

Annex to Restoration Method Statement – Restoration of the stone statues situated one on each side of the main stairway of the Xaghra Parvis.

Condition Report – Stone statues

The stone statues, one representing Our Lady (and not St Anne as stated in the RMS), and the other representing St Joseph (and not St Joachim) are carved out of local globigerina limestone, and are rendered with an oil based paint. They stand on globigerina limestone pedestals which are also painted white. Very old photographs (reproduced below) evidence that both statues have always been painted white. This has kept the substrate in a good state of conservation as it served as a barrier between the globigerina and natural elements. In fact, while the original stone balusters had become so deteriorated that they had to be replaced over time; the original statues still stand. The paint exhibits poor adhesion to its substrate and it is flaking off in places (refer to submitted deterioration mapping of statues).



Statues to be restored



Statue of Our Lady – front and back views



Statue of Our Lady – side views



Statue of St Joseph – front and back views



Statue of St Joseph – side views

Intervention Methodology

The suggested course of action is being set out in consistence with acknowledge conservation ethics, with specific consideration being given to the following guiding principles:

- Maintenance should be seen as the most 'practical' and economical intervention.
- Interventions must be limited to what is 'unquestionably necessary'
- Interventions must be scientifically and technically proven
- Interventions must be kept to an absolute minimum
- Reproduction of parts to take place only in exceptional circumstances, where such parts cannot serve their structural purpose
- Interventions must be reversible as much as technically possible
- Interventions must be compatible with the existing fabric
- Interventions must be applied systematically not to conceal the events of history
- Interventions should not prejudice potential interventions in the future
- Interventions should respect the aesthetic integrity in terms of form, scale, colour and texture.

Method Statement – Stone statues

In view of the condition described above, it is being proposed that the following methodology be adopted:

- a) Cleaning tests will first be carried out on a small portion of one of the statues.
- b) Surface cleaning of the surface paint to an approved level will be carried out.
- c) Any detached paint and old repairs will be removed carefully using hand tools. The chemicals used to aid manual paint removal shall be through the use of a paint remover which shall be applied sparingly and with care, and ensuring that the stone is washed well after chemical application;
- d) Mortar reconstruction with conservation grade materials will be carried out where necessary. Where possible, any losses (such as fingers of statue of Our Lady) will be reconstructed using a mortar compatible with stone. If the reconstruction is not

stable, the fingers will be carved out of globigina limestone and attached to the statue using a two-part epoxy resin.

- e) Steel halos will be inspected to determine whether they are causing any damage to the statue and the necessary measures taken if this is the case.
- f) Though not envisaged, superficial consolidation using an approved consolidant shall be carried out if deemed necessary once the existing paint rendering has been removed.
- g) Reconstruction of the surface coating will finally be effected to retain the original visual appearance of the two statues.

Restoration works on the statues will be carried out by skilled workers, the names of which shall be communicated at a later stage given that these works will be awarded through a tendering process.



Old photo of Xaghra Square - 1



Old photo of Xaghra Square - 2