**Hamrun**

Hamrun is a hamlet in the centre of the Maltese Island, some 2 miles away from the capital Valletta. When the town was established, it took lands that where prior part of Qormi, Birkirkara and Floriana. The town’s limits were much larger than they are today, this is due to the foundation of new parishes in Saint Venera and Marsa. “Propera Augesco”, in Maltese ‘Dlonk Nikber’ or ‘Grew Rapidly’ in English is the town motto. This motto is derived from the fact that when the town was established it grew very rapidly to what we know Hamrun to be today.

Today, Hamrun is not what it used to be sixty or seventy years ago due to the progress it went through. In Hamrun, one finds many different shops that manage to fulfil the needs of all its residents without having them have to go far away for all their needs.

The town’s first name was “Casale San Giuseppe”, the town of Saint Joseph. This name came from a church that was found in the north part of the main street, also named for Saint Joseph, which to this day, still has the same name. This name stuck till 1888, when the government chose Hamrun as the official name of the town to solve a disagreement between the local people.

There are two versions of where ‘Hamrun’ came from. The first one states that the word ‘Hamrun’ is derived from ‘hamrija’, soil in Maltese. It is said that the area had red soil which was quite unique. The second version, states that the name comes from a nickname of a family that lived in the centre of St. Joseph’s High Road. The nickname of this family, which still exists to this day is very similar to the town’s name. The nickname belonged to a certain Gamri Zammit from Valletta who had a small tavern where later the Hollywood Theatre was built. Both versions of the story are widely accepted as Hamrun is very similar to the nickname ‘Hamruni’ and because in the De Vilhena foundation of the time, ‘Hamrija’ is listed as the name of the area. The official emblem of the town is a red shield on a white background.

Although Hamrun is relatively a new town on the island, it has a long and interesting history. In fact, in Hamrun we find many Roman Graves. During the Knights’ stay on the island, Hamrun was used to store ammunition in various storage houses. In Hamrun one can also find a few palaces, amongst them one in St. Joseph’s High Road and one near the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Atocia where it is said that it belonged to the Grand Master De Rohan of the Order of St. John.

In St. Cajetan Street, one also finds the water tower that was used to store water coming from the aqueduct. The tower was built in 1780 by Grand Master De Rohan. During the rebellion against the French’s stay on the island, Atocia Hill, which is very close to Valletta, was a focal point used by the Maltese as a fort against the French. During the Great war, the town served a shelter for many to escape the enemy. A result of this are the many shelters we find in the town. It was during this time that many buildings started acting as a court and even hospitals.

When the new Malta Train was inaugurated by Governor Borton, in February 1883, one of the stations was in Hamrun. Today the building is occupied by the Malta Dairy Products and the Hamrun Scouts.

Cinematography also plays a huge part in the history of the town. When the first cinemas arrived on the island, multiple cinemas opened in Hamrun, amongst them was the Hollywood Theatre, Radio City, San Remo, Odeon, and others. Unfortunately, many of the building that housed these theatres were demolished to make room for more modern buildings.

Today, Hamrun is a commercial centre, where one can simply find everything, from clothes, food, furniture and more. The Headquarters of many clubs and political parties are also found in the town. Hamrun is also known in the sports field as during its history it received many honours and awards in the sports.

St. Cajetan is synonymous with Hamrun, where apart from the devotion of many locals towards him, his feast in August attracts thousand from all around the island. Hamrun also has another parish dedicated to the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady and celebrates the feast in July. Hamrun is also synonymous with the first Maltese Saint, Saint George Preca, who spent most of his life in the town and the parish church. It was in Hamrun, that he started his Doctrine society that later spread all around the island and the world.

**Places of interest**

**Immaculate Conception**

The Parish Church of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady is a Roman Catholic parish church in Ħamrun, Malta. It was built between 1958 and 1963 and it took over the role of an oratory dedicated to the Immaculate Conception which had been established in Ħamrun in 1923. It has been a parish church since 1968.    
  
An oratory dedicated to the Immaculate Conception was established in Ħamrun by Paul Burlo on 15 May 1923. Initially set up within a private dwelling, its location was moved several times over the next two decades. After Burlo died in 1950, the priest Edgar Vella took over the oratory and made plans to construct a permanent church. With assistance from Archbishop Mikiel Gonzi and pastor Matthew Chircop from the St Cajetan parish, Vella acquired a plot of land which formerly contained railway tracks of the Malta Railway to build the new building.  
  
