Malta Parish Churches

In the Rollo (inventory) of the benefices of the churches, or chapels, in Malta and Gozo, held by Bishop Senatore de Mello in 1436, ten distinct chapels are mentioned, which presumably must have been acting as parishes in the various villages, since earlier days. Besides the Cathedral at Mdina and the Church of San Lorenzo a Mare at Birgu, the following chapels are mentioned:

- Naxxar - the Nativity of the Virgin
- Birkirkara - Saint Helen
- Qormi - St George
- Bir Miftuh (now Gudja) - the Assumption of the Virgin
- Zebbug - Saint Philip of Aggira
- Siggiewi - Saint Nicholas of Bari
- Zejtun - Saint Catherine of Alexandria
- Zurrieq - Saint Catherine of Alexandria
- Hal-Tartani (now Dingli) - Santa Domenica
- Mellieha - the Nativity of the Virgin

It is important to note that Dingli, originally Hal-Tartani was parish before 1436. However it was suppressed in 1539 and re-instated by Bishop Baldassare Cagliares on 16th October 1615 to be again suppressed in 1668. Bishop Michele Molina re-instated Dingli as a parish on 31st December 1678.

Mellieha was mentioned as a parish in the inventory by Bishop Senatore de Mello in 1436. Because of the lack of inhabitants, the Apostolic Delegate, Mgr Pietro Dusina, in 1575 suppressed the parish and merged the administration to the parish of Naxxar. Hence a rector was appointed.

Mellieha was re-instated as parish by Bishop Francesco Saverio Caruana on 1st February 1841. However this re-instatement was contested by the Naxxar Parish. Mellieha was confirmed parish on 24th May 1842. The official Decree was published on 15th June 1844.

Rabat in Malta was styled as a parish from time immemorial. The de Mello Rollo quotes as parishes La Cappella di San Paolo de Fora (which is St Paul's Grotto which was the parish church of Rabat) and Mdina together. At Mdina there was the Cathedral for the whole of Malta while at Rabat there was the seat of the parish for both Rabat and Mdina together. So much so that till the separation of 1902 the archpriest took two pussessi in Mdina as canon archpriest of the Cathedral and in Rabat as parish priest of Rabat and Mdina together. On 18th March 1902 when the population had increased considerably, Mdina and Rabat for the first time became two distinct parishes and for practical reasons Bishop Pietro Pace declared Rabat as a new parish but that was contested in Rome and it was declarede that Rabat was paroecia pre-existens.

I trust that you keep finding our website useful.

Fr VicGeorge Vassallo
Webmaster
PARISHES IN MALTA

Mdina & Rabat till 1902

- Mdina 1902
- Rabat 1902
- Dingli 1615

Birgu

- Isla 1581
- Bormla 1586
- Kalkara 1898

Naxxar 1436

- Mosta 1608
- Gharghur 1610
- Mellieha 1844
- St Paul’s Bay 1905

- Mgarr 1898
- Manikata 1975
- Burmarrad 1971
- Qawra 2004

Mdina

- St Paul’s Bay

Mdina & Rabat