

# The English Speaking Roman Catholic Community on Gozo

Patron Saint—St. Thomas More  
Our website: [www.esccgozo.org](http://www.esccgozo.org)

Sacred Heart Seminary Chapel—Enrico Mizzi Street , Victoria  
Sunday Mass 10.00 am (Confession available prior—please allow ample time)

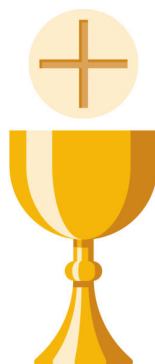
7th Sunday Ord (C)  
23rd February 2025  
Celebrated by  
Padre Jose Camilleri

*Jesus' teaching about not judging others.*

## First Reading 1 Samuel 26:2,7-9,11-13,22-23

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph. In the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul lying asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him. Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice.' David answered Abishai, 'Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt? The Lord forbid that I should raise my hand against the Lord's anointed! But now take the spear beside his head and the pitcher of water and let us go away.' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them. David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. He called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

*The Word of the Lord*



## Responsorial Psalm 102(103):1-4,8,10,12-13

**(R) The Lord is compassion and love.**

My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
all my being, bless his holy name.  
My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
and never forget all his blessings.

**(R)**

It is he who forgives all your guilt,  
who heals every one of your ills,  
who redeems your life from the grave,  
who crowns you with love and  
compassion. **(R)**

The Lord is compassion and love,  
slow to anger and rich in mercy.  
He does not treat us according to  
our sins  
nor repay us according to our  
faults. **(R)**

As far as the east is from the west  
so far does he remove our sins.  
As a father has compassion on his  
sons,

the Lord has pity on those who fear  
him. **(R)**

## Second Reading 1 Corinthians 15:45-49

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly

## ♪ Hymns for Today ♪

209 God Forgave My Sin

302 In Bread We Bring

813 Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

*The Word of the Lord*

## Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia Alleluia!**

**Open our heart, O Lord,**

**To accept the words of your Son.**

**Alleluia!**

## Gospel Luke 6:27-38

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. 'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

*The Gospel 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 and all our relatives and friends who need our prayers and those who have died

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

Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection.

Luke's version of the Beatitudes, which formed last Sunday's reading, puts the emphasis not on Christian attitudes, as Matthew's version does, but on the blessing on those in real, dire need. Now he continues this with out duty to respond to those in need, even if they are hostile, even if they hate us. There must be no calculation whether we will get back money or property lent, no limit to how much we lend or give. At first it seems as if Luke is concerned only with money, and indeed he is so concerned, for he is always warning of the danger of possessions and the need to use them for those who have none. Luke is proclaiming Christ's Good News to a more affluent society than do Mark and Matthew, and places all the more emphasis on the danger of wealth. But, after dealing with money, Luke goes on to other acts of generosity. We must not judge, but must forgive in order to obtain forgiveness. Most of all, we must be compassionate. Whereas Matthew ends his instructions here with a general, 'Be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect', Luke focuses on compassion, 'Be compassionate just as your Father is compassionate.' It is an affair of the heart: we must be emotionally involved with those in need. Which is more important, compassion or generosity?

**Eileen Fitzgerald's Funeral Mass** on Monday 24 February at 10.30 a.m., Nadur Parish Church. Her body will be taken to the ferry immediately after Mass.


And that of Fr. Robert Draper  
 It could be something about contemporary culture, or it could be the way of human beings, but it is very easy to live life as if it is a series of problems to be solved. 'If I can just deal with this, then everything will be fine.' That seems to be the way of things, (until the next 'problem' comes along). And so when David is fleeing from Saul, and a sudden turn of events seems to offer a quick solution then Abishai wants David to seize it and solve the 'problem' of Saul. David rejects the solution, because he recognises that there is a bigger picture here. It is not just a question of dealing with this issue which presents itself now, it is about how does a person live in relation to God and the things of God. Saul is the 'the Lord's anointed' and so to strike him is to put oneself at odds with the Lord. Luke's great teaching in the Gospel for today (the 'Sermon on the Plain' - equivalent to Matthew's 'Sermon on the Mount') addresses the bigger picture in a formal way. The teaching which Jesus gives is very demanding and is very challenging to the way human beings might be expected to act: 'Do good to those who hate you', 'do not ask your property back from the man who robs you.' Jesus takes the line that David takes and extends it - if Saul is the Lord's anointed - then so is everyone. All are cherished and loved by God, and chosen as Saul was. When Jesus invites his disciples to 'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate' he is asking them to see the bigger picture and live it - to see things as God does and live accordingly. That means avoiding any simple 'short-termism' or living life as a series of problems which need 'solving'. It invites his hearers to see life as a whole, where everything is part of a whole - and that includes the life that we call eternal life - where 'there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down ... and running over.' To some extent what we are invited to become is, in the words of Paul in the second reading, like the new Adam. We are from the earth, but the invitation is to become as the second Adam - modelled on the heavenly man - which is to become: 'compassionate as your Father is compassionate.'

**March Celebrations**

**Birthdays**  
 8th Reg Fitzpatrick  
 9th Isabel Barlow  
 10th Audrey Pace  
 16th Jacque Vassalo  
 22nd Lesley Dando

**Wedding Anniversaries**  
 13th Hazel and Don Cranston  
 30th Audrey and John Pace

**Dates and Information for your diaries**




**8th March 2025 Lenten retreat. See attached Poster for full details**


The theme is Hope in line with the Pope's motto for the Jubilee as the Year of Hope, Fr Jimmy Xerri has accepted to give the two talks.  
 Venue: Augustinian Sisters Ghajnsielem.

**11th March 2025:** 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm Bible Study Group in English at Santa Lucija Church

**13th Mar 2025** 3.30 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in English at Ghasri followed by refreshments .

**Money Matters**

 **The collection for last Sunday was €178.77. All monies collected are deployed to cover the costs of running our community and for good causes**

 Please leave Chapel quietly after mass

**Chaplain Fr. Loretu Tabone**  
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**Council Members:**

John & Veronica Grech 21551180  
 David Felice Pace 79560051  
 Marcel & Sylvia Grech-Marguerat 77051050  
 Johanna Marks 99950596  
 Mary Newman 77047872

**Readers Rota**

<b>23-Feb Readings</b>	<b>Andy Young</b>	<b>Prayers</b>	<b>Angelika Camilleri</b>
02-Mar Readings	Mary Newman	Prayers	Vince Vella
09-Mar Readings	Johanna Marks	Prayers	Angelika Camilleri
16-Mar Readings	Angelika Camilleri	Prayers	Tom Welch
23-Mar Readings	Tom Welch	Prayers	Stella Woodgate



## Lenten Day of Recollection

Date: Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Venue: Dar Madre Teresa Spinelli Retreat House,  
Triq Gleneagles, Ghajnsielem

Time: 9:00AM until Noon. (Mass at 11:30AM)

Cost: Retreat including coffee break €5.00

Retreat, coffee break and hot lunch €15.00

Retreat Master will be Monsignor Jimmy Xerri

Theme: Hope, in line with the Jubilee Year of Hope

Please book by 2<sup>nd</sup> March with:

David Felice-Pace on 2156 0051 or 7956 0051

Maria Meilak on 2156 3846 ~ Nadur Community

Fr. Joseph Sultana 2155 1519 ~ Xaghra Community

Ms. Lynda Sprong 7773 2670 ~ Qala Community

Mary Mizzi 2155 9754 or 9943 8611 ~ Ghajnsielem