Holy Michael, the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who wander through the world seeking the ruin of souls.  
Amen

**Gospel Acclamation**  
**Alleluia Alleluia!!**  
**Your word is truth, O Lord:**  
**consecrate us in the truth.**  
**Alleluia!**

**Gospel                                  Matthew 18:15-20**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector. 'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven. 'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

*The Gospel of the Lord*

**Memorial Acclamation**  
**We proclaim your death, O Lord and profess**  
**your Resurrection until you come again**

**COMMUNION REFLECTION**

When I show love towards others, I know that it is Jesus who is acting within me. The more closely I am united to him, the more clearly I love others. Should I wish to increase this love, and am put off by the defects of another person, I immediately try to look for that person's virtues and good motives. I call to mind that though I may have seen one fall, many victories over self may have been gained but have been concealed through humility. It can also be true that what appears to be a fault may very well be an act of virtue, because it was prompted by an act of virtue. ST THERESE OF LISIEUX FROM BY LOVE ALONE,  
EDITED BY MICHAEL HOLLINGS (DLT1986)



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

**Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection.**

The Church has had to be selective as we work through the Gospel of Matthew for this year's readings. In this eighteenth chapter of Matthew on relationships within the community it is striking that the Church has chosen this passage to put before us. The first part is all about sorting out disputes and about forgiveness. Despite the presence of Christ in the Christian community there are going to be disagreements and misunderstandings in every church and every family. The vital thing is to sort them out and not to let them fester. So here we are given a safe process to do this. Just after today's passage, Jesus underlines his teaching here when he says that we have to forgive not just seven times (the perfect number) but seventy-seven times. That means again and again and again, without limit. Christ also reminds us that he is present always in his community. The same promise is given at the beginning (the name Emmanuel means 'God with us') and at the end of the gospel ('I am with you to the end of time'). Therefore the decisions of the community will be considered binding in the sight of God. It is especially striking that the same pledge (of binding and loosing) is made with the Church here as had earlier been made with Peter himself; Peter on his own exercises the authority of the Church. How may we best put this process of reconciliation described by Jesus into practice?

**And from Fr. Robert Draper**

The very succinct passage from Romans given to us today is designed by Paul to be the over-riding principle for life within the community and between its members. The very nature of the Church means that being a member impacts on all those other members. If each member is guided by love in every case, there is no problem in community life Paul insists. Matthew in the Gospel is aware that, in reality, the life of the Christian community is not necessarily so straightforward. In our contemporary culture in the West, faith and its practice are seen as private matters, but in the Christian community that cannot be the case because through baptism the members become part of the body of Christ and so have an intimate and deep relationship with one another. It is clear in Matthew's Gospel that he is aware of these issues, and so we have these very explicit statements from the Lord on how to deal with errant members. The aim, from the beginning, is to 'win back' the brother or sister who has erred. If an initial private challenge does not result in the desired end, then a few others should be involved, and if that fails, then the whole community should be involved. Only if the decision of the community is rejected should the sinner be excommunicated, and excommunication is ultimately the decision the one who rejects the community. The last two sections of the passage are significant (they are 'Amen, Amen' sayings - solemn pronouncements). The formal action of the community in pronouncing on the behaviour of one of its members becomes the judgement of heaven. The saying about 'two or three meet in my name' is often used to express Christ's presence when the faithful are gathered in prayer. The reality of that saying in its context is to express divine sanction for the action of the Church in disciplining its members. That is very significant and should be reflected on carefully by those who want to insist on making one's Church membership something simply personal and private.

**Eucharistic Ministers**

|                   |                             |                      |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>06-Sept-26</b> | <b>Monique Sant Georges</b> | <b>Johanna Marks</b> |
| 13-Sept-26        | Mary Newman                 | Iain Dando           |
| 20-Sept-26        | Johanna Marks               | Ben Miltenburg       |
| 27-Sept-26        | Monique Sant Georges        | Iain Dando           |

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

|                         |                         |                |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| <b>06-Sept Readings</b> | <b>Sylvia Fernandes</b> | <b>Prayers</b> | <b>Andy Young</b> |
| 13-Sept Readings        | Andy Young              | Prayers        | Stella Woodgate   |
| 20-Sept Readings        | Stella Woodgate         | Prayers        | Johanna Marks     |
| 27-Sept Readings        | Johanna Marks           | Prayers        | Vince Vella       |
| 04-Oct Readings         | John Attard             | Prayers        | Sylvia Fernandes  |

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

For the care of water

Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

**FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Bible Study Group.** New meeting date TBA

**Adoration** will recommence on **8th Oct.**

**17th September Charity dinner – See below**

**CHARITY EVENT - Statue**

FUNDRAISING DINNER THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 17 2026

**Place:** St. Joseph Band Club, Ghajnsielem, Gozo

**Time:** 6:00pm

**Donation:** 25 Euro

To help people that were hit by the recent earthquake in Guatemala.

A Group of 26 people from Malta and Gozo will be joining Father Joseph Camilleri building new homes for homeless people!

For more information kindly call Fr. Joseph Camilleri +356 79551327



**Money Matters**

The collection for last Sunday was €159.23 .

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

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**David Felice Pace** 79560051

**Marcel & Sylvia Grech-Marguerat**  
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**Johanna Marks** 99950596

**Mary Newman** 77047872