



## THE MALTESE NEWSLETTER

### The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

THE MOTTO - BUILDING BRIDGES NOT WALLS

EDITOR - FRANK L SCICLUNA

Contact: [honconsul@live.com.au](mailto:honconsul@live.com.au)



I  
T  
-  
T  
M  
I  
E  
N  
J  
A  
  
T  
A  
  
S  
E  
T  
T  
E  
M  
B  
R  
U

Photo  
Alain  
Salvary

## CELEBRATION MALTA'S NATIONAL DAY



## Prince of Wales to attend George Cross commemoration event in Malta

by Gozo News ·

The Prince of Wales, President of the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association, will visit Malta on the 4th of October to mark the 75th anniversary of the George Cross, Clarence House has said in a statement. King George VI awarded the George Cross to Malta on the 15th of April 1942, in recognition of the bravery, heroism and devotion that its people displayed during the siege of Malta in the Second World War.

The George Cross is still present on the Maltese national flag as a symbol of its peoples' bravery during the conflict.

Then on the 5th of October Prince Charles will deliver the keynote speech at the Our Ocean conference in St Julian's.

Clarence House said that, Prince Charles, who has for a long time been a champion for the health and resilience of the ocean, made his first speech on the environment in December 1968 and has long warned of the irreversible effects of climate change.

The Our Ocean conference series was initiated by the U.S. Department of State, spearheaded by former U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry. The first Our Ocean conference was held in Washington D.C in June 2014, then in Chile in 2015 and Washington D.C. in 2016.

The European Union will host the fourth Our Ocean conference in Malta on 5th and 6th October 2017.

Prince Charles will also undertake a series of other engagements, including a visit to St Paul's Anglican Pro-Cathedral in Valletta to view the restoration work.

Built in 1844 at the instigation of Queen Adelaide, the cathedral is an integral part of the Valletta skyline and has recently launched a €3 Million restoration campaign.

The Duke of Edinburgh is First Friend of the Friends of St Paul's Pro-Cathedral.

The Prince of Wales' first visit to Malta was as a child in 1954. HRH then visited in 1968 and 1969.

The Prince's most recent visit to Malta was in November 2015 where he and The Duchess of Cornwall accompanied The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.





## 'Order of Malta: integral part of safe Lithuania' said President Dalia Grybauskaitė



### **Bilateral cooperation agreement signed in Vilnius**

The President of the Republic of Lithuania Dalia Grybauskaitė met with the Sovereign Order of Malta's Grand Chancellor Albrecht Freiherr von Boeselager and Grand Hospitaller Dominique Prince de La Rochefoucauld-Montbel to discuss cooperation between Lithuania and the Order in providing social and humanitarian support. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the

establishment of diplomatic relations between Lithuania and the Sovereign Order of Malta.

The President spoke to team members of the Order of Malta's Relief Organisation in Lithuania and visited the Malteser Day Care Center where she met with children and the elderly and baked cookies together.

According to Dalia Grybauskaitė, the Sovereign Order of Malta – a long-time promoter of the spirit of volunteering, care and compassion across the nation – has become an integral part of a safer Lithuania. It serves as a remarkable example of effective support to the disadvantaged and the most vulnerable. Malteser's volunteers are engaged in charitable work that not only ensures welfare for many people, but also contributes to the development of citizenship and a responsible society.

Malteser's volunteers are partners of the social campaign "For a Safe Lithuania" initiated by the President. Joint activities include social support, participation in initiatives such as "Give Children a Summer", the establishment of day care centers, and buying school essentials for kids from socially disadvantaged families. The projects and initiatives will continue to provide extended relief to the poor.

While marking the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations, Prime Minister of Lithuania Saulius Skvernelis and the Grand Chancellor, signed a bilateral cooperation agreement. "This is the result of close cooperation and, at the same time, a new page of cooperation in areas such as health care, social security and the refugee issues", said the Prime Minister. "We can see the fruit of close cooperation. A major breakthrough has certainly been achieved in terms of the contribution of the Order of Malta to the promotion of volunteering, combating social exclusion and charitable activities", noted the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister thanked the Grand Chancellor for his personal contribution during the events of 13 January 1991. At that time, Albrecht Freiherr von Boeselager, was in Lithuania bringing a shipment of medication from Germany to Lithuanian hospitals and 'supported our country in difficult times'.

The Order of Malta opened its headquarters in Lithuania in 1991. 1500 Malteser volunteers are currently engaged in voluntary social work in 44 cities and towns of Lithuania. Malteser day centers for youth and kids operate in 14 towns nationwide. Social assistance projects include help and care to the homebound, meals on wheels, transportation services for the disabled, first aid and paramedical training.



**Feast of 'IL-VITORJA' 29 Sept - 2 Oct  
at the Parish Church of Lockleys, SA**



**MALTESE CHAPLAINCY FESTIVITIES GROUP  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

**(Photo) Back: Tony Grima, Jane Agius, Carmen Sipteri  
Mary Saliba and Joe Caruana**

**Front: Joe Cassar (President), Father G. Micallef and Melita Aquilina**

**We would like to thank all and everyone in the Maltese Community,  
the Lockleys Parish and all those who have supported us,  
especially all those who have worked hard throughout the whole year  
and those who have helped in any way  
to enhance this Solemn Feast and make it a success.**

**We trust that You, our Patrons,  
will enjoy the Feast and will continue assisting us,  
because it's only with your support and help  
that our Religious and Social Activities,  
Worthy of our Traditions and Heritage  
make us proud Maltese Community Members.**

**May God bless you and Your Families  
in all your endeavours and may The Blessed Virgin Mary**

**OUR LADY QUEEN of VICTORIES  
assist and support you in all your needs.**



**Mgr Philip Calleja**

## MIGRATION ... PART OF OUR HISTORY

Mgr Philip Calleja President Emigrants Commission

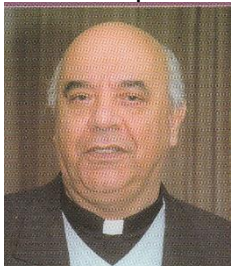
Migration is very much a part of the universal human experience. The movement of peoples, voluntary or otherwise, has hit men and women in every part of the globe and will probably continue to do so for as long as there will be people on this planet. Some have moved out of their native environment by sheer necessity, others preferred to do so out of their own initiative and volition. The urge to see other places is as old as mankind. In general, our world has been enriched by these movements which sometimes have involved a few individuals, sometimes millions of wandering people.

