

**A note from the editor:**

Dear Readers,

Whilst wishing you a happy village feast, I wish you also a relaxing summer. I hope that for some of you, summer will be a chance to enjoy the warmth of the sun or perhaps to meet some of your relatives or friends. May I remind you that Mass celebrated in English especially for you, will resume in October!

Elizabeth

**Inside this issue:**

The Ossuary with the remains of St. Philip

575th Anniversary of St. Philip Parish

Summer Reading

Parish Feast  
Timetable

Mass in English



**The Ossuary with the remains of St. Philip**

The annual Titular Feast celebrated in honour of Saint Philip of Agira, the Patron Saint of

Haż-Żebbuġ, will be very special this year, because from Friday 10th till Sunday 12th June, the Silver Ossuary containing the sacred remains of Saint Philip, will be brought over to Malta from the Sicilian city of Agira, to commemorate

various anniversaries occurring this year, particularly the **575th Anniversary of our Parish** and the **50th Anniversary of the death of Dun Karm Psaila**, the Maltese national poet, who was born in Haż-Żebbuġ, and who wrote the popular hymn to St. Philip of Agira.

After Mayor Alfred Grixti expressed the wish to Archbishop Paul Cremona to have the remains of St. Philip present with us earlier on this year, and with my approval, this request was put forward to Mons. Salvatore Muratore, Archbishop of Nicosia, Sicily. He, together with Don Silvio Rotondo, Archpriest of Agira ac-

cepted. Don Silvio Rotondo will accompany the Ossuary, together with a group of pilgrims from

devoted manner. This is what religious feasts so rightly deserve.

I urge you to participate



Photo: Local Council's leaflet "@Haż-Żebbuġ"

The silver Ossuary containing the remains of St. Philip. It is interesting to note that it also contains the remains of three other Sicilian saints: Saint Philip the Deacon, Saint Eusebius, and Saint Luca Casali of Nicosia.

Sicily, so that we can celebrate the feast together. Indeed their stay here with us will not be simply a holiday! They regard it as a pilgrimage, as those of us who have visited Agira know how deeply

in the Solemn Translation (i.e. transfer) of the Ossuary with St. Philip's remains, which to mark the five hundred and seventy fifth anniversary will take place especially from Our Lady of Angels Chapel to

Smiling Archpriest Fr. Daniel Cardona blesses figolli and Easter eggs on church parvis on Easter Sunday.

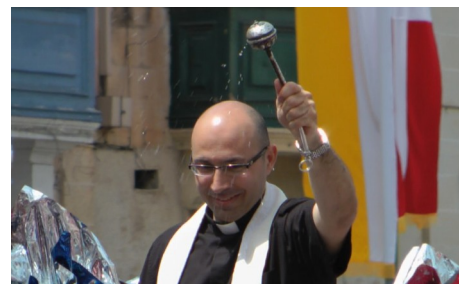


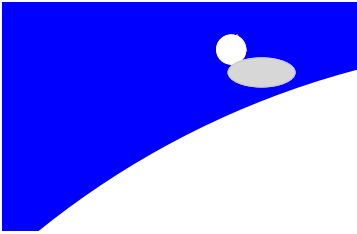
Photo: Philip Ellul

devoted the Sicilians are to St. Philip, especially during their procession. I hope that their presence amongst us will set an example, so that we too may celebrate our feast in

the Parish Church. This will take place on Saturday evening.

I wish you all a holy feast.

Fr. Daniel Cardona  
Archpriest



## 575th Anniversary of St. Philip Parish



Back then. . . St. Philip Square towards the end of the 19th-beginning of the 20th century

The origin of the parish dates to **1436**. i.e. 575 years ago. It was one of the first 8 parishes in Malta. Initially there had been only one parish in Malta, that of Mdina Cathedral.

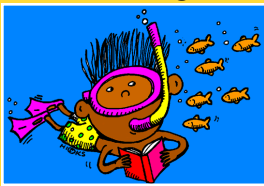
Filippo de Catania "il-Kataniż" (Philip of Catania), a wealthy entrepreneur owning land in *Ħaż-Żebbuġ*, funded part of the construction of St. Philip

Church built on his own land. This is why the church was dedicated to St. Philip of Agira, bearing the title of the saint of his name.

In all 42 priests have served as parish priest or archpriests. The first parish priest was Dun Franġisk Sillato.

From 1832 onwards the parish was bestowed with the title of **archpriest**. It was parish priest Dun Ludovigo Mifsud Tommasi who worked hard to obtain this title from Rome. Thus he became the first archpriest.

### Suggested Summer Reading



#### 'Crossing The Threshold Of Hope'

by

Beatified John Paul II

His message:

"Do not be afraid!"

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#### 'Jesus Christ'

by

Pope Benedict XVI

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#### 'Travelling Light'

by

Max Lucado

Releasing the burdens you were never intended to bear

## Main Feast Parish Activities 2011

### Saturday 1st June: Day of Reconciliation:

**Confession** is available at parish church all morning and evening

**8:00am:** Solemn High Sung Mass; Hymn; Antiphone & *Te Deum*; Celebrated by Fr. Karm Gatt, and Vice-Archpriest Fr. Mario Sammut.

**5:30pm:** Ordinary Mass.

**6:30pm:** Solemn Translation (i.e. transfer) of **Ossuary with St. Philip's remains from Our Lady of Angels Chapel to the Parish Church**; Vespers and Eucharistic Celebration. Celebration by Don Silvio Rotondo, Archpriest of Agira.

**8:00pm:** Community Mass with homily about St. Philip.

### Sunday 2nd June: Feast Day:

**6:00am, 7:00am:** Ordinary Mass.

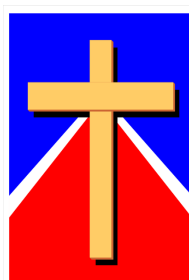
**8:00am:** Concelebrated Mass.

**9:15 am:** The Feast's Solemn Concelebrated Mass, led by Mons. Paul Vella; Panegyric by Fr. Robert Gauci.

**11:00am:** Ordinary Mass.

**5:00 pm:** Ordinary Mass.

**6:00 pm :** Solemn Vespers by Fr. Joseph Mizzi; **7:00 pm:** Procession by Fr. Alfred Agius. This is followed by Eucharistic Blessing. **The Silver Ossuary will be solemnly carried along the streets of Ħaż-Żebbuġ during the procession.**



Mass in English

at 12:00 pm  
at Our Lady Of Angels Chapel  
*Ħaż-Żebbuġ*

Mass will not be held during the summer months

Mass will resume on

**Sunday 9th October 2011**

Update yourself with the latest information! Visit [www.parroccazebbug.com](http://www.parroccazebbug.com)