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

29th November 2026
1st Sunday Advent (B)
Celebrated by
Fr. George Debrincat

Stay Awake!

First Reading **Isaiah 63:16-17,64:1,3-8**

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, 'Our Redeemer' is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down! – at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm
79(80):2.3. 15-16,18-19
(R) God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. **(R)**

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)**



Hymns for Today

7 Abba, Abba, Father
678 Take Our Bread
203 Go The Mass Is Ended

Second Reading
1 Corinthians 1:3-9

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The Word of the Lord

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name. **(R)**

Gospel Acclamation

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

Alleluia Alleluia!!

Gospel **Mark 13:33-37**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

The Gospel of the Lord

COMMUNION REFLECTION

The Lord, as an artful physician, subjects us to various trials, sorrows, illnesses, and misfortunes, in order to purify us like gold in the furnace. A soul that is hardened in various sins does not easily undergo cleansing and healing, but has to be forced to a great extent, and only through lengthy experience in patience and suffering does it become accustomed to virtue and begins to love God, from Whom it was alienated after becoming attached to all kinds of mortal sins. Such is the purpose of the trials and tribulations sent to us by God in this life. ST JOHN OF KRONSTADT (1829-1908)

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 as well as those who have died

Ministry of Gozo Car Park available Sundays and National Holidays

After listening to today's readings let us now consider the following :
Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection.
This brief parable of the master returning unexpectedly is typical of Jesus' vivid way of speaking. The message is typical, too, because Jesus was constantly stressing that there is no time to lose. When he came in his earthly ministry he again and again challenged his hearers to make up their minds NOW, to change their ways NOW. He challenges us to do the same. We can hear the rattle of the returning Master's key in the lock. There is no time to hide the contraband, to pull our uniforms straight before greeting the Master at his entry. Even if we do not think that the world's end is imminent, even if death is not threatening, every moment counts, every decision is for or against Jesus. Saints are rumoured to have said that, if they received the news that they were to die that night, they would carry on doing what they were doing anyway. Saints can do this, because they are ready for the coming of the Lord. But what about us? If we need to put things a bit more in order to prepare for the Lord's coming, is there any valid reason to delay? The four weeks of Advent are a good time to clean things up for the Lord's coming. What would you like to change about your life in preparation for the coming of the Lord?

And from John Donahue
Today's gospel is from the end of Mark's apocalyptic discourse (ch.13), in which Jesus predicts the destruction of the Temple, the persecutions that await the community, the arrival of "false messiahs, and false prophets" and the final cosmic catastrophes that herald the return of the Son of Man to gather the elect. This conclusion presents a short parable that is bracketed by three commands to Jesus' followers, "Be watchful"(13:33, 35, 37), because they do not know the proper time (kairos) for God to intervene. It is a virtual allegory of the community life of Mark's small house churches, which compares Jesus' absence to a journey by the head of the house, who has delegated authority to servants. Each has a different task, with a special commission to the doorkeeper to be watchful, for the "lord" may return at one of the four watches of the night (evening, middle of the night, cockcrow, or morning). It is a community yearning for the return of Jesus and for visible signs of God's presence. This parable also anticipates the passion of Jesus (Mark 14-16). Jesus' final hours are punctuated by the same four watches, and ironically the disciples fail to watch in Gethsemane (14:32-44), Peter denies him at cockcrow (14:72), and Pilate condemns him in the morning (15:1-15). Rather paradoxically, while waiting for Jesus to return in power and glory as the exalted Son of Man (13:26-27), the disciples fail to see his coming as the suffering Son of Man, who gives his life that others may be free (10:45) —a warning to contemporary Christians preoccupied with the "Second Coming". These readings provide multiple challenges to Christians today, especially during the often hectic weeks before Christmas, in which waiting suggests endless traffic jams or long lines while shopping for that special gift, and watching is scarcely the vigilance that Mark calls for but often means staring at a cavalcade of Christmas television specials or seemingly never-ending athletic events. Biblical watching consists of faithful waiting and attentiveness to the kairos of God's entry into our diverse individualand corporate histories. It is for us, enduring hope and fidelity to the tasks of our lives in the face of God's absence. For us, as for the returning exiles, faithful waiting unfolds between memory of God's awesome deeds and yearning for a God who can accomplish what no eye has seen nor ear has heard "for those who wait". (John Donahue S.J., Hearing the Word of God)

Eucharistic Ministers

29-Nov-26	**Monique Sant Georges**	**Johanna Marks**	**Iain Dando**
06-Dec-26	Ben Miltenburg	Monique Sant Georges	
13-Dec-26	Mary Newman	David Felice Pace	

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

29-Nov Readings	**Sylvia Fernandes**	**Prayers**	**Johanna Marks**
06-Dec Readings	John Attard	Prayers	Vince Vella
13-Dec Readings	Johanna Marks	Prayers	John Attard
20-Dec Readings	Angelika Camilleri	Prayers	Mary Newman

Pope Leo XIV's prayer intention For November .
For the proper use of wealth
Let us pray for the proper use of wealth, that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be put at the service of the common good and solidarity of those who have less.

