

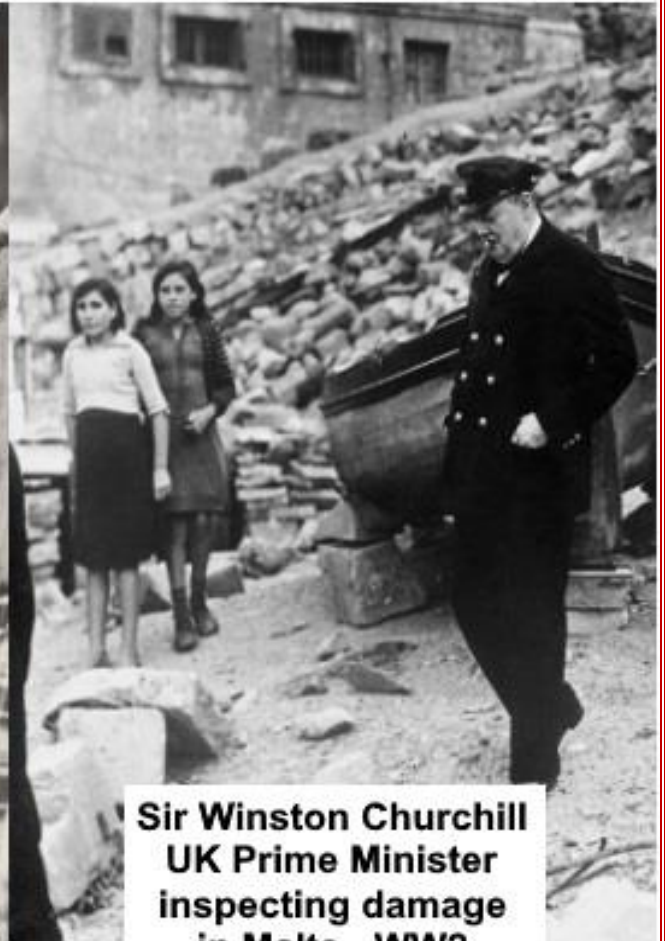


# MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

Editor: Frank L Scicluna

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**Sir Winston Churchill  
UK Prime Minister  
inspecting damage  
in Malta - WW2**

**"They live on a Fortress Island"**

These children and the 70-year old woman with them are resident of Malta – The Island Fortress in the Mediterranean. They are looking at the ruins caused by the Axis air-raids. The Expressions on their faces speak a thousand words. But who are these people in this remarkable photo? Circa 1941

**MALTA AT  
WORLD WAR TWO  
1939-1945**

**Maltese families used caves as bomb shelters during the war. My grandfather used to excavate the caves - Carloine Deguara**



**A Maltese boy  
proudly showing  
the Union Jack 1943**







## New Zealand women's role in World War I

OLIVER LEWIS

Esther Hope, right, with her friend Beatrix Dobie working in World War 1. On her first night in the hospital ward in Malta, Kitty Mair nursed a New Zealand soldier as he died in her arms.

It was 1915, World War I was raging, and the young artist had sailed to the Mediterranean island to volunteer with the Red Cross.

Mair was accompanied by two friends, both fellow artists and Kiwis, Beatrix Dobie and Esther Hope..

They called themselves "the trio" and author Jane Tolerton believes they and other young women have been done a disservice in official histories.



Saturday is Armistice Day, the 99th anniversary of the end of World War I – a conflict in which both men and women played a part.

Esther Hope (nee Barker) with convalescent soldiers in Malta, in 1915.

However, Tolerton, the author of the newly released book *Make Her Praises Heard Afar*, said New Zealand women's role in the conflict had been largely overlooked.

"We're told that woman stayed home, but now we find out that they did very interesting things. I think that's inspiring, especially for young woman," she said.

"The trio" were on an artist's holiday in the Bay of Biscay in France when war broke out in 1914.

Hope, an accomplished Canterbury painter from whose works had been displayed in the Royal Academy in London, documented the period through her photography. After Malta, she returned to England where she continued to contribute to the war effort in camps and by driving trucks at Butler's Wharf in London.

Despite the fact Hope – who painted under her maiden name of Barker during the war – was painting and exhibiting throughout the war, Tolerton said her efforts were not recognised in histories of wartime art.

"They don't talk about young New Zealand women who were actively working on the war effort and painting – that's outside anybody's imagination." Women drove ambulances, went overseas as doctors and managed hospitals and convalescent homes, Tolerton said. Eve Hope said it was important women like her grandmother and their efforts during the war were remembered.

"It completes the picture of New Zealand's participation in the war – how many different people there were that were part of that effort," she said. Andrew Hope said his mother rarely spoke of her war experiences, but he and the rest of his family were proud of her efforts.



