



Final Report

Watch: During Lent help “Itma u liebes” to help the needy – Archbishop



By **Cedric Farrugia** - March 21, 2021 9:05 AM

Tista' taqra bil- Malti.

Archbishop Charles Scicluna in a video message appealed to the public to endorse the campaign “Itma u liebes” and show solidarity with those in need. The campaign is being carried out by the Archdiocese of Malta, Caritas Parish Diaconia Network, Newsbook.com.mt and 103 Malta’s Heart.

Earlier in March

Watch: Is the Lent 2021 Itma’ u Libbes campaign needed?



The campaign is being organised during Lent to enable the People of God show solidarity with those in need said Mgr. Scicluna.

The Archbishop explained that used clothes and food are being collected. The clothes will be washed and re-sold to collect funds for the various projects run by Caritas in communities, while the food will be distributed amongst the needy.

In his message he referred to the words of Our Lord Jesus Christ “For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I needed clothes and you clothed me.”

Earlier in March

Watch: Food distribution in full swing as Lenten campaign enters final stretch



Itma’ u Libbes Lenten campaign is organised by the Archdiocese of Malta, through the Caritas Parish Diaconia Network, together with Newsbook.com.mt and 103 Malta’s Heart. The aim of *the campaign* is to fundraise money to pay for

healthy meals to be given to those in need, as well as to collect re-usable clothes that are still in good condition. People in need will be given vouchers for food and clothes.

Earlier in March

How the Itma' u Libbes campaign is helping the environment



The campaign innovative idea, apart from helping people in need in a dignified manner, promotes sustainability and environmental friendliness, fulfilling Caritas' commitment to the three important 'Rs' for environmental programmes – Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.

Donations for meals:

- **€11.65 to feed a child for a week (SMS 50619270)**
- **€20 to feed an elderly couple for 5 days (call 51002037)**
- **€50 to feed a family of 4 for 3 days (call 51902072)**

Clothes are being collected:

- **Haż-Żebbuġ Parish Church (details may be obtained by calling)**
- **Dar Ommna Marija, Pjazza Nikola, Siġġiewi (Monday 22 to Friday 26 March from 5pm and 7pm, and 27 and 28 March between 9am and 11am)**

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Cedric Farrugia

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Watch: 'Families cannot survive on less than €10,000 a year'

Fr Hillary Tagliaferro says the increase in homelessness is a new phenomenon we need to face



By **Jurgen Balzan** - March 18, 2021 7:13 PM

Tista' taqra bil- **Malti**.

Families earning less than €10,000 a year live in poverty and need help. Fr Hillary Tagliaferro who runs the Millennium Chapel in Paceville, said.

In an interview with Sylvana Debono about the Itma' u Libbes campaign, Fr Hillary said that although Malta does not have the same levels of poverty found in other countries, the pandemic has created new poverty.

"We live in an affluent society, therefore people were accustomed to a certain standard of living. Suddenly this pandemic hit and now some cannot keep up, and that's where poverty begins."

Fr Hillary, a familiar face in Malta because of his sterling work in the world of sports and broadcasting, said that one of the criteria he uses to identify poverty shows that families earning less than €10,000 a year are living in poverty.

Apart from these families, Fr Hillary said one must add families who cannot afford medicines, especially for rare diseases, people who have lost their jobs or are working fewer hours, and people who have been released from prison and cannot get a job.

Many of them end up homeless and Fr Hillary said that this is a new reality found all over Malta.

"Something new that we are experiencing for the first time in Malta is the large number of people sleeping outside, without a roof over their heads. This is something I constantly see."

You can help too

Watch: Food distribution in full swing as Lenten campaign enters final stretch



He added that although there are many organisations and authorities that provide assistance, homelessness is still an acute problem. So much so that Caritas's Casa Papa Francesco – an emergency shelter for the homeless – is always fully occupied, said Fr Hillary.

Asked what kind of help people seek at the Millennium Chapel, Fr Hillary said they mostly ask for money, but since this cannot be done the chapel provides food, clothes and other services to help those in need.

Itma' u Libbes is a Lent 2021 initiative organised by the Archdiocese of Malta through the Caritas Parish Diaconia Network, together with **Newsbook.com.mt** and **103 Malta's Heart**.

The campaign is meant to help all those going through difficult times, especially during the pandemic that has hit the whole world.

The campaign will be run in an innovative way, totally different from traditional food and clothing fundraising campaigns, as the dignity of the recipients of aid will be at the heart of the campaign.

The public is invited to contribute to the provision of daily meal vouchers for those in need.

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Watch: Food distribution in full swing as Lenten campaign enters final stretch



By **Jurgen Balzan** - March 17, 2021 6:17 PM

Tista' taqra bil- Malti.

Volunteers are busy distributing meals cooked by professional chefs to those in need as the Itma' u Libbes Lenten campaign organised by the Archdiocese of Malta, through the Caritas Parish Diaconia Network, with Newsbook.com.mt and 103 Malta's Heart has entered its last two weeks.

Caritas has three distribution centres, where fresh and healthy food is delivered and then prepared by professional chefs. The packed meals are then distributed to those in need by volunteers.

Apart from fundraising to pay for healthy meals to be given to those in need, the Itma' u Libbes campaign is also collecting re-usable clothes that are still in good condition.

The collection of clothes for Itma' u Libbes campaign continues



Both initiatives are managed in a completely innovative way, by ensuring that people's dignity is at the centre of the initiative.

In a nutshell, the general public has been invited to contribute to the campaign by helping to provide vouchers for daily means, for those in need.

People can help by sending an SMS or calling on:

-
- 5061 9270 (SMS) to donate €11.65 and feed a **child** for a week
 - 5100 2037 (phone) to donate €20 and feed an **elderly couple** for five days
 - 5190 2072 (phone) to donate €50 and feed a **family** of four for three days

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Watch: "Generosity makes a huge difference to those in need" – Albert Debono, Itma' u Libbes



By **Coryse Borg** - March 24, 2021 7:56 AM

Tista' taqra bil- **Malti**.