FOR YOUR DIARY
2nd December Carol Concert 6.00 pm Santa Lucija church—**see Poster**

10th December 3.30 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at Ghasri church followed by refreshments

12th December 9.00 am. Advent Retreat at Augustine sisters Ghajnsielem. **Booking form and poster outside chapel**

Money Matters

The collection last Sunday was € 281.60
All monies collected are deployed to cover the costs of running our community and for good causes

CELEBRATIONS IN DECEMBER
Birthdays
1st ▶ Stephen Vassallo
2nd ▶ Mathilde Weinert
7th ▶ John Grech
8th ▶ Louis Ferdinand Weinert
12th ▶ Aurelia Weinert
16th ▶ Chris Barlow

Anniversaries
26th ▶ Francesca & Brian Coen

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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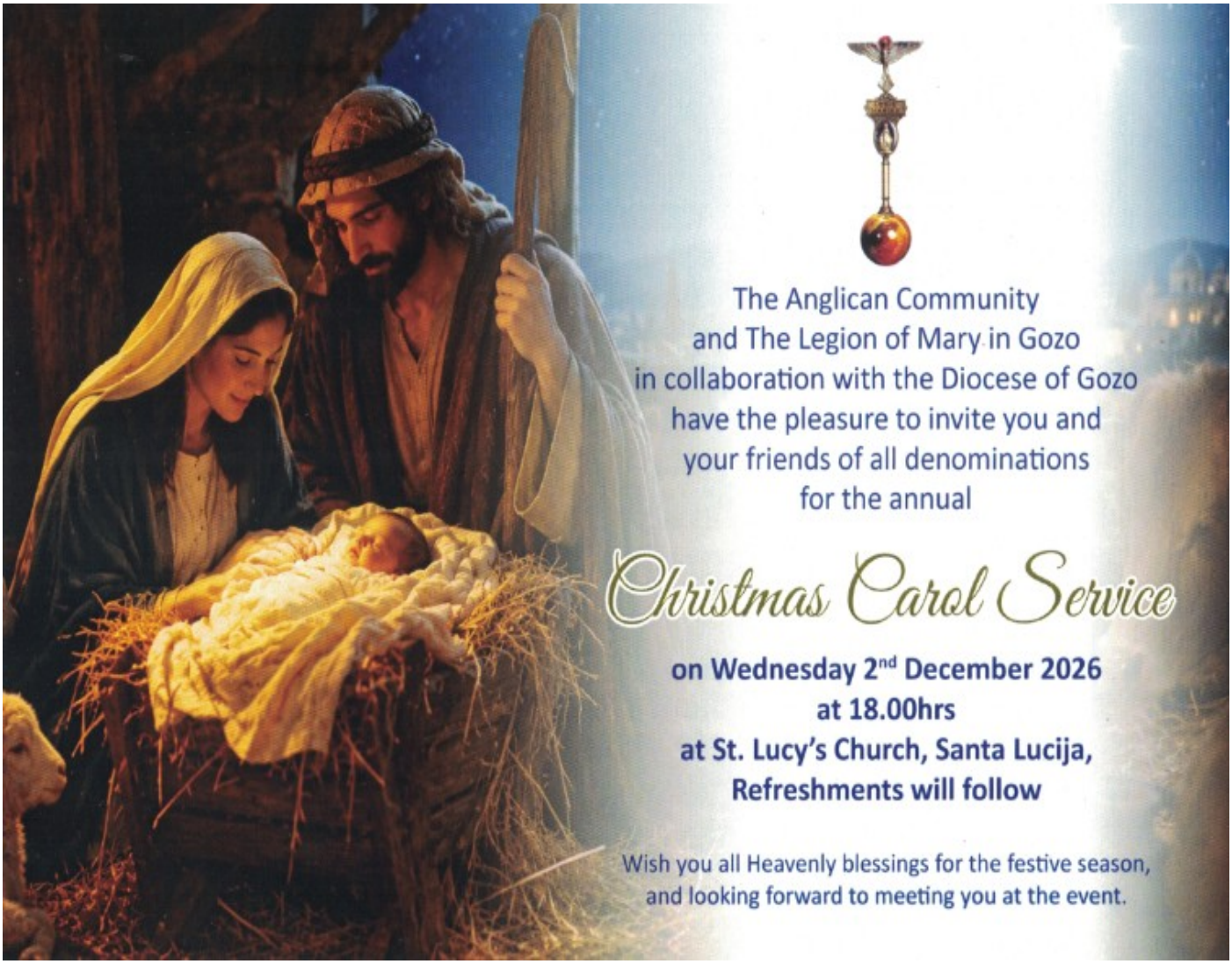
The Anglican Community
and The Legion of Mary in Gozo
in collaboration with the Diocese of Gozo
have the pleasure to invite you and
your friends of all denominations
for the annual
Christmas Carol Service
on Wednesday 2nd December 2026
at 18.00hrs
at St. Lucy's Church, Santa Lucija,
Refreshments will follow
Wish you all Heavenly blessings for the festive season,
and looking forward to meeting you at the event.