



The Cult of St. Paul in Christian Churches & Traditions:

Preparation

“When we were safe on land”, wrote St. Luke in the Acts of the Apostles (28.1), “We found that the island was called Melita”. St. Paul’s shipwreck was the greatest event during the Roman rule in Malta and since the days of Imperial Rome the inhabitants looked up to St. Paul as their patron saint.

Participants in this course are requested to have a basic knowledge and use of the English language. They will be asked to complete an online pre-course questionnaire which will give our tutors useful information about their background and about the motivations that have led them to choose this course. This will be followed by our course acceptance and enrolment letters.

Participants should also prepare for this course by doing some reading or internet research on the subject so as to add their own knowledge and thoughts to the course discussions. Prior to arrival applicants will receive by email some general information on Malta as well as a list of suggested reading material and research sites together with a detailed programme and contents of our course.

In addition we will provide:

- Information on how to obtain grants and how to fill out application forms.
- Information of payment schedule
- Hotel accommodation in single rooms on Full Board basis
- All transport except airport transfers

Participants will also be able to log onto the programme’s internet site to access information on the life and times of St. Paul so as to help them prepare better for their course in Malta.

Objectives

The aim of these lectures is to provide valuable information about St. Paul, called the Apostle of the Gentiles and the most influential of early Christians. Participants travel with St. Paul all along the Mediterranean coast from Turkey to Greece to Malta and Rome.

The course also aims at motivating teachers of making good use of both published material and field works to make their teaching more interesting and effective as well as improve their command of spoken English. Participants are encouraged to exchange knowledge and share personal experiences with the other participants and lecturers as well as promote a different approach to biblical research. This course should be of great interest to all those interested in Biblical, Archaeological and Ancient History Studies.



Methodology

The course is spread over 5 days (40 hrs.) and will consist of a series of lectures with site-visits to complement the topics of the day. Highly qualified lecturers ensure a simple approach of the highest levels of learning. The course will be taught interactively and participants are expected to take an active role in all sessions experiencing for themselves the activities covered in the sessions.

The groups of participants are purposely small in number. This promotes a more dynamic, direct and flexible learning process. Most learning will take place in direct contact with the different public during the number of field works outside the classroom. While in the classroom, presentations in power points, an academic dossier, and audiovisual material will be used.

Site visits and field trips are an integral part of the course and all sessions will be practical and should help teachers reflect on their approach to teaching today's students. There will be ample time for discussion on the topics both in the lecture room and on site. At the end of the day handouts / notes will be given to all participants on what has been covered.

At the end of the course there will be a full discussion and an evaluation session so that participants can report their opinion on the quality of the training. This will be followed by the presentation of Certificates to the participants.

Follow-up

The organizers will keep close contact with all the participants either via email or communication in order to be able to answer queries about particular issues related raised in the course. We will also be available to help course participants in drawing up further courses/modules about Pauline Studies. In addition participants will be given email contact details of all trainers for future support and guidance.

Participants will be able to access a website dedicated to the project and download the material from the course. They will also be able to view and download photos of the activity as well as have complete access to all participants' contributions. This will help grow and strengthen the relationship between participants and teachers and allow for information exchange and learning even after the course has ended.

All documents and material produced in the course will be made available on line through the association website besides teachers will be introduced to various web-based sites which they could use after the course.

Participants will also be receiving our e-newsletters to keep them adjourned on information on future courses, evaluation of new material and to exchange comments on experiences and opinions through Skype or Facebook.



Day to Day Programme

Day 1:

Arrival of Participants.

19.00: Introductory Meeting, Registration of Participants, Welcome Drink.

20.00: Social Dinner.

Day 2:

07.30: Breakfast.

09.00: Lecture 1: St. Paul, Apostle of the Gentiles.

10.30: Coffee Break.

11.00: Lecture 2: The Pauline Tradition in the Early Church. .

13.00: Lunch in typical Maltese restaurant.

14.30: Field Work: Valletta – St. Paul’s Shipwreck Church - St. John’s co-Cathedral and Museum.

16.30: Discussion.

17.00: Return to Course Venue.

19.00: Social Dinner.

Day 3:

07.30: Breakfast.

09.00: Lecture 3: The Spread of Christianity in Roman Times.

10.30: Coffee Break.

11.00: Lecture 4: Roman Burial Customs.

13.00: Lunch in typical Maltese restaurant.

14.30: Site Visit: Rabat - St Paul’s Church and Grotto - Catacombs.

16.30: Discussion.

16.30: Return to Course Venue.

19.00: Social Dinner.

Day 4:

07.30: Breakfast.

09.00: Lecture 5: St. Paul’s Shipwreck in Malta.

10.30: Coffee Break.

11.00: Lecture 6: St. Paul’s Missionary Journeys from the Aegean to Europe.

13.00: Lunch in typical Maltese restaurant.

14.30: Site Visit: San Paul Milqi - St. Paul’s Island (weather permitting).

16.30: Discussion.

17.00: Return to Course Venue.

19.00: Social Dinner.



Day 5:

07.30: Breakfast.

09.00: Lecture 7: The Legacy of the Apostle Paul.

10.30: Coffee Break.

11.00: Lecture 8: Early Christianity in the 12th Century.

13.00: Lunch in typical Maltese restaurant.

14.30: Site Visit: Mdina: St. Peter and St. Paul Cathedral.

16.30: Discussion.

17.00: Return to Course Venue.

19.00: Social Dinner.

Day 6:

07.00: Breakfast.

09.15: Ferry to Gozo.

10.00: Lecture 9: St Paul in Arts.

12.30: Lunch in typical Maltese restaurant.

14.30: Field Work: St. George's Golden Basilica and Ta' Pinu Sanctuary.

17.00: Ferry Return to Course Venue.

19.00: Evaluation Session.

20.00: Farewell Dinner followed by Presentation of Certificates.

Day 7:

07.00 – 10.30: Breakfast.

Departure of participants.