As part of the *Itma' u Libbes* Lenten campaign by the Archdiocese of Malta through the Caritas Parish Diaconia Network, together with Newsbook.com.mt and 103 Malta's Heart, second-hand clothes good condition have been collected with the aim of helping those struggling in difficult circumstances.

Newsbook.com.mt spoke to Albert Debono from Caritas Diaconia, who explained that so many clothing donations were received, that they are going to have to open up a new warehouse to be able to sort through them all.

After they are donated, re-usable clothes which are still in good condition will go through a process of sorting, washing and pressing before being packed and sold. Those in need of clothing will be able to get vouchers for clothing from parishes and diocesan social entities. That being said, anyone who is interested in re-usable clothing will also be able to buy the clothes at extremely affordable process.

Watch: Food distribution in full swing as Lenten campaign enters final stretch



Filming: Sarah Salafia; Editing: Coryse Borg; Music: www.bensound.com

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“He would live a better life in prison”

A volunteer recounts an experience of extreme poverty



By **Joseph Giordimaina** - March 8, 2021 8:00 AM



Poverty (Credit: PxHere)

Tista' taqra bil- Malti.

Joe* has not paid rent for almost ten years. Among the few pieces of furniture he has in this place, there is a bulky and old television. This television doesn't switch on because Joe stopped paying for the service years ago. Joe was even cut off from phone services. He has dozens of bills still due, and has dozens of letters from lawyers demanding payment for his debts.

Joe's story was shared with [Newsbook.com.mt](https://www.newsbook.com.mt) by a volunteer from his parish who visited him recently. This volunteer told us that Joe says that he would rather be sent to live in prison than be left in the misery he is in.

The daily suffering in which Joe lives

Joe is 67 years old. He lives alone in a small apartment on the third floor. To reach his home, you have to climb 60 steps. Due to being overweight and other health problems, Joe is unable to walk and can barely move. He spends the day on a mattress he has between the bed and the balcony. The parish volunteer was told that Joe uses this mattress to roll from the bed to the balcony. This allows him to look outside while getting some air and sunlight.

To go to the bathroom is not an easy feat for Joe. He doesn't always manage to arrive on time and often ends up making a mess. The residence is cleaned by a helper sent once a week by the state. Once a week, the state also sends a care worker to take care of the wounds on his feet and help him wash. But till that time arrives, Joe is living in a state of dirt and fetid smells.

Unbearable smells

The volunteer recounted how the first time he went to visit Joe, he found the door wide open. The lock was broken. A few weeks before, the neighbours had to call the police because Joe fell and started shouting for help. To come to his aid, the police had no choice but to dump the lock and break down the door.

The volunteer went on to describe how when he came into the kitchen to leave some groceries he had bought for Joe, he found a mess, and unbearable smells. The volunteer left the groceries on the table, greeted Joe and continued with

the visits he had planned. But he could not stop wondering about the situation he found Joe in.

He recounted how in the evening he realized it was futile to give Joe groceries because he could not go to the kitchen to cook. At that moment, the volunteer went to talk to the parish priest and took Joe a ready-cooked meal as they prepare for other people in the parish who cannot cook. The volunteer said Joe was found in the same place where he had left him earlier.

Housing Authority does not want to change his residence

The next morning the volunteer went to visit Joe again. He decided not to leave Joe in the situation he found him in. The volunteer told Newsbook.com.mt that Joe told him that the Housing Authority does not want to change his place of residence and give him somewhere more accessible and suitable for his situation if he does not pay his accrued rents. But Joe only receives a minimum pension. The volunteer also called social services. The first office he picked up told him that because of Joe's age he doesn't fall under their responsibility. The volunteer did not give up. He called another office and was told that Joe is already taking all the social services the state offers.

Despite this, Joe is living alone, on the third floor, with the door open, no television, no telephone, and often in a dirty environment. Joe is sick, he has no family or friends to take care of him. The volunteer told Newsbook.com.mt that some of the circumstances Joe is in were brought about by himself. But this does not reduce or remedy anything from the situation he is in.

So the volunteer said: "Joe is better off in jail. Today he is still living in a prison, but a prison that has neither security, nor hygiene and much less dignity."

How you can help Joe

Itma' u Libbes is the 2021 Lenten campaign organised by the Archdiocese of Malta through the Caritas Parish Diaconia Network, together with Newsbook.com.mt and 103 Malta's Heart, is intended to help people like Joe who are suffering. Call one of the phone numbers below to submit your contribution.

*Joe is a fictitious name that is being used to protect the person's identity. For the same reason, other details have also been altered.

-
- By donating €11.65, you can feed a child for a week (SMS 50619270)
 - By donating €20, you can feed an elderly couple for 5 days (Phone 51002037)
 - By donating €50, you can feed a family of 4 for 3 days (Phone 51902072)

On Saturday:

Listen: Itma' u Libbes: Iklin parish priest overwhelmed by response; Urges public to keep donating



The campaign:

Itma' u libbes: are you ready to help those in need?



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Joseph Giordimaina

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How the Itma' u Libbes campaign is helping the environment

The Archdiocese of Malta, through Caritas Diaconia, Newsbook.com.mt and 103 Malta's Heart, recently launched the Lent 2021 campaign titled Itma' u Libbes.



By **Coryse Borg** - March 12, 2021 7:36 AM



[unsplash.com](#)

The aim of *Itma' u Libbes* is to fundraise money to pay for healthy meals to be given to those in need, as well as to collect re-usable clothes that are still in good condition.