Every particular migration is in itself a part of that universal force which pushes large numbers of people away from their lands. Maltese people are no exception to these moves. They themselves are a nation of immigrants whose forebears reached the safe harbours of their islands from various foreign destinations. Some came from nearby Sicily, others from more distant places within the area of the Mediterranean Sea. In turn, a number of the inhabitants of the Maltese islands again re-emigrated to set up their own communities in different lands. Of necessity they had to be adventurous since their own home base was so restricted and could not support too many of them. Moreover the strategic position of the Maltese archipelago helped to encourage the inhabitants to move to nearby destinations.

Up to 1798 Malta did not feel the need of mass emigration because the Knights had provided enough work for the inhabitants. It is a fact that the benign rule of the Knights transformed both Malta and the Maltese. The Knights introduced the inhabitants to the values and tastes of Continental Europe. They also provided work for the men of Malta who manned the galleys of the Order. The coming of the British changed all that. The new rulers encouraged emigration to alleviate the pressure of the population and at the same time to send settlers to their vast domains away from the familiar environment of the Mediterranean. Imperial strategy went according to the needs of the Empire while the civil aspirations of the local inhabitants were relegated to secondary importance.

With the dawn of the nineteenth century the Maltese islands entered a new phase in their millennial history when they were incorporated within the vast empire of the British. What had been hitherto the natural home of the people of Malta was soon transformed into a powerful base for the mighty British fleet. Organised emigration from Malta on a large scale was adopted as official policy by the British for their Maltese subjects during the earlier years of their rule over the islanders. It was meant as an antidote to what for many years was described as the double problem of an expanding population and rising unemployment. Hence, Imperial strategy was planned according to the needs of the Empire and not what the civil population expected. Malta became a fortress and a base and that was what really mattered with its masters. Fortress and base generated employment during periods of international tensions, but once no further danger was felt, then many workers were sent home. These had no immediate prospect of employment and were advised to go away to some other country.

Thankfully, we no longer need emigration. Yet, the migratory movements of the past will always remain a part of our history. It is imperative to have scholars like Fr Attard to ensure that present and



**Fr. Lawrence Attard**

future generations are told in an objective manner what so many of our brethren had to undergo in order to survive. Modern Malta is an independent country able to look after its own citizens. Employment is provided for those willing and able to work and there is no pushing factor forcing people to seek jobs in foreign countries, even if our country remains a very densely populated one.

One point must be stressed: Maltese living abroad and their descendants will always be part of the great Maltese family. They form part of the Greater Malta sharing with us our blood and traditions.

The Convention for Maltese Living abro showed how strong the ties still are between Maltese in Malta and those who now form an extension of our identity. Fr Attard has helped with his publications to ensure that the Maltese Diaspora remains vibrant as a source of pride to us all. I feel confident that this book entitled **Profiles in Maltese Migration**, will be a great help to those in Malta and abroad, who are interested in the development of Maltese migration as part of our chequered history. Readers will feel grateful, I am sure, for this fifth contribution from the seasoned pen of the late Fr Lawrence E. Attard



There is one question which rises above all other questions. Month by month it acquires greater importance. It may well be called our burning question: it is the question of emigration.

**The Daily Malta Chronicle, 30.1.1910.**

The actual population of Malta can no longer be supported and emigration is a matter of interest to us all.

**The Daily Malta Chronicle, 19.9.1913.**

The subject nearest to my heart is that of emigration. There will be in the near future a demand from the people for labour that cannot be met. This means that men and women will be unable to purchase food for themselves and for their families. I urge the absolute necessity of some to leave Malta.

**Governor Methuen, 2.2.1919.**

Organised emigration to Malta is the breath of life. Without it the greatest national calamity is within sight.

**H. Casolani, 1930.**

The problem of a country with a very restricted territory and with a growing population can only be solved through emigration.

**Governor Schreiber, 6.2.1945.**

Emigration remains an unpalatable necessity. Plans are being devised to hasten emigration and to put it on an organised basis.

**Governor Douglas, 26.1.1948.**

There is a need to control the present population which is now about 307,000. The only means to control population is emigration.

**D. Mintoff, 20.1.1949.**

Emigration should be well organised and Government should encourage the emigrant to take his family with him.

**G. Hyzler, 25.2.1949.**

There is only one solution for our population problem: subsidised mass emigration.

**P. Boffa, 19.9.1949.**

I hold that unless we are successful in our emigration drive, Malta's fate is very grim.

**M. Strickland, 22.11.1951.**

Since work is not available to all who seek jobs, emigration is inevitable. This is a sorry state of affairs, but in the end emigration could prove to be a blessing to many.

**M. Gonzi, 25.10.1953.**

Emigration is our top priority. It is the only solution to the many problems that confront us and which will get worse in the future. It is our most important duty to leave this island to avoid hardship.

**J. Cole, 27.1.1954.**





## The Prayer of the Order

Lord Jesus, Thou hast seen fit to enlist me for Thy service among the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem. I humbly entreat Thee through the intercession of the Most Holy Virgin of Philermo, of St. John the Baptist, Blessed Gerard and all the Saints and Blessed of our Order, to keep me faithful to the traditions of our Order. Be it mine to practice and defend the Catholic, the Apostolic, the Roman Faith against all enemies of Religion; be it mine to practice charity towards my neighbours, especially the poor and sick. Give me the strength I need, to carry out this, my resolve, forgetful of myself, learning ever from Thy Holy Gospel, a spirit of deep and generous Christian devotion, striving ever to promote God's Glory, the world's peace and all that may benefit the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. Amen.



