

“Let us remember that we are all pilgrims walking on the same journey!”

From the editor:
Welcome to the new quarterly issue of Connection!

Elizabeth

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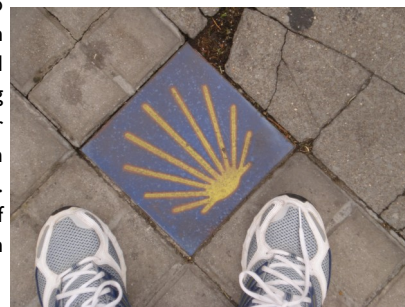
Re-launching Mass in English



Connecting you to the parish

Walking with God

I returned recently from a pilgrimage, along with four fellow priests, to Santiago de Compostella. Such was an experience that I will cherish, whilst hoping to repeat it in the near future, possibly with youths from our locality. We covered a distance of one hundred and ten kilometres on foot, walking from one town to another, for around six hours daily, enjoying the beautiful scenery, mostly in silence and contemplating about life. Many pilgrims, be they believers or not, come to terms with themselves or experience a change in their lives, even a discovery or a rediscovery of God. It was an opportunity for me to reinforce the decision I took to enter the seminary way back eighteen years ago, to reflect about my priesthood, and what lies ahead.



Fr. Daniel pauses as he gazes at the characteristic tiles that mark the way for pilgrims walking to Santiago

It is so encouraging to see youths respond to God's call

and follow Him in the road to priesthood! This summer, Mario Dimech, a seminarian from the neighbouring town of Siggiewi and currently starting his sixth year at the Seminary, had the opportunity to work within our parish. Whilst thanking him for his service and for his presence amongst us, I hope that his experience here has been a fruitful one! After several

years, a youth from Haż-Zebbuġ, Mark Spiteri has responded to this inner call and will be starting the Seminary even as you read this newsletter. In today's world, one can understand that such a decision is far from an easy one! So, I implore you to pray for youths who are facing such a courageous step in their lives, to pray for all seminarians, and to pray for more vocations to the priesthood. At present there are thirty seven seminarians attending The Seminary at *Tal-Virtù*, Rabat. One can visit their web site: www.seminary.org.mt

Let us remember that we are all 'pilgrims' walking on the same journey! God bless you all,

Fr. Daniel Cardona,
Archpriest

PASSIO CHRISTI PASSIO HOMINIS

Rita Petrocochino

The Holy Shroud always fascinated me. So, when around this time last year I read that the Holy Shroud was going to be displayed in May 2010 at the Cathedral of Torino, I seized the opportunity, since following its exposition for the jubilee year in 2000, it was meant to go on display again in 2025! As I queued up with thousands of people waiting

to gaze upon the Holy Shroud, many questions raced through my mind. Was I just going to be looking at a piece of revered linen or was I going to come face to face with the image of Christ?

For some this cloth is just a fake, a medieval forgery, but for others it is the linen that held the dead body of Christ.

It is a mirror of the Gospels. On it are all the markings of Christ's intense and agonizing passion and death. The markings show a heavily beaten and bleeding face, with a broken nose and swollen cheeks. The whole body is covered with an infinite number of marks caused by a horrific scourging. This was done by a terrible instrument of torture: a whip



The image of the face of Christ on the Shroud

“The image of Christ imprinted on the Holy Shroud urges us to go to the heart of the mystery of life and death...”

PASSIO CHRISTI PASSIO HOMINIS

Continued

with many leather strands, and metal hooks attached at the ends, thus removing the skin with every strike. The area around the head shows wounds inflicted by a crown of thorns. On the right shoulder there is the mark of an abrasion, not caused by the scourging, but by carrying a very heavy object... the cross. On one hand, there is the wound caused by a nail, the other hand is covered, because of the position for burial, where one hand was placed over the other. Also on the foot, is a wound caused by a nail. The man of the Shroud was crucified. We also see the wound on the side, caused by a sharp object that pierced the skin. The evidence from the Shroud tells us that this blood is different to all the other markings of blood; this stain was caused by blood that poured out after death: it is blood mixed

with water.

On being faced with all this suffering that Christ must have gone through, there is only one thing that comes to mind: that God “so loved the world that he gave his only Son” (Jn 3,6). He died for us. The amazing thing about the Holy Shroud, is that not only are there markings caused by a dead body, but there are also the marks of the Resurrection. The actual image of the body of Christ which is imprinted on the cloth was done after the blood stained the linen. It is these markings of the image of Christ that cannot be explained! Science today has not been able to reproduce these markings in the exact same way as they appear on the Shroud. When I gazed upon the image of Christ left on the Shroud, the initial feeling was one of pain and compassion for His terrible

wounds and horrific death. However, this was soon replaced by hope and light: the light of the Resurrection; the victory of life over death, of love over hatred. In the Holy Shroud, so, we see not only the death of Jesus, but also His resurrection, and thus the salvation of the whole world.

Therefore, because Christ carries with Him the sufferings and sins of man of every time and every place – *Passio Christi. Passio hominis*, from His face shines the reminder of His victory! It gives us the certainty that death is not the ultimate goal of our existence, but that God calls us to resurrection and immortal life. The image of Christ imprinted on the Holy Shroud urges us to go to the heart of the mystery of life and death, and to discover the great and consoling message it has left us.

Summer Activities

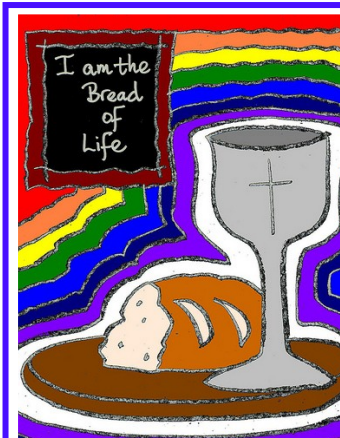
Some of the altar boys having fun during their water games at *Ta' Warda*



Various activities were organized this summer, with the help of many volunteers, for young and old alike, be it live-ins in Gozo for youths and altar boys, sports activities, water games, films, picnics, outings, pilgrimages and several barbeques.



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Mass in English

Especially for foreigners

At the newly restored

Our Lady of Angels Chapel,

Our Lady of Angels Street, *Haż-Żebbuġ*

at 12:00pm on

17th October 21st November 19th December