The new church was designed by the architect Ġużè Damato and it was built by the stonemason Geraldu Camilleri. The first stone was laid down by Bishop Emanuel Galea on 23 March 1958, and by the end of the year the basement was completed and it was being used to celebrate Mass. The building was almost complete by the time of Vella's death in 1962, but works halted soon afterwards due to a number of unpaid debts. The priest Joseph Mifsud Bonnici was later appointed to resume construction, and the building's finishing touches were made with the assistance of local volunteers. The church was inaugurated by Bishop Galea on 14 August 1963.  
  
The area in which the church was built had developed rapidly in the years following World War II. The building became a vice-parish church in 1966, and later a parish church on 1 January 1968. A parish centre and a house for the pastor were built adjacent to the church in the 1970s, and work on the church's interior was fully completed in the 1980s. It was officially consecrated by Archbishop Joseph Mercieca on 28 May 1988.

**Atocia**

The story of the church of our Lady of Atocia dates to the Great Siege of 1565 where several buildings were destroyed in Birgu, leading to many deaths. Along with the houses that were destroyed, was the house of Toni Spinaci. In the house that was knocked down, he had a baby girl named Elizabeth, who was sleeping in her cot, and was trapped with the rubble of the destroyed house. Her parents thought she had died but, by some miracle, she was found alive. From this incident, God continued to protect her as He needed her to spread adoration and devotion towards our Lady of Atocia.

This devotion was brought to Malta by businessman Guzepppi Casauri who was married to Elizabeth Spinaci while he was on business in Toledo who, inspired by the devotion he shared for the miraculous icon of Atocia, managed to obtain a copy of it from a friend of his. When Casauri returned to Malta he built a church, with some rooms attached to it. This church was built on another church which was in ruins and dedicated to St. Nicholas, on a hill previously known Braxia Hill.

From then on, this hill started being referred to as Atocia Hill, while the church is known as ‘tas-Samra’ due to the dark skin complexion of Holy Mary’s face, which is identical to the one found in Madrid. Suddenly, several graces were granted thanks to the intercession of this miraculous icon, and many were those who began to visit the church and pray in front the devoted icon.

In the beginning of the 20th Century, this church was abandoned and eventually was closed. It was opened only once a year for the feast of St. Mary while, during the rest of the year, was reserved for storing of fodder, hay, and straw.

The devotion for the feast of St. Mary on the 15th of August was started by St. Ġorġ Preca and continued by Priest Ġorġ Bonello, a feast which is still celebrated with great enthusiasm to this day.

**The Chapel of Porto Salvo**

Before the formation of Ħamrun, this church of our Lady of Porto Salvo was referred to as the church of St. Joseph because of the street it is found it, although it is more known as the church of Santunuzzu. This church was blessed on the 31st of August 1645, after being built by Pankrazju Briffa.

This church, which for some time, served as vice-parish, was founded by Ms. Margaret Grech, the wife of cleric Antonio Agius. Despite its small size, the church was a beautiful façade.

As time went on, and the town of Ħamrun started to expand, this church was not big enough to hold that many people, and therefore the local aspired to build a new one and, eventually, managed to build the Parish church of St. Cajetan. Through the years it served many different purposes, most notably in 1907 when St. Ġorġ Preca used to host meetings for youths and teach them doctrine of the church. In June 1941, the Discalced Carmelite Friars of St. Tereza of Cospicua used it as a shelter from the bombs and used the house that was attached to it.

With time, this church needed restoration works. The dome as well as the crosses found on top of it were damaged by the rain. When Fr. Dun Paul Camilleri was inaugurated as Parish priest, he wanted the restorations on the church to be done as soon as possible before even further damage was made to it. Although it was restored, it remained closed with unknown fate, until the inauguration of Fr. Paul Fenech as Parish priest when he opened it as a project for perpetual adoration.

**Church of St. Francis of Assisi**

On the 16th of August 1947, a few Franciscan friars ‘ta’ Ġieżu’ came to live in Ħamrun where they opened a chapel and a small convent in Lord Byron Street, convenient to those who lived nearby. As Ħamrun started to expand, they instantly felt the need for a larger church and convent. After much effort to find a land which suited them, they finally managed to obtain a piece of land that they still have today at the very end of Villambrosa Street.   
  
