

# Saverio Cassar

A Maltese Priest and Patriot during the French Revolution



Erasmus+



# Saverio Cassar

## A local Gozitan Hero

### **Born**

29th December 1746

### **Died**

16th December 1805

### **Place of burial**

Cathedral of the Assumption, Gozo, Victoria

### **Diocese**

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Malta

### **Ordination**

30th March 1771

Who is  
Saverio  
Cassar?

Revolt's  
Leader

Gozitan  
Diocese

## Who is Saverio Cassar?

Saverio Cassar was born in Ghajnsielem, Gozo on the 29th December 1746, son of Mikiel and Maruzza.

He was deceased on the 16th December 1805.

He studied in Rome where he obtained his doctorate in Theology and was appointed a priest on the 30th March 1771.

He was nominated archpriest of the Gozo Matrice in 1773 when he was still 26 years old.

He then became Provicar of Gozo in January 1775.



## Revolt's Leader

In 1798, Napoleon Bonaparte was commissioned by the French government to invade Malta and Gozo. The dissent against the French increased rapidly and by the 2nd September 1798, the first Maltese uprising commenced and Gozitans followed suit.

During the rebellion against the French, on the 4th September 1798, Saverio Cassar was appointed Head of the Government and Superintendent of the Island of Gozo and Comino. The Gozitans initially fought independently but later on were assisted by the British fleet.



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## Revolt's Leader

The French garrisons hidden at the Citadelle and Fort Chambray surrendered to the British on the 28th and 29th October, and the British handed over the island to Cassar.

He subsequently ruled Gozo as an independent state, recognizing Ferdinand III of Sicily as King. However, on the 19th August 1801, he was dismissed from this position due to the belief that he was befriending and becoming more loyal to the King of Sicily and the British were terrified that he might betray them.

## Gozitan Diocese

On the 30th October 1798, Cassar petitioned for establishing Gozo as a separate diocese, via a written letter to King Ferdinand III.

However, despite the turbulence and political issues, the Maltese Congress of Mdina disapproved of Saverio Cassar and replaced him with Emmanuele Vitale as the Governor of Gozo. Therefore, the petition was declined since the Maltese Islands were reigned by the British, on the 5th September 1800.

