



Throughout the month of October we shall be starting our Sunday celebrations with recitation of the Rosary. Please aim to be seated by 9.45 am.

**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

**4th October 2026
27th Sunday Ord A
Celebrated by
Fr. Loretu Tabone**

Bearing Good fruit

First Reading Isaiah 5:1-7

Let me sing to my friend the song of his love for his vineyard. My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. He dug the soil, cleared it of stones and planted choice vines in it. In the middle he built a tower, he dug a press there too. He expected it to yield grapes, but sour grapes were all that it gave. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, I ask you to judge between my vineyard and me. What could I have done for my vineyard that I have not done? I expected it to yield grapes. Why did it yield sour grapes instead? Very well, I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on, and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on. I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug; overgrown by the briar and the thorn. I will command the clouds to rain no rain on it. Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of Hosts is the House of Israel, and the men of Judah that chosen plant. He expected justice, but found bloodshed, integrity, but only a cry of distress.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm 79(80):9,12-16,19-20

(R) The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

You brought a vine out of Egypt; to plant it you drove out the nations. It stretched out its branches to the sea, to the Great River it stretched out its shoots. **(R)**

Then why have you broken down its walls?
It is plucked by all who pass by.
It is ravaged by the boar of the forest, devoured by the beasts of the field.
(R) →→→→



Hymns for Today
285 Here I Am Lord
517 O Bread Of Heaven
745 To God Be The Glory

Second Reading Philippians 4:6-9

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord

God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. **(R)**

And we shall never forsake you again; give us life that we may call upon your name.
God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved. **(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

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia Alleluia!!

**I call you friends, says the Lord,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father.
Alleluia!**

Gospel

Matthew 21:33-43

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son" he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures: It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone. This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see? 'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'

The Gospel of the Lord

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

COMMUNION REFLECTION

Blessed are we, if in poverty of spirit we free ourselves from false confidence in material things, desiring above all else spiritual and religious goods, treating the poor with respect and love, as our brothers and as living images of Christ. Blessed are we, if in the meek-ness of the strong, we renounce the ruinous power of hate and vengeance, conquering only by goodness and peace. Blessed are we, if we refuse to direct our lives by self-interest, nor take pleasure as our goal, but learn to find in temperance strength, in pain a source of redemption, in sacrifice the summit of greatness. Blessed are we, if we prefer to be oppressed rather than among the oppressors, always hungering for justice to be increased. Blessed are we, if for the Kingdom of God - in our time and in eternity - we learn to struggle and to pardon, to serve and to act, to suffer and to love. POPE PAUL VI HOMILY IN NAZARETH, 5 JANUARY 1964



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

Jesus' understanding of the sovereignty of God brought him violent opposition from some of the Jewish leaders. Were they corrupt, or just closed to any new way of thinking, so closed that they could not see that Jesus was the promised Messiah? Anyway, Jesus used this story about the tenants of a vineyard to show that the religious authorities were not leading the people as they should. Everyone would immediately understand the image of the vineyard. The prophet Isaiah had used this image in a well-known poem eight centuries earlier to show that the vineyard of Israel refused to yield a good harvest to God, whatever care God lavished on it. God expected fairness of judgment from the people and all he found was a shriek of agony (the same word is used in Hebrew for 'fairjudgment' and for 'shriek' apart from one letter). What does this mean for us? Not that we have to follow every new idea. But it does mean that we must be open to the idea that we may be wrong, that our service of the Lord may be faulty, that people we find tiresome or unacceptable may have more good in them than we credited. God's ways are not our ways. Life may not be mapped out how we think, so we need to watch out for the bend in the road. What is God asking of you?

And from Fr. Robert Draper

The imagery of the vine suffuses both the New and Old Testaments and the passage from the prophet Isaiah fits into that tradition. What is notable is that the passage is described as a 'song of love'. This is no simple agricultural endeavour, no commercial venture, but a love song. The care and effort that the friend puts into his labour, the selection of a fertile place, the choice vines, the attention to tower and wine press. Nothing that could be done to ensure a rich harvest has been omitted, because of the love that the friend puts into the work, and yet 'sour grapes were all it gave'. If it is a love song, it is a song of unrequited love. It is always worth noting just how much tenderness is attributed to God in the Old Testament; Yahweh Sabaoth may be a God of 'power and might' but always a God of love and mercy, tenderness and compassion (Ex 34.8). The final part of the passage from Isaiah makes a direct link which ties us into today's gospel. There is no hiding the fact that Matthew is being deliberately confrontational in this passage: 'Jesus said to the chief priests and the leaders of the people, "Listen to another parable." ' The parable of the vineyard is addressed specifically to them, the guardians of the faith of Israel; and the final words make clear his intention in telling the parable: 'I tell you then; the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit'. Whilst aimed at a specific audience, the parable is still applicable to any who would hold a role of authority amongst God's people - perhaps bringing to mind Pope Francis' many comments on defining ministry in the Church as above all one of service and the famous saying about the necessity of pastors smelling of the sheep.

Eucharistic Ministers

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
01-Nov-26	David Felice Pace	Monique Sant Georges

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

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	Johanna Marks	Prayers	Stella Woodgate
01-Nov Readings	Stella Woodgate	Prayers	Rachel Holland

Pope Leo XIV's prayer intention For October

For mental health ministry

Let us pray that mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

FOR YOUR DIARY

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

CELEBRATIONS IN OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

5th Marcel Marguerat-Grech
10th Mary Mizzi
24th Paul Mizzi

ANNIVERSARIES

1st Isabel & Chris Barlow
8th Lilian & Reg Fitzpatrick
16th Mary & Paul Mizzi
30th Camila & Allan Mantovan/
Macedo



Money Matters

The collection for

last Sunday was € 291.50

**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

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