

POSTAL DIARY

7TH MARCH – 28TH OCTOBER 2020

Compiled by John V. De Battista

12th March *(Continued from Vol. 50/2 August 2021)*

Today MaltaPost informed that the Sub Post Office at ‘Fleet Stationery’, Testaferrata Street, Ta’ Xbiex XBX 1402, will be closed until Saturday 21st March.

As an alternative, on these days the public was advised that if it so wishes it could make use of the postal services provided from the Gzira Post Office situated at 21, Pjazza Meme’ Scicluna, Gzira GZR 1120.

In another media communication, MaltaPost informed that on the 18th March, it will be issuing the fourth series of stamps depicting religious statues. This time round, the issue will feature statues of

St. Joseph found in various churches around Malta and Gozo, including the five titular statues found in: Birkirkara St. Joseph the Worker Parish Church; Kalkara Parish Church; Manikata Parish Church; Msida Parish Church; and Qala Parish Church, Gozo. The other statues featured in the set include those found in; Rabat Church of the Blessed Virgin - Principal Feast; Xagħra Basilica; Gozo - Co-Patron; Birgu Collegiate Church - Confraternity; Birkirkara Basilica of St. Helen - Confraternity; Cospicua Collegiate Church - Confraternity; Għajnsielem Parish Church; Gozo; Secondary Feast; Għaxaq Parish Church - Secondary Feast; Hamrun; St. Cajetan Parish Church; Kirkop Parish Church - Secondary Feast; Mosta Basilica - Confraternity; Qormi St. George Collegiate Church - Confraternity; Valletta Basilica of Our Lady of Mount Carmel - Confraternity; Żebbuġ Parish Church - Secondary Feast; Żejtun Parish Church - Confraternity; Żurrieq Parish Church - Confraternity.

The stamps will be issued in two sheets of ten different stamps each, with each stamp measuring 31mm x 44mm, having a comb perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 and bearing the Maltese Cross watermark. The sheets themselves measure 182mm x 115mm and were produced by Printex Ltd in the offset process. The issue consists of 1,600,000 stamps and each carries a face value of €0.30. Photography of the statues is by Mark Micallef Perconte.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion hand stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.2/2020). The single severed-ring hand stamp is inscribed “MALTESE



FESTA – SERIES IV”” along the outside bordering the ring and “* MALTAPOST ----- - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words and issue date “JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/18-03-20” in straight lines are to be found below an outline image depicting an ornate crown positioned at the top centre of the hand stamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin numbered as No. 399.

In its third media communication, MaltaPost informed that the Sub Post Office at ‘Needs Stationery’, situated at 1, Triq il-Vajrita, Marsaskala MSK 3306 will be closed until the 21st March.

On these days, Marsaskala residents were advised to use the postal services provided from Marsaskala Post Office situated at Triq Sant’ Antnin, Marsaskala MSK 9059 as an alternative.

13th March

MaltaPost informed that the Sub Post Office situated at the Local Council, 6, Triq Dun Karm Caruana, Għasri GSR1021, will be closed until further notice.

As an alternative, the public was advised that if it so wishes it may use the postal services provided from Għarb Post Office situated in Triq il-Vizitazzjoni, Għarb GRB 1044.

The second media communication informed that the Sub Post Office situated at “Troy DVD Rentals”, Pjazza Arcisqof Gonzi, Kalkara KKR 1502, will be closed until Saturday 21st March.

For this reason, Kalkara residents were requested to pick up their mail items from the Cospicua Post Office situated in Block No 14, Flat No 12, Fuq San Pawl, Bormla BML 1910, while Xgħajra residents were requested to pick up their mail items from the Żabbar Post Office situated Ċentru Ċiviku, Triq il-Kunvent, Haż-Żabbar ŻBR 1351.

The final media communication for today informed the public that the Sub Post Office at ‘Tronic Peach’, Triq iċ-Ċitru, Iklin IKL 1081, will be closed until Saturday 21st March.

The public was advised to use the postal services provided from Naxxar Post Office situated in Ċentru Ċiviku, Vjal il-Wieħed u Għoxrin ta’ Settembru, Naxxar NXR1018 as an alternative.

16th March

The outbreak of the COVID 19 virus in Malta is having significant impact on our way of life and in today’s media communication MaltaPost said that it was

actively monitoring this rapidly evolving situation. It stated that it is following Government's advice whilst working closely with the relevant authorities. It also stated that the World Health Organisation informs that the likelihood of an infected person contaminating commercial goods is low and the risk of catching the virus that causes COVID-19 from a package that has been moved, travelled, and exposed to different conditions and temperature is also low.

Notwithstanding this, MaltaPost stated that it takes the health and safety of both its employees and customers very seriously in order to help prevent the spread of the virus, in line with the guidance issued by the National Health Authorities.

The Company therefore reminded all customers, especially customers who are sick or observing mandatory quarantine at home, to fully co-operate with Postal Operators. It emphasized that customers are to maintain the minimum social distancing of at least one metre when being served.

In addition, and in order to protect both its employees and customers as much as possible, MaltaPost will not be asking customers to sign for mail that requires a signature when it is delivered to their address. Its employees will instead log the name and Identity Card Number of the person accepting the item.

