WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

ĠIMGĦA TA’ TALB
GĦALL-GĦAQDA FOST L-INSARA

18.01.2022 – 25.01.2022

We saw the star in the East,
and we came to worship him (Mt 2:2)

Rajna l-kewkba tiegħu tielgħa fil-Lvant,
u ġejna nqimuh (Mt 2:2)

Diocesan Ecumenical Commission
Malta
2022

Introduction

The Ecumenical Commission of the Archdiocese of Malta, in collaboration with *Christians Together in Malta* (Malta Ecumenical Council) is pleased to offer this set of spiritual resources which can be used during this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

At the time being, the Ecumenical Commission is seeking to reach out to young people with the aim of instilling a greater ecumenical awareness among them. In fact, this year's resources, while basing themselves on the material provided by the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity and the World Council of Churches, have – in part – been prepared by young people at the Junior College of the University of Malta. In this task, they were encouraged and assisted by the Chaplain at the Junior College and a lecturer who happens to be involved in ecumenical initiatives and is a member of the Ecumenical Commission.

This year marks the centenary of the birth of Rev. Prof. Maurice Eminyan S.J. (1922-2010), one of the pioneers of ecumenical dialogue in Malta, and founder of the Malta Ecumenical Council in 1995. We thank God for Fr Maurice while we strive to pursue his legacy.

6th January 2022

Daħla

Il-Kummissjoni Ekumenika tal-Arċidjoċesi ta' Malta tissieħeb ma' *Christians Together in Malta* (il-Kunsill Ekumeniku Malti) biex toffri dawn ir-riżorsi spiritwali biex jintużaw waqt il-Ġimgħa ta' Talb għall-Għaqda fost l-Insara ta' din is-sena.

Bħalissa, il-Kummissjoni Ekumenika qed tfittex li tkun qrib iż-żgħażagħ u dawk li janimaw il-pastorali *maż-*żgħażagħ u *miż-*żgħażagħ billi trawwem mentalità ekumenika fosthom. Fil-fatt, parti minn dawn ir-riżorsi spiritwali f'dan il-ktejjeb tħejjiet minn grupp ta' żgħażagħ tal-Junior College tal-Università ta' Malta, filwaqt li żammew quddiem għajnejhom il-materjal li ntbagħat mill-Kunsill Pontifiċju għall-Għaqda fost l-Insara u l-Kunsill Dinji tal-Knejjes. F'dan is-servizz huma kienu mħeġġa u mgħejjuna mill-Kappillan tal-Junior College u minn lettriċi li hi impenjata f'inizjattivi ekumeniċi u membru tal-Kummissjoni Ekumenika.

Din is-sena qed jitfakkar iċ-ċentinarju mit-twelid tar-Rev. Prof. Maurice Eminyan S.J. (1922-2010), wieħed mill-pijunieri tad-djalogu ekumeniku ġewwa Malta, u fundatur tal-Kunsill Ekumeniku Malti fl-1995. Aħna nroddu ħajr lil Alla għad-don kbir li ta lill-Knisja permezz ta' Fr Maurice, filwaqt li nfittxu li nimxu fil-passi tiegħu.

6 ta' Jannar 2022

PRAYERS/TALB

The prayers on the following pages have been prepared by the University of Malta Junior College Chaplaincy. The members of this working group – Rev. Bernard Micallef (Roman Catholic), Dr Patricia Micallef (Roman Catholic), Ms Alessia Bezzina (Roman Catholic), Ms Cylane Lopez (Born-again Christian) and Ms Jerushia Sladden (Roman Catholic) – met several times and are offering us these prayers which we can use in a variety of different contexts.

The prayers are in both English and Maltese.

It-talb kollu tħejja bl-Ingliż u bil-Malti.

Prayers for forgiveness (Talbiet ta’ maħfra)

1. Merciful Father, we ask forgiveness for the times we judged those who hold different beliefs and traditions, focusing on our differences rather than on what unites us. Lord, have mercy.

Missier ħanin, nitolbuk maħfra tad-drabi meta ġġudikajna lil dawk li għandhom twemmin u tradizzjoni differenti minn tagħna, u ħarisna lejn id-differenzi ta' bejnietna aktar milli lejn dak li jgħaqqadna. Mulej, ħniena.

2. Lord Jesus Christ, we ask forgiveness for our lack of hope that makes us lose heart in your goodness and in that of our brothers and sisters. Christ, have mercy.

Mulej Ġesù, nitolbuk maħfra tan-nuqqas ta’ tama tagħna li ma tħalliniex nafdaw fit-tjieba tiegħek u f’dik ta’ ħutna. Kristu, ħniena.

3. Loving Father, we bring to you our selfishness that isolates us from your creative spirit and from the cry of those in need. Lord, have mercy.