The church took two years to build and was blessed and opened for the public on the 30th of August 1954. It was consecrated by Archbishop Gonzi on the 25th of May 1955. The style of the church is quintessential Franciscan or Roman style where, in its simplicity, is also modern. Next to this church is also their convent. This church holds about 2,000 people and was planned by Knight Ġuże’ Damato.

In the church, there are three altars made from white marble, with figures of the Disciples in bronze and with golden mosaic. On the altar, there is a colossal statue made from marble that shows St. Francis receiving the wounds. An interesting fact is that in this church, the Stations of the Cross is made from marble too. On the bell tower is a gigantic statue that shows St. Francis with open arms, beautiful work from Marku Montebello. It was blessed and placed on the bell tower on the 21st of February 1960. The painting of the dome that is found in this church is another magnificent work of art by Roman painter Marcello Liberati.

**Chapel of Holy Mary’s Miraculous Medal**  
In Royal St. Joseph Street, on the side known as l-Blata l-Bajda, one can find a beautiful complex and chapel. The place that they are built on was previously the cemetery of the cholera. The works commenced on the 15th of August 1954. When the works of this building started to make progress, the same building which now serves as the General Quarters of the Museum (Christian Doctrine) Society, the chapel started being built. The first brick was laid on the 23rd of February 1958 by Archbishop Gonzi and was blessed and opened by him on the 13th of May 1964.  
  
This chapel, which was dedicated to Holy Mary’s Miraculous Medal with a style of modern-classic and holds 320 people, has the same structure as the chapel of Sarria in Floriana. The plan was made by the knight Ġuże’ Damato. In 1962, a statue of Holy Mary sitting down was placed on the door of the chapel’s exterior while, a year later, a bronze statue of Jesus Redeemer was placed on the church’s antenna.

In this church we also find a wax figure of St. Ġorġ Preca, available for public adoration, as well as the blood of the Saint which was taken by Doctor Lawrence Spiteri. One can also find the remains of this, the first Maltese saint, St. Ġorġ Preca, who lived, taught, and spent his life in Ħamrun.

**Chapel of Our Lady of Sorrows**This chapel saw its start in an oratory that belonged to the partners of Mary’s Legion, that opened on the 20th of January 1951. With the help of their Spiritual Director, Fr. Joseph Saliba, they obtained this place from Ms. Farrugia from Farsons Brewery, where at the time Christian Doctrine was taught to the children from the area. This oratory was named after Our Lady of Sorrows and has been referred to as such to this day. The first Our Lady of Sorrows feast was celebrated on the 16th of March 1951, with the participation of many people.   
It was then when people felt the need that in that area, which was a bit distant from the Parish Church, for a new chapel instead of the warehouse which was lent to them. But perhaps this idea needed more time to be fully realised. Later in this oratory, a mass was made only on special occasions, but as time progressed it started taking place every Saturday and Sunday and on feasts.   
The oratory continued to function until the 18th of December 1982, with the completion of the new church designed by Architect Richard Aquilina. The land of the chapel was bought in March 1972 and the excavation works and dredging started even before the necessary permits.

**Clubs**

**Immaculate Conception Band Club**

The Immaculate Conception Band Club was founded in the year 1978 when a certain Tony Borg and some of his friends decided to start working towards establishing a new musical society in Hamrun. The need for a new musical society was rapidly increasing when a new parish in Hamrun was founded and the population in the area was increasing.

Tony Borg’s vision became a reality a year later, when on the 22nd of August of the year 1979, the first general meeting of the new society was held in the Victoria United Football Club in Barth Street. With time, the meeting place changed multiple times. From the Victoria United Football Club, they moved to a garage in ‘Kanonku Bonnici’ Street, after which they moved to another place in Guze Pace Street and in Villambrosa Street until a house in the more central ‘Kappillan Mifsud’ Street was bought. On the 1st of August 2002, the club moved again to a house in ‘Kappillan Muscat’ Square, a few metres away from the parish church. This new club was officially opened on the 29th of August 2004 from the then President of the Republic of Malta Guido de Marco.

The first band conductor of the newly founded club was Alfonse Maria Vella. The club went through many changes to keep growing and improving. In 1993, during a general meeting, it was decided to change the colour associated with the club. The colour was changed from yellow to light blue. During this meeting, the Nome di Maria emblem in the centre of the club flag was also changed.