Additionally, for all customers where there is the need to deliver a parcel that won't fit through a letterbox, having knocked on the door or rung the bell, Postal Operators will then step aside to a safe distance while the customer retrieves the item

If one is unable to come to the door at all, the Postal Operator will issue the appropriate notice advising of the alternatives available to collect the postal item. MaltaPost also informed that arrangements have also been made for alternative routing of postal traffic to and from countries which are presently covered by a travel ban namely Italy, Switzerland, Germany, France and Spain. Furthermore, the outbound postal service to China is once again available. (*Ref. entry dated 18th February*)

In another media communication today, MaltaPost informed about the temporary closure of two Sub Post Offices, namely:

H'Attard - Higher Grades', 93, Triq Kannaña, H'Attard ATD 2703, will be closed between 17th and 24th March

Mellieħa - 51, Triq Ġorg Borg Olivier, Mellieħa MLH 1024 will be closed between the 16th and 21st March.

On these days, the public was informed that if it so wishes it may make use of the postal services provided from the Lija Post Office, situated at 2, Triq Mikelang Borg, Lija LJA 1440 and from the Mellieħa Post Office situated at 100, Triq il-Mithna

l-Ġdida, Mellieħa MLH 1107 as respective alternatives.

20th March

Today MaltaPost informed that the Sub Post Office situated at Kerċem Local Council, Pjazza Orvieto, Ta' Kerċem KCM 1360 and the Sub Post Office situated at the San Lawrenz Local Council, 22A Triq id-Duluri, San Lawrenz SLZ 1261 will be closed until further notice.

During this period, the public was invited to use the postal services provided from Victoria Post Office situated at 5, Triq Sir Adrian Dingli, Victoria VCT 1441.

24th March

MaltaPost today issued a media communication whereby it informed that the Sub Post Offices listed below will be closed until further notice.

- H'Attard Sub Post Office situated at Higher Grades', 93, Triq Kanannea, H'Attard ATD 2703.
- Iklin Sub Post Office situated at "Tronic Peach", Triq iċ-Ċitru, Iklin IKL 1081.
- Kalkara Sub Post Office situated at "Troy DVD Rentals", Pjazza Arcisqof Gonzi, Kalkara KKR 1502.
- Marsaskala Sub Post Office situated at "Needs Stationery", 1, Triq Vajrita, Marsascala, MSK 3325.
- Mellieħa Sub Post Office situated at 51, Triq Ġorg Borg Olivier, Mellieħa MLH 1024.
- Ta' Xbiex situated at 'Fleet Stationery', Testaferrata Street, Ta' Xbiex XBX 1402.

In another media communication issued today, MaltaPost further informed that the Sub Post Office at CND Stationery, 144, Vjal it-Torri, Gudja GDJ 1704, will be temporarily reducing its opening hours and will now be opening only in the evening from 4:30 p.m. till 7:30 p.m.

As such, the public was advised that as an alternative during the mornings, it may wish to use the postal services provided from:-

- Luqa Post Office, situated at 11, Trejqa Dun Gulju Muscat, Luqa LQA 1450.
- Ġhaxaq Sub Post Office, situated at Marcham Stationery, 4 Wesgħa Bir id-Deheb, Ġhaxaq GXQ 1651.

13th April

Today MaltaPost issued the following Company Announcement, under the signature of Graham A. Fairclough, Company Secretary, pursuant to the Malta Financial Services Authority Listing Rules.

“MaltaPost plc (the Company) informs the market that it is consistently monitoring developments resulting from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. On an ongoing basis the Company continues to implement its contingency plans within its overall Risk Assessment policies, together with the recommendations issued by the Government of Malta, the Public Health Authorities, as well as other Regulators.

Whereas to date all the services normally provided by MaltaPost and its national network of offices remain fully functional, however circumstances have called for certain measures to be implemented and some delays and reduction in business are inevitable. The Company relies on foreign postal operators and international flight connections for the transport of mail, however flight connections to and from Malta are currently limited.

While the full financial impact resulting from the pandemic is difficult to foresee, the Company maintains adequate financial fundamentals, a competent and devoted human resource base, together with the technical wherewithal to enable it meet with confidence the challenges ahead.

The Company will continue to keep the market informed of important developments as they unfold.”

24th April

Today MaltaPost announced that its customers can now buy postage stamps right from the comfort of their home through its new online portal.

Any denomination of postage stamps, whether for local or international mail can be purchased online at www.maltapost.com/postagestamps. Customers just need to register online, choose the denominations and quantity required and pay online. Postage stamps are available in various denominations and will be delivered to the customer’s address free of charge.

MaltaPost also reminded its customers that the postage rate for local postal articles up to 50 grams is €0.30. Furthermore, customers were also reminded that they can calculate local and international postage rates on the Postage Calculator available online from the website’s Quick Links or directly through www.maltapost.com/postagecalculator.

MaltaPost concluded its media communication by stating that notwithstanding these difficult circumstances, Post Offices have remained open for business, and praised its postmen and women who continue to work hard to collect, process and deliver all mail and parcels.

05th May

In its media communication for the day, MaltaPost informed that the Sub Post Offices situated at 1, ‘Needs Stationery’, Triq il-Vajrita, Marsaskala MSK 3306 and ‘Troy DVD Rentals’, Pjazza Arcisqof Gonzi, Kalkara KKR 1502 are now open again for business. (Ref. 24th March entry)

07th May

Following the tragic death of one of its employees earlier during the day while performing her duties, MaltaPost issued the following statement:

“MaltaPost is deeply saddened by the tragic demise of Ms. Elenia Briffa, a young postal operator who early this morning was involved in a traffic accident in Marsa while on her way to deliver mail. Our heartfelt sympathy goes towards her family, colleagues and friends. A magisterial enquiry is being held.”

In another media communication, MaltaPost announced that on the 9th May it will be joining other European postal administrations by the release of a stamp set in line with this year’s theme - ‘Ancient Postal Routes’. EUROPA stamps highlight the cooperation between European postal administrations and seek to promote philately and build awareness of the common goals, roots, culture and history of Europe. The Malta issue consists of two stamps. The first features a map of the Mediterranean showing the maritime routes between Malta, Pozzallo, Messina and Naples while the second stamp features a portrait of Francesco I de Tassis who was the 15th century pioneer of the postal service in Europe.