## ORDER OF MALTA MALTESE ASSOCIATION

Casa Lanfreducci  
Victory Square 2,  
Valletta VLT1104  
Malta

Tel: +356 21226919

Fax: +356 21226918

info@orderofmalta-malta.org



### Blessed Gerard

O God, who exalted Blessed Gerard because of his care for the poor and the sick, and through him founded in Jerusalem the Order of St. John the Baptist, give us the grace of seeing, as he did, the image of your Son in our brothers and sisters. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

The skull of Blessed Gerard, the founder of the Order, is preserved at the church dedicated to St Ursula - adjacent to the monastery of the Jerosolimitan Nuns - in Valletta, Malta.

This important relic is venerated by members of the Order and the general public.

## 40th Anniversary of Author Tony C. Cutajar OAM First President of the Friends of Australia for 37 years.



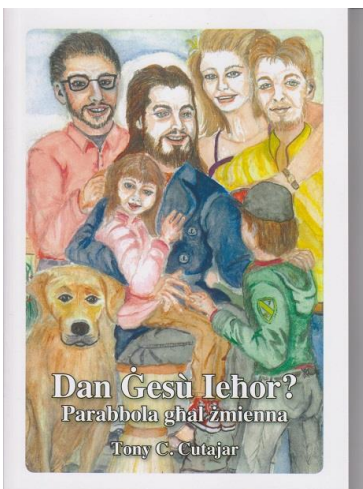
This year is the 40th anniversary of Tony C. Cutajar's very first publication – *Id-Dubbien l-Abjad*, a very modest book published by Klabb Kotba Maltin recounting the exciting experience of a Maltese family living in Australia on their first visit to Malta. This he wrote at 40 years of age so that now that he's over 80 he still spends his day on his laptop. Since then he has published well over a 100 fiction and nonfiction works, including children's books, textbooks and translations, some of which won national prizes and are being used in schools.

He says there are another 30 or so novels on his laptop waiting to be published. Most of his books are mainly based on episodes and incidents taken from the history of Malta. Tony has a way of building an exciting story from a little event, however unimportant or insignificant. His characters and dialogues are very down to earth and true to life.

Born at Gżira on 28 July 1936, Tony studied at Stella Maris College, the University of Malta and that of London and at Manchester Training College. He taught English and French up to sixth form level in UK where he studied and taught for ten years. These subjects he also taught in Malta from 1969 till 1997. He obtained a scholarships in French at the Sorbonne, on Shakespeare at Stratford-on-Avon and in teaching English through TV in London and Birmingham.

This is what a critic had written about him in a local newspaper while reviewing one of his last books:

*Chev. Tony C. Cutajar is one of the most prolific authors of the Maltese islands writing both in English and Maltese. He also produced a great number of books as well as the first four ebooks in Maltese mainly for young adults. His radioplays and serials have been broadcast for several years on various radio stations and TV, while some of the plays have also won first place in drama festivals at the Manoel Theatre. He also produced radio and TV programmes, was Mayor of San Gwann, belongs to the Order of St. Lazarus and recently was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) by Dame Quentin Bryce, the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia..*



His last book, published in February of this year – *Dan Ġesù Iehor?* – is an unusual and controversial novel which makes you stop and think. It's not the run of the mill story but still very powerful. It is an original story which keeps you wondering and speculating. The author says that it's nothing but a parable of our times, an allegorical story about a good and sincere young man who is loved by many but accused and criticised by others. Manwel is certainly very different from anybody else, mysterious, religious and, according to some, even strange. As a teacher he is very popular not only with his young students but also with the people of the village where he lives with his widowed mother. He starts meeting with a number of young men in a wine shop and they begin to call themselves "Manwel's disciples".

Many consider him an angel if not Jesus himself. His fellow teachers don't agree among themselves and even have a fight when one of them accuses him of being gay. Families come to a peaceful existence thanks to his

intervention. Somebody even maintained that he had performed a miracle. A young woman is mad about him while another one, a missionary nun, encourages him to start a new life.

Is it possible that Jesus came back into the world in modern clothes to continue with his message of conversion and the love of one's neighbour? In his dedication, the author says that he'd been thinking about this subject for a very long time until he started writing it. As a teacher for many years in Malta



and abroad, he often imagined himself taking the place of Jesus in his dealings with his students. He was a dedicated teacher of English and French but quietly he was also an educator in every sense.



### Some of Tony C. Cutajar's books

Tony C. Cutajar always believed that teaching is a vocation, and teachers, like nurses, have a special mission. He believed like the American politician Brad Henry that a good teacher can inspire hope, ignite the imagination and instill a love of learning. But he also followed author Bob Talbert's famous quotation that teaching kids to count is fine but teaching them what counts is best.

Many old boys of his often ask him why he writes mainly in Maltese when they always remember him as a teacher of

English and French. His reply is that he always loved the Maltese language and that during his ten years stint in UK he missed Maltese so much that he wanted to make up for it.

He has also translated a number of books from English into Maltese, among which we find John Boyne's *Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*, Michael Morpurgo's *War Horse*, Fey von Hassell's *Hostage of the Third Reich*, Rudyard Kipling's *The Light that Failed* and Joseph F. Girzone's *Josua*. As for ebooks, Tony was the first author to publish the first five books in Maltese but then he switched over to English, so that we find he has ten ebooks altogether.

As a resident of San Ġwann for 45 years – and also an ex-Mayor of this new town – Tony C. Cutajar has written profusely about the history of this locality which was then very little known. Even the residents had little information about the cultural and historical heritage of what was originally known as Msieraħ. The Superintendent of Cultural Heritage has over the years maintained that of all the towns and villages around the harbour area, San Ġwann has the richest surviving collection of archaeological sites, comprising, Punic, Roman Saracen and mediaeval remains. Tony always wanted to make sure that this important fact was known and acknowledged.

In one of his recent letters in The Times of Malta he complained that he had been a voice in the wilderness for nine years as mayor, deputy mayor and councillor in the local council as the authorities continued to neglect the locality's historical remains. So he decided to form an NGO under the name of *Wirt San Ġwann* together with a number of knowledgeable people in order to promote the town's heritage and to encourage the better appreciation and protection of this patrimony.