According to the National Office of Statistics, there were 82,700 people at risk of poverty throughout the year of 2020. A further 40,000 were living in severely deprived conditions. When taking the data into consideration, this means that one in every four people is either poor or barely managing to keep their heads above water.

Moved by the figures and constant contact with people who unfortunately, cannot meet their daily requirements, the Archdiocese of Malta and Beacon Media Group, who are the owners of Newsbook.com.mt, as well as 103 Malta's Heart, teamed up to campaign for food and clothing for these people in need.

After they are donated, re-usable clothes which are still in good condition will go through a process of sorting, washing and pressing before being packed and sold. Those in need of clothing will be able to get vouchers for clothing from parishes and diocesan social entities. That being said, anyone who is interested in re-usable clothing will also be able to buy the clothes at extremely affordable process.

Watch: Is the Lent 2021 Itma' u Libbes campaign needed?



Newsbook.com.mt spoke to Albert Debono from Caritas Diaconia, who explained: "the Caritas Parish Diaconia Network deems the care of the environment we live in as part and parcel of the faith we embrace and the values of the gospel we strive to live up to and promote in our communities. "In *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*, the first encyclical from Pope Francis that focused primarily on the environment, he ties environmental concern closely to

concern for the poor. His call for 'ecological conversion' and the development of a 'culture of care' inspires a holistic vision that challenges us 'to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor'," Debono explained.

These activities promote sustainability and environmental friendliness, fulfilling Caritas' commitment to the three important '**Rs**' for environmental programmes:

- **Reduce** the volume of clothing that goes to waste treatment facilities.

First of all the clothes donated will go through a process of verification. Good clothes will be chosen from those that are totally worn out; however clothing that just needs some TLC to become usable again will be mended and hems will be re-sewed, in order to make sure that all clothes that still can serve their purpose will not be thrown away.

- **Reuse** the majority of clothing that is discarded

The good clothing material will be thus mended where necessary, washed and pressed in a laundry Caritas is setting up, marked clearly that it is a reusable piece of clothing that was donated to support the provision of support services of the needy by the church, and added to the stock of a shop they will be setting up in Valletta.

Everyone will be able to buy reusable clothes from this shop at a fixed and affordable price but with a voucher system. In this way, when people are shopping there will be no identification would be possible to know between who got the vouchers because the parish priest/social professional gave them for free, so they can choose the clothing they need for their family, or anybody else who would be buying the cloth items as part of their commitment towards the environment.

All proceeds from the sale of such clothes will go to a fund that will be created to support Diaconia initiatives in parishes who will in turn be able to reach further in their help to the families in need they come across and need to support.

- **Recycle** clothes that are in bad shape so that they can be transformed into other products.

The clothes that would have no more life in them in the shape of clothing will be recycled in various items. They are forging collaborations with similar agencies in Europe in order to make sure that the least possible amount (if any) of the items that reach them will end as general waste but find some way to give them a new life in some shape or form.

You can donate reusable clothing as follows:

- Iklin Parish Church until 14 March, you may leave the clothes in front of the door of the parish priest's house, on the porch located in the church complex
- Kalkara Parish Centre until 14 March (please call Parish Priest Fr Brian on mob. no: +356 7970 8879 beforehand)
- Qrendi Parish Church between 15 and 21 March (5.30 – 7.00 pm)
- Żebbuġ Parish Church (please call re: dates/times)
- *Sala San Ġwakkin* in Marsaskala on 16 March (6.30 – 7.30 pm), 18 March (6.30 – 7.30 pm) and 20 March (6.00 – 8.00 pm)
- St George Parish Church, Qormi (6.30 am to 8.30am and 4.15 pm to 5.45 pm)

Graphic: Newsbook.com.mt

You can also help by donating:

- €11.65 to feed a child for a week (SMS 50619270)
- €20 to feed an elderly couple for 5 days (call 51002037)
- €50 to feed a family of 4 for 3 days (call 51902072)

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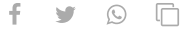
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Coryse Borg

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Watch: Is the Lent 2021 Itma' u Libbes campaign needed?

Albert Debono recounts meeting a mother who could not feed her children.



By **Charmaine Attard** - March 10, 2021 2:11 PM

Tista' taqra bil- Malti.

The Archdiocese of Malta, through Caritas Diaconia, [Newsbook.com.mt](https://www.newsbook.com.mt) and 103 Malta's Heart have just launched Lent 2021 campaign titled **Itma' u Libbes**.

Is there need for such a campaign?

This Wednesday at 5pm Sylvana Debono will interview Albert Debono from Caritas Diaconia to explain more about this campaign.

-
- Is it true that there are people in Malta who do not have enough to eat?
 - Are there poor people in Malta?
 - When we say 'poor' what do we mean?
 - How can the campaign organisers say that they can provide a healthy meal for €2.50?
 - Will this campaign respect the dignity of those in need?
 - What use will you make of the second hand clothes that people will donate?

Albert Debono will share his experience of contact with poor people in Malta. He will recount his meeting with a mother who did not have enough food to feed her children.

On Wednesday at 5pm on [Newsbook.com.mt](https://www.newsbook.com.mt) during a special edition of **Newsbook Q&A**.

You can help:

-
- by giving € 11.65 to feed a child for a week (SMS 50619270)
 - by giving € 20 to feed an elderly couple for 5 days (call 51002037)
 - by giving € 50 to feed a family of 4 for 3 days (call 51902072)

You can also donate reusable clothing:

- at the Iklin Parish Church between 8 and 14 March, during times of mass
- at the Kalkara Parish Centre between 8 and 14 March (9-11.30am)
- at the Qrendi Parish Church between 15 and 21 March (5.30-7pm)
- at the Żebbuġ Parish Church during times of mass
- at the Sala San Ġwakkin in Marsaskala on 16 March (6.30-7.30pm), 18 March (6.30-7.30pm) and 20 March (6-8pm)
- at the St George Parish Church in Qormi during times of mass

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Charmaine Attard



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Itma' u libbes: are you ready to help those in need?