The club’s band gave many performances since it was founded. Some of these include performances in the feasts of Bidnija, Dingli, St. Venera and Marsaxloxx. The band participated in the visit of Pope St. John Paul II. It also took part and played during the Small Nations Games, during a celebration after Hamrun Spartans won the football tournament and many other activities held in Hamrun along the years. The band also played during Carnival, the opening of the Serenity Ward in St. Vincent de Paul and was also invited to play during celebrations held in the century of the other Hamrun Band Clubs, that of St. Joseph, in 1989 and St. Cajetan, in 2006.

**Civic Club**

The Civic Club was founded in January 1954 and is found in the most central part of Hamrun, next to the Parish church of St. Cajetan.

Since the beginning of the club, the main aim of the club was to be social, recreation and educational.

This club serves as a place for Hamrun locals to have a place to meet for recreational purposes in a club that is neither political nor music related. It is open for everyone without any discrimination of race, nationality, or religious beliefs.

For many years, the club served as a place for Civic Council to meet, one of the first on the island. This council was similar to current local council with the difference being that the council members weren’t elected by Hamrun locals but was made up of representatives of different established clubs in Hamrun.

The club was used many times as a neutral place to hold meetings between different cubs and individuals who had some kind of disputes to settle between them. The club was also used as a venue for religious, recreational, informative, cultural, and medical meetings.

For some time, the club was used as a place for guitar and lute enthusiasts to meet as a means of relaxation whilst practicing their passion. The club has many success stories in the sports field. It had one of the best enthusiast football teams which went by the name, Hamrun Eagles. The club has many honours that it won along the years in billiard and darts.

Today, the club serves as the official seat of other clubs like R.A.F.A – Royal Air Force Association, which is a club for ex-service men of the Royal Air Force. The Dun Neric Foundation also uses the club as a meeting place the foundation was founded in honour of the ex-Parish Priest Fr. Neric Cordina who was loved by many and will remain remembered for the many works, he did in the Hamrun Parish, and for starting the works on the Dome of the Church.

**Hamrun Spartans**

Established in 1907, Ħamrun Spartans FC is one of the oldest clubs on the Maltese Islands. Famous for its red and black shirt, the Club has long established itself among the Maltese elite, taking home some 25 major trophies along its illustrious history. Throughout the decades, the shirt was donned by some of the best talent the islands had to offer, with these same players proving an important backbone for the national team.    
  
The club represents the town of Ħamrun, an urban community with strong industrial and commercial roots just a couple of kilometres inland from the Grand Harbour. It boasts one of the most passionate set of fans, who were also decorated with the honour of best support in Malta a few years back.  
The Club has also set several important milestones for Maltese football in international commitments, being the first to quality to a second round of a UEFA club competition, and also the first to win home and away ties, a feat established in the Cup Winners Cup.  
  
The Senior team currently plays in the Premier Division. The Club also includes within its ranks a Youth Team, also known as Minors (Under 19), as well as an affiliate Football Academy which provides elite training to children aged four upwards.

**Hamrun Liberty**

In its early years Hamrun Liberty was the pioneer to the introduction of Hamrun's football nursery. This project saw numerous youngsters train and play football at the Mile End grounds, in the premise that one day they will make part of the Hamrun Spartans FC senior squad. The concept of youth nurseries was still new on the island and Hamrun Liberty can boast that it was one of the first clubs in Malta to emulate the educational Sports Centre which had just been founded by Fr. Hilary Tagliaferro.    
  
Hamrun Liberty was and still is Hamrun's hub for other various sports like, Pool, Snooker, Bocci and Amateur Football. For several years Hamrun Liberty also boasted one of the best Basketball teams on the Maltese Islands.  
  
From 2005 a new branch of the club was born, "Hamrun Liberty Sezzjoni Festa" which is responsible for the funding and upkeep of several street decorations used solely in the feast of ‘San Gejtanu in the beginning of August.

**Monuments**

**Spencer Monument**

This memorial was set up in 1830 from the British frigate ‘Madagascar’ in honour of its captain Sir Robert Cavendish Spencer who had died in Alexandria.

The writing that is found on it states that Spencer died on the ship in Alexandria on the 4th of November 1830 and was buried in Valletta on the 12th of December. His friends set up this monument in March 1893 which was removed from Corradino Hill where it had been previously and was set up where it is now in April of the same year.

This monument was designed by painter and architect Giorgio Pullicino. In the project of the ‘fly-over’ of Blata l-Bajda, this monument found itself there quite randomly. In October of 1975, lightning struck the top part of the monument and caused damage.

In 1998, the monument was restored by Mizzi Organisation due to more damage which was caused during the war. The work on the monument started on Wednesday 17th December 1997 in collaboration with the local council of Ħamrun.