Besides various articles and letters in the newspapers and magazines, Tony has published quite a number of books dealing with this subject, mainly *San Ġwann u l-Istorja Tiegħu* and *San Ġwann u t-Toroq Tiegħu*. Then he published novels with the history of San Ġwann as a background, among them *Il-Misteru tal-Mensija*, *Il-Misteru tar-Razzett Ta' Xindi*, *Inkwatru Misterjuż* and *Castello Ta' Lanzun*. For further information about Tony C. Cutajar see <http://www.cutajar.net/tony>



**THE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER**

**Subscribe now and you won't miss a thing**

**[maltesejournal@gmail.com](mailto:maltesejournal@gmail.com)**

**Our journal is read and enjoyed allover the world**



## CELEBRATING MALTA NATIONAL DAY IN GOZO

A commemoration ceremony to mark the two Victories of Malta of 1565 and 1943, took place on Xaghra Square this morning, organised by Xaghra Parish in conjunction with the Xaghra Local Council.

The programme for the morning started with a Pontifical Mass at Xaghra Basilica, this was followed by a speech of introduction on Xaghra Square by Mayor Joe Cordina.

It was a beautiful sunny morning for the eternal activities, which included a reenactment with the participation of locals from Xaghra, by the Xaghra Historical Reenactment Organisation, the highlight of which was the triumphal entry of Grandmaster Jean Parisot de la Valette and the Captain of the Order of St John accompanied by Knights and Maltese soldiers.

The Captain of the Order went around the Square and read out various proclamations by Grand Master Jean Parisot de la Valette.

Alain SalvaryOne states that following the victory of the Knights and the Maltese over the invading army after a five month long siege in 1565, the Grand Master declared that the 8th Day of September was to be remembered every year as the day of victory. Another states that the Day was to be dedicated to Our Lady of Victory.

The Malta Police Force Band performed a display and there was a Guard of Honour by the Armed Forces of Malta.



Present for the ceremony was the Minister for Gozo Dr Justyne Caruana and other dignitaries.

This morning's commemorative ceremony concluded with the laying of wreaths in front of the Great Siege monument which was temporarily set up in Victory Square, and was followed by the National Anthem. The 8th of September commemorates the end of the Great Siege of 1565, this year marks the 452nd



anniversary of the Great Siege of Malta; the epic 1565 battle that made a legend out of a little island that, against all odds, withstood invasion from an empire.

The Great Siege commenced in May of 1565 when the Ottoman Empire began invading the island of Malta, which was then occupied by the Order of the Knights of St John.

After several months of continuous battle and bloodshed the Siege came to an end on the 8th of September, a date that continues to be commemorated with the annual public holiday Il-Vitorja.

It also marks the end of the French occupation of Malta in 1800 and coincidentally enough, the armistice of the Fascist regime in Italy in 1943, for this the connection with Malta was two-fold, the bombardments by the 'Aeronautica' were over and the Italian Navy was brought to Malta to remain moored at St. Paul's Bay until the end of the war. Photographs: Alain Salvary gozonews.com

## Zalzett tal-Malti Maltese Sausage



*Located in southern Europe, east of Tunisia, south of Sicily and in the middle of the Mediterranean the Republic of Malta is the smallest country in the European union. Its strategic location has resulted in the occupation of various races specifically Arabs, French, English, Italians, Spaniards and Phoenicians. This has given way to a mélange of continental flavors as well as cooking techniques. The strongest influences on Maltese cuisine are those of the North Africans and neighboring Sicilians. Likewise the tradition of making sausages is one that is carried over from the past.*

*The Maltese sausage, also locally known as zalzetta tal-malti, is a homemade sausage that is influenced by England but made in accordance to Portuguese traditions. It is similar to the pork salsicca of the Italians and can be made either plain or with garlic, depending on the type. Fresh Maltese sausage is often made with garlic, while dry types are made without this.*

*The production of Maltese sausage begins with ground pork and fat. This is seasoned with sea salt, crushed black peppercorns, crushed coriander seeds, parsley, garlic and other spices then stuffed into sausage casings. For dried varieties, the links are pricked to let air out and left to dry for about 2 to 4 days. The result is a short and thick sausage with a pinkish color when raw. Once cooked, this becomes brown and is full of flavor. The amount of sea salt used also makes for a slightly salty sausage that has bit of crunch and texture thanks to the peppercorn and coriander.*

*An important part of Maltese cuisine, this sausage is enjoyed in many ways. Dry types may be eaten raw without any cooking despite the appearance. It can be served with sun dried tomatoes, biscuits, bread and many others. When sliced thinly it may be eaten as an antipasto, added to salad or even scooped out and mixed with other ingredients to create a spread or used in pasta sauce. Maltese sausage can also be cooked in many different ways including grilled, smoked, steamed, stewed and fried. In Malta it is often enjoyed stewed in tomato sauce. When a less salty taste is needed, it is often boiled before cooking.*





## RIFLESSJONI DWAR IX-XAHAR TA' SETTEMBRU

miktub minn Greg Caruana

Ix-xahar ta' Settembru ghalina l-Maltin huwa l-bidu tar-rebbiegha fejn in-natura tista tghid terga titwieled . Il-gonna jibdwew jiehdu r-ruh, tibda tara' xi fjuri zgħar hergin u kollox anke il-'lawn' trid tibda titfagħlu l-'fertiliser' halli jerga jiehu is-sahha u jibda jghdar.

Izda f'Malta x-xahar ta' Settembru huwa magħruf l-iktar għall-festa tat-Twelid ta' Marija Bambin jew tal-Vitorja *L-otto settembre* ,li hija wahda mill-festi nazzjonali u li tfakkarna fir-rebh taz-zewg assedji, wiehed dak ta' fuq l-Imperu Ottoman ta'1565 u l-iehor it-tmien tat-tieni Gwerra Dinjija. U din il-gurnata tfakkarna ukoll fill-festa ta' Marija Bambina fl-1945 skont l-istorja meta l-vara tal-Bambina kienet hierga mill-knisja tax-Xaghra, Ghawdex griet l-ahbar li l-Italja cediet u spiccat it-Tieni Gwerra Dinjija. Llum għandna hamsa granet nazzjonali.

