

## **THE FEAST OF SANT ANNA AT PWALES ON 9TH JULY 2016**

ALPS have done it again. Each year we organize the Feast of St Anne. Much to our surprise, a larger number than expected, have this year turned up for the Festa Sant Anna at the quaint Pwales Chapel on the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2016. Holy mass was celebrated by the Parish Priest of Paul's Bay namely Fr. Micheal Attard. A wonderful sermon was delivered making one and all realize, how much we are in duty bound to help our neighbor and to share from what we have, with persons who may be less fortunate in life. A number of young singers from the "Voices of Faith choir" were singing hymns during Holy Mass. When mass was ended and before the start of a small reception, two Pwales farm neighbors, presented their little babies to the Patron Sant Anna, whose magnificent and colorful statue was displayed at the Main door of the chapel. Thanks to a very kind hearted friend of ALPS Ms. Vivien Warrington, a handmade bouquet of scented flowers were placed at the foot of the statue. This special gift will be preserved solely for the Patron Saint Anne. It is to be noted that for this festa at Pwales chapel, there were lots of preparations for the lighting of the chapel parvis, the passageway, and the inside of the chapel. The cleaning job has taken a good number of hours to make the place look fresh and clean for people to enjoy and to relax in a tranquil and serene atmosphere whilst celebrating with ALPS, the annual feast of Sant Anna.

The surprise of the evening came, when the neighboring farmers lit up some colorful fireworks from their fields below the chapel and the people who were gathered could admire the display. And, to further add pleasure to the evening the same farming community brought along and distributed to everyone, varied fruits that were grown in their own fields. This gesture has added to the merriment and the joy that everyone who was present has felt, whilst surrounded by a good number of people from all walks of life who all enjoyed a simple and a nice FESTA Pwales with the initiative of a hard working council of administration of "The Association of Lyceum Past Students". It is worth mentioning, that additional assistance was given by an ex-council member Tony Aquilina, who continues to keep ALPS to his heart and always offers his help. Another kind heart who also assists, is Alex Bonello who offers his little mini-van to carry people from the parking area and up the hill to reach the Pwales Chapel.

ALPS president George Stagno Navarra, spoke at the start of the evening and made a special appeal to all who were present, to be even more generous this year whilst the association (ALPS) is embarking on a full restoration / refurbishment program of the Pwales chapel. We hope to continue to see even many more new faces participating at Festa Sant Anna in future years too.