By **Cedric Farrugia** - March 5, 2021 9:25 AM



Photo: Steve Knutson, unsplash.com

Tista' taqra bil- Malti.

Itma' u Libbes is the 2021 Lenten campaign organised by the Archdiocese of Malta through the Caritas Parish Diaconia Network, together with **Newsbook.com.mt** and 103 Malta's Heart, aimed at alleviating those struggling in strained circumstances. The campaign will fundraise money to pay for healthy meals to those in need, as well as to collect re-usable clothes which are still in very good condition. Both initiatives will be managed in an innovative way, totally different from traditional campaigns fundraising for food and clothing. The dignity of those who will receive this help will be central to this campaign.

Is such a campaign needed?

Data by the National Office of Statistics shows that in 2020 those who are at risk of poverty are a staggering 82,700 persons while a further 40,000 are living in severely deprived conditions. This means that one in every four persons is either poor or only managing to keep their heads above water.

Moved by these figures and the constant contact with persons who cannot meet their daily needs, the Archdiocese of Malta and Beacon Media Group, owners of **Newsbook.com.mt** and 103 Malta's Heart, have teamed up to campaign for food and clothing for those who cannot afford these daily needs.

Providing daily healthy meals

The general public is being invited to contribute by helping to provide vouchers for daily meals for those in need. The meals will be cooked by professional chefs and will include the ingredients needed for a healthy diet.

Archbishop Charles Jude Scicluna said that: "We are proud to be working through the Diaconia Network and Newsbook and 103 to accomplish the direction given to us by Christ: to feed the hungry and cloth the poor. Though this is a Lenten initiative, we hope that through people's generosity we may continue to relieve the hunger of those in need and to cloth those who find it difficult to make ends meet".

Re-usable clothing

The address of the places where the clothes can be deposited from the coming Monday will be announced in the coming days. Re-usable clothes will go through a process of sorting, washing and pressing before being packed and sold. These activities also promote sustainability and environmental friendliness, fulfilling our environmental commitment.

Those in need of clothing will be able to get vouchers for clothing from parishes and diocesan social entities. However, those interested in re-usable clothing too may be able to buy such clothing at extremely affordable prices. In the first week, clothes may be deposited at the parish church of Iklin during the times of mass and at Kalkara parish centre between 9am-11:30am. Each week different parishes will be announced and published on **Newsbook.com.mt** and 103 Malta's heart.

Albert Debono, responsible for the coordination of diaconia work in parishes, said: "How many times have we complained that we do not have anything to wear? Well, some of us really have that problem. Do not throw away clothes. Give them to Caritas Parish Diaconia Network and someone will certainly give them a loving home".

Fr Joe Borg, Chair of the Editorial Board of Beacon Media Group said that **Newsbook.com.mt** and 103 Malta's Heart are proud to be part of this campaign. "Our media, as partners of the campaign, will be giving maximum publicity to the praiseworthy initiative", said Fr Borg.

How you may help?

With a donation of €11.65 you can feed a child for a week (SMS 50619270)

With a donation of €20 you can feed an elderly couple for 5 days (Phone 51002037)

With a donation of €50 you can feed a family of 4 for 3 days (Phone 51902072)

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SWITCH TO ENGLISH 

Filmat: Miġburin 41 vann mimlijin ħwejjeg u €26,000

Mill-kampanja Itma' u Libbes



Minn **Mark Camenzuli** - 2 ta' April 2021 6:13 PM

Read in [English](#).

Permezz tal kampanja **Itma' u Libbes**, organizzata mill Arċidjoċesi ta' Malta permezz tat-Taqsima tad-Djkonija fil-Parroċċi ta' Caritas Malta, ingabru 41 vann mimlijin ħwejjeg u €26,000 għal persuni fil-bżonn. Il-kampanja saret matul ir-Randan bl-appoġġ ta' [Newsbook.com.mt](#) u **103 Malta's Heart**.

F'kummenti lil [Newsbook.com.mt](#), Albert Debono mill-Caritas Djakonija, il-qalb u l-moħħ ta' din il-kampanja, stqarr li l-aspettattiva li kellhom intlaħqet u nqabżet. Filwaqt li rringrazzja lil kull min ta l-kontribut tiegħu, Debono tenna li huma sodisfatti u kunteni ħafna b'din il-ġabra.

Donazzjonijiet ta' hwejjeg

Debono tkellem fuq kif bħalissa qegħdin jaħdmu fuq inizjattivi barra minn Malta li huma wkoll favur l-ambjent, biex isiru donazzjonijiet ta' hwejjeg użati. Debono qal li waqt li normalment sittin fil-mija tal-hwejjeg ikunu għadhom f'kundizzjoni tajba, disġin fil-mija tal-hwejjeg mogħtija mill-parroċċi huma f'kundizzjoni tajba ħafna. Il-hwejjeg li jingħataw qegħdin f'żewġ depots, u jinqasmu skont humiex għall-irġiel, nisa jew tfal, kif ukoll hwejjeg tas-sajf, xitwa, u mezzotemp.

Il-pjan hu li jinfetaħ ħanut tal-hwejjeg 'reusable' il-Belt Valletta, u dak li jkun jista' jixtri l-hwejjeg bi prezz fiss bil-qliġ kollu jmur go fond għad-Djagonija fil-Parroċċi. Hemm pjan għal 'laundry' fejn il-hwejjeg jinħaslu, jiġu ppressati, u jinbiegħu fil-ħanut.

