

# Programme of events for the Feast of St Dominic in Vittoriosa

## Thursday, 25th August 2011

From 20.30hrs onwards, band march around the streets of Birgu by 'Nicolo Isuard Band' of Mosta.

## Friday, 26th August 2011

From 20.30hrs onwards, the 'Prince of Wales Own' Band, will accompany the statue of St. Dominic around the street of Birgu until it is raised on to a large pedestal at around midnight, among cheering crowds, bell ringing and fireworks displays.

## Saturday, 27th August 2011

Between 10.00hrs and 14.00 hrs. The 'Prince of Wales Own' Band will play band marches during the traditional morning march around the streets of Birgu.

At 21.00 hrs. The 'Prince of Wales Own' Band will take part in a grand concert of modern and classical music accompanied by synchronised fireworks, on St. John Tower. There will be seating and entrance is completely free. This will be followed by a display of ground fireworks at around 23.00 hrs till midnight.

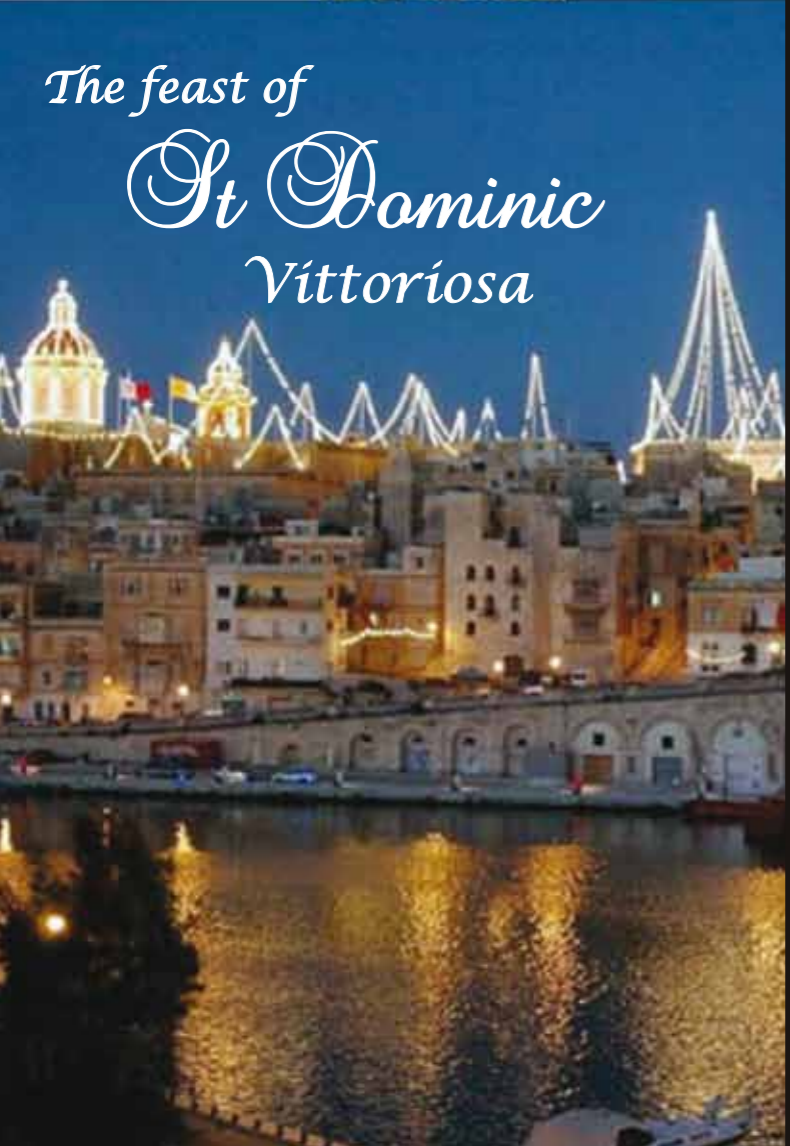
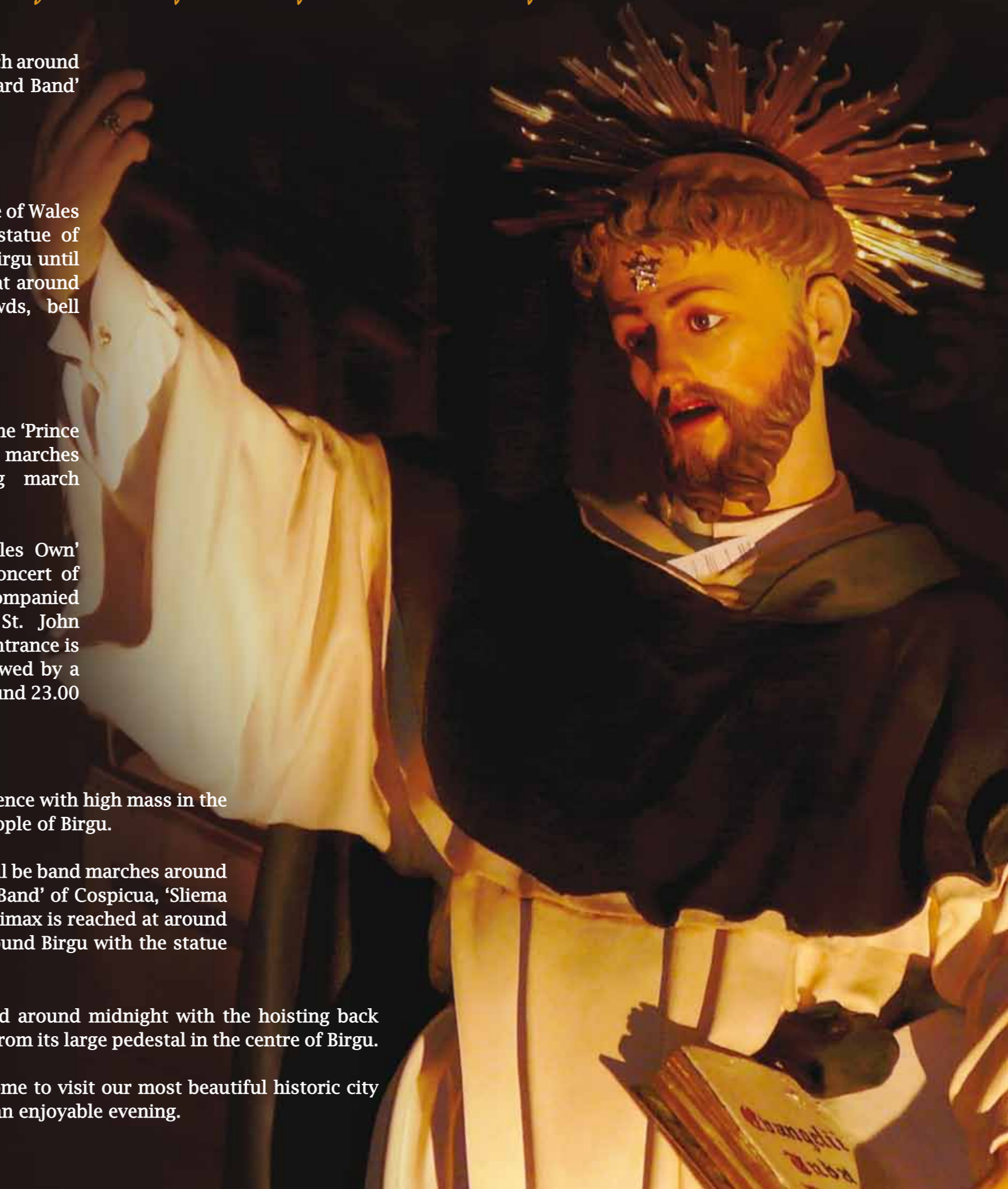
## Sunday, 28th August 2011