The stamps will be issued in a sheet of eleven stamps, with each stamp measuring 44mm x 31mm, having a comb perforation of 14.0 x 13.9 and bearing the Maltese Cross watermark. The sheets themselves measure 150mm x 158mm and were produced by Printex Ltd through the offset process. The issue consists of 30,800 of the €0.59 stamp and 33,000 of the €2.00 stamp. The design was set by Miguel Farrugia of MaltaPost. The €0.59 stamp will be Malta’s entry for the ‘2020 EUROPA Online Stamp Contest’, an annual online event where stamp designs from across Europe compete for the best entry. The online competition, in which the public can vote, will end on 9th September 2020. The winning stamps will be announced at the PostEurop Plenary Assembly to be held in October 2020, which is being held in Dublin, Ireland.



MaltaPost prepared an occasion hand stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.3/2020). The single severed-ring hand stamp is inscribed “EUROPA 2020 – ‘ANCIENT POSTAL ROUTES’” along the outside bordering

the ring and “* MALTAPOST ----- - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words and issue date “JUM IL-ĦRUG/09-05-20” in straight lines are to be found below an outline image depicting a Speronara positioned at the top centre of the hand stamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin numbered as No. 400.

08th May

Today MaltaPost has announced revised tariffs for redirection of mail, as recently approved by the Malta Communications Authority. These new tariffs will come into effect as of 8th June. MaltaPost, as the designated Universal Service Provider, is required to provide redirection of mail services nationwide as part of its Universal Service obligation.

With the revised rates, MaltaPost shall continue to absorb the full cost of a redirection to a local address and this service will be offered for free for the first six months for both individuals and NGOs. The redirection will attract a charge of €10 for the second six months thereafter. Businesses and other entities will be charged €10 per month for the first twelve months. The service is not available to businesses once the first year has lapsed.

The postal redirection service allows an addressee who has moved to a new address to continue receiving mail, bearing the previous address, for a period of time. Redirection of mail is intrinsically complex, becoming progressively challenging as Malta’s social and demographic criteria develop and change. MaltaPost strongly encouraged addressees to inform mail correspondents of any change in their delivery address and to take the necessary measures for any corresponding address to be updated.

In another media communication issued today, MaltaPost released a Company Announcement pursuant to the Malta Financial Services Authority Listing Rules. The announcement, under the signature of Graham A. Fairclough, Company Secretary, reads:

“MaltaPost plc (the Company) refers to the Company Announcement of the 13 April 2020 advising that it continues to monitor developments resulting from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and also keep the market informed accordingly.

During these difficult and unprecedented times, the Company has continued to keep the health and safety of all its employees at the top of its priority list in strict adherence to the guidelines issued by Government and the National Health Authorities from time to time.

This underlying principle has been extended throughout our network of offices in

Malta and Gozo where preventive measures continue to be implemented also for the benefit of all our customers.

In spite of the challenges being faced we have continued to deliver postal services uninterrupted, with only minor disruptions, mainly in deference to consideration of health and safety issues.

However, other areas of operational activity have been significantly affected, not least by the sharp decline in flight connections to and from Malta. As may well be expected, this unplanned interruption is having a negative impact on some of our more important revenue streams and which we are in part rigorously mitigating through the efficient and judicious management of costs, together with other related efficiencies. Currently it is not at all clear when the situation regarding flights is likely to return to normal.

Given the very fluid nature of the challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Company continues to focus attention on the Risk Management strategies which it has in place in order to minimise, the related adverse effects on the Company's stakeholders.

The Company is however reassured by the loyalty and dedication of all its staff members who continue to perform well in the face of extremely challenging times.”

12th May

Today MaltaPost informed that the Sub Post Office situated at ‘Fleet Stationery’, Testaferrata Street, Ta’ Xbiex XBX 1402 has reopened again for business. (*Ref. 24th March entry*)

In another communication, MaltaPost informed that the Sub Post Office at Paul’s Arcade, Triq il-Kahli, San Pawl il-Baħar, SPB 3015 will be closed until further notice.

During this period, the public was advised that if it so wishes it could make use of the postal services provided from the Post Office at 511, Triq San Pawl, San Pawl il-Baħar SPB 3416.

The following Company Announcement was also issued today by MaltaPost under the signature of Graham A. Fairclough, Company Secretary, pursuant to the Malta Financial Services Authority Listing Rules.

“The Board of Directors of MaltaPost plc is scheduled to meet on Friday 29 May 2020 to consider and approve the interim financial statements for the six months ended 31 March 2020.”

19th May

MaltaPost informed that the Mellieħa Sub Post Office situated at 51, Triq Ġorġ Borg Olivier, Mellieħa MLH 1024 has reopened again for business. (Ref. 24th March entry)

22nd May

Today it was announced that due to construction work, the letterbox situated at Triq Mater Boni Consilii, Paola has been temporarily removed.

The public was advised that it may make use of the nearest letterbox situated in Triq il-Lampuka, Paola as the alternative.

28th May

MaltaPost notified the public that a commemorative handstamp will be issued to commemorate the 100th anniversary from the foundation of Ta' Pinu Sanctuary on Saturday 30th May at the Victoria Post Office.



