

MINIATURE CHURCHES

When it comes to our churches, we Maltese are famous for generally thinking of them as a group of dedicated enthusiasts who build models of local churches, many of which have been recognised with an Guinness World Record.

Photos by Fiona...



(Above) Joseph Sciberras with his model of Floriana parish church when it was completed. Joseph is seen today, with book, below left

Raphael Micallef, now 82, still recalls the terror felt by the people as the shrill of World War II air-raid sirens sounded, urging them to leave their houses and run for the shelters. As an inhabitant of the capital city, he saw his town being shattered to pieces, the damage claiming even unique treasures such as the Chapel of Bones which used to

be so popular with both locals and tourists. People huddled together in shelters and prayed for their own safety but they also begged for their houses to be spared as these nested within them all their possessions, memories of loved ones, and valuable objects which had been passed on from generation to generation.

“Valletta and Cottonera suffered the severest attacks. Unfortunately within these areas one could find the best examples of church models, many of which had been inherited over many years. Sadly most of them had to be abandoned during the war and almost all of them ended up buried under the rubble of destroyed buildings.”