



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

**18th October 2026
29th Sunday Ord A
Celebrated by
Fr. Loretu Tabone**

Render to God the things that are God's

First Reading Isaiah 45:1. 4-6

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more. 'It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me. I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm 95(96):1,3 -5,7-10

(R) Give the Lord glory and power.

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
Tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. **(R)**

The Lord is great and worthy of
praise,
to be feared above all gods;
the gods of the heathens are naught.
It was the Lord who made the heavens. **(R)**

Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Bring an offering and enter his courts. **(R)**

Worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'
He will judge the peoples in fairness. **(R)**



Hymns for Today

257 Holy God, We Praise
Thy Name
477 Majesty
301 Immortal Invisible

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ. We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction

The Word 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
especially Lesley Dando and
Lilian Fitzpatrick and David
Pace soon to undergo an
operation and all our relatives
and friends who need our prayers
as well as those who have died

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia Alleluia!!
Your word is truth, O Lord,
consecrate us in the truth
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 22:15-21

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's,' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar - and to God what belongs to God.'

The Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION REFLECTION

We cannot know whether or not we love God, although there maybe strong reasons for thinking so, but there can be no doubt about whether or not we love our neighbour. Be sure that in proportion as you advance in fraternal charity, you are increasing in your love of God, for he bears so tender an affection for us that I cannot doubt he will repay our love for others by increasing, in a thousand different ways, that love which we have for him. ST TERESA OF AVILA FROM THE INTERIOR CASTLE, TRANS. BENEDICTINES OF STANBROOK (LONDON, 1921)

Pastoral Letter.

Attached please find the Pastoral letter that was read out at mass last Sunday



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

They must really have thought they had their victim sewn up! If Jesus said he paid the Roman taxes, he recognised the Emperor, not God, as his Lord. If he said he didn't pay, he was a traitor to Rome. Jesus turns the question back on them. First he makes them admit that they themselves recognise Rome as overlord by carrying a Roman coin, for the coin would carry the Emperor's head. Next he puts them a question: what do they consider is due to Caesar? Finally he goes beyond their question, to interrogate their ultimate loyalty: in the last analysis, just what is due to God? At a superficial level this seems a little verbal tussle, in which Jesus outwits his opponents. But the story was remembered and passed on in the Christian community not because of Jesus' cleverness, but because at a deeper level it is a question which Jesus puts to each of us: just where do our loyalties and priorities lie? Money? Respect? Sex? Fame? A good holiday? Comfort? Power? Jesus is not a dictator who imposes his will. He just asks the question and leaves us to give our own answer. To those who question him he gives no easy response, but always replies with another question. What takes priority in my life? Does God get a look-in? In what way?

And from Fr. Robert Draper

It is not easy to live with paradox in a world where the rational and measurable evidence are the normal tools of argument. Yet paradox is written into the very fabric of the Christian faith (the cross as means of death and yet source of life; the one who loses his life for the sake of the gospel will save it; the one who is called Lord and master and yet washes feet as a servant etc.) Today Isaiah addresses Cyrus, the pagan Persian king who has overthrown the Babylonian Empire, and calls him God's servant, and indeed uses the word anointed (anointed, Messiah, Christ are all equivalents). Even though Cyrus knows nothing of the Lord, and is an outsider, yet he is Yahweh's 'Messiah' who has been raised up simply for this, to be the tool of God's saving act, to protect the people of Israel, who are utterly insignificant in terms of the great world Empires. Cyrus, the pagan tyrant, is God's chosen instrument for bringing about God's plan. Historians may write of the rise and fall of empires, and debate the causes that led to expansion and decline, but in the eyes of the prophet the hand of God is at work. In today's gospel, the strange story of the debate with the Pharisees over paying of tribute also takes us into the secular world. No doubt it was a contentious issue in Israel at the time of Jesus - especially as tax had to be paid using coins which bore human images, and no doubt, blasphemous words (proclaiming the divinity of the Emperor). Jesus' response to his interlocutors might appear to slide out of the dilemma present-ed, but in fact it rises above such matters to insist on the more important question -ultimately all authority is from God - that is the starting point for any real understanding of the ways of the world.

Eucharistic Ministers

18-Oct-26	Iain Dando	Mary Newman
25-Oct-26	Johanna Marks	Ben Miltenburg
01-Nov-26	David Felice Pace	Monique Sant Georges
08-Nov-26	Mary Newman	Iain Dando

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

18-Oct Readings	Sylvia Fernandes	Prayers	Mary Newman
25-Oct Readings	Johanna Marks	Prayers	Stella Woodgate
01-Nov Readings	Stella Woodgate	Prayers	Rachel Holland
08-Nov Readings	Chris Holland	Prayers	Angelika Camilleri
15-Nov Readings	Rachel Holland	Prayers	Chris 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

18th October . After Mass, meeting with Fr. Magro for those interested in Bible Study Group.

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 € 211.38.

**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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WE CANNOT DO WITHOUT SUNDAY

Pastoral Letter for the Opening of the Pastoral Year 2026-2027

My dear brother Priests, Religious and Lay Christians,

Sunday is special, different from the other days of the week. From its inception the Church considered Sunday as the day when the community meets with the Risen Christ, with each other, and we connect with our own lives in his light.