Present on the day of the occasion was the Minister of Education at the time, Mr. Evarist Bartolo, Dr. Peter Attard, the mayor of Ħamrun and the director of Mizzi Organisation.

**Monument of Friar Diego**

On the 16th of October 1932, a monument was inaugurated in honour of Friar Diego- a man of great generosity and devotion who, when he passed away, was mourned greatly by the Maltese public.

In this inauguration, an institute which is still there now was also built and named after Friar Diego himself. At around four o’clock in the afternoon Ministers, Senators and Deputy Leaders of the Parliament met up along with members of the clergy and children of the same institute. They were later joined by the Archbishop and the Governor who uncovered the statue. I

n the same crowd, was Court President, Sir Arturo Mercieca, who gave a speech, and the musical band of Saint Joseph which played the anthem written from Mr. C Camilleri. The monument was made by sculptor Vincent Apap, and to be put up they had to use pillars as underneath it was a big cave.

**Monument of Dr. Anton Buttigieg**

On the 5th of May 1985, the Prime Minister, Dr Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici, officially uncovered the monument, which was set up in honour of Dr Anton Buttigieg, the ex-president of the Republic of Malta, also a lawyer, a member of parliament and a poet.

Buttigieg was born in Għarb, Gozo but for most of his life lived in Ħamrun where he was president of the St Cajetan Band Club. This monument was made by sculptor Anton Agius and was built thanks to public contributions. While Agius sculpted the monument out of plaster, Luigi Tommasi from Del Chiaro Maddimo of Pietrasanta, in Lucca, Italy, took care of the bronzing of the statue.

Unfortunately, Ugo Mizzi a relative of Dr Anton Buttigieg and the person in charge to observe the works on the monument passed away while in on a trip to Italy to review the process of the monument. The monument was blessed by the Ħamrun Parish Priest Fr. Joseph Pace and in the presence of Dr Buttigieg’s children, Cabinet Ministers, Dr Eddie Fenech Adami, leader of the Nationalist party, members of parliament, and Sir Anthony Mamo, the first president of the Republic of Malta. The original plaster copy of the statue is currently preserved in the Politics Museum in Birgu.

**Millennium Monument**

This monument located in Saint Paul’s Square consists of three columns of three different sizes, one larger than the one before. In the middle, one can find a bronze map of the locality. This monument was erected as a memorial of the new millennium. The monument was sculpted in marble by Ronnie Pisani. The inscription in the middle translates to:

“The people of Hamrun commemorate the first full century and look forward with fate for the future. Today on the first day of the third millennium, January 1st, 2000.”

The monument was inaugurated by vice-mayor Dr. Paula Mifsud Bonnici, LL. D, and was blessed by Parish Priest Fr. Paul Fenech.

**Oreste Chircop Monument**

On Friday, May 26th, 2000, the monument of Tenor Oreste Chircop was inaugurated, on the occasion of the 2nd anniversary of his death on May 10th, 1998.

The monument was inaugurated by Minister Dr. Austin Gatt and Hamrun Mayor Joe Zammit Cordina. The bust was sculpted in bronze by sculptor Anton Aguis. The surrounding area is known as Oreste Chircop Garden. For the inauguration a public ceremony was held in the presence of Chircop’s wife, children, and other family members.

**International Youth Day Monument**

A few feet away from the Spencer Monument in Blata l-Bajda, one can find another small monument made to commemorate the International Youth Day. The inscription reads:

“International Youth Year for all local youths, 17th March 1985.”

**Salvinu Spiteri Monument**

On September 29th, 2001, the President of Malta, Dr. Guido de Marco, inaugurated a new monument of Salvinu Spiteri, who together with Maurice Aguis founded the United Workers Union in 1996. Spiteri served as a president of the union for three years and later served as a president for the Confederation for Negotiators of Malta.

During the inauguration ceremony, a speech from Gejtu Tanti, the then current President of the Union, highlighted the unique qualities of Spiteri. The monument consists of a bust of Spiteri with an inscription underneath that reads:

“Salvinu Spiteri

1926 – 1996

First President and founder of the United Workers Union.”

