

# ANNUAL REPORT

2025



**CATHOLIC CULTURAL  
HERITAGE COMMISSION**

# Table of Contents

## Professional Liaison

Inter-agency professional collaborations to streamline heritage planning and conservation.

---

1

## Digitalisation

An updated KPKK website and database to streamline applications and archiving.

---

2

## Evaluation of Applications

Summary of administrative governance, pre-application guidance, and recourse evaluation.

---

3

## Heritage Consultation

Ongoing advisory, monitoring, and loan control for moveable and immovable artefacts.

---

4

## Strategic Growth

Initiatives towards strategic growth through representation and capacity building.

---

5

# Foreword

As I look back on the past year, I take pride in the responsibility that comes with overseeing the Kummissjoni Patrimonju Kulturali Kattoliku.

For me, 2025 was not merely a year of administrative progress; it was a year where we worked wholeheartedly to strengthen professional relationships in the heritage sector. Our mission has always been clear: to protect and enhance vast ecclesiastical heritage of the Archdiocese. We start from the premise that ecclesiastical heritage is not just a collection of buildings and artifacts; it is a living witness to our faith and our identity.

This year, we were particularly proud to launch the use of our official website as a purpose-built database to ensure transparency in our deliberations and the digital preservation of every restoration method statement and technical report.

Throughout the year, the KPKK assessed more than 170 cases, ranging from immovable structures to movable treasures. Some of our most rewarding moments, however, occurred outside the meeting room. The fact that we were on-site, monitoring progress, and offering direct advice to parishes facing complex restoration challenges made me appreciate the vital and grounded nature of our work. Collaborations like these with the community that is engaged in our common heritage remind us that our successes this year are a direct result of the unwavering dedication of our members and the professional ties we have nurtured.

In the coming year, our commitment remains to ensure that our conservation efforts always go hand in hand with the pastoral priorities of the Archdiocese. We conserve the past not as a static exhibit, but as a living foundation for the generations of faithful yet to come.

**Dr Wendy Jo Mifsud**

President

Catholic Cultural Heritage Commission

# Members of the Commission

## President

Dr Wendy Jo Mifsud B.E.&A.(Hons)(Melit.), P.G.Cert.(Melit.), M.Sc.(UCL), Ph.D.(Melit.), A&CE

## Secretary

Rev. Dr André Zaffarese S.Th.D.(Melit.)

## Officer

Ruth Stivala B.A.(Hons)(Melit.), M.A.(Melit.)

## Members

Ms Daniela Apap Bologna B.A.(Hons.), M.A.(Melit.)

Mr Joseph Calleja

Ms Maria Grazia Cassar M.A.(Melit.)

Rev. Can. Dr Nicholas J. Doublet B.A., S.Th.L., H.E.D.(Greg.), Dip. Arch.(Vat.)

Rev. Ramon Farrugia OFM

Dr David Mallia B.E.&A.(Hons)(Melit.), Dip. Cons.(Milan), Ph.D.(Milan), A&CE

Mgr Dr Edgar Vella S.Th.L., Ph.D.(Melit.)



**PROFESSIONAL  
LIAISON**

**01**

## Professional Liaison

### Memorandum of Understanding

A cornerstone of our administrative goals for 2025 has been the continued development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the KPKK and the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage (SCH). This document aims to formalise our working relationship and define consultative procedures. Intensive drafting and negotiations progressed throughout the year, with both entities working toward a definitive signing in early 2026.

### Professional Meetings

To maintain professional relationships and technical coherence across the heritage sector, the Commission engaged in a series of meetings with key stakeholders in the heritage sector. These included consultations with the Restoration & Preservation Directorate to establish technical benchmarks and collaborative project management, and a meeting with the Warranting Board for Conservators to ensure that all interventions on Church property remain led by appropriately qualified professionals. We also engaged in a productive discussion with the National Archivist regarding the preservation of archival integrity within ecclesiastical archives and held talks with heritage planners to better harmonise ecclesiastical requirements with national regulatory policies.



