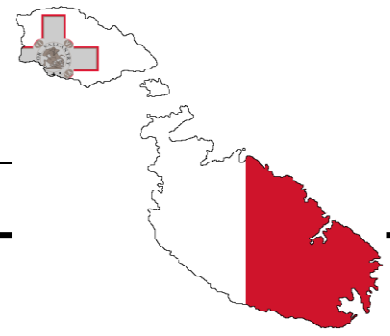


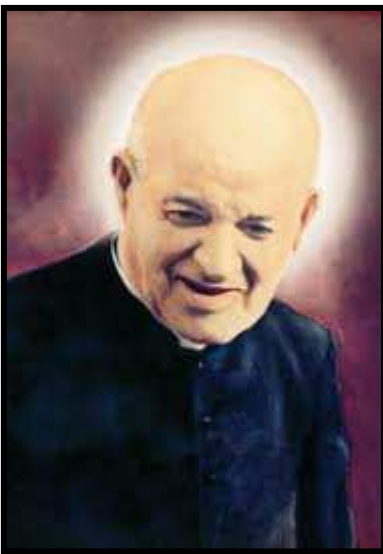
S4.1 Maltese Personalities



S4.1.1

We will research three renowned personalities.

San Ġorġ Preca (1880 - 1962)

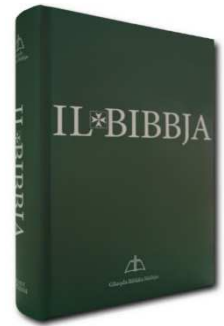


Dun Ġorġ, as he was known amongst all Maltese and Gozitans, was born in Valletta in the year 1880 when Malta was a British colony. He became a priest, lived a saintly life and was canonized, that is, declared a saint, by Pope Benedict XVI on the 3rd June 2007. We celebrate the feast of St. Ġorġ Preca every year, on the 9th May.

Dun Ġorġ is renowned mostly for the great importance he gave to teaching. When he became a priest he used to celebrate mass at St Gaetano's church in Hamrun. Once, after hearing the sexton giving someone the wrong information, he made up his mind to tackle this problem. He brought together a group of youths and started teaching them about the Bible. When he felt that they were well prepared, he encouraged them to start giving Catechism lessons to young children. This was something very new and different because, till then, only priests could explain the Bible.

This is how the MUSEUM Society started. The MUSEUM Society opened centres (houses) in all Maltese and Gozitan towns and villages. The first centre

(house) was opened in Hamrun. Today, we find MUSEUM members working in Australia, Peru, Albania, Poland, Kenya and Sudan.



Why will Dun Ġorġ be remembered?

Amongst other things:

1. Dun Ġorġ showed great faith in the laity - the laity are those persons who work within the church but who are not of a religious profession (they are neither priests, monks nor nuns). Dun Ġorġ used to call them associates, meaning members of the MUSEUM Society; many of them were schoolteachers or Dockyard workers;
2. he set up MUSEUM centres for female members, in a time when women stayed mostly at home; these female members started running the catechism centres independently of those for boys;
3. he started the processions with Baby Jesus on Christmas Eve; these still take place today;
4. he spread Biblical teachings amongst both adults and children;
5. he gathered children and youths in the MUSEUM centres where they could both learn and strengthen their characters.

Photos of Dun Ġorġ Preca and the MUSEUM



One of the MUSEUM centres, the one in Mosta; here children and youths gather to learn.

The MUSEUM emblem,
Known as **VERBUM DEI**;
MUSEUM members were a small badge like this



The Baby Jesus procession on Christmas
Eve

Dun Ġorġ teaching in public





The Central House of the MUSEUM
at Blata l-Bajda;
St Ġorġ Preca is buried here.