MALTA HIGH COMMISSION – ACT AUSTRALIA

Press Release 01/2018

*Malta @ the EU Village  
National Multicultural Festival 2018*



**Photo with Minister for Cultural Affairs, Ms. Rachel Stephen-Smit (5<sup>th</sup> L) and the EU HoMs, led by EU Head of Delegation, H.E. Mr. Michael Pulch (4<sup>th</sup> L), with High Commissioner for Malta, H.E. Charles Muscat (3<sup>rd</sup> L)**

The High Commission of Malta, together with other EU member missions in Canberra, led by the EU Delegation, once again participated in the yearly National Multicultural Festival (NMF) on 17 February 2018 in Canberra.

This year, 24 EU member information booths opened at the EU Village. Norway participated being one of EU's close economic and trade partner.

EU Heads of Mission, including Malta's High Commissioner to Australia, H.E. Mr. Charles Muscat, gathered at the EU Delegation marquee for a family photo with Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Ms. Rachel Stephen-Smit.

The replica EU Passports handed out to visitors to allow them a virtual tour of the European Union by visiting the booths and having the passport stamped, is still a crowd drawer.

Malta's booth handed out hundreds of tourism information brochures and other promotional items, including dvds and maps of Malta.

The High Commissioner and Mrs. Muscat were ably assisted at the Malta booth by P.A. to the HC, Jeannette Zaide-Crombie and volunteers from the Maltese Australian Association in the ACT, President, Mr. John Vassallo, Ms. Rose Harn and Ms. Connie Grant. Hundreds of enquiries about Malta and Gozo were put to those handing out the brochures, mostly from the younger generation. This year, the EU Village proved to be another great success at the Festival.



**Maltese diplomatic missions work to promote Maltese culture, arts, theatre, history and language in the countries they serve.**



# Mother Language Day in multilingual Malta



Today more than ever, it is crucial in teaching and educational contexts to sustain the development of plurilingual and pluricultural competence in our learners

On the 21st February the United Nations celebrated International Mother Language Day. This day calls for each and every one of us to reflect upon our linguistic and cultural heritage, a heritage that derives from various sources such as family, school and society. It is also an opportunity to celebrate and promote multilingualism.

Multilingualism refers to the presence of several languages in a given geographical area. Due to the recent influx of migrants in Malta, there is hardly any doubt that Malta has become multilingual. Listening to non-Maltese nationals speaking an array of different languages is a reality which surrounds us in our everyday life.

Due to the demographical changes which took place over the last few years, celebrating International Mother Language Day in a country like Malta has thus gained a much more profound meaning. Apart from the importance of celebrating Maltese, our precious national language, it serves as an opportunity to foster what is known as pluriculturality, or the desire and ability to identify with several cultures, and participate in them. Intercultural competence acquired from doing this helps individuals to understand cultural difference better, establish cognitive and affective links between experiences related to that difference and mediate between members of different groups and cultures.

As global and local migration flows increase, so do the number of migrant students in host country schools.

In Malta there are currently 5,744 foreign students in state, independent and church schools. In most cases these students are first-generation migrants with foreign-born parents who speak a foreign language different from the languages of schooling when at home.

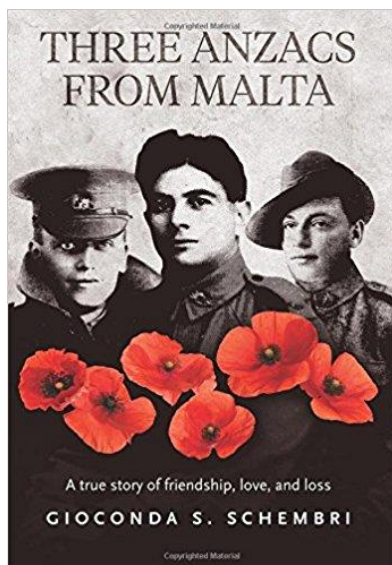
The Migrant Learners' Unit, in charge of providing education to learners from a migrant background, has taken the initiative to encourage schools to promote International Mother Language Day amongst all learners deeming it as an excellent opportunity to foster awareness of languages and intercultural respect. Maltese learners, but also learners from a migrant background, are being encouraged to come up with something in their own mother language – singing a song, reciting a poem, a prayer or a small theatrical performance. Basically anything they feel they would like to share with the rest of the school in their own language.

While efforts are conducted every day to support migrant learners in acquiring our languages of schooling, Maltese and English, on this day they are being given the opportunity to celebrate their linguistic diversity and hence an important part of their cultural heritage. The occasion also serves to encourage them to remain fluent and literate in their own languages. Their plurilingual skills are a valuable asset which will be extremely beneficial for Malta in the future.

Today more than ever, it is crucial in teaching and educational contexts to sustain the development of plurilingual and pluricultural competence in our learners. Such competence plays a key role in accepting diversity while focusing on the ability to go beyond obstacles and open up a certain predisposition towards languages, cultures and communication in general, as part of a willingness to establish a dialogue with the other.