1 minn 2 < >



Kampanja Itma' u Libbes

Il-preparament tal-ikel

Bħalissa l-parroċċi kollha qegħdin jgħinu biex jitimghu 1,500 familja. Għal dawk il-familji li jistgħu jsajru jingħata hamper mimli ikel, filwaqt li dawk il-familji li għal xi raġuni ma jistgħux isajru, jingħataw ikliet lesti. Kuljum, qal Debono, jitqassmu madwar mitt ikla. Dawn l-ikliet huma ppreparati minn kċejjen professjonali grazzi għall-Fondazzjoni Alf Mizzi, li hija l-ikbar sostenitur ta' din il-kampanja.

"Bdejna mod speċjali l-ikliet tal-Milied imma matul il-Covid kien hemm żmien tqassmu 850 kuljum fil- 'peak' għal nies li ma setgħux isajru".

Debono faħħar il-ġenerożità tal-voluntiera u ta' kull min jaħdem biex kampanji bħal dawn ikomplu jirnexxu. "Nibqa' nżommha f'qalbi meta mort is-sena l-oħra fil-'lockdown' li mort nara nies jaħdmu minn qalbhom u x-xewqa tagħhom kienet fl-Għid xtaqu jagħtu ikla speċjali lil dawn in-nies".

Kċejjen godda

Minhabba l-Covid, uħud mill-pjanijiet ta' Debono kellhom jitwaqqfu ħesrem. Huwa spjega li meta tgħaddi l-pandemija se jifthu kċejjen għal min ikun għaddej mis-solitudni. "Għandna proġett pilota għaddej il-Qawra u b'vawċer ikun jista' jiehdu ikla żgħira nutrittiva fil-kumpanija ta' ħaddieħor".

Id-differenza innovattiva, kif spjega Debono, hi li min jiflaħ iħallas il-prezz ċkejken ikun jista' jixtri vawċers, waqt li vawċers oħrajn imorru għal min hu iktar fil-bżonn. Is-sabiħ tagħha din l-inizjattiva hi li ma teżistix distinzjoni bejn il-fqir u mhux, għax kulhadd ikun jista' jpoġġi flimkien għall-ikel ġo dawn il-kċejjen.

Meta mistoqsi dwar il-prezz ta' kull ikla, Debono kkummenta li għal dawk in-nies li jkun jistgħu jħallu għall-ikel, il-prezz huwa ta' €2.50. "Naslu għal €2.50 għax jgħinuna ħafna oħrajn. It-€2.50 huwa dak li ma nistgħux ma nħallsux – tal-kaxxa, tal-preparament, tad-dawl u ilma".

L-għarfien

Debono jagħraf ukoll li parti importanti li twassal għas-suċċess ta' kampanja bħal din hi l-għarfien. Stqarr li n-nies bdew isiru iktar konxji, u li l-ingaġġ huwa l-ikbar rebħa ta' dawn l-aħħar tliet gimgħat. Il-fatt li ħafna aktar nies semgħu bil-kampanja, li staqsew, u li riedu jkun jafu aktar kollha għenu biex il-kampanja tkompli tilhaq l-għanijiet tagħha. Kien hemm parroċċi, spjega Debono, li avviċinawh u esprimew ix-xewqa li jieħdu sehem.

"Dan l-engagement huwa l-iktar ħaġa long-term li rbaħna f'dil-kampanja. Nixtiequ li d-djkonija, ssir b'dinjità u bi prinċipju ta' sussidjarità fejn kulhadd għandu spazju, kulhadd benefattur u kulhadd huwa benefiċċjarju għal xulxin".

Sejha għall-volontiera

Biex din il-kampanja tkompli tkun ta' suċċess hemm bżonn ta' volontiera. Min jixtieq isir volontier jista' jżur is-sit djakonija.org u jagħfas fuq it-tabella 'Ftit Min Qalb Kbira' fejn tista' ssir l-applikazzjoni għall-volontarjat. Inizjattivi oħrajn jinkludu gruppi fuq 'WhatsApp' fejn wieħed jista' jhalli n-numru tiegħu u jwieġeb skont is-sejha li ssir.

Dwar il-kampanja

Filmat: Maħzen ieħor biex jintgħażlu l-hwejjeg miġbura waqt il-kampanja Itma' u Libbes



Min hu lest li jagħti hwejjeg jew flus x'jista' jagħmel?

Fil-futur se jkun hemm iżjed kampanji bħal din. In-numri tal-linji fissi u tal-mowbajl se jibqgħu l-istess, għalhekk dawn jistgħu jibqgħu jintużaw. Se tinholq ukoll il-Caritas Parish Djakonja Network li hi entità li se tmexxi dawn il-kċejjen u l-ħwienet. Dak li jkun jista' javviċinawh u jkellimhom.

L-appell tal-Arcisqof

Fl-omelija tal-bieraħ l-Arcisqof Charles Scicluna tkellem fuq il-kampanja, u appella biex in-nies: “Il-Knisja f’dan ir-Randan, bil-kampanja **Itma’ u Libbes** ippruvat tagħmel ħilitha biex tobdi l-kmand ta’ Ġesù. Kont bil-ġuħ u tmajtuni, kont bil-ġhatx u sqejtuni, kont għeri u libbistuni. Min jaf kemm għad ikollna nsofru konsegwenzi ta’ dak li għadda minna. Min jaf kemm ansjetà fil-poplu tagħna... Il-poplu tagħna għandu bżonn u dritt tal-faraġ li jagħtih il-Mulej”.

Ilbieraħ

Filmat: Il-knejjes miftuħa l-Ġimgħa għat-talb skont ir-restrizzjonijiet tal-awtoritajiet – L-Arcisqof



Kif tista’ tgħin?

Itma’ tifel jew tifla għal ġimgħa b’SMS fuq 50619270 – €11.65

Itma koppja anzjana għal ġimgħa – ċempel 51002037 – €20

Itma’ familja (2 ġenituri u 2 ulied) għal 3 ijiem – ċempel 51902072 – €50

Ixxerja din l-istorja



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Mark Camenzuli

Ikkummenta

Old clothes in closet can help feed needy families

JESSICA ARENA

Sweaters that have sat in your drawers unworn for a year or two could find a new lease of life thanks to a new Lent drive by the Archdiocese of Malta, which is seeking to provide nutritious meals and quality clothing to people struggling to get by during these difficult times.