The single severed-ring hand stamp is inscribed “100 SENA MIT-TQEGHID TAL-EWWEL ĠEBLA TAS-SANTWARJU TA’ PINU” along the outside bordering the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – VICTORIA, GOZO - MALTA *” bordering the ring on the inner side. At the centre of the hand stamp is an outline drawing of Ta’ Pinu Sanctuary beneath which the years 1920 – 2020 was placed. The issue date in a straight line “30-05-20” follows underneath.

29th May

Today MaltaPost issued a company announcement under the signature of company secretary Graham A. Fairclough, pursuant to the Malta Financial Authority Listing Rules, whereby it was announced that at a meeting of the Board of Directors of MaltaPost held on 29th May, 2020, the Board approved the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Interim Financial Statements for the six month period ended 31st March, 2020. These statements were available for viewing and downloading from the company’s website.

03rd June

On the 8th June MaltaPost will be participating in the joint stamp issue by SEPAC, the Small European Postal Administration Cooperation, themed ‘Artworks in the National Collection’.

Malta’s issue consists a pair of stamps depicting artworks by Edward Caruana Dingli, one of Malta’s foremost painters of the early 20th century. The original paintings are exhibited at MUŻA, the National Community Art Museum of Malta.

The stamps were printed in sheets of ten stamps, with each stamp measuring 44mm x 31mm, having a comb perforation of 14.0 x 13.9 and bearing the Maltese Cross watermark. The sheets themselves measure 185mm x 114mm and were produced by Printex Ltd in the offset process. The issue consists of 500,000 of the €0.30 stamp and 100,000 of the €0.50 stamp value.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion hand stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.4/2020). The single severed-ring hand stamp is inscribed “SEPAC – ARTWORKS IN THE NATIONAL COLLECTION” along the outside bordering the ring and “* MALTAPOST ----- MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words and issue date “JUM IL-ĦRUG/08-06--20” in straight lines are to be



found below an outline image depicting a painter sitting on a stool busily painting at his easel positioned at the top centre of the hand stamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin numbered as No. 401.

05th June

MaltaPost issued the following Company Announcement, under the signature of Graham A. Fairclough, Company Secretary, pursuant to the Malta Financial Services Authority Listing Rules.

“MaltaPost plc (the Company) announces that regulatory approval has been received for a proposed change in the shareholding structure of Untours Insurance Agency Limited and which will effectively result in MaltaPost plc acquiring 49% of the share capital of Untours Insurance Agency Limited.”

08th June

MaltaPost today informed that the San Lawrenz Sub Post Office situated at the Local Council, 22A Triq id-Duluri, San Lawrenz SLZ 1261 has reopened again for business. (*Ref. 20th March entry*)

10th June

The public was informed that the letterbox situated at Triq Salvu Buhagiar, Marsaskala, has been temporarily removed and will be relocated a few metres away in the same street

The public was advised that in the meantime it may wish to use the letterbox situated at Triq Sant Antnin as the nearest alternative.

15th June

It was announced that the letterbox situated at Triq Salvu Buhagiar, Marsaskala, has now been relocated some 200 metres away in the same street, corner with Triq il-Hortan, Marsaskala. (Ref. 10th June entry)

In a separate media communication, MaltaPost informed that it was recently made aware of pop-ups or messages seemingly originating from the company that invite viewers to pay €2 and share personal data in return for a chance to win a free mobile phone.

MaltaPost clarified that it does not engage in such practices and such messages are not being issued by the company. It furthermore stated that it takes its commitments towards protecting and maintaining the privacy of its customers seriously and advises that such messages are to be completely ignored.

22nd June

Today MaltaPost belatedly notified that a commemorative handstamp was issued to mark the 175th anniversary from the restoration of the statue of St John the Baptist. The hand stamp was used at the Victoria Post Office.

The single severed-ring hand stamp is inscribed “STATWA SAN ĠWANN BATTISTA, XEWKIJA ĠHAWDEX 1845 - 2020” along the outside bordering the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – VICTORIA, GOZO - MALTA *” bordering the ring on the inner side. At the centre of the hand stamp is an outline drawing of the statue’s torso, which also incorporates the words 175 / SENA FOSTNA. The issue date in a straight line “22-06-20” is to be found right beneath the illustration.



23rd June

Today’s media communication notified that with immediate effect, all Post Offices offering full services will now be at the general public’s disposal to encash all cheques issued by the Central Bank of Malta.

MaltaPost reminded its clients that Post Offices are still open for business as usual, maintaining their normal working hours. With a Post Office in most localities in Malta and Gozo, postal services are available to clients provided they continue to abide by MaltaPost’s standard safety measures together with all recommended social distancing measures.

25th June

MaltaPost reminded its clients that it offers the service for Customs clearance for items bought from a non-EU country. It noted that when customers buy a product from a non-EU country, they become liable to Customs and Excise Duty as well as Value Added Tax (VAT) payments. As part of its efforts to improve customer experience, MaltaPost has introduced a new online payment facility for customs related charges.

Thanks to this new online facility, following the Customs Clearance process by MaltaPost and release by Customs, customers can now pay duty charges, VAT and other administrative fees online and have their items delivered on the next working day following payment.

To pay online one must visit www.maltapost.com/tracking and enter the tracking number in the space provided. Once the parcel details are loaded, one only needs to click on the 'Pay Charges' button and proceed as instructed.

02nd July

Following the removal of the state of emergency by the Superintendence of National Health coupled with the lifting of most COVID-19 preventive measures in the community, MaltaPost informed that for postal items that require a signature, the post person delivering will verify the recipient's ID Card details and request full signature upon receipt. If there is no one at home to accept the delivery, the post person will leave a notice advising of collection alternatives. Customers receiving such items were invited to maintain the recommended social distancing from post persons and to limit physical exposure to the shortest time possible. It was also highly recommended that clients sign for the postal items using their own stationery.