The benefits of linguistic diversity and multilingual education are many and far reaching and need to be communicated more clearly at all levels of society. Phyllisienne Vassallo Gauci





## THREE ANZACS FROM MALTA

Dr Gioconda Schembri

**Charles, Waldemar and  
Anthony...  
Three friends...  
Big dreams...  
One war that shook their  
world.**



Who were these three men and where did they come from? What was their story and how were they connected?

The book 'Three Anzacs from Malta, a true story of friendship, love, and loss', aims to dig up the answers to these and many more questions. It tells the story of these young Maltese men - Charles Bonavia, Waldemar Beck and Anthony Xuereb - who lived during one

of the most turbulent eras in history, a time when the world witnessed great progress and prosperity on one hand, and unprecedented atrocities and tragedies on the other.

One day in 2000, at the Malta High Commission in Canberra where I was working, I came across a book called 'Gallipoli: the Malta connection' by John Mizzi, which details Malta's role during the First World War. I was surprised to find out that among the thousands of young Australians who enlisted in that war, a number of them may have stood out from their somewhat taller and fairer Anglo-Saxon mates. These were the Maltese Anzacs, who had started to call Australia home after an arduous and long sea journey, half way around the world from a little Mediterranean island called Malta. These young Maltese men had taken active part in the historic battles of Gallipoli, in Flanders and Jutland, some of whom ended up paying the ultimate sacrifice.

Among these, three particular names leapt out at me from the pages - Charles Bonavia, Waldemar Beck and Anthony Xuereb - whose story really captured my heart. These three young friends were architecture graduates who had left their families and their small homeland behind, hoping for a better life in faraway Australia. When the war broke out, all three of them answered the call for volunteers to enlist and fight for 'King and Country'. Unknowingly, from their little corner of the world, like thousands of other young men, they were destined to play an important role in this dramatic unfolding of global events.

I was really intrigued and decided to find out more about Charles, Waldemar and Anthony. They were not mere statistics, but real people and like any young man or woman of today, they hoped and dreamed, laughed and cried, lived and loved. What were they like, what dreams they had, what made them tick? I wanted to give them a voice. Woke up thinking about them and fell asleep doing the same!

I was extremely lucky to contact the families of the three men who were more than generous in telling me their story as passed out through the generations, and shared with me precious photos, letters and war diaries. I was well on my way in this amazing journey of discovery!

**The book 'Three Anzacs from Malta' is available - [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) (print & ebook)  
[smashwords.com](https://www.smashwords.com) (ebook) - Malta Military Bookshop, Valletta or directly from author:**

**Please send a private message on facebook page Three Anzacs from Malta or email [giocondaschembri@yahoo.com](mailto:giocondaschembri@yahoo.com)**

### What readers are saying about Three Anzacs from Malta:

*You have produced an excellent book, underpinned by sharp and accurate analysis as well as sweet and flowing descriptive lines. I must say that you kept me hooked all along! The way you mixed political history of WW I and the lives of these 3 men is impeccable. F.Cassar*

*I have nearly read it all and it is very well presented, and well written, and one can realise what a lot of research went into it. Well done Gioconda. A.Pisani*

## CURRENT AFFAIRS, FOREIGN AFFAIRS

## From Hamrun's San Gejtanu Parish to the missions in Chile

Melvic Zammit



There are at least seven Maltese persons who live in Chile, among them a priest and an official of the EU Embassy.

Three years ago Father Henry Balzan was Parish Priest of the San Gejtanu Parish in Hamrun. From there he went to the missions in Chile where he had already carried out pastoral duties over a 12 year period. For the last two years he has been Parish Priest at El Salvador, a town in northern Chile.

He said that although he had given he had also received more than he had given. He said the people were eager to hear God's Word but there is also a need because of a lack of the number of priests.

Fr Balzan arrived in Chile in 1995, almost five years after the fall of the dictator Augusto Pinochet. He said the wounds of the relatives of those who had been punished or castigated by imprisonment or torture because they had opposed the dictatorship have never healed.

He said he had spoken with a woman who said she could not find it in her heart to forgive because she had last seen her brother in his pyjamas in bed and he was then taken away and she has never seen him since and still does not know what happened to him. However, the country has taken great strides to create reconciliation and unity.

Fr Balzan had taken a 14-hour journey to meet the President but she had also taken the opportunity to meet other Maltese people who live in Chile.

President Coleiro Preca during her visit to Chile in 2017 was also invited to the EU Embassy where among the officials she met Ruth Bajada who has been in Chile for the last two years. Bajada said that initial settling in had been difficult.

At first the language was a problem although she had overcome this. She explained that Chile is a thin but very long strip of land and therefore the distances are enormous, especially compared to Malta where every place is just ten minutes away. She said that an aircraft flight to the southern part of Chile takes four hours.

Bajada said that discussions between Chile and the EU are ongoing for the development of stronger links and better diplomatic relations and both are towing the same line on sustainable development and climate change.

### Thank you from Chile

I would like to thank the Mission Fund for its recent donation towards missionary work in the parish of El Divino Salvador in Chile. Such kindness is very much appreciated and of great support towards our work in the missions.