The *Itma u Libbes* (feed and clothe) campaign is being run by the parish diaconia division of Caritas Malta, who oversees community services to the needy in various parishes.

While the donations will go towards nutritious and healthy meals, which are prepared to the receiver's needs, the campaign is looking for good quality clothes that still have life in them and can be used. After being washed and treated, the

clothes will be set up at a shop where they can be bought by the public, with the proceeds funding the meals programme.

To make purchases at the shop, cash must be exchanged for vouchers, which can, in turn, be exchanged for the re-used clothes.

"The difference is that every person who makes use of this shop will be paying with vouchers and, while people who make use of our services will receive free vouchers, we feel this is more dignified than handing people a black trash bag full of random clothes," Albert Debono, who is overseeing the drive, said.

"We sought to set up this social enterprise so that those who need help can get it with dignity and not feel hampered by social stigma."

Debono said that, while a number of people were able to tiptoe along the line of poverty,

Assistance

Donations of €11.65 can be made by SMS on 50619270.

Donations of €20 can be made by calling 51002037.

Donations of €50 can be made by calling 51002037.

Clothes can be dropped off at the Qrendi parish church between today and March 21 from 5.30 to 7pm, at the Żebbuġ parish church, at the San Gwakklin hall, in Marsascala on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays between 6.30 and 7.30pm and at the St George parish church, Qormi.

the new reality of the pandemic aggravated their situation to the breaking point.

"This year, for quite a number of people, was the last push off the edge," he said.



Old clothes can help those in need. PHOTO: VIA UNSPLASH

"We had a reality of people who were living week to week and getting by but the pandemic finally forced them to the point of asking for outside help.

"But it is not just about numbers. Of course, just one person in a dire situation is one too many. The number of people living in extreme poverty has been reduced but the extremity of the poverty has grown.

"There are people who come to us saying, 'thank you, it has

been a few years since I have been able to give my child a toy to enjoy' or parents who tell us they do not feed themselves so that their children can have a fulfilling meal.

"This is why we commit ourselves to community development. We are happy to support each other without much noise and to be able to identify those who need our help and reach out to the right places," Debono said.

'People can become poor overnight' – Bernardette Briffa



By **Jurgen Balzan** - March 30, 2021 8:59 PM

| Tista' taqra bil- **Malti**.

People can become poor overnight, Bernardette Briffa from Caritas warned as the 2021 Lenten campaign **Itma' u Libbes** entered its final week.

"All of a sudden some people find themselves owing thousands in arrears to social services and their benefits are slashed by half, in one instance the benefits were halved from €400 to €200," Briffa said.

Briffa, who has worked at Caritas for a number of years, added other people who suffer such sudden changes in fortune are people addicted to gambling, victims of usury, alcoholics, and drug addicts.

She added that contrary to popular belief, people suffering from any kind of addiction are not single. "Most of them have families, and these require assistance," Briffa said.

The first Covid-19 wave exposed the real extent of poverty, Briffa added, with thousands seeking assistance from the various food banks in Malta.

Poverty does not only strike Maltese people and in recent months, Briffa said, she discovered a myriad of different nationalities facing difficulties, ranging from EU nationals to people from Australia and Bangladesh.

And with the recent spike in Covid-19 cases, Briffa said Caritas is bracing itself for another increase in demand for food from people of all nationalities and from all walks of life.

Briffa who leads Caritas' small team of social workers and counsellors said people come forward with various requests for help and although Caritas does not give any cash handouts it assists people who cannot pay their rent, utility bills, medicine and basic needs like food.

While noting that Caritas carries out assessments to ensure that the cases are genuine, Briffa said the Covid-19 pandemic "was a new experience which thought new ways of how to deal with the situation."

Briffa was speaking to Sylvana Debono on **Itma' u Libbes** campaign organised by the Archdiocese of Malta through the Caritas Parish Diaconia Network, together with **Newsbook.com.mt** and 103 Malta's Heart, aimed at alleviating those struggling in strained circumstances.

The campaign will fundraise money to pay for healthy meals to those in need, as well as to collect re-usable clothes which are still in very good condition. Both initiatives will be managed in an innovative way, totally different from traditional campaigns fundraising for food and clothing. The dignity of those who will receive this help will be central to this campaign.

How can you help?

Watch: Is the Lent 2021 Itma' u Libbes campaign needed?



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Jurgen Balzan

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Watch: 'Some are embarrassed to admit they're poor'



By **Jurgen Balzan** - March 16, 2021 8:00 AM

Tista' taqra bil- **Malti**.

"While some are not shy to ask for money, others are embarrassed to admit they're poor and hide all their problems ". Catherine Fleri Soler said this in an interview with Sylvana Debono on the importance of safeguarding the dignity of those in need as the **Itma' u Libbes** campaign is underway.

Fleri Soler, who works with the Sebħ Foundation which offers services to families in the Ħamrun community, said that some people hide their problems so well that its difficult to tell they are poor from the outside.

Fleri Soler said that from her experience she has met many families who struggle to make ends meet.

"Food prices and other essentials are always rising and people end up in a vicious cycle because they can never keep up with the cost of living."

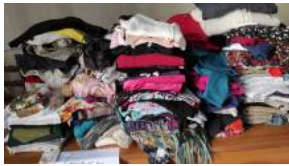
She said that the so-called working poor have no guarantee they will improve their lives automatically because they have a job.

"You have to see what kind of work you are doing and how much you are earning, and what quality of life the job is giving you. Because if you work from morning to evening and you never see the family, the quality of the your life is poor ".