Customers were also invited to register for and make use of the 24/7 Easipik lockers - a service that is provided free of charge and enables online shoppers to pick up all their items from any of the twenty Parcel Locker banks located around Malta and Gozo.

MaltaPost informed that it continued to maintain its regular last mile postal delivery services. Although there are no restrictions or delays for mail and parcels sent and received within Malta and Gozo, it added that delays may continue to be experienced for select third countries for both incoming and outgoing letter mail, parcels and packets.

It also noted that all Post offices are still open for business. In the interest of safeguarding the health and safety of customers and employees, customers visiting Post Offices:

- a) are invited to queue outside and maintain a distance of two meters between one another
- b) are to respect the rule of having not more than two customers in each Post Office at the same time
- c) are to wear a face mask or face shield prior to entering the Post Office
- d) are to clean their hands with the hand sanitizer provided.
- e) shall be refused entry if they display signs of ill-health

08th July

Today MaltaPost announced that it will be participating in a EuroMed Postal Union joint issue, themed ‘Traditional Gastronomy in the Mediterranean’, with the issue of a set of three stamps on Thursday 9th July.

Maltese gastronomy is closely linked to our long relationship with outside cultures. Although traditional Maltese food is seasonal and rustic, both our history and geography have made our gastronomy eclectic, allowing us to ‘borrow’ from Italian, Maghreb and other cuisines.

The stamps will be issued in sheets of ten stamps, with each stamp measuring 44mm x 31mm, having a comb perforation of 14.0 x 13.9 and bearing the Maltese Cross watermark. The sheets themselves measure 185mm x 118mm and were produced by Printex Ltd through the offset process. The issue consists of 60,000 of the €0.30 stamp, 130,000 of the €0.59 and 36,000 of the €1.25 stamp. The stamp set was designed by MaltaPost Creative Studio.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion hand stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.5/2020). The single severed-ring hand stamp is inscribed “EUROMED – “TRADITIONAL GASTRONOMY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN””” along the outside bordering the ring and “* MALTAPOST -----
--- - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring.

The words and issue date “JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/09-07-20” in straight lines are to be found below an outline image depicting a cook holding a dish of freshly cooked food positioned at the top centre of the hand stamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin numbered as No. 402.



15th July

MaltaPost informed the public that the letterbox situated at St. Francis Square, Victoria, Gozo is now back in service.

17th July

The public was informed that the Ghasri Sub Post Office situated at the Local Council, 6, Triq Dun Karm Caruana, Ghasri GSR1021 will reopen for business on Monday 20th July. (*Ref. 13th March entry*)

In another media communication, MaltaPost informed that the Sub Post Office situated at Paul's Arcade, Triq il-Kaħli, St. Paul's Bay SPB 3015 and the Sub Post Office situated at Tronic Peach, Triq iċ-Ċitru, Iklin IKL 1081 are no longer operating as Sub Post Offices.

They advised that where delivery of postal items that require a signature to private addresses are unsuccessful, or the items ċo not fit into the letterbox, arrangements have been made for clients to collect such items from the respective Post Office as follows:

- St Paul's Bay residents may collect their mail items from St. Paul's Bay Post Office situated at 511, Triq San Pawl, St. Paul's Bay SPB 3416.
- Iklin Residents may collect their mail items from the Naxxar Post Office situated at the Naxxar Civic Centre, Vjal il-Wieħed u Għoxrin ta' Settembru, Naxxar NXR 1018.

Alternatively one may choose to get the items delivered to a 24/7 Easipik locker.

22nd July

MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office situated at Fleet Street, Triq Testaferrata, Ta' Xbiex, XBX 1402, is no longer operating as a Sub Post Office.

As an alternative, residents were advised that if they so wish, they could make use of the postal services provided from the Gzira Post Office situated at 21, Pjazza Meme' Scicluna, Gzira GZR 1120.

In its second media communication for the day, MaltaPost issued an update on its operations with regards to mail processing during the present pandemic scenario. It stated that the international Postal Network is still very congested due to the suspension of various flights, as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic. Operational conditions at MaltaPost are difficult, especially at the "international mail processing centre", with the cancellation of international flights causing delays in both inbound and outbound mail. This disruption is expected to continue until airlines resume normal operations and sufficient transport capacity becomes available.

Additionally, MaltaPost wished to notify the public of various cases of misleading tracking information on Joom and AliExpress apps. There are also Chinese carriers (like Sunyou, Yanwen and Cianiao used by sellers on Joom, Wish, eBay and

Aliexpress) that are posting automatic updates showing that mail items arrived in Malta when they did not. For correct tracking information, MaltaPost recommends using its website or the “sending postal operator’s tracking website”.

Furthermore MaltaPost acknowledged that all deliveries are critical to all its customers. It also expressed its gratefulness for its customer’s support in these extraordinary circumstances, reiterating that MaltaPost strives to provide the best possible services at all times.

29th July

MaltaPost today informed that the Gudja Sub Post Office at ‘CND Stationery’, 144, Vjal it-Torri, Gudja GDJ1704 will no longer operate as a Sub Post Office as from Saturday 1st August.

They advised that where delivery of postal items that require a signature to private addresses are unsuccessful, or the items do not fit into the letterbox, arrangements have been made for clients to collect such items from the Post Office at the Malta International Airport Hall, Ħal Luqa LQA 500.

Alternatively one may also choose to get the items delivered to a 24/7 Easipik locker.

30th July

The public was informed that the letterbox situated in Triq Mater Boni Consilii, Paola is now back in service. (*Ref. 22nd May entry*).