I serve as a parish priest in the aforementioned parish with special attention to people in need. Chile is a country that has made progress, however great inequality still exists and some people remain socially disadvantaged. Among these are the migrants who leave their own country in search of a better life. We have to cater for these people and help them as much as we can. So I most heartily recommend the Mission Fund to the public in its endeavours to help Maltese missionaries abroad, by sending used stamps and donations.

Donations may be made online or by direct bank transfer to one of the following accounts: HSBC 061 197 448 050; BOV 163 007 980 19; APS 200 008 207 62; or BNF 00 879 631 01. More information may be accessed from the website [www.missionfund.org.mt](http://www.missionfund.org.mt).

Thank you very much and God bless you all.

## TAL-IMGHOBBI



Fiġa Gorġ kien iħobb jerfa'  
mill-Vari tal-Gimgħa l-Kbira;  
Tal-Imgħobbi Kristu mżebļaħ  
tiegħu kien dejjem il-mira.

Għal daż-żmien kien jibda jhejji  
sa mill-bidu tar-Randan,  
fost il-jiem kollha tas-sena  
ma kienx jara isbaħ minn dan!

In-nies tagħna għandha d-drawwa  
tiegħu sehem fil-purċissjoni;  
O kemm hi haġa sabiħa  
tara lil kulħadd unjoni!

Min bħal hiġa taħt xi statwa,  
oħrajn ikaxkru l-ktajjen,  
min jerfa' xi bandalora,  
min itterraq ħafi, sajjem!

Anke l-Knisja xxidd l-iswed  
tar-Randan tul l-erbghin jum  
u t-Triq tas-Salib timxi  
sakemm dan iż-żmien idum.

Illum dahlet sewwa d-drawwa  
illi jagħmlu l-Wirjiet  
li juruna t-tbatija  
sakemm Kristu ssallab, miet.

Dil-Passjoni Huwa beda  
hekk kif rifes ġewwa l-Ġnien;  
sal-istess dixxipli tiegħu  
Lilu telqu bla dewmien!

Quddiem Kajfa u Erodi  
w iċ-ċorma tal-Qassisin  
tawh bil-ħarta u beżqulu  
u għaddewh ta' assassin.

Ma' kolonna lilu rabtu,  
għal ħin twil ifflagellawh;  
ma baqax sura ta' bniedem –  
l-Imgħallem ittorturawh.

U fit-triq lejn il-Qorriegħa  
waqa' fl-art għal tliet darbiet  
u tal-qiegħa t-trab mesaħ  
waqt karba tal-uġiġħ dwiet

Li dlonk nifdet il-qalb t'Ommu  
li man-nisa mxiet warajh  
sakemm fuq salib lemħitu  
b'dawk l-imsiemer ġo saqajh.

L-aħħar qtar tal-ilma ħareġ  
mat-tmiem tat-Testment divin  
li Gesu' ried iħallilna  
għal kemm għad itulu s-snin.

Dana kollu li għidtilkom  
Ta' spiss tarawh esebit  
f'dal-Wirjiet illi jsiru  
b'sagrificċju u taħbit.

Jalla jissuktaw u jinbtu  
iktar minn dawn il-wirjiet  
sabiex nifhmu minn xiex għadda  
l-lben t'Alla sakemm miet.

Ejjew ħbieb iflu l-istatwi,  
Ġorru t-toqol tas-Salib  
La tistħux tistqarru illi  
Kristu hu l-aqwa ħabib!

Qabel nagħlaq nixteqilkom  
Randan mimli paċi w ġid –  
wara Kristu ibqgħu miexja  
b'rieda soda tal-ħadid!

**KAV. Joe M Attard – Ghawdex 2018**



## Campus Book Festival is back for its fifth edition



The Campus Book Festival will be held on 21, 22 and 23 March, kicking off daily at 9am with back-to-back activities planned until 4pm

The National Book Council and Għaqda tal-Malti – Università are proud to present the fifth edition of the Campus Book Festival, which will be held on 21, 22 and 23 March, kicking off daily at 9 am with back-to-back activities planned until 4pm. On Friday the activities will continue until late in the evening.

The purpose of the festival is to promote literature across the board while, at the same time, giving publishers and book distributors a space in which they can sell and promote their publications with a mature audience, such as university students. A vast programme of activities will be put up during the festival, ranging from workshops and films related to literature, to readings and interviews with authors, painters and illustrators – as well as language discussions, guided tours around the University Library, live music and a number of collaborations with other organisations.

The special guest this year is Jasmin B. Frelih, the Slovenian author whose novel *Na/Pol (In/Half)* earned him the European Prize for Literature in 2016. He will be joining us on Campus for special events scheduled on each of the three days, with a creative writing workshop on 21 March, a discussion with Maltese writer and poet Immanuel Mifsud on Slovenian literature on 22 March, and an interview with Noel Tanti on 23 March. On Friday afternoon, Inizjamed will be contributing an Open Mic session featuring Frelih. The festival will close on Friday night with live music by Cryptic Street and Fuzzhoney.