**Water Tower Monument**

The aqueduct built during the stay of the Knights of St. John in Malta had the aim to bring water to Valletta. Along its way, the aqueduct had to pass from Hamrun. The water started its journey in Rabat and passed from Attard to St. Joseph’s Tower (located in Santa Venera, at the beginning of the aqueduct arches). From there, the water came down and collected in Hamrun, in the circular water tower built for this purpose. The tower, found at the middle of St. Cajetan Street, has an inscription on it that reads:

“Just as there is life in water, life begins from water”

**Activities**

**Feast of St. Cajetan**

The feast of Saint Cajetan is celebrated on the first Sunday following the 7th of August every year and attracts tourists and people from all over the island. It is undoubtedly one of the biggest feasts celebrated on the island. The feast is best known for its grand marches that take place all week. The parish’s band clubs, St. Joseph and St. Cajetan, are two of the most popular band clubs on the whole island.

For the week, the church façade is lit up with many colours while streets are decorated with large banners. The main street is adorned with many different statues, mostly of angles, saints and people related to St. Cajetan and even statues of St. Cajetan himself.

Activities, street parties and band marches are held from Monday to Sunday. The popular band march on Sunday morning is one of the most popular on the island, attracting thousands to the main streets of Hamrun. For the whole day, the main streets of the town go vehicle free and are instead filled with people adorned from head to toe in the club’s colours, blue for St. Joseph and red for St. Cajetan. The Sunday march starts right after the high mass at 11am and goes on till 3pm, reaching its climax from 2pm onwards when both bands start to approach their respective club.

The feast celebrations reach their close on Sunday evening with a procession with the statue of St. Cajetan. The statue, made from plaster by the sculptor Carlo Darminin in 1888, is taken out of the church at 7pm and taken around the streets of the town. Towards the end of the procession, as the statue starts getting closer to the church once again, people start gathering to see the famous run of the statue up the church parvis. It is very difficult to take the statue up the church parvis stairs normally because the statue is quite heavy while the steps are steep, so the statue bearers make a run for it. This has become a tradition, even copied by other parishes around, and many come to Hamrun to see it happening.

**Feast of The Assumption of Our Lady**

On the 15th of August, 6 parishes in Malta and 1 in Gozo celebrate their titular feast of the Assumption into heaven of our lady. What many don’t know is that in Hamrun, this feast is also celebrated with a procession. Although small when compared with the rest of the feast, this feast is very devotional.

The feast is celebrated in the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Atocia, locally known as ‘Tas-Samra’ because of the dark skin of our lady in the icon found in the church. The feast is mainly celebrated in the church with hardly any outside celebrations. The only celebration outside is the procession with the statue of the assumption of our lady.

**Chocolate Festival**

The Hamrun Chocolate Festival is a yearly festival hosted by the Hamrun Local Council on the last Saturday of October. For over ten years, the local council has been organising this festival in the main street of Hamrun where everything is about the delicious treat.

Many clubs and voluntary organisations set up stalls along the main street selling items made from chocolate (including choc-flavoured wind). During the festival one can also expect to find chocolate body painting, chocolate canvas paintings, live demonstrations featuring chocolate recipes, chocolate tattoos and plenty of live entertainment.

The festival is also known to have a huge chocolate sculpture as a main attraction for those present. Some of the sculptures in the past, made by world renowned chocolatiers, includes, a life-sized motorcycle, a life-sized Victorian dining room replica, a life-sized sculpture of Elvis Presley, a replica of a Maltese bus, a replica of the titanic and many more.

**Feast of St. Joseph**

On the first Sunday of May, Hamrun celebrates its secondary feast of St. Joseph. The small feast celebration consists of a high mass in the morning. A band march by the St. Josephs Band follows the mass, starting in front the Chapel of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal to the Parish Church of St. Cajetan, through St. Joseph’s High Road.

In the evening the statue of St. Joseph is taken out on a procession along the streets of the parish. For the feast celebration, St. Joseph’s Band Club is in charge to decorate the streets, mainly hanging banners and lights in the main road.

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception**

After the Immaculate Conception parish was established in 1968, that same year for the first time in Hamrun, the feast of the Immaculate Conception started to be celebrated. For the first few years the feast was celebrated on the 8th of December but due to the weather conditions in December it was later decided to move the feast to the first Sunday of July.

While the parish organises the inner celebrations, the Immaculate Conception Band Club, founded in 1979 organises the external celebrations. The band club organises marches and performances all week long. For the feast the main streets are decorated with various statues, banners, lights, and other decorations.

The feast closes with the procession with the statue of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady. The statue was brought to Malta from the Confraternity of the Immaculate Conception of Valletta in December 1903 and gifted to the parish in November 1985.