

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

27th September 2026
26th Sunday Ord A
Celebrated by
Fr. George Debrincat

Fairness, care for the poor, and a change of heart

First Reading Ezekiel 18:25-28
The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'
The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm 24(25):4-9
(R) Remember your mercy, Lord.
Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. **(R)**

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. **(R)**

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
He guides the humble in the right path,
He teaches his way to the poor.
(R)

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



Hymns for Today
40 Amazing Grace
210 God Gives His People Strength
602 Praise My Soul the King of Heaven

Second Reading Philippians 2:1-11

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus: His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia Alleluia!!

If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him,
and we shall come to him.
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 21:28-32

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

The Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION REFLECTION

The love that God most high has for our soul is so great that it surpasses understanding, No created being can comprehend how much, and how sweetly, and how tenderly our maker loves us. Our in-born will is to have God, and the goodwill of God is to have us. There is no end to our willing and longing until we know God in the fullness of joy. Then our desire is filled. He wills that our occupation shall be in striving to know and love him until we are made whole in heaven. Our life is grounded in faith, with hope and love besides. JULIAN OF NORWICH FROM ENFOLDED IN LOVE (DLT, 2004)

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.

Matthew loves to tell parables of Jesus which contrast 'goodies' and 'baddies' like these two contrasting sons. Matthew's parables put everything in black-and-white terms with no shades of grey (wise and foolish wedding-attendants, sheep and goats, etc.). Luke uses a different kind of parable, in which the characters - just like ourselves - often do the right thing for the wrong reason. The sayings of Jesus were handed down by word of mouth for some years before being written down. Did the straightforward contrast in Matthew (it is odd that both change their minds without a reason) develop into Luke's parable of the Prodigal Son? Both times the 'goodie' son ends up bad, and the 'baddie' son ends up good, but in Luke's version both changes of mind are motivated, and there is great emphasis on the son's repentance and the father's overwhelming joy at getting him back. The lesson in Matthew's story is given also by Jesus' word in the Sermon on the Mount, 'It is not anyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord" who will enter the kingdom of Heaven, but the person who does the will of my Father in Heaven'. It is no use simply saying that Christ is our 'Lord'; we have to express it in our behaviour. What meaning do you find in this parable for yourself and the relationship you have with the Father?

And from Fr. Robert Draper

Chapter 18 of Ezekiel is a long teaching on personal responsibility. In many ancient societies which were strongly patriarchal and hierarchical it could be argued that everyone suffered from the sins of those in authority - and aspects of that can be traced in some Old Testament passages (e.g. Exod. 20.5). Ezekiel addresses the exiles who are suffering, and who attribute that to the failings of those who brought about the fall of Israel and Jerusalem; they are suffering for the sins of their 'fathers'. Ezekiel rejects this argument - the exiles are suffering for their own treachery and sinfulness - it is what they have done that has led to their sorry state. They are called to repent - and live - for the Lord takes no pleasure in the death of anyone. Jesus's parable brings out the same line of argument. The first brother initially refuses to obey - but he thinks better of it and actually does what is asked. The second brother makes all the right noises but fails to act in accordance with his words. We should note that Jesus is addressing the chief priests and elders, and so his words are deliberately offensive and provocative when he tells them that the untouchables (tax collectors and prostitutes) are making their way into the kingdom of God before them. The sinners have lived lives which apparently seem to reject the commands of God, and yet the message of John the Baptist has led them to repent and so they deserve to live. The shorter version of the passage from the letter to the Philippians - today's second reading - can be tied into this idea, but it would be a serious loss not to offer the hearers the sublime poem which is its second part.

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

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 € 252.11.

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

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

Eucharistic Ministers

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

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

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	Mary Newman
25-Oct Readings	Mary Newman	Prayers	Stella Woodgate

Chaplain Fr. Loretu Tabone

21561824/99001829

Email: 32northnadur@gmail.com

Council Members:

John & Veronica Grech 21551180

David Felice Pace 79560051

Marcel & Sylvia Grech-Marguerat 77051050

Johanna Marks 99950596

Mary Newman 77047872

From next Sunday 4th October, and during the month of October we shall be reciting the Rosary before mass so please aim to be seated by 9.45 am.