The planned activities are held by HoASA and Marisa Attard, Dr Bernard Micallef and Dr Olvin Vella, in collaboration with the University Library, Glen Calleja along with the Department of Maltese within G.F. Abela Junior College, DESA, Jesmond Vassallo, Noah Fabri, Tradizzjoni Orali – Dipartiment tal-Malti, I-Università, Colette Sciberras, Fattima Mahdi, Moritz Sommer, BDL, Immanuel Mifsud, Inizjamed, Clare Azzopardi and Leanne Ellul, Salva Catania and Gloria Lucia Laurente, Noel Tanti, Pjattaforma, Alfred and Gabriel Buttigieg, Michael Zammit and Horizons. Opening times and dates are: Wednesday 21 March and Thursday 22 9am–4pm; Friday 23 March 9am–late. The Festival is open to all, free of charge.



### Our flame might be small, but it can give solace – pastoral letter for Lent

Our flame might be small, but it can give solace and respite in every environment where darkness reigns, where there is despair, where there is sadness, Archbishop Charles Scicluna and Gozo Bishop Mario Grech said.

In a pastoral letter for Lent, the bishops invited Catholics “to discern in the light

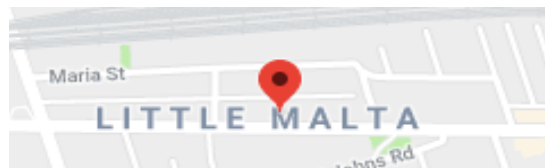
of the Transfiguration, the call we have received to cherish beauty and goodness in our lives. It is from this perspective that we also see this year in which our capital city, Valletta, is a European Capital of Culture.”



## NEWS FROM THE SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE MALTESE CANADIAN COMMUNITY PARISH

3224 Dundas Street West, Toronto, Ontario M6P 2A3

Tel: 416 767 7054



St. Paul the Apostle is a Roman Catholic church in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. It is located at Dundas Street West in The Junction neighbourhood. The church was primarily built in 1930 by the Maltese-Canadian community of Toronto.

### **Missionary Society of St. Paul**

This parish is run by the Missionary Society of St. Paul. As Paulist Missionaries, we seek to live out our founding charism in a world of change. We are witnessing to God's love through our missionary commitment: in parishes, in schools, in youth centres, in migrant centres, among the poor and the needy, and in far away lands.

**Let us also remember our Maltese Archbishop** in our prayers who was recently hospitalized in Chile while on an important mission to that country regarding sexual abuse victims and perpetrators by the clergy.

**Our Mission in Cuba** is yielding good fruit with regards to MSSP vocations. Besides that thanks to the generosity of a Maltese Benefactor, more Chapels are being build in our parish because more and more Catholic Cubans are coming back to Christ and are willing to attend the Masses and also the catechizes that our MSSP priests are willing to give them. As you well know during Castro's time nearly all the churches were closed to the public, and the people were deprived of living their faith on account of Communism. Thanks to St. Pope John Paul II that the relations between Church and State in Cuba improved.

Father Emanuel Parnis - Pastor



The traditional Maltese display of statues depicting the Easter story at the Malta Bake Shop in Toronto's west end. *Photo by Allison Hunwicks*

### **Bringing a bit of Maltese tradition to west Toronto this Easter**

BY ALLISON HUNWICKS, THE CATHOLIC REGISTER

TORONTO - Nestled in the back corner of the Malta Bake Shop, amidst the sweet fragrance of golden pastries, sits an artistic homage to the Passion of our Lord.

Owner Charlie Buttigieg has been collecting and displaying statues of the Easter story for the customers in his west-end Toronto shop to enjoy for the past seven years. The figures are beautifully rendered and full of detail, and are a common tradition in Buttigieg's native Malta.

"I start with the first one, Christ in the garden, and that starts on Ash Wednesday. And then every week I add a statue to the display. Exactly as they do it back home in Malta," said Buttigieg.

Buttigieg told The Catholic Register that such displays are found in homes all over Malta, and in churches the statues found are usually life-sized depictions that develop the scene over the Lenten season until Good Friday. The entire scene culminates with the risen Christ statue being displayed on Easter Sunday. "You don't see that much in a restaurant," said Buttigieg of his collection. "Sometimes my wife teases me and says, 'you have more statues than they have in the church!' But, I like it. It's like my hobby." The display has also resonated with the Malta Bake Shop clientele, as customers anticipate the display not only for Easter but also the Nativity display he puts on for Christmas, and other special occasions. As well, every November, the shop erects a memorial shrine of sort for customers who have passed away over the previous year.