Missier kollok imħabba, inressqu quddiemek l-egoiżmu tagħna li jagħlaqna għall-ispirtu kreattiv tiegħek u għall-karba ta’ min hu fil-bżonn. Mulej, ħniena.

Prayers of intercession (Talbiet ta’ interċessjoni)

1. We pray, Lord, for all those who have at heart the ministry of Christian unity and who strive to do so in a spirit of love and understanding. Strengthen them, Lord, in their endeavours.

Nitolbuk, Mulej, għal dawk li ghandhom għal qalbhom il-ministeru tal-għaqda bejn l-Insara u li jaħdmu biex jagħmlu dan fi spirtu ta’ mħabba u ftehim. Saħħaħhom, Mulej, fil-ħidma tagħhom.

2. Lord, we devote this world to you, during these tough times of differences, conflicts and judgements. Guide us towards the right path that strengthens our faith and may all the events we are going through bring us all together in the times we need it most. Grant us, Lord, peace in our hearts.

Inpoġġu quddiemek, Mulej, din id-dinja tagħna f’dawn iż-żminijiet iebsa ta’ differenzi, ġlied u ġudizzji. Mexxina lejn it-triq it-tajba li ssaħħaħ il-fidi tagħna. Agħtina li dan kollu li għaddejjin minnu iqarribna lejn xulxin f’dawn il-mumenti ta’ ħtieġa. Nissel fina Mulej, il-paċi tal-qalb.

3. Lord of unity, help us strengthen the spirit of communion by respecting you and others through our thoughts, words and actions. Endow us with the virtue of humility that opens

us to love and friendship and give us a loyal heart that helps us be respectful to one another.

Missier l-għaqda, nitolbuk issaħħaħ fina l-ispirtu ta' komunjoni billi nirrispettaw lilek u lill-oħrajn bi ħsibijietna, kliemna u għemilna. Agħtina l-virtù tal-umiltà li tiftaħna għall-imħabba u l-ħbiberija kif ukoll qalb leali li tgħinna nirrispettaw iktar lil xulxin.

4. Lord of consolation, we bring to you those who are unable to see goodness in themselves, in those around them and in the world. May your gentleness allow them to change their perspective and to open their heart to your spirit of renewal.

Missier il-faraġ, inressqulek lil dawk li mhumiex kapaċi jaraw it-tajjeb fihom, f'dawk ta' madwarhom u fid-dinja. Nitolbu biex il-ħlewwa tiegħek tgħinhom jibdlu l-mod kif huma jħarsu lejn il-ħajja u jiftħu qalbhom għall-ispirtu tiegħek li jġedded kollox.

5. Help us understand, Lord, that we are all your children, precious in your sight and cherished by you; we pray that you accompany us even in our moments of darkness. May we realise that since we are all your beloved sons and daughters, we are called to love and to ease the pain of those who are suffering closeby or far away .

Nitolbuk, Mulej, tgħinna nagħrfu li aħna lkoll uliedek, li aħna lkoll prezzjużi f'għajnejk, li anke fil-mumenti ta' dlam li ngħaddu minnhom, inti qiegħed magħna. Għinna nagħrfu li ladarba aħna uliedek maħbuba, aħna msejħa biex inħobbu bħalek u biex intaffu t-tbatija ta' dawk qrib jew 'il bogħod.

Ħsibijiet fuq l-Evanġelju għal kuljum waqt il-Ġimgħa ta' Talb għall-Għaqda fost l-Insara. Imħejjija minn Patricia Micallef

Daily Gospel Reflections for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Prepared by Patricia Micallef

It-Tlieta/Tuesday 18.01.2022

1. Fl-Evanġelju tallum (Mk 2:23-28), l-ewwel ġurnata tal-Ġimgħa ta' talb għall-Għaqda fost l-Insara fejn qed niftakru b'mod partikolari fl-Insara fil-Lvant Nofsani, Ġesù jurina li "s-Sibt kien magħmul għall-bniedem, u mhux il-bniedem għas-Sibt". Ħafna drabi, aħna nikkumplikaw il-ħajja u matul is-snin, intaqqlu l-mod ta' kif naħsbu, ta' kif inġibu ruħna ma' xulxin u nsiru skjavi tal-Liġi. Nitolbu llum biex kliem Ġesù jkun għalina dawl biex nagħrfu t-tifsira vera ta' dak li nemmnu fih.

On this first day of prayers for Christian unity, during which we are remembering particularly the Christians in the Middle East, Jesus announces in the Gospel (Mk 2:23-28) that "the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath." Very often, we tend to complicate matters and in the course of life, our reasoning and our behaviour towards others become more complex as we become slaves of the Law. Let us pray today that Jesus' words may enlighten us to find the true meaning of what we believe in.

