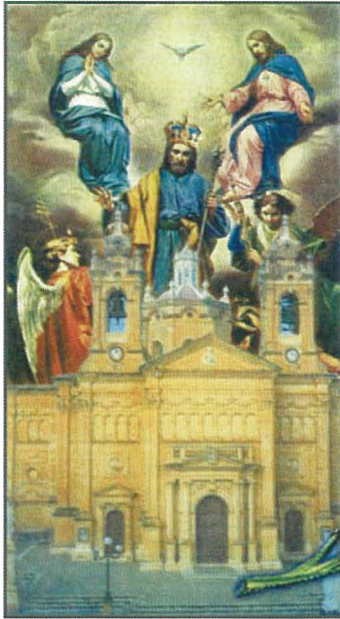


Special Hand Stamp Cancellations



100 Sena
 mill-Konsagrazzjoni
 tal-Knisja Parrokjali
 tal-Qala ~ Ghawdex
 1904 - 8 ta' Mejju - 2004

100th Anniversary Consecration Qala Parish Church - 2004



150 Years Dogma of the Immaculate Conception - 2004

To commemorate the 150th Anniversary of
 DOGMA of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
 1854 - 2004

Emvin Cremona, The Immaculate Conception, Ta' Pinu Sanctuary

Special Hand Stamp Cancellations with Marian Connection

2004

100 SENA MILL-KONSAGRAZZJONI TAL-KNISJA PARROKJALI QALA

1904 - 2004

100 Anniversary of the Consacration of the Qala Parish Church

Maltapost issued a special handstamp on 8th May 2004 to commemorate the 100 Anniversary of the Consacration of the Qala Parish Church. The Postmark consists of the Symbol the Virgin Mary under the title of the Immaculate Conceptions and that of Saint Joseph, to whom this parish is dedicated. The church was built between 1881 and 1891 and was consecrated by the Bishop of Gozo Mgr. Giovanni Maria Camilleri O.S.A.

The postmark was designed Mr. Anthony Grech, a member of the Gozo Philatelic Society.

2004

100 YEARS OF THE DOGMA OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

7 - 12 - 2004.

Maltapost p.l.c. issued a Special handstamp cancellation from Victoria Sub Post Office on 7th December 2004 to commemorate the 100 anniversary of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception. Apart from the wording, the postmark in a double rectangular design depicts a representation of the statue of the Immaculate Conception venerated at the Saint Francis Church of the Franciscan Conventual Friars, Victoria Gozo. The handstamp was designed by George Vella.

Pope Pius IX defined *ex cathedra* the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception on 8 December 1854. The Pontiff stressed that Mary's sinlessness was not due to her own merits, but truly, by the merits of her son, Jesus. "We declare, pronounce and define that the doctrine which holds that the Blessed Virgin Mary, at the first instant of her conception, by a singular privilege and grace of the Omnipotent God, in virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of mankind, was preserved immaculate from all stain of original sin, has been revealed by God, and therefore should firmly and constantly be believed by all the faithful."

Simply stated, Mary possessed sanctifying grace from the first instant of her existence and was free of the lack of grace caused by the "original or first sin" at the beginning of human history.

2005

IN MEMORIAM - ĠWANNI PAWLU II
(DEATH OF POPE JOHN PAUL II)
15 - 04 - 2005

On the sad occasion of Pope John Paul II death Maltapost p.l.c. issued a stamp and a special handstamp which apart from the wording was similar to the one issued in 2001 on the occasion of his visit to Malta. The Hand stamp used to cancel the first day of issue was designed in a double ring with the pope's coat of arms in the middle. This coat of arms incorporates the letter 'M' which stands for Mary. Everyone knows the great devotion this Great Pope had for the Holy Mother, so much so that he dedicated himself to her with his motto 'Totus Tuus'. All post outlets on the islands were issued with this hand stamp which as usual bore the village or town's name according to where it was used.

On April 2, 2005 at 9:37 p.m. local time, Pope John Paul II died in the Papal Apartments while a vast crowd kept vigil in Saint Peter's Square below. Millions of people flocked to Rome to pay their respects to the body and for his funeral. The last years of his reign had been marked by his fight against the various diseases ailing him. On May 9, 2005, Pope Benedict XVI, John Paul II successor, waived the five year waiting period for a cause for beatification to be opened.

2005

F'Gheluq it-350 Sena mit-twaqqif tal Parroċċa ta' Hal-Balzan
1655-14 August - 2005
Balzan Malta.

On the occasion of the 350 Anniversary of the erection of the Balzan Parish with the insistence of the late Mr. Anthony Fenech, a great philatelic expert from the same village, Maltapost plc issued a special rectangular handstamp from the Balzan Malta post office. The handstamp shows a design of the old and new Parish Church of Balzan.

The parish church, built in the mid-17th century, is dedicated to the Annunciation of Our Lady. The first building stone of today's Parish Church, dedicated to Our Lady of Annunciation, was laid in 1669. Architectural plans for this church, in the shape of a Latin Cross, began in 1665. The church has one belfry and an elegant dome that can be seen from all around the village. The church is built on a Tuscan style from the outside and Doric on the inside. The statue used in the village feast celebrated on the 2nd week of July, is carved in wood by Salvatore Dimech. In this church many artistic treasures are found, works by famous painters such as Giuseppe Calleja, Chev. Emvin Cremona and Paul Camilleri Cauchi.

Anthony Grech

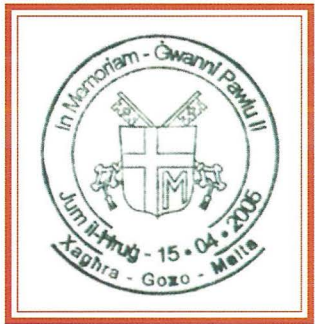
References

The Malta Stamp, Official Buletin of the Philatelic Bureau.

Special Hand Stamp Cancellations



In Memoriam John Paul II 2005



350 Anniversary Hal Balzan Parish 2005