"All the customers that come in go and look there," said Buttigieg, who feels that his hobby helps to bring the clientele into a deeper appreciation of the season. "People love it." In addition to the Passion display, the bakery also makes a pastry called Figolli, which is filled with almond and shaped to resemble things such as baskets and musical instruments. Buttigieg says that this is a very old Maltese tradition that is only put out at Easter time. With most of the statues having made the trip all the way from Malta, the displays are of particular importance to the Malta Bake Shop's owner. "We're always busy in here. It's long hours and sometimes I'll even go until after midnight," said Buttigieg. "But I still like to do it."



**Jay Weatherill**  
Labour

**Steven Marshall**  
Liberal

**Nick Xenophon**  
SA Best

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ELECTION - 17 MARCH 2018**

## what our readers say....

I have been introduced to your Maltese News Letter by a friend of mine which I found very interesting. I would appreciate if I could subscribe to your informative Newsletter .  
Regards Mario Curmi

- ❖ Thank You Frank for this splendid magazine that you publish I find it very informative and most of all brings back very good memories of our beloved Malta. May I also commend you for managing to keep politics out of your magazine. Keep up the good work and thank. I have and will keep informing my friends to subscribe. Regards, Paul Borg
- ❖ Thank you for the latest edition of Maltese E-NEWSLETTER 207. A great edition as always. Your item about our childhood games evoked wonderful memories of my own participation in a number of the games mentioned therein. I recall using hazel nuts as well as the glass marbles in the game BOCCI. I have vivid memories of the beautiful colours and patterns in the glass marbles. Indeed, we considered some collectors' items and entered into serious negotiations with our mates, to secure a "collectors' item", by offering a number of other beautiful marbles in exchange.



We used to line up about 10/12 of the hazelnuts or the marbles, along the very edge of the many steps near our house in Senglea, and then take turns to throw another hazelnut or marble from about two to three metres away to hit the line; and, if lucky enough to hit, we would get to keep the ones that fell off the edge. Those placed on the edge of the steps, were put up by each of the individual players and the number of marbles would depend on the number of players. So, if you put up one or more, you risked losing yours, but also had the chance to win those of your fellow players, if your shot was more accurate than theirs.

One game mentioned in your item, was another very enjoyable pastime we enjoyed immensely, and that was what we called Ic-circu (apologies if spelling is incorrect). This consisted of a large or not so large, circular steel "ring", which we guided along the streets, with a stiff, long, steel or wire rod. The rod was shaped into a semi-hook at the bottom, so as to ensure we could stop the circu from speeding off out of our reach, down the many steep hilly streets, on which we were enjoying the game. The game was played either unilaterally, or as a group, sometimes in the form of a race. I don't know where the rings came from, but my guess is that they were probably the rings that were used (and I think still are) in car or bicycle tyres and other vehicular wheels to secure the tyres to the wheel rim. Great fun and kept us fit as well! Regards, Joe Briffa

- ❖ I have printed off a few Maltese eNewsletters to take with me when in Malta . I am waiting to confirm an appointment with the President , is she aware of the newsletter , happy to show her the newsletter especially when she is featured . Your thoughts Regards - C Calleja
- ❖ Thank you so much. I truly enjoy reading your newsletter. Much appreciate. Regards Susan Schembri  
Vancouver, British Columbia Canada

## Well-known Gozitan conductor Joseph Vella passes away



BY [GOZO NEWS](#) · The La Stella Philharmonic Society has paid tribute to the treasured memory of Maestro Joseph Vella, who passed away suddenly on Sunday evening. Prof. Vella, composer and conductor, had been Musical Director of the Astra Theatre since 1970, as well as Artistic Director of the Victoria International Arts Festival.

Maestro Joseph was born in 1942. He studied with his father, was admitted a Fellow of the London College of Music in 1967, graduated in music from the University of Durham, UK, and continued his studies with Franco Donadoni in Composition and Franco Ferrara in Conducting in Siena, Italy. In 1994 he was appointed Associate Professor of Music at the University of Malta.

*Photograph: MGOZ/George Scerri*



On Saturday evening, as part of the 5th anniversary celebrations of Il-Hagar Museum in Victoria, the inauguration took place of the Joseph Vella Music Archive, by the Minister for Gozo. It includes surround-sound music, documents and memorabilia

This morning Dr Caruana expressed her sorrow for the loss of Professor Vella, who she said, "will always be remembered for the love, dedication and his great musical knowledge, and will surely

continue to be considered among the best of Maltese contemporary composers." The Minister offered condolences to his family. Joseph Calleja paid tribute on his facebook page saying, "He was a giant of musical integrity and full of love for his beloved Gozo. He will be missed by all and his community is rightly so devastated. A really brilliant composer, his music was as original and his brilliant "il kebbies tal fanali" is a favourite in my various recitals around the world. Finally condolences to all his family and friends.