Malta's size, Fleri Soler added, amplifies exclusion and "the hurt of poverty in Malta is worse because you can always compare yourself to who is better than you".

She also spoke about the abuse in a context of poverty where she mentioned the case of a poor pensioner who was suffering from mental health problems and was being taken advantage of from his neighbours. These neighbours "unscrupulously" took €20 or €50 from the pensioner as soon as he got his allowance to get him a pack of cigarettes. Others, Fleri Soler said, pay €500 a month to rent two small rooms.

The collection of clothes for Itma' u Libbes campaign continues



The **Itma' u Libbes** campaign is designed to raise money for meals for those in need. Reusable and reusable clothes were also collected.

According to the National Statistics Office in 2020 there were 82,700 people at risk of poverty while another 40,000 are living in poor conditions.

Itma' u Libbes is a Lent 2021 initiative organised by the Archdiocese of Malta through the Caritas Parish Diaconia Network, together with **Newsbook.com.mt** and **103 Malta's Heart**.

The campaign is meant to help all those going through difficult times, especially during the pandemic that has hit the whole world.

The campaign will be run in an innovative way, totally different from traditional food and clothing fundraising campaigns, as the dignity of the recipients of aid will be at the heart of the campaign.

The public is invited to contribute to the provision of daily meal vouchers for those in need.

How may you help?

- With a donation of €11.65 you can feed a child for a week (SMS 50619270)
- With a donation of €20 you can feed an elderly couple for 5 days (Phone 51002037)
- With a donation of €50 you can feed a family of 4 for 3 days (Phone 51902072)

Itma' u libbes: are you ready to help those in need?



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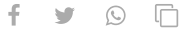
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'Some families cannot afford school lunches for their kids' – Marika Borg Wirth



By **Jurgen Balzan** - March 31, 2021 3:00 PM

Tista' taqra bil- Malti.

Some families send their children to school without packed lunch because they cannot afford it, social worker Marika Borg Wirth said.

Borg Wirth who also coordinates the Caritas section in St Julian's explained that although some schools, especially state schools, do provide lunch for disadvantaged students the process takes long. "That's why emergency funds are important," she added.

Paraphrasing the oft-quoted saying, Borg Wirth said "we don't believe we should give people a fish but we provide them with a fishing rod."

However, she said, some people find themselves in extreme situations and they are in need of urgent material assistance.

"Some families cannot afford to prepare school lunches for their kids," she said, while other families cannot afford to pay for medicine or basic needs such as replace a water heater.

The Caritas section she leads has provided at least three families with water heaters in the middle of winter, she said.

Among the people who need urgent help, Borg Wirth said are elderly people and victims of domestic abuse who do not have the necessary means to survive.

"We are currently paying for a persons' medicines which cost €100 a month," she said, adding that "its a joke" to expect some pensioners to get by with €450 a month.


Listing different kinds of poverty, Borg Wirth said they all lead to social exclusion.

Borg Wirth was speaking to Sylvana Debono on **Itma' u Libbes**, the 2021 Lenten campaign organised by the Archdiocese of Malta through the Caritas Parish Diaconia Network, together

with [Newsbook.com.mt](#) and 103 Malta's Heart, aimed at alleviating those struggling in strained circumstances.

The campaign will fundraise money to pay for healthy meals to those in need, as well as to collect re-usable clothes which are still in very good condition. Both initiatives will be managed in an innovative way, totally different from traditional campaigns fundraising for food and clothing. The dignity of those who will receive this help will be central to this campaign.

You can help...
Itma' u libbes: are you ready to help those in need?



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Jurgen Balzan

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Watch: “Some people do not have clothes to keep warm in winter”

Itma' u Libbes campaign providing second-hand clothes for those in need



By **Jurgen Balzan** · March 12, 2021 5:00 PM

Poverty does not only manifest itself in hunger and there are families who do not have adequate clothes to live a normal life.

Albert Debono, responsible for the coordination of Caritas with the parishes explained how clothes also give dignity to a person.

However it is not just a matter of dignity but also of survival, Debono said. “Some people do not have adequate clothes to keep themselves warm in the cold winter months”.

He explained that clothes are not only useful to look good but also to be able to live normally and comfortably in everyday life.

Debono was speaking in an interview with Sylvana Debono on 103 Malta's Heart about the Itma' u Libbes campaign. This campaign is intended to raise money for meals for those in need, as well as to collect and redistribute clothes that are still in good condition and reusable.

Watch: Is the Lent 2021 Itma' u Libbes campaign needed?



He spoke about the realities of people who do not have the means to buy clothes like everyone else because there are those who have to prioritise more essential things.

“Sometimes people have to choose what they need to buy first”, Debono said, adding that while clothes are expensive not everyone has the ability to seek and gain access to cheaper clothes.

He said the clothes collected in the Itma' u Libbes campaign will be washed and returned to a “usable and presentable” state.

He explained that there are plans to open a shop where used clothes can be bought through a system of vouchers in order to protect the dignity of all those in need. Vouchers can be purchased from various points of sale and “with the

support of people like you and me, we can help those in need," Debono concluded.

Data by the National Office of Statistics shows that in 2020 those who are at risk of poverty are a staggering 82,700 persons while a further 40,000 are living in severely deprived conditions.

"Each and everyone of us, without exception, has the potential to be benefactor or a beneficiary," Debono said.

Listen: Itma' u Libbes: Iklin parish priest overwhelmed by response; Urges public to keep donating



Itma' u Libbes is the 2021 Lenten campaign organised by the Archdiocese of Malta through the Caritas Parish Diaconia Network, together with Newsbook.com.mt and 103 Malta's Heart, aimed at helping those in need.

The campaign will raise funds to pay for healthy meals, as well as to collect reusable clothes which are still in very good condition. The campaign is designed to help all those going through difficult times, especially during the pandemic that has hit the whole world.

