

ALPS FULL DAY GUIDED TOUR OF GOZO JUNE 10, 2017

Joseph D Buttigieg

On June 10, 2017, a group of 56 members, their spouses and friends went on a day's trip to Gozo. The coach left on time from San Gwann and headed for the Gozo Ferry terminal at Cirkewwa. Then the group boarded the ferry to Mgarr, from where they boarded another coach to Victoria. Our tour guide Chev. Joe M. Attard then started the walking tour of the restoration project of the Cittadella, including entry into the Cathedral. Interesting to mention, that the dome inside this temple is not real but a *trompe l'oeil* painting, thus producing the dome depicted with three-dimensional realism and misleading one to believe that it is built of stone with windows and paintings all around. Suffice it to say, that there is also a gecko painted on one of the windows to make this masterpiece look closer to reality. This was followed by visits to of the chapel of Saint Barbara, Patron Saint of the Gunners, and to the chapel of Saint Joseph il-Qadim. These chapels are not normally open to the public but by special permission granted to the ALPS group by the Rev. Archpriest of the Cathedral, we could visit these two chapels. It was indeed a great privilege for The Association of Lyceum Past Students (ALPS) to have been granted such a permission. We are grateful to the Cathedral Archpriest for being so kind. When the Cittadella tour was ended, the group then proceeded to lunch at the Lantern restaurant in Marsalforn.

After lunch, the ALPS group went for Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Dominic Sultana, at Ta' Pinu Sanctuary. When mass was ended, the group was given a brief history by one of the priests working on site. The restoration works, that are nearing completion, include four panels of mosaic representing the mysteries of the rosary. The group were then driven for a lightning visit to Ta' Mena in Marsalforn Road where one could purchase Gozitan products like Olive Oils, Honey and Krustini. Boarding the Gozo Ferry, the group returned to Malta on the 17.45 trip, finding the coach awaiting them to transfer everyone back to San Gwann where they had parked their cars in the morning. Many a positive feedback has already reached the ALPS President and other Council members from those who participated in the day tour to the sister island of Gozo.