

Cardinal Mario Grech, Secretary General of the Synod of Bishops



Biography of Cardinal Mario Grech

Born in Qala - Malta (20.2.1957).

He studied at the Gozo Lyceum followed by studies in philosophy and theology for the priesthood at the Sacred Heart Seminary, Gozo (1977-84). Bishop Nikol Cauchi ordained him priest at Gozo Cathedral on 26 May 1984.

In 1986 Grech graduated with a licentiate in canon and civil law from the Pontifical Lateral University, Rome. He obtained a doctorate in canon law from the Pontifical University of St Thomas Aquinas with his thesis 'The harmonization of the religious and civil dimensions of canonical marriages in Malta' in 1998. In Rome he carried out pastoral work in the parish church of the Assumption of Mary.

Back in Gozo in 1988, Grech was appointed lecturer in canon law at the seminary and began working in the ecclesiastical tribunal of which he eventually was elected judicial vicar. At the same time he was also appointed judge at the metropolitan tribunal of Malta.

A member of the college of counsellors and of the diocesan commissions of theology, of the family, and social communications, Grech carried out pastoral work at the Cathedral, Victoria, Ta' Pinu Sanctuary, Ta' Ker#em parish, and San Lawrenz parish. He was appointed parish priest of Ta' Ker#em on 13 November 2004. Fr Grech was Instructing Judge in the diocesan process for the beatification of Mother Margherita Debrincat and Mons. Giuseppe De Piro.

Bishop of Gozo

Pope Benedict XVI appointed Grech bishop of Gozo with his decree *Redemptorem nostrum* of 26 November 2005. He was consecrated bishop at the Gozo Cathedral on 22 January 2006 by Bishop Nikol Cauchi, assisted by Archbishop Joseph Mercieca, and Archbishop Felix del Blanco Prieto, the Apostolic Nuncio for Malta.

In October 2006, Bishop Mario Grech was awarded 'Ker#em' from Ta' Ker#em Local Council.

Bishop Grech was President of the Maltese Episcopal Conference from 2013 to 2015. During this term, Bishop Grech represented the Maltese Episcopal Conference for the Plenary Assemblies of the Council of European Bishops' Conferences (CCEE) in Bratislava 2013, Rome 2014, and the Holy Land 2015.

Representing the Maltese Episcopal Conference, Bishop Grech took part in the 13th and 14th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops (Synod on the New Evangelization, Rome 2012 / Synod of the Family Rome 2015) and the 3rd Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops (Extraordinary Synod of the Family, Rome 2014).

He also represented the Maltese Conference at the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community (COMECE) during 2008-2012 and again in 2017.

From 2008-2019 Bishop Mario Grech represented the Maltese Episcopal Conference at the Annual General Assembly of the Conference of Italian Bishops (CEI).

Bishop Mario Grech carried out pastoral visits to the Maltese communities, priests, and missionaries in the USA and Canada (2008), Brasil (2009), Australia (2011) and Peru (2018). In 2012, Bishop Grech together with Archbishop Cremona, were received by Pope Benedict XVI on their *ad limina* visit to the Holy See. In 2010, both bishops welcomed Pope Benedict XVI on his pastoral visit to Malta.

General Secretariat of Synod of Bishops

On the 2nd October 2019, Pope Francis appointed Bishop Grech as the **Pro-Secretary General for the Synod of Bishops** and Apostolic Administrator for the Diocese of Gozo. He was a member of the Synod for Amazonia (2019).

Since 28th April 2020 he is member of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

On 15 September 2020, Pope Francis appointed Bishop Mario Grech as Secretary General for the Synod of Bishops. **Created Cardinal on the Consistory of the november 28th 2020.**

Publications of Mario Grech:

2001: M. Grech, *The harmonization of the religious and civil dimensions of Canonical Marriage in Malta; an exegetical study of the agreement between the Holy See and the Republic of Malta on the recognition of civil effects to Canonical Marriage.*

2008: M. Grech, *O#or#u fil-p#j#ez: omeliji u diskorsi 2006-2008.*

2019: M. Grech, *G#e#ie# Edukaturi*

2020 M. Grech, *Tib#ax tie#u g#andek lil Marija.*

Pastoral Letters by M. Grech:

“L-Ispirtu li jo#ro#na fid-desert” (2006);

“Missier li j#addan lil kul#add” (2007);

“Alla jag#mel #ustizzja mal-mag##ulin tieg#u” (2009);

“So#jeta fejn tg#ammar is-solidarjeta” (2010);

“G#ajn ta’ ilma #ieri” (2011);

“In#arsu l-familja” (2012);

“Mara li #abbet #afna” (2012);

“Warda #dida fil-#nien ta’ g#iritna” (2013);

“Knisja qrib il-marid” (2013);

“Niltaqg#u mal-Im#abba t’Alla” (2013);

“L-im#abba sabie#a” (2014);

“Kristu jixxotta d-dmug#” (2015);

“Duwa tal-#niena g#all-familja” (2015);

“Biex twarrad it-tama” (2017);

“Il-pjaga tal-vjolenza dometika” (2017)’

“Ne#tie#u lil Kristu” (Awwissu 2018);

“Sena Marjana fid-Djo#esi” (Novembru 2018);

“Nintelqu f’dirg#ajn Ommna Marija” (Mejju 2019);

“Marija t-Triq ta-Fer#” (Awwissu 2019);

“Widnejn miftu#a” (Settembru 2019).