At 09.15 hrs. The festivities commence with high mass in the presence of dignitaries and the people of Birgu.

From 18.00 hrs. Until late, there will be band marches around the streets of Birgu by 'St. George Band' of Cospicua, 'Sliema Band' and 'Zejtun Band', and the climax is reached at around 19.00 hrs. With the procession around Birgu with the statue of St. Dominic.

The festivities will come to an end around midnight with the hoisting back down of the statue of St. Dominic from its large pedestal in the centre of Birgu.

We wish all the people that will come to visit our most beautiful historic city and the feast of our patron saint, an enjoyable evening.



The feast of  
*St Dominic*  
Vittoriosa

**B**irgu or Vittoriosa, as the Knights of St. John called it after the Great Siege of 1565, is the city connected to the most important fort on the island of Malta - Fort St. Angelo or Castello a Mare as it was known at the time. This city was always in the centre of politics and commerce since the time of the Normans, and even though it suffered great damage during World War II, it still retains its medieval charm and glory, with its palaces, Auberges, and quaint houses.

The Dominicans, arrived in Birgu from Rabat in 1528, just a few years before the Knights of St. John set foot on the island, and since then they have always served the local community, which was made up of all classes of people, till this very day. They have strived hard to help the needy and the poor and preached to the rich and the noble families of Malta, and when Grand Master La Valette decided to build Valletta on the other side of the port, the Dominican friars of Birgu were among the first religious order to look after the workers, and later, even established themselves with their Church and Convent on site.

The feast of St. Dominic owes its existence to the enthusiasm of the friars of the time and the willingness of a group of locals, who in 1870 were granted permission from the Holy See in Rome to organize a feast in honour of St. Dominic in Birgu, even though for various reasons, the exterior celebrations started in 1876. Later on in 1891, these same people set up their Band Club, today bearing the glorious name of 'The Prince of Wales Own'.

On the 19th of January, 1941, the people of Birgu could not believe their eyes when the Church of The Annunciation got a direct hit from enemy bombings. Few items were saved from the ruins, and many works of art by Mattia Preti, Giuseppe Cali, Conti and Sciortino were lost forever. Luckily enough the statue of St. Dominic with underlying silver pedestal and artistic wooden bench were saved by a local worker who was carrying his family to Rabat.

After the war, many people who had left Birgu to avoid the air raids remained in their place of refuge, others emigrated to far away countries, and it is only thanks to a few courageous men that Church and the Band Club were reconstructed.



On the 20th of August 1960, the Dominican friars left the Inquisitor's Palace, from where they were serving the community after they lost the Church, and triumphantly entered the doors of the newly rebuilt Church of the Annunciation.

The same Church where every year, on the last Sunday in August, the people of Birgu celebrate the feast of their patron Saint Dominic of Guzman.

## Information

*Feast of St Dominic Website*  
[www.stdominic-vittoriosa.com](http://www.stdominic-vittoriosa.com)

*Feast of St Dominic Facebook Page*  
[www.facebook.com/festabirgu](http://www.facebook.com/festabirgu)

*Feast of St Dominic Email*  
[info@stdominic-vittoriosa.com](mailto:info@stdominic-vittoriosa.com)

*Vittoriosa Website*  
[www.birgu.gov.mt](http://www.birgu.gov.mt)

*Arriva Buses Malta*  
[www.arriva.com.mt/mainline-bus-routes](http://www.arriva.com.mt/mainline-bus-routes)

*Malta Water Taxis*  
[www.maltawatertaxis.com.mt](http://www.maltawatertaxis.com.mt)

## Vittoriosa Map

