

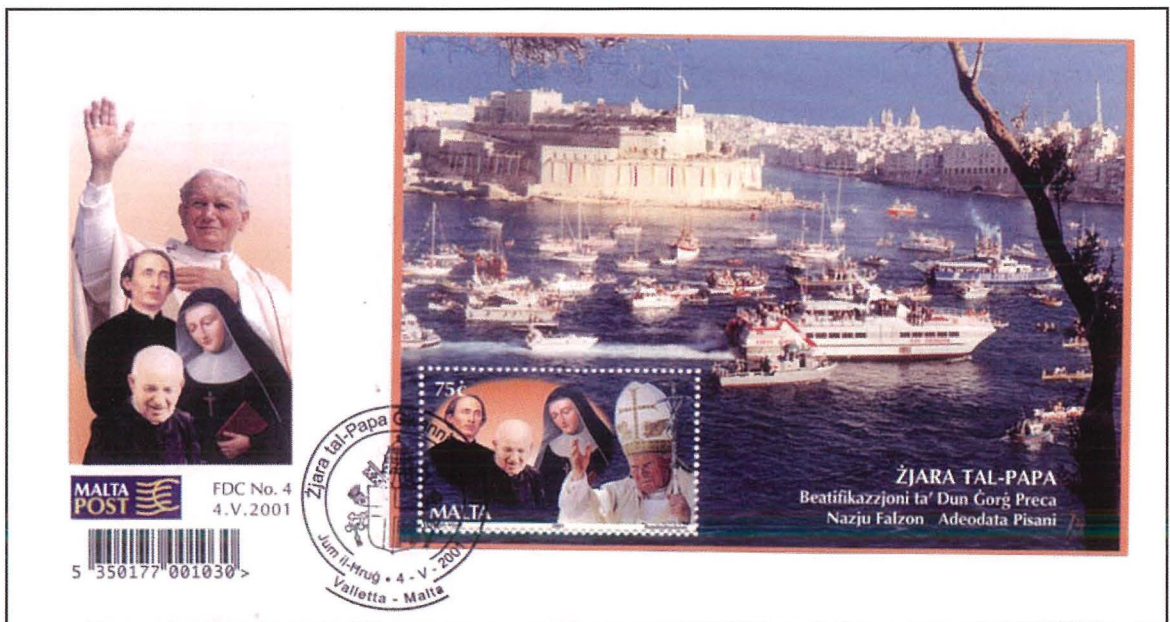
# Special Hand Stamp Cancellations



## Christmas Hand Stamp 2000



## John Paul II Visit 2001



## Special Hand Stamp Cancellations with Marian Connection

**2000**

'MILIED 2000  
JUM IL- HRUG  
18-XI-2000  
MALTA  
(Christmas 2000 Issue Day 18-XI-2000)

The Christmas Set the New Millennium consisted of four stamps and was designed by Gorg Mallia well known Maltese children's books artist and writer.

The Hand stamp used to cancel the first day of issue was designed in a circular style with the figures of a standing Joseph while Mary holding her Son is seen sitting on a stool. 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.

**2001**

**PAPAL VISIT TO MALTA**  
**Beatification of Dun Gorg Preca, Naju Falzon and Adeodata Pisani.**  
**4 May 2001**

On the occasion of Pope John Paul's Visit to Malta for the Beatification of Dun Gorg Preca, Nazju Falzon and Adeodata Pisani, the Malta Post issued a set of two stamps and a miniature sheet designed by Joseph Mizzi and printed in Germany by Bundesdruckerei GmbH. 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.

