

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

20th September 2026
25th Sunday Ord A
Celebrated by
Fr. Loretu Tabone

God's mercy is for everyone

First Reading Isaiah 55:6-9

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm 144(145):2-3,8-9,17-18

(R) The Lord is close to all who call him

I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever.
The Lord is great, highly to be praised,
his greatness cannot be measured. **(R)**

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 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)**

We Pray For
Those in our community
especially Lilian Fitzpatrick and
all our relatives and friends who
need our prayers as well as those
who have died



Hymns for Today
215 God Is Love

128 Come Lord Jesus Come
567 O Lord All The World

Second Reading Philippians
1:20-24,27

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake. Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

The Word of the Lord

COMMUNION REFLECTION

Neither individuals nor nations should regard the possession of more and more goods as the ultimate objective. Every kind of progress is a two-edged sword. It is necessary if man is to grow as a human being; yet it can also enslave him, if he comes to regard it as the supreme good and cannot look beyond it. When this happens, men harden their hearts, shut out others from their minds and gather together solely for reasons of self-interest rather than out of friendship; dissension and disunity follow soon after. Thus the exclusive pursuit of material possessions prevents man's growth as a human being and stands in opposition to his true grandeur. ST POPE PAUL VI FROM POPULORUM PROGRESSIO, 1967

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!

Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

The Gospel of the Lord

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



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

It is hard not to sympathize with the workers who have sweated it out right through the day in the hot sun. The idlers who have hardly got earth on their spades or grease on their hands get a great bonus and I get no bonus at all! Is this fair? No. God is not fair. You can't apply the concept of "fairness" to God at all. We can't enter into a reckoning with God. God does not calculate as we do. In the terms of this world, this is obvious enough. The wicked do prosper, while honesty and high moral standards, instead of being rewarded are often simply mocked. Can we go deeper and say that the reward is in heaven? This hardly fits with the way Jesus worked here on earth. He did not reward the virtuous. He said he was the doctor who had come to the sick. His favourites were the worst of society, taxcollectors and prostitutes, not even amiable rascals. Heaven was open to anyone who accepted him. It is no good looking for fairness in God, for this implies that we deserve something. We cannot claim to 'deserve' anything; we are simply called into a loving relationship and to put our trust in Jesus. What does this Sunday's Gospel say about the generosity of God? When have you experienced God's generosity, his kindness and forgiveness in your own life?

And from Fr. Robert Draper

Last week's parable of the master cancelling the servant's debt should have made us sop an, -I think - today's will do the same. As Isaiah put it in the first reading: 'my ways are not yours. - God does things differently. Jesus uses parables to reveal how 'upside down' the world of the Gospel is to contemporary thinking. The idea of paying exactly the same wage for those who work for a single hour as those who work all day defies all our sense of economics as well as fair play (as the other workers complain). In this week's parable the key factor is quite simple - everyone needs their daily bread as the Lord's Prayer states. We are given no reason as to why the labourers at the end of the day are unemployed - were they last because they didn't turn up until late? Were they known to be untrustworthy? Were they unwilling to push themselves forward? We are not told, and in the scheme of the kingdom these things do not matter. What matters is that they need their denarius (the word that means a day's wage and a day's keep). There is a real logic here - and it is not the logic of 'fair play' or 'market forces'. The strong teaching of the Sermon on the Mount at the beginning of Matthew's Gospel 'you have heard how it is said ... but I say to you' comes back in parable form in the last part of Matthew's Gospel. There is always a temptation to hear the parables as pious stories, but in Matthew's pattern of things - which is Jesus' - the reality is that they are a real challenge to make the effort to discover just how different God's ways are from ours.

Eucharistic Ministers

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
18-Oct-26	Iain Dando	Mary Newman

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

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
18-Oct Readings	Sylvia Fernandes	Prayers	Johanna Marks

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

8th October 3.30 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in English at Ghasri church followed by refreshments.

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>



Money Matters

The collection for
last Sunday was € 269.23
of which €150 was passed on to
Padre Jose's visitor for the work in
Guatemala .

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

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John & Veronica Grech 21551180

David Felice Pace 79560051

Marcel & Sylvia Grech-Marguerat 77051050

Johanna Marks 99950596

Mary Newman 77047872

FOR SALE

Following items = due to family leaving Gozo.

*Ninja XL electric BBQ

*55' QLED Samsung smart tv (7/12 months old)

*Man's mountain bike (6/12 old)

*Woman's Pashley Poppy bicycle

*Ninja nutribullet steamer (5/12 old)

*HP DeskJet printer/scanner 7/12 old

Contact Bernadette and Jason on 79070258

Or email bernimarydale@gmail.com