

The English-Speaking Roman Catholic Community on Gozo

Patron Saint—St. Thomas More
Our website: www.escggozo.org

24th Sunday: Ord (Year B)

15th September 2024

Celebrated by

Padre Jose Camilleri

Faith, trust in God, and the call to follow Christ.

First Reading : Isaiah 50:5-9

The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed. My vindicator is here at hand. Does anyone start proceedings against me? Then let us go to court together. Who thinks he has a case against me? Let him approach me. The Lord is coming to my help, who will dare to condemn me?

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm 114(116):1-6,8-9

(R) *I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.*

I love the Lord for he has heard
the cry of my appeal;
for he turned his ear to me
in the day when I called him. **(R)**

They surrounded me, the snares of death
with the anguish of the tomb;
they caught me, sorrow and distress.
I called on the Lord's name.
O Lord, my God, deliver me! **(R)**

How gracious is the Lord, and just;
our God has compassion.
The Lord protects the simple hearts;
I was helpless so he saved me. **(R)**

He has kept my soul from death
my eyes from tears
and my feet from stumbling.
I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living. **(R)**



Hymns for Today "To sing is to pray twice"

59 At The Name Of Jesus
874 I Cannot Tell (Danny Boy)
568 Oh Lord My God

Second Reading : James 2:14-18

Take the case, my brothers, of someone who has never done a single good act but claims that he has faith. Will that faith save him? If one of the brothers or one of the sisters is in need of clothes and has not enough food to live on, and one of you says to them, 'I wish you well; keep yourself warm and eat plenty', without giving them these bare necessities of life, then what good is that? Faith is like that: if good works do not go with it, it is quite dead. This is the way to talk to people of that kind: 'You say you have faith and I have good deeds; I will prove to you that I have faith by showing you my good deeds - now you prove to me that you have faith without any good deeds to show.'

The Word of the Lord

We Pray For...

Those in our community who need our prayers, and all our relatives and friends who are in need and those who have died



10th October 2024
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in English Ghasri church at 3.30 pm

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia Alleluia!

I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, says the Lord; no one can come to the Father except through me.

Alleluia

Gospel : Mark 8:27-35

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And they told him. 'John the Baptist,' they said 'others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he asked 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.' And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him. And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.' He called the people and his disciples to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Memorial Acclamation

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your death O Lord, until you come again.

Commentaries on Today's Readings

After listening to today's readings pause now to consider the following reflections:

From Rev. Robert Draper

It is worth noting that fifteen centuries before Luther the issue of the relationship between faith and works was an issue of concern to the early Church. Because of our familiarity with 'the Bible' as a single work it is easy to forget that it was unlikely that the writers of the New Testament had easy access to one another's writings. That means there is no reason to see a confrontation between James and Paul, though James is certainly challenging head on an interpretation of the Christian faith that he finds unacceptable. In his letters to the Galatians and the Romans, Paul has a lot to say about 'the works of the Law' and always in a negative sense. What he is criticizing is the belief that the ritual practices of the Jewish Law - especially circumcision and the food laws - are a necessary part of Christian observance. Indeed he quite rejects such an interpretation when applied to Christians of pagan birth. He insists that it is not the works of the Law in that sense that matter, but only faith in Jesus as Saviour and redeemer that makes one justified. For Paul that never meant that therefore 'anything goes' once we have faith. His letters are full of the condemnation of immoral actions, and full also of encouragement for living the moral life. But it must have been easy for some to pick up on certain aspects of Paul's teaching and adopt an attitude of 'once I have faith then I can do anything I like'. Such an attitude would have been anathema to the writer of the letter of James who is constantly insisting on the importance of practical Christianity. As James says, good works is the expression of faith, while with Paul it can also be argued that it is faith that enables the carrying out of good works.



Sacred Heart Seminary Chapel Enrico Mizzi Street Victoria

(car park available on Sundays & Holy Days opposite Seminary)

Sunday Mass at 10.00 am

The Sacrament of Confession

is heard before Mass. Please allow time before Mass is due to commence

Our chaplain:

Father Loretu Tabone:

Tel: 21561824 or 99001829

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Council Members:

John & Veronica Grech 21551180

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77051050

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The collection for last Sunday was €154.59 All monies collected are deployed to cover the costs of running our community and for good causes

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for September

We pray that each one of us will hear and take to heart the cry of the Earth and of victims of natural disasters and climactic change, and that all will undertake to personally care for the world in which we live.

And From Fr. Henry Wansbrough

This is the turning-point of Mark's gospel. Till now the stories we have heard have all spoken about ever-increasing wonder and amazement at Jesus' personality, his goodness and his authority. But even his closest disciples do not seem to have seen what this means. Then suddenly Peter comes to the realisation that Jesus is the Messiah, the Anointed of God, for whom everyone was waiting. However, Peter still does not understand what this implies. Jesus is not a conquering political hero, who will simply wipe out all opposition by overwhelming force, and make every path smooth and gentle. Jesus begins to show his disciples that the road to fulfilment is through suffering. Jesus repeats this prophecy of his suffering, death and resurrection another two times, and on each occasion the disciples fail to grasp the lesson; first it's Peter, then the disciples who are arguing about precedence, and finally the two sons of Zebedee who want the best places for themselves. So three times Jesus repeats that if you want to follow him you must follow him to the Cross. Nor are we, later followers of Jesus, any quicker than the first disciples to learn this lesson if we greet any suffering that comes our way with indignation and evasion. Why does Jesus rebuke Peter so fiercely?

PRAYER AT THE END OF MASS

As suggested by His Holiness, Pope Francis:

Holy Michael, 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 thrust down to hell, Satan, and all wicked spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls.

Readers Rota

15-Sep Readings	Stella Woodgate	Prayers	Angelika Camilleri
22-Sep Readings	Angelika Camilleri	Prayers	Johanna Marks
29-Sep Readings	Johanna Marks	Prayers	Aimee Vant
06-Oct Readings	Aimee Vant	Prayers	Vince Vella
13-Oct Readings	Rachel Holland	Prayers	Stella Woodgate
20-Oct Readings	Stella Woodgate	Prayers	Angelika Camilleri
27-Oct Readings	Angelika Camilleri	Prayers	Chris Holland

FOOTNOTES

"It had long since come to my attention that people of accomplishment rarely sat back and let things happen to them. They went out and happened to things."

Leonardo Da Vinci