Fill-gzejjer Maltin erba'

parrocchi jiccelebraw il-festa tal-Bambina. Kif ix-Xaghra, in-Naxxar, li din il-parrocchia hija mill-ewwel għaxar parrocchi ewlenin li kella fil-gzejjer Maltin, il-parrocchia tal-Mellieha li hija parrocchia ohra mill-antiki, u li hija wkoll magħrufa għal l-Għana tradizzjonali Malti, (illum il-kunsill tal-parrocchia jorganizza l-iljieli Melliehin), U fl-ahhar insibu l-belt ta' Senglea bit-titlu ta' '*civitas invicta*' li tfisser qatt mirbuha .



fl-Isla insibu l-bazilika u s-santwarju ta' Marija Bambina li ta fil-bida tagħha fl-1581 , fl-1595 kienet giet mkabbra. L-istatwa tal-Bambina hu mifhum li b'mod straordinarju giet mill-bahar, jingħad li zewg bahrin senglejani kienu qedin kienu fuq il-bahar u lemhu pulena tifflowtja f'wicc l-ilma. Huma talbu lil kaptan biex iħallihom itellahwa u jehduwa magħhom u jehduha fill-parrocchia tagħhom; għalihom din il-pulena kienet x-xbieha t'Ommna Marija ,l-istatwa tal-Bambina.

L-Isla fl-ahhar gwerra, flimkien ma Bormla, l-Birgu u l-Kalkara tista tghid li kienu imgarra kwazi totalment. Dan gara fl-10 ta' Jannar 1941, meta il-Germanizi

għamlu attack feroci fuq HMS Illutrious .li dam sejjer għall siegħat shah tant hu hekk li l-istatwi tal-Bambina u tar-redentur kellhom jehduhom fil-knisja ta' Birkirkara għall-kenn.

l-imsejkna nies tal-Kottonera li huma madwar id-Dockyard hafna minnhom tilfu djarhom u lill-qrabghathom, tant li kellhom isibu refugju f'postijiet ohra bħall Hamrun, Birkirkara, l-Mosta, Hal Lija, Hal Balzan u r-Rabat ohra. Fl-ahhar gwerra mhux il-kottoniera biss intlaqtu mill-bombi ta' l-għadu imma postijiet ohra bħall Mosta li kienet qrib l-ajudrom ta' Ta' Qali ,fejn intlaqtet il-knisja tal-Mosta b'bomba li ma spoldietx, fid-9 t'April 1942. Il-hin kien fl-erba' ta' wara nofs inhar waqt "L-Ora Santa" fejn kien hemm Dun Salv Magro li miet fl-eta ta' 84 sena, u xi tlett mitt ruh ohra li kienu qed jitolbu fil-knisja. Imma b'miraklu ma wegga hadd.

Fl-ahhar gwerra ma kienx hemm familja wahda li ma ntlaxx b'xi mewt jew li kellhom lil xi hadd li baqa immankat. Nixtieq nagħlaq bi statistika . ta' kemm mietu nies fl-ahhar gwerra - mietu 1540 ruh. Imweggajn serjament kien hemm 1846 ruh u li wegghu hafif 1932 ruh .





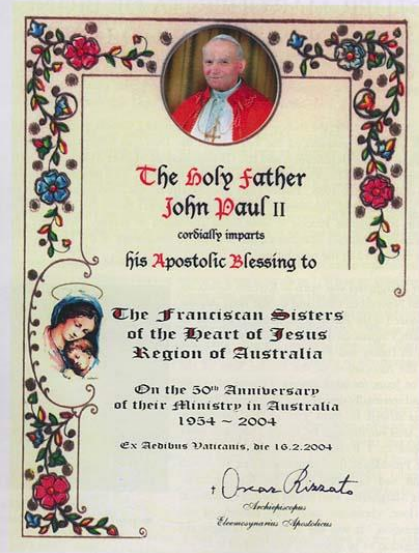
## ST. RAPHAEL'S AGED CARE FACILITY, LOCKLEYS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA CELEBRATING 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

The Franciscan Sisters of the Heart of Jesus have rendered their services at St Raphaels's Home for the Aged in Lockleys for the last 30 years. Prior to this time, in September 1971 the Sisters cared for the elderly in Myrtle Bank, Fullarton SA, a nursing Home that was handed over to them by the 'Daughters of Charity'.

Within ten years the Home needed to undergo huge repairs to meet the government building requirements. Its condition was making it impossible to operate there. Archbishop Gleeson and St. Raphael's Home Committee took all possible initiatives of finding another suitable site for the Home, to no avail~ The late Rev. Fr Giles Ferriggi OFM learned about the Sisters having difficulty in finding a suitable site for building the new home and offered the Sisters the vacant land that was behind the Friary.

After securing the site at Franciscan Avenue in Lockleys to build the new St. Raphael's Home for the Aged and a new convent for the Sisters, they submitted an application for financial assistance to the government. The building took almost two years to be finished and on 25th October 1987 the home was blessed by Emeritus Archbishop Gleeson and Mr Noel Blewett officially opened the Home. The Community of Sisters consisted of Sr Ann Marie Zajac, Sr. Leonide Magro, Sr. Gemma Fenech as the Superior and Sr. Rosalinda Schembri. In 1998 Sr. Bonnie Attard replaced Sr. Gemma Fenech as Superior and Director of Nursing. The Sisters worked hard to provide the best care for the thirty-three residents at St. Raphaels Home. Other lay staff was employed to help in administration, nursing and domestic duties. The Sisters aim was always to maintain a high level of quality care providing home like environment for their residents while living in comfortable, safe and secure surroundings. Over the years some of the Sisters were transferred to other communities never to be replaced. For the last five years the Sisters' community was made up of Sr. Bonnie Attard, Sr Anna Mifsud and Sr Leonide Magri. As the government's demands on the Nursing Homes continued to increase, the Sisters realized that they require the assistance of some other Aged Care Facility. The Society of Saint Hilarion Inc. Aged Care was chosen to provide the Clinical Care and support to St. Raphael's Home. The Sisters remain the sole owners of St. Raphaels Home. They will continue to be involved in the pastoral and spiritual care and the activities of daily living of their residents.