Pastoral Letter by M. Grech - J. Mercieca:

“Kuxjenza favur il-mara” (2006).

Pastoral letters by M. Grech – P. Cremona:

“Il-veru fer# tal-bniedem” (2007);
“Sa#erdot mibg#ut minn Alla” (2007);
“IL-veru futur tal-bniedem” (2007);
“Xi tridu? X’qeg#din tfittxu?” (2008);
“Lejn poplu aktar mag#qud” (2008);
“#ie f’darna u lqajnieh” (2008);
“Fuq il-passi ta’ Missierna San Pawl (2008);
“B#onn ta’ bidla mill-qieg# fil-#ajja nisranija tag#na” (2009);
“Sej#ulhom Kristjani” (2009); “G#and min imorru” (2010)
“Il-presepju fil-familja tag#na” (2010);
“I#-#wie#, il-familja u n-nisrani quddiem #esu” (2010);
“Je#tie# li naslu fi g#ira” (2010);
“Il-kura## li ni##eddu” (2011);
“Il-kwalita tal-#ajja nisranija” (2011);
“Il-lo#ika t’Alla – il-lo#ika ta’ Kristu” (2011);
“Ni##elebraw il-#ajja” (2012);
“Nafdawkom f’idejn Alla u l-Kelma tieg#u” (2012);
“Is-sena tal-fidi” (2012). “E#ilju” (2012);
“L-g#o##a tal-#ajja - ni##elebraw il-#ajja umana” (2012).

Pastoral letters by M. Grech - P. Cremona - A. Depasquale:

“G#a#la favur zwie# dejjiemi” (2011);
“Nota dottrinali dwar i#-#wie#u l-familja” (2011).

Pastoral letters by M. Grech – P. Cremona – Charles J. Scicluna:

“Il-Milied festa tal-g#erusija tal-Mulej mal-poplu tieg#u” (2013);

“Rispett lejn il-verita u lejn xulxin” (2013);

“Zmien ta’ talb u karita” (2013);

“Sehemna fil-bini tas-so#jeta” (2014).

Pastoral letters by M. Grech - Charles J. Scicluna:

“In#ennu b#al Missier” (2015);

“Ng#o##u l-#ajja” (2016);

“Kristu medi#ina g#all-mard tag#na” (2016);

“Nerfg#u r-responsabilita tag#na” (2017);

“Il-fer# tal-im#abba” (2017);

“G#a#liet skont il-qalb ta’ Alla” (2017).

“Guidelines for the Application of Chapter Eight of Amoris Laetitia” (2017);

“Nerfg#u r-responsabilita’ tag#na (2017);

“Ng#o##u dak li hu sabi# u tajjeb (Frar 2018);

“Nibnu djarna fuq il-blat” (Settembru 2018);

“Tib#g#ux tie#du lil Marija g#andkom” (2019);

“Ejjew nilqg#u b’qalb kbira lill-Papa Fran#isku” (2020).

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‘Episcopal confirmation of Mgr Mario Grech as Bishop of Gozo’, *TMI* (23.i.2006), ‘Mons Mario Grech in#atar l-isqof il-#did ta’ G#awdex’, *M* (27.xi.2005); ‘L-isqof il-#did ta’ G#awdex ikun konsagrat illum’, suppliment, *M* (22.i.2006); ‘Nag#ti #ajti biex insalvaw lil kull wie#ed, lill-familja, lis-so#jetà’ *N* (23.i.2006); ‘L-Isqof Mario Grech irid ikun qrib il-poplu’, *N* (7.i.2006); ‘New Bishop for Gozo soon’, *T* (26.xi.2005); ‘Gozo has new pastor’, *T* (23.i.2006); ‘New Gozo Bishop lays stress on priests and family’, *T* (7.i.2006); ‘Ker#em parish priest is new Bishop of Gozo’, *ST* (27.xi.2005); ‘A new bishop’, *ST* (4.xii.2005); ‘Blessed is he who comes ...’, *ST* (4.xii.2005); ‘G#a#la kontroversjali’, *Tor#a* (27.xi.2005); ‘Mons Mario Grech illum jin#atar it-tmien Isqof ta’ G#awdex’, *Tor#a* (22.i.2006); *Kul#add*