## Il-Professur Mro Joseph Vella Surmast Direttur tal-Banda Cittadina 'La Stella' t'Għawdex iħallina hesrem!

Is-Surmast Joseph Vella, kif nafuh ahna, din is-sena kien qed qed jaghlaq 48 sena Surmast Direttur tal-Banda Cittadina La Stella. Fl-okkażjini tal-40 anniversarju, niftakar li kien ikkompona biċċa xogħol helwa li huwa semma Ludus Tonalis u li l-Banda daqqet matul kunċert fl-okkażjoni ta' Jum il-Belt Victoria. Is-Surmast Vella twieled fil-Victoria, tefgħa ta' ġebba bogħod mill-Knisja ta' Savina fid-9 ta' Jannar 1942 u studja f'St Michael's Training College fejn aktar tard kien ukoll wiehed mill-ghalliema (lili għallimni l-mużika bejn is-snin 1967-1969 fil-kors tat-tahriġ għall-ghalliema). Kien missieru Ganni Vella li nissel fih l-ewwel xrara ta' mhabba lejn il-kamp mużikali u qatt ma haresh lura. Missieru kien Surmast tal-Banda La Stella u konna wkoll insibuh fil-knejjes tagħna jidderiegi l-orkestra waqt il-festi titolari tagħna. Joseph Vella baqa' miexi 'l quddiem u studja l-kompożizzjoni ma' Franco Donadoni u d-direzzjoni ma' Franco Ferrara.

Kompla japprofondixxi l-istudji mużikali tiegħu fl-Universita' ta' Durham fir-Renju Unit mnejn kiseb l-B.Mus. Fl-1994 inhatar Associate Professor fl-Universita ta' Malta. Għamel żmien bħala l-Prinċipal tal-iskola tal-Mużika Johann Strauss tal-Belt Valletta. Sa mill-1970 insibuh Direttur Mużikali tat-Tejatr Astra u matul dawn is-snin idderieġa għadd ta' Opri bħal ngħidu ahna Rigoletto, Lucia di Lamermoor, Aida, Nabucco, Macbeth, Turandot, Forza del Destino, Tovatore, Traviata, La Gioconda u xogħlijiet oħra prestigġjużi. Jiehu hsieb ukoll il-Banda Konti Ruggieri tar-Rabat Malta fejn għandu wkoll ir-residenza tiegħu u kien l-ewwel surmast residenti tal-Orkestra Nazzjonali.

F'Ottubru tal-2008 il-Professur Vella kien mistieden mill-Konservatorju Luigi Boccherini ta' Lucca fl-Italja biex jattendi u jipparteċipa fl-Incontri con i Compositori Contemporanei u kien mistieden ukoll jiehu sehem f'kunċert speċjali ad unur Giacomo Puccini fejn daqq wahda mill-kompożizzjonijiet tiegħu għal Kwintett u Pjanu Riflessioni su un Tema di Stravinsky op. 107. Fl-2009 dan il-Kompożitur u Direttur Għawdexi kien fost għadd ta' kompożituri internazzjonali li kitbu biċċa mużika speċifika biex tindaqq waqt kunċert kummemorattiv b'tifkira tal-Papa Gwanni Pawlu t-Tieni organizzat mill-"Conservatorio di Musica Vincenzo Bellini" ta' Palermo. Fl-2007, il-Muniċipalita' ta' Mazzara del Vallo ta' Trapani tagħtu l-"Premio alla Carriera" bħala rikonoxximent għas-sehem mużikali tiegħu fix-xena internazzjonali. Xogħlijiet ta' dan is-Surmast indaqqu f'bosta nhawi tad-dinja fosthom fil-Canada, fil-Gappun, Spanja, l-Italja, l-Irlanda, l-Italja, il-Germanja u oħrajn.

Għandu hafna għal qalbu l-mużika antika ta' Malta u għamel hafna tiftix fl-arkivji biex jagħtiha l-ħajja mill-ġdid. Hafna mill-kompożizzjonijiet tiegħu jinsabu wkoll fuq CD's u dan l-aħhar irregala hafna mix-xogħlijiet tiegħu lill-Mużew tal-Parroċċa ta' San Gorg, il-Ħaġar. Kien qed jaħdem ukoll fuq Opra li sfortunatament ma kellux jaraha lest billi fuqu ġiet il-mewt għal għarrieda l-Ħadd filgħaxija fir-residenza tiegħu f' Marsalforn tard wara nofs inhar.

Bla dubju l-gzejjer tagħna tilfu kompożitur u direttur ta' fama internazzjonali li sa jibqa' mfakkar matul is-snin b'mod speċjali minn dawk li jkun preżenti f'Għawdex matul il-ġimgħa tal-festa ta' San Gorg fil-belt Victoria meta x-xogħlijiet tiegħu kemm fil-knisja kif ukoll fit-toroq jkun qed ipaxxu lil kulhadd bl-armonija u s-sbuħija tagħhom. **Kav Joe M Attard Victoria Għawdex**

**We Maltese are a very proud nation – we have amazingly talented professionals, poets, celebrities, artists and famous Maltese who are locally based and we also have many talented people of Maltese heritage who have left our shores in the pursuit of an international career. We always include profiles of our compatriots, past and present. Their achievements and their names should be archived and recorded in history for future generation.**





## CHARLES ARRIGO – Rediffusion/radio broadcaster

Even at his funeral, the doyen of Maltese broadcasting Charles Arrigo, who died at the age of 76, managed to accomplish a feat no one else managed to realize in a lifetime. “In his death he succeeded in putting together in one place, the crème de la crème of broadcasting,” the former Labour minister Joe Grima says. “These people’s talent and sacrifice laid the foundation for what we should be having today. Unfortunately what we have today does not reflect the dedication and effort applied by these pillars.”