The campaign will be run in an innovative way, totally different from traditional food and clothing fundraising campaigns, as the dignity of those who will receive aid will be at the heart of the campaign.

The public is invited to contribute to providing daily meal vouchers for those in need. Meals will be cooked by professional chefs and will include the ingredients needed for a healthy diet.

You can help:

- by giving € 11.65 to feed a child for a week (SMS 50619270)
- by giving € 20 to feed an elderly couple for 5 days (call 51002037)
- by giving € 50 to feed a family of 4 for 3 days (call 51902072)

You can donate reusable clothing as follows:

- Iklin Parish Church until 14 March, you may leave the clothes in front of the door of the parish priest's house, on the porch located in the church complex
- Kalkara Parish Centre until 14 March (please call Parish Priest Fr Brian on mob. no: +356 7970 8879 beforehand)
- Qrendi Parish Church between 15 and 21 March (5.30 – 7.00 pm)
- Żebbuġ Parish Church (please call re: dates/times)
- Sala San Ġwakkin in Marsaskala on 16 March (6.30 – 7.30 pm), 18 March (6.30 – 7.30 pm) and 20 March (6.00 – 8.00 pm)
- St George Parish Church, Qormi (6.30 am to 8.30am and 4.15 pm to 5.45 pm)

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New activity

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**Sue-sue Midolo** shared a link.

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

Good morning. Our School fully supports the initiative of the Catholic Church in Malta called 'Itma' u libbes' as per link hereunder.

We encourage all those who can to contribute to this worthy cause either by sponsoring food vouchers or by giving unused good clothes.

<https://newsbook.com.mt/itma-u-libbes-lest-tghin-lil-persuni-fil-bzonn/>

Best

Ms Sue and Mr Brian
Head of School Office



NEWSBOOK.COM.MT

Itma' u libbes: lest tghin lil persuni fil-bzonn? - Newsbook

The collection of clothes for Itma' u Libbes campaign continues



By **Jurgen Balzan** - March 15, 2021 4:11 PM



Ritratt: Kampanja Itma' u Libbes

Tista' taqra bil- Malti.

The *Itma' u Libbes* campaign will continue to collect clothing for those in need in the coming days.

Anyone wishing to contribute can do so on the following dates and times:

Between the 15th and the 21st of March

Qrendi

- Parish church
- Between 5:30 pm and 7pm

Marsaskala

- Sala San Ġwakkin
- Tuesday 16 March between 6.30pm and 7.30pm
- Thursday 18 March between 6.30pm and 7.30pm
- Saturday 20th March between 6pm and 7pm.

Between 22nd and 28th March

Haż-Żebbuġ

- Archpriest's Church
- Between 7am and 8:30 am

Siggiewi

- Dar Ommna Marija, St Nicholas Square
- From Monday 22 March to Friday 26 March between 5pm and 7pm
- Saturday 27 March and Sunday 28 March between 9am and 11am

Read more

Watch: Is the Lent 2021 Itma' u Libbes campaign needed?



The clothes that will be collected in the campaign will be washed and returned in a usable and presentable state. Apart from that, the campaign is also meant to raise money for meals for those in need.

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Read more

Itma' u libbes: are you ready to help those in need?



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Jurgen Balzan

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Watch: ‘Yesterday I could not feed my children’

Over 1,500 sought parishes' help for food in recent months



By **Jurgen Balzan** - March 9, 2021 9:48 PM

Poverty is faceless and is everywhere, Caritas' Albert Debono said, adding that parents are feeling powerless as they send their children to bed hungry.

Debono, in charge of coordinating Caritas with parish churches, stressed that although poverty is often hidden, it does not mean that it does not exist.

Debono was speaking during an interview with Sylvana Debono on **103 Malta's Heart** about the Itma' u Libbes campaign designed to raise money for meals for those in need, as well as to collect clothes that are still in good condition and reusable. .

Asked whether poverty is real or just a perception, Debono recounted the moving and harsh reality of a mother.

"I will never forget the words uttered by a mother telling me 'today the children will eat,' and I told her 'how come?' She went on to tell me 'because yesterday I could not feed them and I did not know whether I would be able to feed them today.'"

Debono said that poverty is caused by various reasons and did not rule out the fact that people experiencing poverty could help themselves out of their condition and stressed the importance of education.

However, Debono said "at the same time we can't help but admit" that poverty is a reality as he recounted the story of another mother who sent her children to sleep without feeding them.

"A dear colleague of mine told me a similar story where a mother told her 'last night I sent my kids to bed whilst telling them that the food was on the stove. I told them to wait a little longer, to play a little more, until they fell asleep. I knew there was no food on the stove but I didn't have the gall to tell them I had nothing to feed them.'"

Debono said this is a reality that is affecting many people as he went on to say that more than 1,500 families have sought help from parishes for food in the last few months.

Data by the National Office of Statistics shows that in 2020 those who are at risk of poverty are a staggering 82,700 persons while a further 40,000 are living in severely deprived conditions.

"Each and everyone of us, without exception, has the potential to be benefactor or a beneficiary," Debono said.

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- by giving € 50 to feed a family of 4 for 3 days (call 51902072)

You can also donate reusable clothing:

- at the Iklin Parish Church between 8 and 14 March, during times of mass
- at the Kalkara Parish Centre between 8 and 14 March (9-11.30am)
- at the Qrendi Parish Church between 15 and 21 March (5.30-7pm)
- at the Żebbuġ Parish Church during times of mass
- at the Sala San Ġwakkin in Marsaskala on 16 March (6.30-7.30pm), 18 March (6.30-7.30pm) and 20 March (6-8pm)
- at the St George Parish Church in Qormi during times of mass

The full interview will be aired on Wednesday at 5pm, in a special edition of Newsbook Q&A.

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