**DIGITALISATION**

**02**

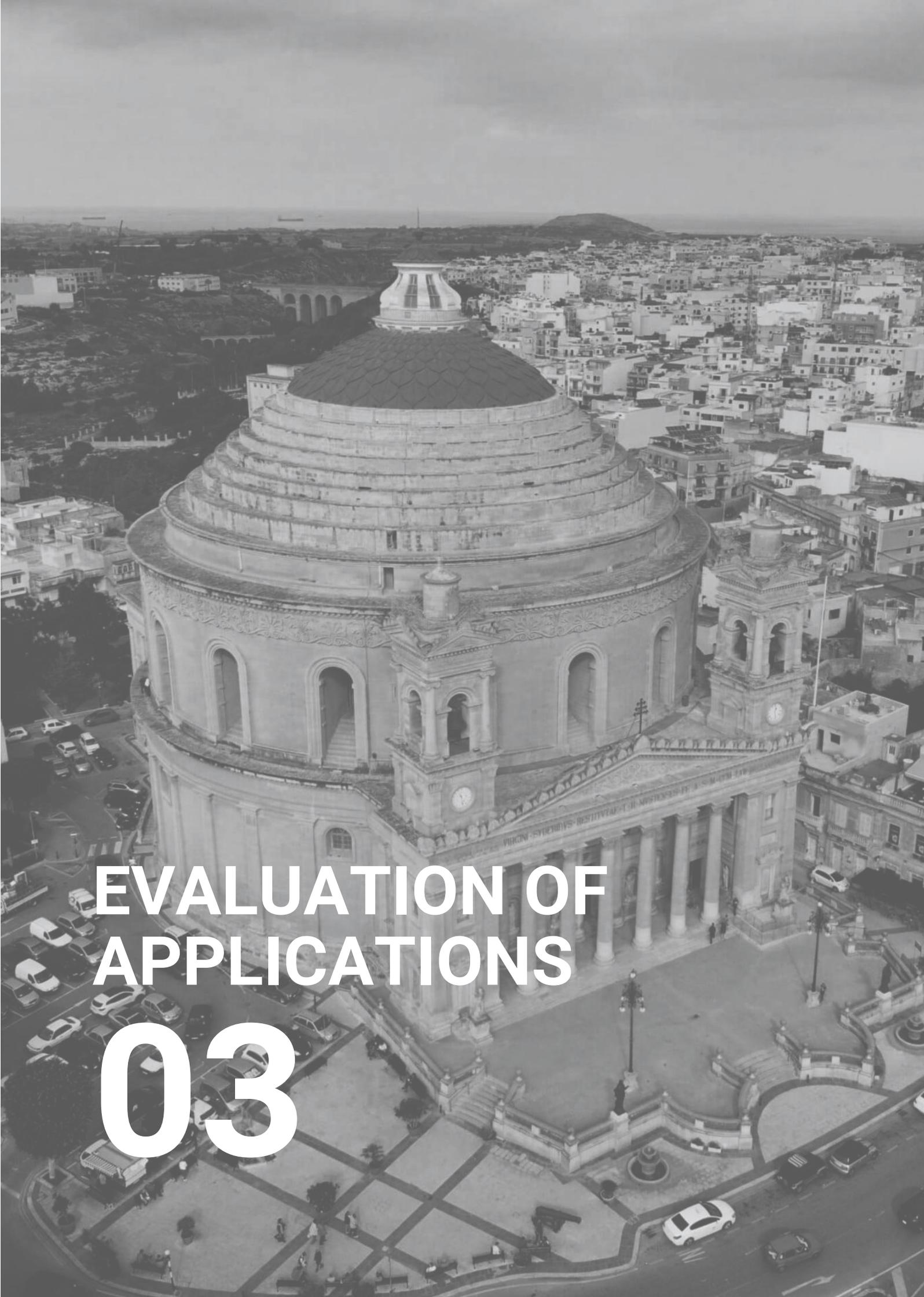
# Digitalisation

## Digital Data Management

A milestone for the Commission was reached in January 2025, with the launch of the official KPKK website <https://cchc.church.mt/>. This digital platform is supported by a custom-built database system designed to centralise and streamline the management of all project applications. To facilitate administrative efficiency and transparency, the system incorporates advanced search and filtering functionalities. Users can now retrieve specific records by filtering for the submitting entity, application status, project title, or thematic category. Each digital entry serves as a comprehensive archive, housing all related documentation, including restoration method statements, architectural plans, committee minutes, and technical reports, ensuring that every project is meticulously documented.

## Application & Evaluation Procedures

The Commission has also refined its intake workflow to ensure a more streamlined process in recourse evaluation. Applications submitted via email or through the integrated online form on the KPKK website are registered within our tracking system. Once logged, these proposals are scheduled for inclusion in the agenda of the subsequent KPKK plenary meeting for formal review. To support this evaluation process, Commission members have been granted dedicated access to the KPKK portal. This allows for the secure, remote review of all submitted materials, fostering a more informed and rigorous assessment of each application prior to the final decision-making stage.



# EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS

# 03

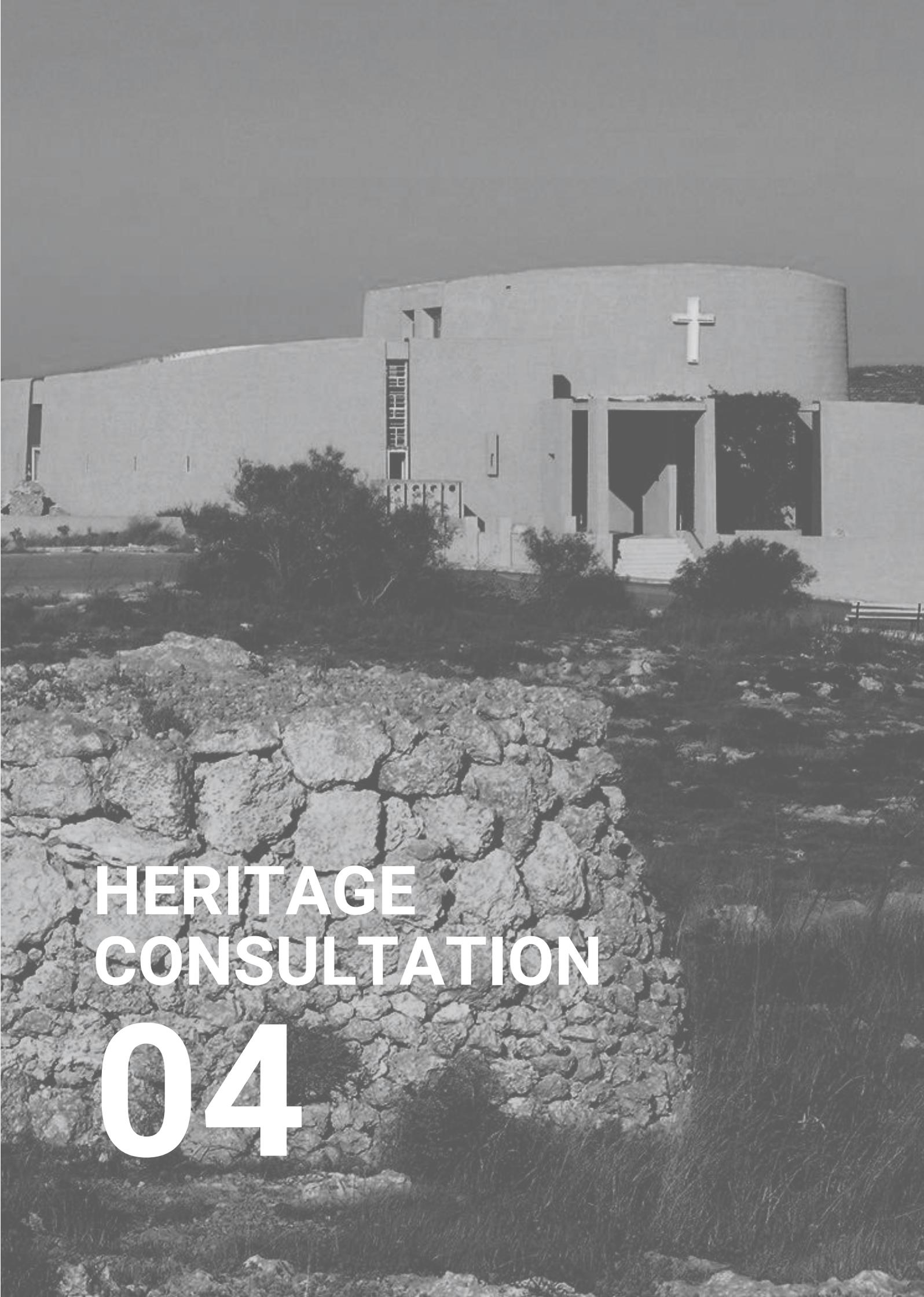
## Evaluation of Applications

### Governance & Consultative Framework

To maintain the high standards of our administrative and consultative functions, the Commission adhered to a structured schedule of governance and proactive site management throughout the year. The Commission ensured consistent oversight through its monthly plenary sessions, which were further supported by bi-monthly coordination meetings involving the Commission's Secretary and the Administrative Secretary. Beyond these formal proceedings, we place a high value on providing guidance during the nascent stages of a project. To this end, the Chairperson or delegated members frequently offer expert assistance during the pre-application phase. This often involves conducting detailed site visits, which allow the Commission to better comprehend the specific physical and historical context of a proposal, ensuring that subsequent formal applications are both robust and well-informed.

