

# 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)

4th Sunday of Lent  
30th March 2025  
Celebrated by  
Padre Jose Camilleri

*God's mercy and love*

During Lent, Sunday Mass will be preceded by the recitation of the Rosary, so please aim to be seated by 9.45 am if possible.

## First Reading Joshua 5:9-12

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.' The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

*The Word of the Lord*

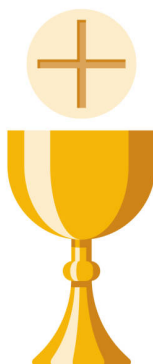
## Responsorial Psalm 33(34):2-7

**(R) Taste and see that the Lord is good.**

I will bless the Lord at all times,  
his praise always on my lips;  
in the Lord my soul shall make its  
boast.  
The humble shall hear and be glad.  
**(R)**

Glorify the Lord with me.  
Together let us praise his name.  
I sought the Lord and he answered  
me;  
from all my terrors he set me free.  
**(R)**

Look towards him and be radiant;  
let your faces not be abashed.  
This poor man called, the Lord heard  
him  
and rescued him from all his distress.  
**(R)**



## Second Reading 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on this reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

*The Word of the Lord*

### Gospel Acclamation

**Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!  
I will leave this place and go to my  
father and say:  
'Father, I have sinned against heaven  
and against you.'  
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!**

### Memorial Acclamation

**Lord by your Cross and Resurrection you  
have set us free. You are the Saviour of the  
world.**

### We Pray For

Those in our community and all our relatives and friends who need our prayers especially **Daniel Mohr** (Great nephew of Tess Bicker) who was involved in an horrific road traffic accident and those who have died

### ♪ Hymns for Today ♪

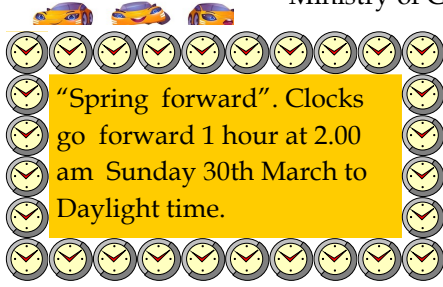
40 Amazing Grace  
678 Take Our Bread, We Ask You  
209 God Forgave My Sin

### Gospel

**Luke 15:1-3,11-32**

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them: 'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery. 'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father. 'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate. 'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But, for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property - he and his women - you kill the calf we had been fattening." The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

*The Gospel of the Lord*



"Spring forward". Clocks go forward 1 hour at 2.00 am Sunday 30th March to Daylight time.

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

Who is the hero of the story? What should its title be? Some call it the parable of the Powerless Father, for the father is powerless to do anything but welcome his son. Clearly the principal message of the parable is that we can count on God's forgiveness, whatever we do. The contrast is also between the two sons. The younger insults his father: all he thinks about is his inheritance, as though he wished his father already dead. All the same, the father is eagerly on the watch, and forgets all his dignity to run and welcome his returning son. And to persuade the elder son to join in the party, the father even leaves his dinner-guests at table, going out into the field to urge the jealous elder brother to join in. Forgiveness and love is his whole motivation. The elder son responds to his father with insults ("That son of yours" he says), inventing guesses about sexual loose-living. It is a splendid example of Luke's delicate, witty and subtle characterisation. Which brother comes out of the story best? Have you ever felt like the elder brother? What picture of God does Jesus present in the Parable of the Prodigal Son?

And that of Fr. Robert Draper Eating is such an essential element for human existence and it necessitates such social engagement that meals are a primordial symbol for so many aspects of human life. For forty years the Hebrews have wandered in the desert vainly seeking the Promised Land, and in their wanderings they have been sustained by the manna from heaven, but also by the hope of the land pledged to them. Their murmurings against God and Moses have caused the delay, and so the arrival in the land is both a promise fulfilled and a sign of reconciliation with God. Hence the significance of today's short first reading. The eating of the produce of the land of Canaan symbolises the fulfilment of God's covenant promise to their ancestors, and shows that they are once again in good relation with God. The gospel is the well known parable of the Prodigal Son, but here too eating has a symbolic meaning. In his hardship brought about by his sinfulness, the younger son is reduced to sharing food with unclean swine. That brings him to his senses and he returns home, not to paid service as had been his hope but to a banquet in his honour! Like the Hebrews eating the produce of Canaan, this - is a sign of reconciliation and fulfilled hope. . When God's people gather for the Eucharist, they too take part in a great symbolic meal that expresses the reconciliation they have received in Christ, and the realisation of the ultimate hope-shared life with God. .

**Pastoral Visit 6 April**

As part of his visit programme to all parishes and to as many communities as possible, Bishop Teuma will be visiting next **Sunday 6 April**. Sadly he can't be with us for mass but will be meeting us afterwards in the hall.

**Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for March**

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

**Feast of Divine Mercy 28 April**

There will be a special celebration in English for the Feast of the Divine Mercy on Sunday 28 April at Ghasri Parish Church from 3.00 pm to 4.00 pm. The service will include Adoration, Hymns, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and the Litany to Divine Mercy. All welcome. Books and leaflets of the Divine Mercy will be available from Palm Sunday so that those who wish can participate in the Novena which commences on Good Friday.

**Readers Rota**

<b>30-Mar Readings</b>	<b>Stella Woodgate</b>	<b>Prayers</b>	<b>Johanna Marks</b>
06-Apr Readings	Vince Vella	Prayers	Andy Young
13-Apr Readings	Andy Young	Prayers	Rachel Holland
20-Apr Readings	Rachel Holland	Prayers	Chris Holland
27-Apr Readings	Chris Holland	Prayers	Mary Newman
04-May Readings	Mary Newman	Prayers	Vince Vella
11-May Readings	Angelika Camilleri	Prayers	Johanna Marks

**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.



**March Celebrations**

**Wedding Anniversaries**

**30th Audrey and John Pace**

**Happy Mothering Sunday to all Mothers today.**

Dates and Information for your diaries




**1st April 2025:** 4.30 pm to 5.30 pm Bible Study Group in English at Santa Lucija Church

**6th April – Pastoral visit see notice**

**10th April 2025** 3.30 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in English at Ghasri followed by refreshments .

**28th April 2025 – Feast of Divine Mercy . See notice**

**Money Matters**

 **The collection for last Sunday was €234.58. All monies collected are deployed to cover the costs of running our community and for good causes**



Please leave Chapel quietly after mass

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