### THE BLESSING OF HIS HOLINESS POPE JOHN PAUL II



Following the example of Jesus who on several occasions touched the sick and healed them and imitating their Foundress Mother Margheritas virtues especially those of love and compassion, the Franciscan Sisters of the Heart of Jesus endeavour to continue their Christian Ministry of healing with simplicity and joy, through a life burning with zeal and love towards one another and those who are in their care.

The Maltese Community of South Australia heartily acknowledges the services rendered by the Franciscan Community of the Heart of Jesus, who since January 1962 have rendered their humble service to the sick in S.A. The First three Sisters (pioneers) who came to Adelaide were stationed at the Archbishop House, Medindie, were: Madre Fiorentina, Sr Leonide and Sr. Marianna. Here they not only cared for the Archbishops of those days but also to Prelates, and Cardinals who visited Adelaide, amongst whom St. Pope John Paul II who visited Adelaide in 1973 and as Pontiff in 1986.

In 1971 the Sisters took over the care of the Blind at St. Raphael's, Fullarton and also for a short time at the Southern Cross Homes, Plympton. What happened afterwards we have in the write-up by Sr. Vittoriana and Sr Bonnie.

Recently, Sr. Leonide Magri passed into eternal life and she was one of the first three Sisters who came to South Australia and the first one to die here after her humble and simple service at the age of 84. Her funeral was held at Christ the King Parish Church, Lockleys, South Australia.

The other Sisters who served here in S. Australia and are not mentioned in these pages are: Sr Ottavia, Sr Rita, Sr Edoardina, Sr Radegonda, Sr Brigida, Sr Noemi, Sr Teresina, Sr Onoria, Sr Giuliana, Sr Vivien, Sr Fiorentina, Sr Ediltrude, Sr Marie Louise, Sr Ilariana, Sr Josephine Gabriel, Sr Rizalina, Sr Giorgina, Sr PierPaola, Sr Margaret, Sr Angelina, Sr Josphine, Sr Cecilia, Sr Clementa, Sr Oliva, Sr Giovanna, Sr. Alipia, Sr Silvana and Sr. Natalia, Sr. Bonnie and Sr. Vittoriana. *N.B. Some Of these Sisters have gone to their Eternal Rest. R*

## Almost 700,000 passenger movements in August the airport's busiest month

An unprecedented total number of passengers have passed through Malta International Airport this month, a "noteworthy increase of 14.8%" over the same month in 2016

Amy Micallef Decesare



According to MIA, the growth in passenger numbers was achieved in line with an increase of 15% in seat capacity

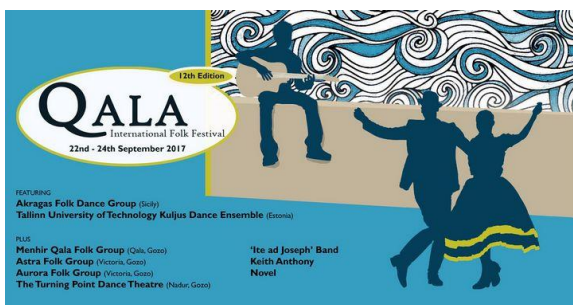
August saw an average of 22,372 travellers passing through the terminal on a daily basis, according to Malta International Airport, with the number spiking to a total of 26,359 passenger movements on the month's busiest year.

An unprecedented total of almost 700,000 passengers passed through the airport, resulting "in a noteworthy increase of 14.8% in August's traffic over the same month last year".

MIA reported that the growth in passenger numbers was achieved in line with an increase of 15% in seat capacity, with a 12.9% increase in aircraft movements during August, with the runway having bustled no less than 4,624 take-offs and landings. Despite the significant increase in available seats on flights to and from Malta International Airport, seat load factor (SLF)I, which measures airlines' efficiency in filling these seats, stood at a healthy 88.1%.

"This is the highest seat load factor for the year so far", they maintained. The airport's top 5 markets: the UK, Italy, Germany, France and Spain, were responsible for more than 460,000 passenger movements of the total traffic during the month. While these markets experienced varying levels of growth ranging from 8.9% to 31.5%, the number of passengers from France and Germany registered the most significant upturn.

MIA went on to say that the growth of the French market can be partly attributed to the launch of the Bordeaux and the Toulouse routes and increased capacity on the Lyon route. On the other hand, increased activity from Germany mainly stemmed from added flight frequency on the Frankfurt and Munich routes. In the first 8 months of the year, Malta International Airport recorded just over 4 million passengers, equivalent to the airport's full-year traffic for 2013. <http://www.maltatoday.com.mt/>



### Qala International Folk Festival 2017 programme of activities launched

The programme has been announced for this month's qala international folk festival, which is being held for the 12th year, organised by the qala local council and the qala menhir folk group.

Three days of music, dance and costumes make up this very popular festival – between Friday, the 22nd and Sunday, the 24th of September.

The picturesque village of Qala, will be transformed into a hub of folk activities that give an insight into the way our ancestors thought and lived in these islands and in other countries.

Guest foreign folk groups will be participating during the days of the festival and this intercultural programme has grown to attract locals and visitors for its quality entertainment.

This event is a firm favourite on the Gozo cultural calendar, visitors to Qala will be able to live a few days in the past, savouring the unique atmosphere.



## James Faulkner, Jim Caviezel, Olivier Martinez to star in Malta-shot 'Paul, Apostle of Christ'



James Faulkner, Jim Caviezel, Olivier Martinez, Joanne Whalley, and John Lynch are to star in a Malta-shot historical drama Paul, Apostle of Christ, Variety reported yesterday.

