



His Incarnation

AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH
AND DWELT AMONG US.
AND WE BEHELD HIS GLORY....
FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH.
John 1:14

Editor's Note: *I trust this little newsletter will not be 'lost' amidst all the mail at this time of year! Allow me to introduce you to a happy soul, Fr. Philip Chircop S.J., once a playful neighbor in this same village and who now travels round the globe, giving retreats to people from all walks of life. He has kindly provided you with means of contact - a means to enrich your own life! I wish you a happy 'Emmanuel'!*

Elizabeth

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Archpriest Fr. Daniel Cardona and all the clergy wish you A Happy Christmas & New Year 2012!



Connection

Connecting you to the parish

Let Christmas be an Anointing and a Sending

by Fr. Philip Chircop S.J.



Christmas is round the corner. This festive season let's focus on the two words that make the word: "Christ" and "Mas"! "Christ" derives from the Greek word for "anointed" and "Mas" derives from the Latin word for "sent". What if this Christmas instead of just wishing a happy one to those we meet, we allow this festival of faith to rekindle in our hearts this double calling of being anointed and sent. It was the mystic Angelus Silesius who many years ago said "It means very little that Jesus was born in Bethlehem 2000 years again if he is not born again today in your own heart!"

How can we birth Jesus in our hearts?

Here are a few suggestions inspired by Paul's Ode to Love as found in 1 Corinthians 13.

If I beautify my home with twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not make time for my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I spend long hours in the kitchen, baking Christmas cakes and puddings, cooking gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love towards my family, I'm just another cook.

If I go caroling on street corners and give all that I have to charity, but do not encourage my own children to look for and discover their own song, it profits me nothing.

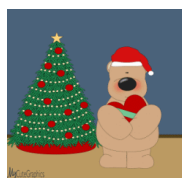
If I get the biggest Christmas tree imaginable and fill it with angels floating in "angel hair", if I attend dozens of Christmas parties and sing in the church choir but do not focus on Emmanuel - God with us - I have completely missed the point.

True love stops the cooking and pays attention to the child, excited with a new question. True love halts decorating to hug the spouse.

True love is gentle and kind, even when hurried and stressed by the grind of daily chores. True love doesn't envy the neighbour's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

True love doesn't give only to those who give back but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

"Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."



Ipads and ipods, smart-phones and games will break, necklaces and bracelets will be lost. But offering the gift of steadfast love will last forever. As the little girl said

"Love is what's in the room at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen."

What do you hear?

Fr. Philip Chircop is a Jesuit priest from Haż-Żebbuġ, Malta, residing in Canada. His main ministry is the field of spirituality. His interests are wellness, the interphase of humour and spirituality



and Ignatian Spirituality. He believes beauty is a uniquely wonderful entry into the mystery of God "whose centre is everywhere and whose circumference is nowhere." **God can indeed be experienced in all things** if we have ears to hear, eyes to see, and patience to have a long look at the real that surrounds us. Fr. Philip is a seeker, exploring new ways to proclaim the Good News and hoping to help seekers embrace changes that will lead to transformation.

Sign up with Fr. Philip Chircop!

website philipchircop.com

facebook www.facebook.com/chircop.philip



Photo courtesy of Haż-Żebbuġ Council

Archpriest Fr. Daniel Cardona warmly greets the President George Abela on the doorsteps of St. Philip Parish Church. The President attended the weekly held Sunday mass for kids on his state visit to our village on 30th October 2011.

22nd December
at **St. Philip Parish**
Church
at **7:30pm**



▲ manifestation of faith
in the mystery of
the Incarnation
and a joyous expression
of Christmas!



...Such was the wish of our
beloved St. Gorg Preca.



A Christmas Prayer

Father, once more help us seek
The joy of Christmas night
And spread the news across the earth
Of endless life and light.

Father, may we share your love
In heart and soul and mind,
And send your blessings round the world
With peace for all mankind.

Parish Office winter hours:

Tuesdays 9:30-11:00am

Fridays 4:30-6:00pm

"Villa San Filep", Main Street, Zebbug
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The Malta Philharmonic Orchestra

Originally known as the Manoel Theatre Orchestra, it was founded on 1st April 1968. In September 1997 the orchestra became an independent body and was officially named as the National Orchestra of Malta. The Malta Philharmonic Orchestra or *Orkestra Filarmonika Nazzjonali* in Maltese was launched on the Eurozone. The Orchestra's extensive calendar of events consists mainly of symphonic concerts at the Manoel Theatre, marking Malta's entry into the



Centre and other venues apart from opera productions locally as well as abroad. Among the distinguished conductors and soloists who have performed with the Orchestra one can mention Joseph Calleja and Andrea Bocelli. The Malta Philharmonic Orchestra is invited by the President of the Republic of Malta to perform in state events.

www.maltaorchestra.com

The Procession of Baby Jesus on Christmas Eve

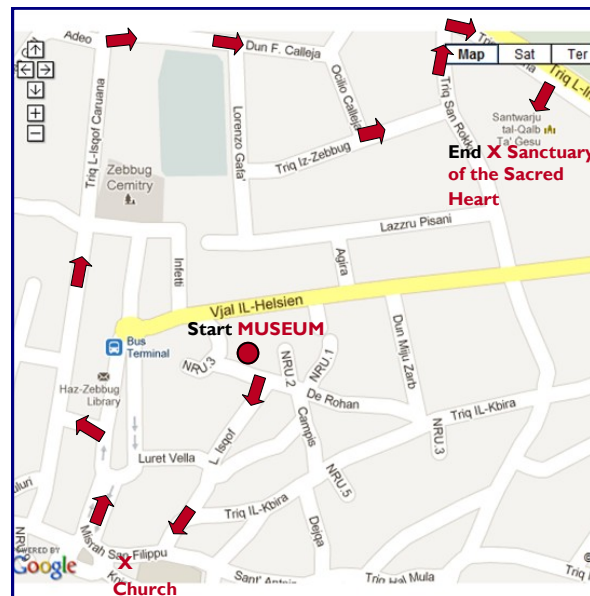
Procession Route (see insert)

5:30pm: Procession commences from the Museum Premises in De Rohan Street.

Proceeds to Bishop Str, St. Philip Square, Sciortino Str, Salvatore Milanesi Str, Bishop Caruana Str, Dun F.Calleja Str, Icilio Calleja Str, Zebbug Str, Santu Rokku Str, Imdina Road (side road).

7:00pm: Arrival at the Sanctuary of the Sacred Heart. Recital of songs and Christmas carols.

This will finish at around 7.30pm.



What's On for Christmas 2011

Sunday 18th December:

12:00pm Mass in English at Our Lady of Angels Chapel

Thursday 22nd December :

7:30pm: National Philharmonic Orchestra performance at St. Philip Parish Church under the direction of Prof. Mro. Joseph Vella

Christmas Eve:

5:30pm: Procession of Baby Jesus starting from MUSEUM in De Rohan Str. (Details are given above) Everyone is invited. If children wish, they can dress as angels or shepherds.

11:00pm: Carol singing at the Parish Church, followed by **Midnight Mass.**

A traditional Maltese drink "kokotina" (hot chocolate) will be served as usual after Mass on the Church's Parvis.



www.parroccazebbug.com