03rd August

In today’s communication, MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office at ‘Step in’, Misraħ ir-Rebħa, Birgu BRG 1300, will be closed between Tuesday 4th August and Tuesday 11th August.

During this period, the public may wish to alternatively make use of the postal services provided from Bormla Post Office, located at Block No 14, Flat No. 12, Fuq San Pawl, Bormla BML 1910.

MaltaPost also notified the public that a special handstamp will be issued to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the statue of Saint Lawrence on Tuesday 4th August at the Victoria Post Office.



The single severed-ring hand stamp is inscribed “125TH ANNIVERSARY – STATUE OF ST. LAWRENCE – SAN LAWRENZ, GOZO” along the outside bordering the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – VICTORIA, GOZO - MALTA *” bordering

the ring on the inner side. At the centre of the hand stamp is an outline drawing of the statue's torso. The issue date in a straight line "04-08-20" is to be found right beneath the illustration.

04th August

Today's communication informed the public that the Sub Post Offices situated at Electroit Stationery, Pjazza Fredrick Meample, Hal Qormi QRM 1011 and Wigwam Stationery, Triq il-Qroqq, Msida MSD 1702, will be closed from Saturday 8th August until Friday 15th August.

During these days, Qormi residents were requested to pick up their mail items from the Qormi Post Office situated at 343, Triq il-Vitorja, Hal Qormi QRM 2504.

Msida residents were requested to pick up their mail items from Pieta Post Office situated at Telghet Gwardamanga, Pieta' PTA 1310.

10th August

MaltaPost p.l.c. announced that its Post Offices at 511, Triq San Pawl, St Paul's Bay and at 6, Triq id-Dolmen, Buġibba/Qawra will be providing a temporary evening service from 4.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 11th, Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th August 2020, exclusively for the collection of the registered letters distributing the Government Vouchers.

Residents of these localities were reminded that holders of notices bearing a green header were to visit the Post Office at 511, Triq San Pawl, St Paul's Bay while those with white notices were to retrieve their vouchers from the Post Office located at 6, Triq id-Dolmen, Buġibba/Qawra.

11th August

MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office at 51, Triq Gorg Borg Olivier, Mellieħa MLĦ 1024 will be closed on Monday 17th August.

On this day, the public was advised to make use of the postal services provided from the Mellieħa Post Office situated at 100, Triq il-Miħna l-Ġdida, Mellieħa MLĦ 1107 as an alternative.

The second media communication released informed the public that the Sub Post Office at 'Many Things' Stationery, Triq il-Knisja il-Qadima, Siġġiewi SGW 1704, will be closed on Friday 14th August.

On this day, the public was informed that it could use the postal services provided from Żebbuġ Post Office situated at Triq Sciortino, Żebbuġ ŻBG 1962 as a nearby alternative.

In its final communication for the day, MaltaPost also informed the public that the Sub Post Office at D Spiral Stationery situated at Triq il-Vitorja, Birkirkara BKR 2691, will be closed on Wednesday 12th August.

On this day, the public could make use of the postal services provided from Birkirkara Post Office situated at 58, Triq il-Wied, Birkirkara BKR 9013 as an alternative.

17th August

MaltaPost p.l.c. announced that its four Post Offices located at:

- 511, Triq San Pawl, St Paul's Bay
- 6, Triq id-Dolmen, Buġibba/Qawra
- 21, Pjazza Meme` Scicluna, Gzira
- Telgħet Gwardamangia, Pieta`

will be providing a temporary evening service from 4.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 18th, Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th August, exclusively for the collection of the registered letters distributing the Government Vouchers.

Residents of St Paul's Bay were reminded that holders of notices bearing a green header are to visit the Post Office at 511, Triq San Pawl, St Paul's Bay while those with white notices should retrieve their vouchers from the Post Office located at 6, Triq id-Dolmen, Buġibba/Qawra.

Moreover, all residents in Malta and Gozo who wished to verify their entitlement to the Government vouchers were to call on 80074904 to confirm their entitlement before proceeding to their Post Office for collection. This was so as to avoid unnecessary queuing at the Post Offices.

19th August

MaltaPost today notified that a commemorative handstamp will be issued on Friday 21st August at the Victoria Post Office for the Episcopal Consecration of the Ninth Bishop of Gozo, Mgr Anton Teuma.

The single severed-ring hand stamp is inscribed "EPISCOPAL CONSECRATION – MGR ANTON TEUMA – NINTH BISHOP OF GOZO" along the outside bordering the ring, and "* MALTAPOST – VICTORIA, GOZO - MALTA *" bordering the ring on the inner side. At the centre of the hand stamp is an outline drawing of bishop Teuma's crest. The issue date in a straight line "21-08-20" is to be found right beneath the illustration.



21st August

MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office at L-Għajn Stationery, situated at 100, Triq il-Kbira, Dingli DGL 1837, will be closed on Monday 24th August and will remain closed until Thursday 27th August 2020.

During this period, the public may use the postal services provided from Rabat Post Office situated at the Civic Centre, Misraħ il-Parroċċa, Rabat RBT 1001.

In a separate communication, MaltaPost informed that the Sub Post Office at “Aquavel”, Triq San Bartilmew, Gharghur GHR 1014, will be closed on Monday 24th August.

On this day, the public was advised that if it so wishes it could use the postal services provided from the Naxxar Post Office, situated in Ċentru Ċiviku, Vjal il-Wieħed u Ghoxrin ta’ Settembru, Naxxar NXR 1018.

24th August

MaltaPost announced that its Post Offices located at:

- 511, Triq San Pawl, St Paul’s Bay
- 6, Triq id-Dolmen, Buġibba/Qawra

will once again be providing a temporary evening service from 4.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 25th, Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th August, exclusively for the collection of the registered letters distributing the Government Vouchers.