**2001**

**MARIAN YEAR**  
**1251-2001**  
**750 Anniversary of the Carmelite Scapular**  
**16 July 2001**

On the occasion of the Marian Year 2001 and the 750 Anniversary of the Carmelite Scapular, the Malta Postal Administration issued a special hand-stamp in a circular form with the image of Our Lady with her Son Jesus who are presenting the Scapular. This was given to St. Simon Stock by the

Virgin herself promising him that all who died clothed in it would be saved. Thus arose a sodality of the scapular, which affiliated a large number of laymen with the Carmelites. The Scapular, if worn faithfully and by a person who persists in living the Gospel that Christ taught with faith in the intercession of Mary, will guarantee the bearer salvation. The Scapular promise comes from the apparition of the Virgin to St. Simon Stock, who observed many miracles with it. Observances of miracles stemming from the proper wearing of the Scapular abound, most notably one in which a ship was caught in a grave storm and a Catholic who wore the Scapular prayed for Our Lady's intercession and subsequently tossed his scapular into the raging waters. The storm ceased instantly and the ship was saved. A Protestant family onboard, the father being a Protestant minister, was awestruck by the miracle and soon afterward converted to the Catholic faith.

The Scapular as it is commonly known today is merely a smaller version of the actual monastic habit worn by the friars and sisters. It has two thin brown cords that connect to two small brown rectangular patches that hang in front of and behind the wearer. Usually Catholics wear the Scapular under their regular clothing. The original rule concerning the Scapular was that it be of 100% brown wool. However, the rule today is that any suitable brown material may be used. The Scapular Medal may be substituted for the actual scapular, but the Pope who created this exception did so only for those who could not, for grave situations, wear the actual scapular. It is not meant to be a substitute for vanity.

2003

**St. Mary's Cathedral New Bells  
Victoria-Gozo  
31-12-2003**

A Special handstamp cancellation issue from Victoria Sub Post Office on 31st December 2003 to commemorate the inauguration of a set of five new bells for the St. Mary's Gozo Cathedral was issued by Maltapost. Apart from the wording, the postmark depicts a representation of the single Belfry of the cathedral in a graphic design of one of the bells. The bells were manufactured by John Taylor Bellfounders of Loughborough, England and blessed by H.E. Mons. Nicholas J. Cauchi, Bishop of Gozo. The hand stamp was designed by George Vella.

Up to the year 1864, Gozo formed part of the Diocese of Malta, but Pius IX, acceding to the repeated prayer of the clergy and the people, erected it into a separate exempt diocese, i.e. immediately subject to the Holy See. On 16th March, 1863, Monsignor Francesco Michele Butigieg, a Gozitan born at Ghajnielem was appointed titular Bishop of Lita and deputy auxiliary of the Archbishop-Bishop of Malta, for the Island of Gozo. He was consecrated at Rome on 3rd May of the same year, on 22nd September, 1864, was created first bishop of the new Diocese of Gozo, and on the 23rd day of the following month made his solemn entry into the 'new' cathedral dedicated to the Assumption into Heaven of our Lady, popularly known as Saint Mary's Cathedral.

*Anthony Grech*

*References*

*The Malta Stamp*, Official Buletin of the Philatelic Bureau.

# Special Hand Stamp Cancellations



Kwadru tax-xbiha mirakoluza tal-Madonna tal-Karmnu meqjum fil-Bazilika Santwarju tal-Karmnu, Valletta. Tpinga fis-seklu XVI minn pittur mhux magħruf. Mons. Carmelo Korri Scicluna, Arcisqof ta' Malta, Delegat tal-Vatikan, mghejjun mill-Isqijiet Mons. Pietro Pace, Isqof ta' Ghawdex u Mons. Salvatore Angelo de Martis, Karmelitan, Isqof ta' Gattelli u Nuoro f'Sardegna inkuruna solemment il-Madonna u l-Bambin nhar il-15 ta' Lulju 1881. L-ewwel inkurunazzjoni ta' xbiha tal-Madonna f'Malta

Sena Marjana Karmelitana  
750 Sena ta' l-Ghotja tal-Labtu tal-Karmnu 1251 - 2001



ORDNI TA' L-AHWA TA' L-IMOQDSSA  
VERGNI MARIJA TA' L-GHOLJA TAL-KARMELU

## 250 Anniversary of the Carmelite Scapular 2001



## St. Mary's Cathedral New Bells 2001

**Limited Edition of 30 Cards Issued By The Gozo Philatelic Society. Card No. 17**