The film will be produced by Sony through its faith-based Affirm Films label. The movie will be directed by Andrew Hyatt from his own screenplay.

The story reportedly covers Paul, portrayed by Faulkner, going from the most infamous persecutor of Christians to Jesus Christ's most influential apostle.

As his days grow shorter, Paul works from prison to further the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and embolden his followers to stand strong in their faith against Roman persecution.

"Next to Jesus, no one played a more central role in the growth of early church than the Apostle Paul," Affirm Films executive vice president Rich Peluso was quoted by Variety as saying. "He wrote a vast swath of the New Testament and travelled more than 10,000 miles by foot to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Berden added, "Paul changed from murdering Christians to becoming their unlikely leader. His life personifies 'forgiveness', a concept that seems almost impossible today – but desperately needed. We at ODB Films are overjoyed to be working alongside Sony Affirm to share this much needed story with the world."

Zelon worked with Caviezel on Affirm's football drama 'When the Game Stands Tall'. It is the first Biblical role for Caviezel since The Passion of the Christ in 2004. The film is slated for release in 2018 through Affirm Films. <http://www.independent.com.mt/>



### About Marsovin

Marsovin is a household name in Malta, synonymous with the production of premium wines. The roots of this well-earned status were planted almost a century ago when Chev. Anthony Cassar founded the company under the name of A&G Cassar, in 1919. Marsovin was incorporated in 1956 as a family-run company which grew to become a significant part of the history of wine-making in Malta.

During the ensuing years, Marsovin continued to expand and modernise, maintaining its high quality reputation which makes the company the leading producer and exporter of wines in Malta. Marsovin has set major inroads in viticulture and winemaking in Malta and established the current high standards which some Maltese wines enjoy internationally.

The high standard of Marsovin wines is attributed partly to Malta's favourable climatic conditions but also to the stringent controls maintained by experts from the viticultural aspect to the vinification process in order to ensure that the optimum level of quality is achieved.

Today, Marsovin owns 199.7 tumoli of land which make up their five Estates, testimony to Marsovin's commitment to the culture of wine. These Estates, in Malta and Gozo, are owned by Marsovin and the Cassar family and are specifically intended for the production of premium quality, single-estate wines. Over the recent years Marsovin has also introduced several wines into its portfolio all of which are produced from contracted land, owned by Maltese and Gozitan farmers who produce grapes according to Marsovin's specifications, as of Summer 2008 Marsovin currently contracts a total of 1116 tumoli/125 hectares around Malta & Gozo.

# JOURNEY TO THE UNKNOWN

*Ron Borg - Adelaide, Australia*



The Orontes was a 664 foot long, 20,000 ton, 2 screw, Steam turbine ship with a speed of 20 knots built in England, in 1929.

In 1940, it was converted to a troop ship and later refitted in 1947, to carry a total of 1,612 passengers, and resumed the London to Australia service in June 1948 until 1962 when she was scrapped in Spain.

Daniel Caruana (deceased) had been in Adelaide for about 18 months when he took a return voyage to Malta on the Orontes, boarding the ship in December 1953 at Outer Harbour South Australia.

He went on to marry his beloved Theresa in Malta, and then, as Mr. and Mrs. Caruana travelled back to Australia. The first leg of their Journey was from Malta to Greece on the ship Ionia.

The Ionia was a ship built in 1913, and served in the Royal Navy, and the French Navy in WW1. In 1925, she became a passenger ship again for Naval use in WWII.

In 1946 she was sold to Hellenic Mediterranean Lines and refurbished for passenger duties in 1948. Her route was Marseille-Genoa-Pireaus-Alexandria Limassol-Port Said. The SS Ionia came to a tragic end when she capsized and sank at Djakarta on the 26th July 1965.



Daniel and  
Theresa  
Caruana



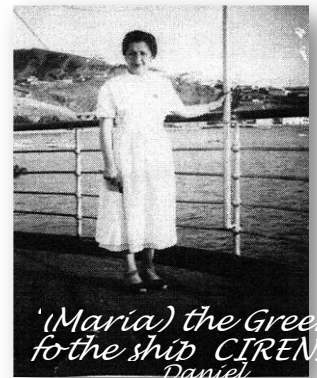
continued the last leg of their journey home from Greece to Australia on another ship the T.S.S. Cyrenia. In some of his memoirs, Daniel wrote how impressed he was with a Cyrenia nurse; "...she was a very good woman. On the ship, with us there was a family of Salvu, Georgina and their five children ages between 2 and 5.





*Daniel and Theresa Caruana in 1954*

After 5 days they all developed Measles. She looked after them with car and even asked me to let her know should they need anything. Daniel was obviously very impressed by the tender care that this ships nurse showed to his fellow migrants, although this sort of supportive care was not always forthcoming to many other migrants on other ships during this era. Daniel and Theresa landed in Port Melbourne, and finished their journey with a train trip to Adelaide where they started their new life and had a family of four children. *(Although Daniel is deceased, this information and photos were kindly donated by his daughter Catherine)*



*'(Maria) the Greek  
to the ship CIRENE  
Daniel*

**This Series "Journey To The Unknown" will continue in the next Newsletter – Ron Borg, Adelaide SA**



## 21 band clubs benefit from €180,000 in culture funds

<http://www.independent.com.mt/>

Minister for Justice, Culture and Local Government Owen Bonnici today presided over the presentation of €180,000 in funds to 21 band clubs. This was the result of an initiative spearheaded by the Ministry for Justice, Culture and Local Government through a competitive

process administered by Arts Council Malta in collaboration with the Association of Maltese Bands. By means of this competitive process, 21 band clubs were ultimately chosen.

Minister Bonnici explained how this financial aid will result in positive developments in musical societies that vary from restoration of décor, paintings, and music as well as improving the level of musical education. All this has the aim of allowing band clubs to further contribute towards culture and cultural heritage in Malta.