During this reporting period, the Commission reviewed a diverse range of applications, towards the aim of ensuring the protection and enhancement of our ecclesiastical cultural heritage. The cases evaluated are categorised as follows:

Typology	Description
<b>Moveable Assets and Embellishments</b>	A total of 83 cases were assessed involving internal or external works of art, liturgical items, and decorative embellishments within church property.
<b>Interventions on Immovable Property</b>	A total of 87 cases were assessed concerning the maintenance, restoration, or structural intervention of church buildings and their associated premises.
<b>External Contextual Impact</b>	2 cases were assessed regarding works situated outside of church property that carried significant implications for its integrity or that of its context.



**HERITAGE  
CONSULTATION  
04**

# Heritage Consultation

## Heritage Advice

A core function of the Commission is providing specialised heritage advice during the early stages of project development. This proactive engagement ensures that parish-led initiatives are both feasible and respectful of their historical context. Our consultative efforts spanned a wide range of projects this year, with notable examples including our ongoing liaison regarding the Parish Church of St. Joseph in Manikata, where we are helping to prioritise restoration works for this Grade 1 listed site. We also provided expert heritage advice for the proposed Punic Tower Interpretation Centre at the Domus Curialis in Żurrieq, focusing on balancing modern visitor facilities with the preservation of its archaeological significance – just two instances of the many cases where the Commission works to ensure that development and conservation of ecclesiastical heritage remain in harmony.

## Moveable Heritage Control

In our efforts to support cultural diplomacy, the Commission continues to approve the temporary loan of ecclesiastical works of art that are required for exhibitions outside Malta's shores. Such initiatives make such works accessible to international audiences and foster interdisciplinary dialogue to further the appreciation of our rich heritage.

## Heritage Monitoring

To ensure that approved projects are executed with the highest degree of technical precision, the Commission conducts regular site inspections and technical consultations to oversee ongoing works and address emerging risks to ecclesiastical heritage. This includes our ongoing collaboration on the complex electrical and lighting modernisation at St. Paul's Cathedral in Mdina, where we ensure all installations remain minimally invasive, as well as our work at the Church of the Circumcision of the Lord (Jesuits' Church) in Valletta to finalise a colour scheme sympathetic to its original Baroque interior. Here, we also supported best practice in the conservation of movable works of art, with conservation supported by historical and physical evidence from the scientific methods used by the art historians and restorers engaged. These include the Education of the Virgin altarpiece, Girandola at the Oratory of the Onorati, the Reliquary Altar at the Chapel of St. Ann, the Holy Family altarpiece, and two oval paintings of St Elizabeth and St John the Baptist at the main altar. Another work worthy of mention is the Madonna Portiuncola by Mattia Preti at the Church of St. Francis of Assisi in Valletta. These are just a few examples of how we intervene to protect ecclesiastical heritage, often recommending that dedicated professionals be engaged to provide ongoing oversight.



**STRATEGIC GROWTH**

**05**

## Capacity Building

### Institutional Representation

Following the Commission's representation at the State of the Heritage Conference in October 2024, collaboration continued among the stakeholders to discuss the manner in which we can work together to support preservation strategies and ensure the future of Malta's cultural assets.

The Chairperson of the KPPK also participated in a Diocesan Survey conducted by Discern, which was followed by the Diocesan Assembly. This collaboration ensured that the unique challenges and requirements of cultural patrimony were well-represented within the broader research on diocesan life and that our conservation efforts remain harmonised with the pastoral priorities of the Archdiocese.

The Commission's influence also extends into the broader national heritage framework through active representation on the Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Kulturali tal-Arċidjoċesi ta' Malta and the National Council for Cultural Heritage.

### Capacity Building

To ensure the continued professional development of its members, the Commission organised site visits designed to deepen its collective expertise in heritage management and restoration standards. These activities provide members with an invaluable opportunity to conduct firsthand assessments of complex restoration projects and exchange technical knowledge within varied historical contexts. During a visit to the St. Mary of Jesus Franciscan Monastery (OFM) in Valletta, we appreciated the ongoing restoration works at this historic site. The briefing, led by Fr Ramon Farrugia, focused on the technical requirements for maintaining the monastery's structural integrity while preserving its vital function as an active community space. Another visit was held at the Cathedral of the Assumption in Victoria, Gozo and the Cathedral Museum. Led by Joseph Calleja, this session facilitated an extensive examination of the museum's curated collections and the architectural heritage of the Cathedral, providing critical insights into the specific preservation challenges faced within the museum. These events ensure that the Commission's evaluations remain grounded in contemporary best practices and a practical understanding of the diverse ecclesiastical assets under its care.



 Archbishop's Curia,  
18, Pjazza San Kalċedonju,  
Floriana

 +356 2590 6238

 [kpkk@maltadiocese.org](mailto:kpkk@maltadiocese.org)

 <https://cchc.church.mt/>