(22.i.2006); 'Mons Mario Grech - it-tmien isqof tad-Djo#esi G#awdxija', *Tor#a* (22.i.2006); 'Mons. Mario Grech ma#tur Isqof tad-Djo#esi ta' G#awdex', *LIS* (3.xii.2005); 'Il-Konsagrazzjoni ta' l-Isqof il-#did ta' G#awdex', *LIS* (14.i.2006); 'G#ada j#i kkonsagrat l-Isqof Mario Grech', *LIS* (21.i.2006); 'G#awdex jilqa' b'fer# kbir lill-Isqof Mario Grech', *LIS* (28.i.2006); 'Reazzjonijiet g#an-nomina ta' l-Isqof il-#did ta' G#awdex', *#ens* (3.xii.2005);

'L-Isqof ta' G#awdex se jkun ordnat nhar il-#add 22 ta' Jannar', *#ens* (10.xii.2005); 'Irrid inkun strument biex in#e##e# il-qlub maqtug#a', *#ens* (21.i.2006); 'L-isfidi quddiem l-Isqof Grech', *#ens* (21.i.2006); 'Ma#tur Isqof ta' G#awdex', *or* (23.i.2006); *Ordinazzjoni Episkopali u Bidu tal-Ministeru ta' Mons Mario Grech B#ala Isqof ta' G#awdex* (2006); *Il-#ajja f'G#awdex*, Special issue (n. 876); A. Massa,

'A priest of today's times', *ST* (30.xii.2007); 'L-Isqof Mario Grech, President tal-Konferenza Episkopali Maltija', *LIS* (25.viii.2013); Mario Grech, "Immigration id s challenge and an opportunity" *TM* (2.ix.13);

Kurt Sansone, 'Church cannot ignore the reality of modern families', *ST* (2.xi.2014); Charles Muscat, 'Nitkellmu inqas bejnietna, imma nitkellmu iktar ma' Alla', interview with Bishop Mario Grech, *N* (5.xi.2014); 'It-Il Assemblea #enerali tas-Sinodu: 'L-Isfidi Pastoralni dwar il-Familji fil-Kuntest tal-Evan#elizzazzjoni', intervent tal-Isqof Mario Grech, *Il-#ajja f'G#awdex* (November 2014); Mario Grech "A balm of mercy for the family", *MI*, (18.viii.15); Kevin Schembri Orland, interview "I cannot remain silent when faced with the murder of a human being" *MI* (13.ix.15); Charles De Pechpeyrou, interview "La compassion n'est pas un populisme, mais l'attitude du Seigneur" in *La Vie*, 15.x.15; Keith Micallef, interview: "Church must reach out" *STM* (6.12.2015);

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Mario Grech, 'Il saluto rivolto al Pontefice dal vescovo di Gozo', *Osservatore Romano*, 19-20/04/2010 [9], p. 11; Nicola Gori, 'Intervista al vescovo di Gozo - La famiglia al centro della società', *OR*, 30/05/2012 [124], p.7; Mario Grech, 'Le sfide pastorali della famiglia Credibili perché misericordiosi', *OR*, 10/04/2015 [081], p.7; Mario Grech, 'Giubileo e confessione - Meglio abbondare', *OR*, 06/02/2016 [029], p.7; Mario Grech, 'Il pellegrinaggio interiore - Punto di svolta', *OR*, 18/03/2016 [064], p. 7; Mario Grech, 'Come la luce di un faro Vangelo della misericordia per famiglia e vita', *OR*, 07/07/2016 [153], p. 7; Mario Grech, 'La nullità del matrimonio e la «Mitis iudex Dominus Iesus» Tutto il bene possibile', *OR*, 04/12/2016 [279], p. 7; Mario Grech, 'Il bambino Gesù nella grotta di Betlemme Nato in mezzo all'impurità', *OR*, 31/12/2016 [299], p. 7; Charles J. Scicluna e Mario Grech, 'Criteri applicativi di «Amoris laetitia» Luce per le nostre famiglie', *OR*, 14/01/2017 [010], p. 7; Mario Grech, 'La conversione pastorale Misericordia medicina per l'oggi', *OR*, 03-04/07/2017 [151], p. 7; Mario Grech, 'Cultura della post verita', *OR* 22/3/18, 6; Mario Grech 'Il senso della maternita', *OR* 30/3/18; 6; Mario Grech, 'Pensare fuori dagli schemi', in *Missione Oggi*, 1 (gennaio 2016); 'Cambiare modello di Chiesa', in *MO*, 2 (febbraio-marzo 2016); 'Quando finisce la notte?', in *MO*, 3 (aprile-maggio 2016), 'Dare spazio alla coscienza', in *MO*, 4 (giugno-luglio 2016); 'Per una visione "cattolica"', in *MO*, 5 (agosto-settembre 2016); 'Nella fragilità, la salvezza', in *MO*, 6 (ottobre-novembre 2016); 'Dio offre sempre una nuova possibilità', in *MO*, 7 (dicembre 2016). Mario Grech, 'Sinodo sempre piu' crocevia missionaria per la Chiesa' *OR* 2/3/11/19 p.6; Mario Grech, 'Tiriamo fuori le nostre mangiatoie', *OR* 20/12/19, p 8; Mario Grech, 'Uscire dal guscio dell'egoismo', *OR* 12/4/2020, p.9

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Interviews with Card. Mario Grech