The societies that will benefit from this scheme are: Banda l-Unjoni, Luqa; Banda Santa Katerina, Żurrieq; Banda La Vittorja, Mellieħa; Banda Re Ġorġ V, Mqabba; Banda Peace, Naxxar; Każin San Gabriel, Balzan; Żejtun Band Club, Żejtun; Sant'Elena Band Club, Birkirkara; Banda San Ġuzepp, Għaxaq; Banda Sant'Anna, Marsaskala; Banda Stella Maris, Sliema; Banda Birżebbuġa, Birżebbuġa; Banda Madonna tal-Ġilju, Mqabba; Banda Sta Marija, Għaxaq; La Stella Victoria, Għawdex; Banda San Leonardo, Kirkop; Banda San Lawrenz, Birgu; Għaqda Mużikali L'Isle Adam, Rabat; Banda Victory, Naxxar; and Banda Sta Maria, Żebbuġ, Għawdex.



## History of Ta' Pinu Shrine – Victoria, Australia



**Msgr Benedict Camilleri**

After Our Lady's Call to Carmela Grima, the first foreign country that received an Icon of Our Lady Ta' Pinu was Tunisia, where some Gozitan people emigrated in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. These immigrants, besides personal devotion in their hearts, had carried to that country, an Icon of Our Lady Ta' Pinu and installed it in one of the local Churches. To date, devotions to Our Lady Ta' Pinu has spread all around the world, namely India, Guatemala, Toronto, Albania, Brazil, Rome, and the latest oratory was installed at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington D.C in 2006.

In 1957, for some reasons, this Icon from La Goulette, Tunisia was removed from Tunisia and was brought to a Church in Kensington, Melbourne.

First mass in Wollongong in 1991.- After remaining for some years in that Church, it was transferred again to St. Bernadette Church, in Sunshine Victoria. In 1989, a group of devotees of Our Lady decided to have some celebrations in honour of Our Lady Ta' Pinu at St. Bernadette Church. In 1990, this group, wishing to have an icon of Our Lady for processions, commissioned a new Icon to artist, Chev. Paul Camilleri Cauchi. The painting was finished early 1991 and Msgr Benedict Camilleri, then Rector of Ta Pinu Shrine in Gozo, Malta was invited to come to Australia and conduct a few Marian Celebrations.

Devotions to Our Lady Ta' Pinu were introduced in Horsley Park and Blacktown (Sydney) and She is also venerated in the Marian Centre of Berrima( NSW)

While Msgr Benedict Camilleri was in Sydney, some friends suggested that he could build a church here in Australia dedicated to Our Lady Ta' Pinu. On his return to Melbourne, meeting the group that had invited him, he revealed this idea which they were ready to support. He then made the necessary requests to both Ecclesiastical Authorities, in Malta and in Melbourne, and began looking for a suitable place for such a devotion. After consultations, the Hill overlooking the Western Highway was selected, a loan to support the project was obtained and an application for a planning permit was lodged.

In 1992, a Mass was celebrated on the land. The first official Mass in the presence of a beautiful number of Pilgrims was celebrated on **27rd March 1993**.

His Lordship, Archbishop Francis Thomas Little also gave permission for Mass to be said each first Saturday of the month. This began on the 26 March 1994 and Each month hundreds of people gather in front o the statue of the blessed Virgin Mary, duly built on the hillside and blessed by Bishop Nicholas Cauchi of Gozo, to pray the Rosary and attend Holy Mass.

The majestic concrete Cross overlooking the Western Freeway was erected, marking the site of the proposed church. was blessed by His Lordship Dr. Francis Thomas Little, Archbishop of Melbourne on Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> February 1996.

He also placed a solid brass cross which had been previously blessed by His Holiness Pope John Paul II, at the foot of the cross. The growing number of pilgrims, as in earlier times, demands that a suitable church to accommodate them be built. Accordingly, it has been decided to commence construction, by building a replica of the ancient chapel. This too will be surrounded by fields, but one day, with God's help, a beautiful church will also stand out, a sign of the Australian People's wish to honour the Mother of God.



[illegible]

**gha**  
ghaqda tal-malti  
università • 1931

Din l-attività se tkun qiegħda ssegwi attività anċillari li se ssir fid-19 ta' Settembru fi Spazju Kreattiv, bl-isem ta' Żanżan Kelma, l-ewwel spelling bee bil-Malti. Ғajr lill-Kunsill Lokali ta' Tas-Sliema, Spazju Kreattiv u Merlin Publishers.

This activity will follow an ancillary activity, a spelling bee in Maltese called Żanżan Kelma, to be held on 19 September at Spazju Kreattiv. With sincere thanks to the Sliema Local Council, Spazju Kreattiv and Merlin Publishers.



## EU-Australia Leadership Forum

PRESS RELEASE

Canberra, Australia

13 September, 2017

### New EU Ambassador to focus on trade, innovation and education

The new European Union Ambassador to Australia, Michael Pulch, today presented his credentials to the Governor-General at Government House in Canberra. Dr Pulch said he was pleased to take up the appointment at an exciting time in the EU-Australia relationship.

"We are about to hopefully start negotiating a free trade deal which will significantly enhance our relationship. We also recently signed a Framework Agreement that upgrades our bilateral political cooperation and held our first EU-Australia Leadership Forum that brought together leaders from all sectors," Dr Pulch said.



"Our interaction is expanding fast, to our mutual benefit. A clear example of this is the growing Australian involvement in the EU's \$A120 billion Horizon 2020 innovation program where more than 80 Australian researchers are participating in programs worth more than \$A300 million.

"I would also encourage as many Australians as possible to participate in the Erasmus+ education program that has so far seen more than 360 Australians study in Europe since 2015."

Dr Pulch said he was looking forward to contributing to deepen bilateral relations and helping Australians engage more with the EU which is the world's largest economy, the biggest trade player, the number one global development aid donor and major innovation hub.

For more information about Dr Pulch's experience please contact the EU's Media Advisor in Australia, Alia Papageorgiou, on (02) 6271 2747.



### ON THE ROAD TO RABAT

Another painting by Chev. Edw. Caruana Dingli - Malta