Residents of St Paul’s Bay were again reminded that holders of notices bearing a green header are to visit the Post Office at 511, Triq San Pawl, St Paul’s Bay while those with white notices should retrieve their vouchers from the Post Office located at 6, Triq id-Dolmen, Buġibba/Qawra.

Moreover, all residents in Malta and Gozo who wish to verify their entitlement to the Government vouchers were to call on 80074904 to confirm their entitlement and to obtain their voucher tracking number before proceeding to their Post Office for collection. This to avoid unnecessary queuing at the Post Offices.

27th August

MaltaPost continued to invest in upgrading the services it offers to its clients with the opening of a new Post Office at 42, Triq Rodolfu Tas-Sliema SLM 1275. This Post Office replaced the Post Office, which was situated at Triq Manwel Dimech in the same locality.

Aside from a range of postal services, this Post Office also retails postage stamps, philatelic items, One-4-All gift vouchers, postage boxes, telephone & mobile

cards, stationery items and greeting cards. This Post Office also offers encashment of Central Bank of Malta cheques, international money transfers, and opening of PostaPay & Save Payment accounts.

The new Post Office in Tas-Sliema will be open as from Thursday 27th August, from Monday to Saturday between 7.30am and 13.00pm.

02nd September

Today's communication informed the public that the Sub Post Office at 'Higher Grades', 93, Triq Kannea, Attard ATD 2703 will be closed until further notice.

During this period, the public was informed that if it so wishes it could make use of the postal services provided from Lija Post Office situated at 2, Triq Mikelang Borg, Lija LJA 1440.

In another separate communication the public was informed that the Sub Post Offices listed below will be closed on Monday 7th September.

- H'Attard Sub Post Office situated at Higher Grades', 93, Triq Kannea, H'Attard ATD 2703.
- Żurriq Sub Post Office situated at AZ Stationery, Vjal l-Indipendenza, Żurriq ZRQ 1317.
- Birkirkara Sub Post Office situated at D Spiral, Triq il-Vitorja, Birkirkara BKR 2691.

04th September

MaltaPost's media communication for today informed that the Sub Post Office at 51, Triq Gorg Borg Olivier, Mellieħa MLH 1024 will be closed on Wednesday 9th September.

On this day, the public was advised that if it so wishes it may make use of the postal services provided from Mellieħa Post Office situated at 100, Triq il-Mithna l-Ġdida, Mellieħa MLH 1107.

In a separate communication, MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office at 'Step in', Misraħ ir-Rebħa, Birgu BRG 1300, will be closed between Wednesday 9th September and Thursday 17th September.

During this period, the public was advised to use the postal services provided from Bormla Post Office at Block No 14, Flat No. 12, Fuq San Pawl, Bormla BML 1910 as an alternative.

10th September

MaltaPost informed that this year's Maltex Philatelic Exhibition and Collector's

Fair will not take place due to the current limitations as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It apologised for any inconvenience caused while thanking all philatelists, collectors and supporters that contribute each year for the success of this exhibition.

14th September

MaltaPost today announced that the Sub Post Office at ‘Step in’, Misraħ ir-Rebħa, Birgu BRG 1300 has reopened again for business. (*Ref: 4th September entry*)

20th September

MaltaPost announced that it has been made aware about a fake news circulating via private message, namely “Oqgħodu attenti min għada taqbdux il-posta b’idejkhom u halluha jumejn qabel tifthuha għaliex sabu 5 pustiera infettati bil-virus” which translates as “Be careful, as of tomorrow do not touch mail and leave it sitting for two days before opening since five post persons were found infected with the virus”. This message is fake news and should be ignored.

In its second communication for today the public was informed that on the 24thSeptember, MaltaPost will issue a second set of stamps featuring dog breeds. The set will consist of sixteen stamps.

Dogs are considered to be the first species of animal to be domesticated. The dog has been selectively bred over millennia and its long association with humans has led dogs to be uniquely attuned to human behaviour.

Each stamp carries a face value of 51c and the set will be issued in a sheet of sixteen stamps, with each stamp measuring 35mm x 35mm, having a comb perforation of 13.75 x 13.75 and bearing the Maltese Cross watermark. The sheets measure 169mm x 169mm and were produced by Printex Ltd in the offset process. The issue consists of 16,000 sheets. The stamps are reproduced from paintings by the Maltese artist Andrew Micallef.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion hand stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.6/2020). The single severed-ring hand stamp is inscribed “DOGS – SERIES No.2” along the outside bordering the ring and “* MALTAPOST ----- MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words and issue date “JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/24-09--20” in straight lines are to be found below an outline image depicting a dog’s paw positioned above a bone at the top centre of the hand stamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue



in Stamp Bulletin numbered as No. 403.

The Gozo Philatelic Society announced in its Facebook page its intention to hold its annual exhibition under the health restriction protocols, between the 31st October and 6th November. It further notified that there will be no official opening due to the Corona Virus restrictions. The staff at the exhibition hall are also authorized to carry out all restrictions as advised by the Health Authorities. All visitors to the exhibition will be required to wear face masks. The venue of the exhibition is the Gozo Ministry Exhibition Hall, while a maximum of ten persons observing social distancing regulations are to be allowed at any one time inside the exhibition hall.

25th September

MaltaPost today informed St. Venera residents that the Sub Post Office situated at C&C Stationery, Fleur De-Lys Street, St. Venera SVR 1580 will be closed until further notice.

During this period, all postal services including collection of mail items will be available at the Hamrun Post Office situated at 18, Triq il-Ferrovija, Hamrun HMR 1900.

