

The English-Speaking Roman Catholic Community on Gozo

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

31st Sunday Ord (Year B)

3rd November 2024

Celebrated by
Fr. Loretu Tabone



Hymns for Today "To sing is to pray twice"

98 Breathe On Me, Breath Of
God

302 In Bread We Bring
567 O Lord All The World
Belongs To You

Love and faithfulness to God and neighbour

First Reading Deuteronomy 6:2-6

Moses said to the people: 'If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord the God of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow. 'Listen, Israel: the Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm 17(18):2-4,47,51

(R) I love you, Lord, my strength.

I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my strong-
hold.

The Lord is worthy of all praise,
when I call I am saved from my foes.

(R)

Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me,
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed.
I love you, Lord, my strength. (R)

We Pray For...

Those in our community who need
our prayers, and all our relatives and
friends who are in need.

This mass is being said for the repose
of the souls of all past members,
for relatives and friends of all present
members of the ESCC .

Second Reading Hebrews 7:23-28

There used to be a great number of priests under the former covenant, because death put an end to each one of them; but this one, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows, then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him. To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and then for those of the people, because he has done this once and for all by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests who are men subject to weakness; but the promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia Alleluia!
Your words are spirit, Lord
and they are life:
you have the message of eternal
life:
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 12:28-34

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more.

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.



Dates for your diary

14th November 2024 3.30 pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in
English at Ghasri followed by
refreshments .

19th November 2024 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm

Bible Study Group in English at Santa
Lucija church .

Sat 7th December Advent Retreat St Augustine Convent Ghajnsielem Schedule

9 am registration
First talk 9.15 – Break-Second Short talk
Mass followed by Lunch
Fr Jimmy Xerri will be giving the talks

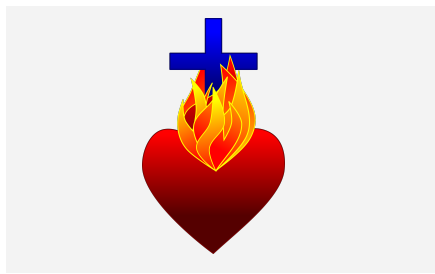
Cost €15 coffee and lunch or €5 for
coffee only

Commentaries on Today's Readings

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

From Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

The basic command of Judaism, which should dominate all life, was love of God above all things. Jesus audaciously adds to this another commandment of the Old Testament, the love of neighbour. This is the only case in the gospels where a scribe positively approves Jesus. Why is this the case? The scribes were the experts in the Law and its interpretation. To stress the importance and the equality of the second commandment of love Jesus uses a technique of interpretation common and approved in Israel. If two passages of scripture have a parallel sentence structure and use similar words they may be closely associated. In these two commandments, and only here in the whole of the Bible, are the words used, 'And you shall love...' with a direct object. This enables Jesus to put the command to love neighbour on the same level as the command to love God - and the lawyer approves his interpretation. The first Letter of John puts it in this way: 'No one who fails to love the brother whom he can see can love God whom he has not seen.' This was, of course, not a new commandment; it was the equality of the two commandments of love which was new. What sort of person do you find it most difficult to love?



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:

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Council Members:

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The collection for last Sunday was
€206.11. All monies collected are
deployed to cover the costs of
running our community and for
good causes

**Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for
November**

We pray that all parents who mourn
the loss of a son or daughter find
support in their community and re-
ceive peace and consolation from
the Holy Spirit.

And from Fr. Robert Draper

The readings given to us for this Sunday offer us a chance to reflect on the continuity and discontinuity of the covenant given to Moses, with the covenant given through Christ. The words of the Shema the great prayer of the faithful given by Moses ('Hear O Israel ..') sums up the faith of Israel. The fact that Jesus quotes it as the first (and greatest) commandment shows his clear continuity with the faith of Moses. The faith of the Christian church in Jesus therefore cannot be understood without reference to the faith of Moses. However, the reading from the Letter to the Hebrews, while clearly in continuity with the faith of Moses, insists that in Jesus there is a definitive development - this will feature in the readings from Hebrews for the next few weeks. At the Last Supper Jesus speaks of a new and eternal covenant. That covenant - like the covenant with Moses - is a covenant signed with the blood of sacrifice for the forgiveness of sin. But the sacrifice of the former covenant was made through the High Priest, himself a sinner and marked out for death. The new covenant however, is made through Jesus as the perfect High Priest, without sin, and who remains forever. While the theology of the Letter to the Hebrews is radical and expresses discontinuity with the earlier covenant of Moses, it is not comprehensible without an understanding of the faith of Israel. The writer takes as his premise the language and concepts of that faith, but insists that in Jesus that faith is taken to a new level. The once and for all nature of Christ's sacrifice makes it definitive for all time - and the sure means of salvation to all who recognise Jesus as the ideal and eternal - High Priest.

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

*"Life is a daring adventure
or it is nothing at all."*

— Helen Keller

	Readers Rota		
03-Nov Readings	Chris Holland	Prayers	Mary Newman
10-Nov Readings	Mary Newman	Prayers	Rachel Holland
17-Nov Readings	Andy Young	Prayers	Tom Welch
24-Nov Readings	Aimee Vant	Prayers	Andy Young
01-Dec Readings	Vince Vella	Prayers	Johanna Marks
08-Dec Readings	Johanna Marks	Prayers	Stella Woodgate
15-Dec Readings	Stella Woodgate	Prayers	Mary Newman

*"God loves us beyond comprehension, and we cannot
diminish God's love for us." — Saint Peter*