The Word of God proclaims: *"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it"* (Ps 118:24). It is the feast day characterised by the fraternal meal laid on by the Lord for his guests: *"Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet"* (Mt 22:4). Thus, Sunday is the day the Lord has made, and he donates us life anew.

Sunday: the day of the Lord and the day of Resurrection

It was the first day of the week, Sunday, when the women went to the tomb and found that the stone had been removed. Christ had risen from the dead (cfr Mt 28:1-10; Mc 16:1-8; Lk 24:1-12; Jn 20:1-18). This is why for us Christians every Sunday is Easter Sunday which is celebrated every week. It is not merely a memory of a past event but our meeting the Lord today.

From the very first days Christians used to convene *"on the first day of the week"* to listen to the Word of the Lord and break the bread (cfr Acts 20:7). St Paul mentions also the collection in aid of the needy (cfr 1 Cor 16:2)

St Ignatius of Antioch says that Christians live *"according to the Day of the Lord"* because on that day their life in Christ took root. St Justin Martyr in the 2nd century defines Christians as the community which on Sunday convened to listen to the Word of the Lord, pray, celebrate the Eucharist and take care of the needy.

Thus, from the beginning Sunday was the day of adoration of the Lord, the day of the community and the day of charity.

Sunday: the day of the Eucharist and of the community

The essence of Sunday is the Eucharist. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church states, *"the Sunday celebration of the Lord's Day and his Eucharist is at the heart of the Church's life"* (n. 2177)

We must make sure that our children's activities, which are beneficial, do not obstruct our meeting with the Lord. The Gospel reminds us: *"But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business"* (Mt 22:5) and they stayed away from the feast.

When we are present for Sunday Mass, we are not merely individuals concerned with our private needs. We are present as the Lord's People, his family, his body. We listen to the same Word, partake of the same Bread, and drink from the same Cup. The Lord convenes us and makes us one community.

Pope Francis reminds us that we attend the Mass to meet with the Risen Lord, or better still to let him come to us, listen to his Word, sit at his table, so that we can become his Church, his living Body in today's world.

Consequently, Sunday should facilitate our being together: the day when the family eats together, pays a visit to a relative or someone who is alone, gives time to children and adolescents, and meets with friends.

Sunday reminds us that life does not consist only of work, efficiency and productivity. The human person is not a machine which has to produce continuously. We are the children of God who need to meet, love, give thanks and rest.

Sunday: a day of rest

The Bible narrates that following the work of creation, God *"rested on the seventh day"* and blessed that day (cfr Gen 2:2-3). The biblical rest is not laziness, but a pause in front of the beauty of creation and before God.

Pope Francis reminds us that authentic rests is not an escape from reality. It is a time of contemplation and praise; the time when we can view life and proclaim: 'Life is beautiful!'

This is a truly timely message when so many are giving up on life and are convinced that if they stop working, everything will end. But God teaches us that we are not that which we produce. Our value does not depend on what we produce. We are valued because we are loved by God.

In this manner Sunday is a call to rediscover the art of rest: the rest of our body; the rest of our mind; but above all the rest of our hearts in God.

Pope Francis in his Encyclical *Laudato si'* states that Sunday is a day which heals our relationships with God, with ourselves, with others and with the world (cfr n. 237). It is the day which helps us rediscover the value of life and shelters us from feverish activ-

Sunday: a day of charity

We just cannot celebrate Sunday in an authentic manner if our hearts remain alienated from others.

St Justin Martyr describes how the early Christians used to share with those in need. The Sunday collection served to help the orphans, the widows, the sick, the prisoners, the outsiders and all in need.

This is truly encouraging! *Sunday starts off at the altar and proceeds down the way of charity.* What we receive from Christ in the Eucharist should become our gift to the brethren.

Thus, on a particular Sunday we can visit some elderly person who suffers neglect; on another Sunday some family facing difficult times; yet on another Sunday be close to someone who needs comfort and solace of company.

Pope Leo XIV reminds us that our Christian Faith cannot be divorced from our love to our neighbours. Authentic communion creates a culture of welcoming where the other feels at home. Sunday is the “original feast day” (cfr *General Audience*, 12.08.26) when the community of believers meets to listen to the Word, partakes of the Eucharist and externalises its communion with the Lord and its adherence to Christ and his Church.

Let us rediscover the beauty of Sunday

My dear brethren, *Sunday is a gift not a burden.* In his Apostolic letter *Desiderio desideravi*, Pope Francis reminds us that Sunday, before being the Day of Precept, is the gift God gives to his People (cfr n. 65).

Let us not allow Sunday to become another workday replete with buying, activities and fretting about. Let us not allow Sunday to pass without God, the community and charity.

Let us make of Sunday the day of Christ, the day of the family, the day of the community, the day of rest, and the day of charity.

May the Eucharist become again the essence of our lives. Let the Word of God guide us. Let rest revive us. Let our meeting with the community give us life anew. Let our being in the community deepen our unity. May charity make visible the Risen Lord.

The Lord imparts to you and to your families his blessing.

Given from the Bishop's Curia, Victoria, today 30 September 2026,

Memory of St Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church