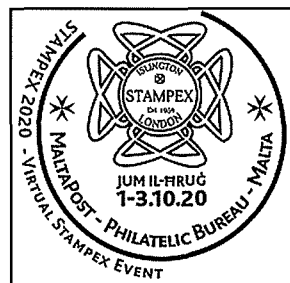
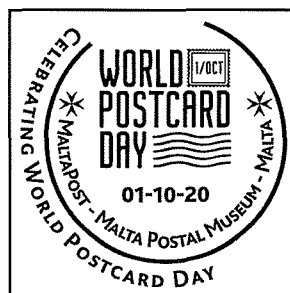
30th September

MaltaPost notified that a commemorative handstamp will be issued on Thursday 1st October at the Malta Postal Museum to commemorate World Postcard Day.

The single severed-ring hand stamp is inscribed “CELEBRATING WORLD POSTCARD DAY” along the outside bordering the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – MALTA POSTAL MUSEUM - MALTA *” bordering the ring on the inner side. At the centre of the hand stamp is an outline drawing of the World Postal Day Logo. The issue date in a straight line “01-10-20” is to be found right beneath the illustration.

Additionally in a separate communication it was also announced that MaltaPost will be participating in the Virtual Stampex Event between 1st and 3rd October 2020.

The Stampex event is organised by the Philatelic Traders’ Society and will take place online where international postal operators will be showcasing their philatelic items online through an online virtual platform. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau will be participating in this event at booth number B20. A variety of Maltese stamps related to various popular themes will be offered at this virtual booth. On these days MaltaPost encouraged everyone



to join it in this Virtual Stampex event by registering online on: <https://stampex.vfairs.com/>

For this event, MaltaPost's Philatelic Bureau issued a Personalised Stamp and Cover featuring the event's logo, which will be available for sale from Thursday 1st October 2020 from all Post Offices.

The single severed-ring hand stamp used on the philatelic material being released is inscribed "STAMPEX 2020 – VIRTUAL STAMPEX EVENT" along the outside bordering the ring, and "* MALTAPOST – PHILATELIC BUREAU - MALTA *" bordering the ring on the inner side. The words and issue date "JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/1-3.10.20" in straight lines are to be found below an outline image depicting the Stampex logo at the top centre of the hand stamp.

12th October

MaltaPost informed that the Sub Post Office at C&C Stationery, Fleur De-Lys Street, St. Venera SVR 1580 has reopened again for business. (*Ref: 25th September entry*)

In today's second media communication it was notified that for the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the Malta Labour Party, a commemorative handstamp was to be issued on Thursday 15th October 2020 and used from the Valletta Post Office in Castille Square.

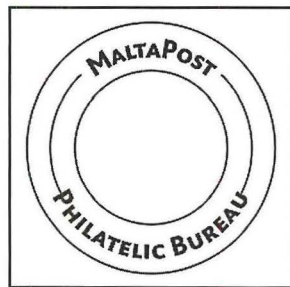
The single severed-ring hand stamp is inscribed "100 SENAANNIVERSARJU PARTIT LABURISTA – 1920 - 2020" along the outside bordering the ring, and "* MALTAPOST – CASTILLE SQR. VALLETTA - MALTA *" bordering the ring on the inner side. At the centre of the hand stamp is an outline drawing of the 100th Anniversary Labour Party Logo. The issue date in a straight line "15-10-20" is to be found right beneath the illustration.



19th October

MaltaPost today notified that a new Philatelic Bureau "dater" handstamp will start being used as from Friday 23rd October 2020.

The double-ring dater bears the words "MALTAPOST / PHILATELIC BUREAU" in it, both sections being separated by arcs. The date is set inside the small inner ring of the hand stamp.



20th October

It was announced that on the 22nd of October, MaltaPost will issue a miniature sheet bearing one stamp to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of St John Paul II.

Saint John Paul II became the 264th pope and the first non-Italian in 455 years. Lasting almost twenty seven years, his pontificate was one of the most important in centuries, building alliances with Jews, Orthodox, Protestants as well as with the post-communist Eastern Europe states and also the State of Israel.

The stamp within the miniature sheet, designed by Miguel Farrugia of MaltaPost, measures 31 mm x 44mm, has a comb perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 and bears the Maltese Cross watermark. The miniature sheet itself measures 120 mm x 80 mm and was produced in the offset process by Printex Ltd. The issue consists of 16,000 miniature sheets with each sheet bearing a value of €3.00.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion hand stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.7/2020). The single severed-ring hand stamp is inscribed “100TH ANNIVERSARY BIRTH OF ST. JOHN PAUL” along the outside bordering the ring and “* MALTAPOST ----- - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words and issue date “JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/22-10--20” in straight lines are to be found below an outline image depicting a portrait of St. John Paul positioned at the top centre of the hand stamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in Stamp Bulletin numbered as No. 404.



28th October

In today’s MaltaPost media communication, it was notified that a commemorative hand stamp will be issued to mark the 21st Annual Gozo Philatelic Exhibition. It will be in use on Saturday 31st October 2020 at the Victoria Post Office in Gozo, situated at 5, Triq Sir Adrian Dingli, Rabat VCT 1441.



The single severed-ring hand stamp is inscribed “GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY 21ST ANNUAL EXHIBITION” along the outside bordering the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – VICTORIA, GOZO - MALTA *” bordering the ring on the inner side. At the centre of the hand stamp is an outline drawing of a sitting figure of Hermes, with the words Arts & Crafts written on the side of the throne. The issue date in a straight line “31-10-20” is to be found right beneath the illustration.

(To be continued)