L-Erbgħa/Wednesday 19.01.2022

2. Illum, it-tieni jum tal-Ġimgħa ta’ talb għall-Għaqda fost l-Insara, San Mark (3:1-6) jurina lill-Fariżej li joqogħdu għassa ta’ Ġesù biex jaraw ifejjaqx nhar ta’ Sibt. Ġesù ma jikkundizzjonax ruħu minnhom imma jpoġġi l-ewwel u qabel kollox il-fejqan tar-raġel li kellu idu niexfa avolja dan qanqal il-komplott li kellu jwassal għall-mewt tiegħu. Ejjew nitolbu l-grazzja li npoġġu l-bniedem, hu min hu, u l-ħtiġijiet vera tiegħu fiċ-ċentru tad-deċiżjonijiet tagħna u li nagħmlu dan immexxijja mill-imħabba, anke jekk dan iġib miegħu persekuzzjoni u tbatija.

On the second day of prayers during the Week for Christian unity, St Mark (3:1-6) portrays the Pharisees who watch Jesus to see whether he heals on the Sabbath. Jesus is not conditioned by them but privileges the healing of the man with the withered hand, even though this gave rise to the beginning of the plot about how to destroy him. Let us ask for the grace to put persons, whoever they may be, and their needs at the centre of our decisions and to do so led by love, even if this entails persecution and suffering.

Il-Ħamis/Thursday 20.01.2022

3. F'dan it-tielet jum ta' talb għall-Għaqda fost l-Insara, fil-Vanġelu naraw in-nies irossu madwar Ġesù li jfejjaq u li jagħti ħajja ġdida lil dawk li jpoġġu t-tama tagħhom fih. Saħansitra l-ispirti ħżiena jagħrfu min hu. Filwaqt li naħsbu b'mod speċjali fl-Insara tal-Lvant Nofsani li qed jgħixu f'kundizzjonijiet diffiċli, nitolbu lill-Iben ta' Alla biex jagħmilna bnedmin sħaħ, ħerqana li nfittxuh fil-ħtiġijiet tagħna u li npoġġu l-fiduċja tagħna fih li jġedded kollox.

In today's Gospel (Mk 3:7-12), on the third day during the Week of Prayer for Christian unity, we see a great multitude pressing on Jesus, the one who heals and who gives new life to those who put their trust in him. Even unclean spirits acknowledge his identity. While thinking especially about Christians in the Middle East who are living in difficult conditions, let us pray to the Son of God to make us whole, to transform us into beings who are eager to turn to him in our needs and who put their trust in him, he who makes all things new.

Il-Ġimgħa/Friday 21.01.2022

4. Fil-Vanġelu tallum (Mk 3:13-19) naraw lil Ġesù jagħżel tnax-il raġel li minnhom għamel l-appostli. Minnhom ried żewġ affarijiet li jidhru kontra xulxin: li jibqgħu miegħu u li jmorru jipprietkaw. Riedhom ikunu miegħu sabiex isiru jafuh tajjeb imma fl-istess waqt, xtaqhom ikunu wkoll dawk li jħabbru. Minna lkoll li nemmnu fih, Ġesù jrid jagħmel nies li jxandruh bil-kliem u wisq iktar bl-għemil. Nitolbu wkoll għall-Insara f'diversi partijiet tad-dinja li qegħdin ibatu minħabba li m'hemmx min ixandrilhom il-Kelma.

In today's Gospel passage (Mk 3:13-19), Jesus chooses twelve men whom he called apostles. He wanted two things from them that might seem contradictory: he wanted them to be close to him and to go and preach. He wanted them to get to know him well while at the same time, he wished them to be those who speak about him to all. Jesus wants to transform us all who believe in him in people who spread his Good News not only through words but mostly through actions. Let us also pray for Christians in different parts of the world who are suffering because they have no one to share the Word with them.

Is-Sibt/Saturday 22.01.2022

5. Il-Knisja f'Malta tfakkar illum lil San Publju, il-prinċep tal-gżira li laqa' għandu lil Pawlu u lil dawk li kienu miegħu (Atti 28:1-10). Pawlu, min-naħa tiegħu, jagħti l-fejqan lil missieru u lill-morda l-oħra tal-gżira. Nitolbu llum il-grazzja li nilqgħu fostna lill-barrani, li jaf ikun ukoll xi ħadd qrib tagħna li warrabnieh minn ħajjitna. Fi spirtu ta' għaqda mal-Insara mxerrda madwar id-dinja, nitolbu lil Alla jagħtina qalb ġeneruża li tagħti kenn lil min hu mħabbat mill-mewġ tal-ħajja.

The Church in Malta today celebrates the feast of St Publius, the chief man of the island, who welcomed St Paul and all those who were with him (Acts 28:1-10). Paul, in return, heals Publius' father and all the sick people of the island. Let us pray today for the gift of welcoming strangers, among whom there may be someone close to us whom we have ignored. In a spirit of unity with Christians spread through the world, let us pray to God to give us a generous heart that welcomes those who are suffering because of life's tribulations.

