

The English Speaking
Roman Catholic Community on Gozo
Patron Saint – St. Thomas More
Our website: www.esccgozo.org
Seminary guest WiFi: Letmein123!
Sacred Heart Seminary Chapel – Enrico Mizzi Street , Victoria

13th September 2026
24th Sunday Ord A
Celebrated by
Padre Jose Camilleri

Mercy and forgiveness

First Reading Ecclesiasticus 27:33-28:9

Resentment and anger, these are foul things and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial 102(103):1-4,9-12

(R) The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings.
(R)

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. **(R)**

His wrath will come to an end;
he will not be angry for ever.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults **(R)** →→→



Hymns for Today
633 Seek Ye First
678 Take Our Bread
209 Freely, Freely

Second Reading Romans 14:7-9

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life: it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

The Word of the Lord

COMMUNION REFLECTION

"It is not yet too late" to change course and redirect what has been used for destruction towards life, Pope Leo XIV said on Tuesday, urging Christians to make care for creation an expression of ecological conversion and universal fraternity. The Pope was marking the annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation and the beginning of the five-week Season of Creation. In the gardens of the Laudato Si' Village, he said, this invitation to contemplate creation is particularly fitting. "It would be superficial to marvel at fire, wind, rushing waters or the stars of heaven, without allowing our gaze to rise to the Creator of such wonders," he noted.

For as the heavens are high
above the earth
so strong is his love for those
who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.
(R)

Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia Alleluia!!

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:
you have the message of eternal life.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times. 'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time" he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me" he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

The Gospel 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



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

This is a favourite theme of Matthew, continuing and concluding Jesus' teaching that forgiveness is the life's-blood of any Christian community. We cannot live together without upsetting one another, unwittingly, or even deliberately. So forgiveness is the vital step. So important is this matter of forgiveness that two consecutive Sunday gospels are devoted to it. It expands and stresses our petition in the Lord's Prayer, 'Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive others.' The importance of this petition was already underlined by Matthew; it is the only petition of the Lord's Prayer to which he adds at the end a confirmatory saying of Jesus. Like so many of Matthew's parables, this one about a king and his servants revolves round contrasting characters, the 'goodie' and the 'baddie' (wedding-guests and guest without a wedding-garment; the two who use their talents and the one who hides it; the girls with and without oil for their lamps; the sheep and the goats; and here, the generous king and the ungenerous servant). There is also a contrast between the two sums of money which is deliberately fantastic: the first slave owes the equivalent of millions of dollars, a sum no private person could ever repay, let alone a slave; it is more than a year's tax for a whole province. The second owes the couple of months' wages of a casual labourer. Is there anyone you cannot forgive? Do you start the forgiveness-

And from Fr. Robert Draper

When Peter initially suggests that he might be called to forgive seven times - he is being very generous - seven after all is a considerable number. But when Jesus retorts with his 'seventy-seven times, we know we are being asked to go beyond anything that is reasonable. The reading from Ecclesiasticus offers a fairly standard interpretation of the Law - which is challenging enough. Jesus takes it much further. The key phrase in today's Gospel is 'he had no means of paying'. The debt the servant had accrued is astronomical - something like the national debt - totally impossible for an individual to meet. But the master cancels the debt: he doesn't just give him more time or let him pay a bit of it - he cancels it the debt is wiped out. If we fail to take seriously the idea of being unable to pay and the debt being cancelled, we might just end up with a pious moralising. The theological truth is that when we come before God with our 'debts' we are totally unable to pay them - there is literally nothing we can do to put ourselves at rights with God. All our good works, and prayers and penitence are themselves the fruit of the grace given to us. If we take this seriously, it can lead us to a deeper appreciation of the extraordinary gift of redemption. That is the extraordinary gift that is offered to those who 'belong to the Lord'. Our debts are simply cancelled - they are wiped out as if they had never existed. That is what we celebrate at the Eucharist: 'the blood of the new covenant poured out for the forgiveness of sins'; that is how our debts are cancelled.

Eucharistic Ministers

13-Sept-26	Mary Newman	Iain Dando
20-Sept-26	Johanna Marks	Ben Miltenburg
27-Sept-26	Monique Sant Georges	Iain Dando
04-Oct-26	Mary Newman	Johanna Marks
11-Oct-26	Ben Miltenburg	Monique Sant Georges

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

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
11-Oct Readings	Vince Vella	Prayers	John Attard

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 for Guatemala – See last week's newsletter for details.

22nd to 24th January 2027. Made for More Retreat Gozo edition
Manresa Retreat House, Victoria, Gozo . Details as per link below:

<https://www.godmediation.world/made-for-more-retreat-gozo2027>

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



Money Matters

The collection for last Sunday was € 191.38.

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

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