

YOUR GUIDE FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2015 IN XAGHRA

Welcome to Xaghra where, in Holy Week, you can witness contrasting celebrations starting with the somberly remembrance of the Ultimate Sacrifice, the Passion and Death of The Son of God on Good Friday culminating in the Great Joy when we celebrate the victory of Life over death through the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday.

PROGRAMME OF CELEBRATIONS:

SUNDAY 29 MARCH – PALM SUNDAY

09:15 – Crossroads in Church Street :

Blessing of palm and olive branches takes place. Procession follows with the Holy Crucifix to the Basilica where, at **09:45** the Holy Eucharist is celebrated.

18:00 – Passion Pageant by Children leaves the Basilica. Only children take part in this pageant (unique in the Maltese Islands) which is organized by the Vocational Centre.

THURSDAY 02 APRIL – MAUNDY THURSDAY

19:00 – Basilica:

Remembrance of the Last Supper. The Holy Eucharist is celebrated during which Mgr Archpriest Carmelo Refalo washes the feet of twelve men (the Apostles). Voci Angeliche Choir animates the singing.

At the end of Celebration, the Holy Eucharist will be transposed to the Altar of Repose and the traditional Seven Visits start. The Basilica stays open until very late at night.

FRIDAY 03 APRIL – GOOD FRIDAY

15:00 – Basilica :

Liturgical Action – Bible Reading of The Passion of Christ followed by Solemn Adoration of The Wood of The Cross and Holy Communion.

18:00 – Victory Square :

Good Friday Procession/Pageant starts leaving the Basilica passing along Triq 28 t'April 1688, Triq San Ġużepp, Triq Bullara, Triq Jannar and back to Victory Square, accompanied by the Victory Band playing funereal marches, ending up in the Basilica approximately at 21:30.

SATURDAY 04 APRIL – EASTER SATURDAY

20:00 – Basilica :

Start of Easter Vigil which gives rise to the greatest Celebration of the Liturgical Year : The New Light; Announcement of the Resurrection of Christ; Liturgy of The Word; Liturgy of Baptism; Eucharistic Celebration. Voci Angeliche Choir animates the singing.

SUNDAY 05 APRIL – EASTER SUNDAY

18:00 – Statue of the Risen Christ leaves the Basilica for a grand manifestation in Victory Square with the participation of Victory Band.

Blessing and distribution of figolli (Easter delicacy in various forms) takes place

19:00 – Victory Square :

Grand Easter Pageant – “Where are you coming from? Where are you going?”

While cordially inviting you to join in the celebrations we wish you a HAPPY EASTER