Il-Ħadd/Sunday 23.01.2022

6. Ġesù jidħol fis-sinagoga ta' Nazaret, ir-raħal fejn kien trabba, u jurihom min hu tassew (Lq 4:14-21): huwa ħabbar, dawl u ħellies. Huwa l-milja tal-Liġi u l-profeti. Nitolbu f'dan is-sitt jum għall-Għaqda fost l-Insara biex dawk kollha li jemmnu f'Ġesù jagħrfu fih dak li tassew hu: l-Iben ta' Alla li ġie fid-dinja biex ipoġġi kollox f'ordni u biex ma jħallix lid-dinja tbati l-effetti tad-dnub. Nitolbu wkoll b'mod partikolari għall-Insara fil-Lvant Nofsani li l-ħajja tagħhom hija mhedda minn diversi forom ta' tbatija.

Today, we see Jesus entering the synagogue in Nazareth, the village where he had been brought up, and showing them who he really is (Lk 4:14-21): the preacher, the light and the one who sets us free. He is the fulfilment of the Law and of the Prophets. On the sixth day of prayer for Christian unity, let us pray that all those who believe in Jesus see him as the one who he really is: the Son of God who came to earth to restore all things and to save the world from the consequences of sin. Let us pray in particular for Christians in the Middle East whose life is threatened by all sorts of suffering.

It-Tnejn/Monday 24.01.2022

7. San Mark (3:22-30) jurina llum lil Ġesù bħala vittma tal-ġudizzju tal-kittieba. Huma jaraw fih lil wieħed li jaħdem id f'id mal-Prinċep tax-xjaten u ma jridu jiċċaqalqu bl-ebda mod mill-preġudizzji tagħhom. Issa li l-Ġimgħa ta' talb għall-Għaqda fost l-Insara qed toqrob lejn it-tmiem, nitolbu l-grazzja li nneħħu minn qalbna kull forma ta' ħsieb ħażin, ta' ġudizzju fuq l-oħrajn sabiex bejnietna ssaltan tassew l-għaqda. Nitolbu wkoll li nkunu miftuħa għall-Ispirtu li jagħmilna tassew ulied il-Missier.

In today's Gospel passage, taken from Saint Mark (3:22-30), Jesus is the victim of the judgment of the scribes who not only consider him as one who works hand in hand with the prince of demons but who also refuse to get rid of their prejudices. Now that we are approaching the end of the Week of prayer for Christian unity, let us ask for the grace to rid our heart of all sorts of ill thoughts and judgment so that the true spirit of communion reigns among us. Let us also pray to be open to the Spirit who makes of us true children of the Father.

It-Tlieta/Tuesday 25.01.2022

8. Bil-ġrajja tal-konverżjoni ta' San Pawl (Atti 22:3-16 jew Atti 9:1-22) tintemm il-Ġimgħa ta' talb għall-Għaqda fost l-Insara. Lil Sawlu, li kien qed jippersegwita lill-Insara, Ġesù jibdlu f'appostlu mħeġġeġ għalih. Nitolbu llum għall-Insara ppersegwitati madwar id-dinja, b'mod speċjali dawk tal-Lvant Nofsani fejn huma f'minoranza, sabiex jibqgħu iħarsu l-fidi tagħhom b'għożża u b'kuraġġ. Nitolbu wkoll għal dawk kollha li jemmnu sabiex Ġesù jidher fl-għemil kollu tagħhom.

With the account of the conversion of Saint Paul (Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22), the Week of Prayer for Christian unity comes to its end. Jesus transforms Saul, the avid persecutor of Christians, into an enthusiastic and tireless apostle. Let us pray today for Christians persecuted across the world, especially those in the Middle East where they are a small minority, so that they will conserve their faith in courage and steadfastness. Let us also pray for all those who believe so that Jesus is portrayed in all their actions.

SERVIZZ EKUMENIKU DJOĊESAN
DIOCESAN ECUMENICAL SERVICE

Il-Ġimgħa, 21 ta' Jannar 2022 fis-6:30pm

Friday, 21st January 2022 at 6:30pm

Fis-Santwarju Bażilika
tal-Madonna tal-Karmnu, Valletta

Basilica of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Valletta

Kulħadd huwa mistieden,
filwaqt li jiġU osservati l-miżuri kollha
biex il-pandemija ma tixteridx.

This is an open invitation
with the observation of all Covid-19 protocols

The service will be led by Auxiliary Bishop
Imexxi l-Isqof Awżiljarju,
Mons. Joseph Galea Curmi.

Biblical Reflection by
Riflessjoni biblika minn
Pastor Earl Pinkston