A Valletta man through and through, Arrigo was the first male announcer to be employed with the *Rediffusion*. Along with Effie Ciantar, Victor Aquilina and Victor Galdes, Arrigo was one of the “four columns” of broadcasting. “Each one of them had their own speciality and Charles’s was obviously the commentary.”

Television veteran Mary Grech compered the thirtieth anniversary for the Valletta Dramatic Company with “the irreplaceable Charles”. Several prominent presenters had called company director George Micallef to replace Arrigo, but both Grech and Micallef confirmed that it would have been nonsensical, as well as impossible, to replace him. “I envisaged the celebration to be sealed off by him and Mary Grech,” Micallef says. “Mary was there in persona and Charles was remembered by the portrait that we will leave hanging at the Catholic Institute.”

Grech was full of emotion yesterday as she placed a gladiola in front of his portrait and tenderly kissed it. A week on, she was still sounding distraught as she recounted that the last time that she spoke to him was last Sunday – the day before he died. “I just wanted to ensure that everything was running smoothly for last Wednesday’s rehearsals with the orchestra, but as it turned out I had to show up alone.”

Grech met Arrigo before television was even heard of in Malta. Their friendship goes back to the times when she and Charles Abela Mizzi were auditioning for what would turn out to be a defining moment in their career.

Arrigo’s pleasant disposition meant that whomever he met ended up becoming a lifelong friend. Micallef first met him 40 years ago and they had since collaborated in several diverse artistic scenes including theater, television and radio. “We also used to travel together regularly as I worked as a tour leader. Two trips I remember fondly are of Portugal and the Mediterranean resort of Antalya in Turkey,” Micallef says, who was present when Arrigo had to be carted off to hospital for an urgent bypass during the rehearsals for the operetta the Merry Widow.

That he insisted on dedicating his time to the PBS long after he retired did not surprise anyone. A serious operator in every project that he touched upon, Arrigo still had time to joke and when working with Xandir Malta, he loved to recount funny anecdotes about his time spent at the Rediffusion office in Valletta.

Joe Grima chuckles as he remembers Arrigo describing the people who used to walk in the offices and beg him to say hello to their relatives. They would wait until the end of the program and he would introduce them before they started shouting with glee: “Hey ma, are you hearing me? It’s your son.”

The environment that Arrigo worked in was poles apart from what is considered the norm in broadcasting in present times. There were no recordings back then and every moment was a point of no return. At the time, the only recording apparatus would be found at BBC.

Irrespective of the primitive technology that Arrigo had to work with in Malta, he kept the impeccable standards that he had learnt during his various training sessions with the BBC. He had trained as an announcer and newscaster with the BBC World Service in 1959 and returned in 1962 for training for television. He also had a part in the Alec Guinness film, *The Malta Story*. Until the end of his life, Arrigo kept himself busy at the Public Broadcasting Services assisting in the vetting of programs. He was also President of the National Council of the Elderly. **Michaela Muscat** (source: *Malta Today*)



The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

MALTESE E- NEWSLETTER

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## Soppa tal-Kusksu u Ful (Broad Bean Soup)



Kusksu is a delicious Maltese heart-warming soup, traditionally made in the Spring, when broad beans are in season. It is a dish that will transport you back to the Maltese islands, with its mixture of traditional tastes and flavours, especially if you add a Gozitan cheeselet (*ġbejna*) to your recipe.

### Ingredients

Onion, Salt and pepper, Water, Carrot, 2 Potatoes, Broad

Beans, Tomato puree, Peas

Eggs, Large Couscous, Fresh goat's cheese (*ġbejna*) Chicken stock cube

### Method

- Fry the onion with some salt and pepper.
- Add in the water and leave to boil.
- Add carrot, potatoes, broad beans, peas and chicken cube.
- When the vegetables are ready, add in raw eggs not beaten.
- When cooked, remove the eggs.
- Add couscous and when ready add goat's cheese.
- Put in the eggs and serve. *Happy Cooking!*

## ORDER OF MALTA IN ALBANIA Inauguration of a New Center for Roma and Egyptian Communities in Albania



The Albanian Organization of the Order of Malta (Malteser Albania) has recently inaugurated a multidisciplinary center for individuals with special needs, and in particular for Roma and Egyptian people.

The center comprises a building, a football field and a playground for children and offers day care for preschool children and after school programs for young students who need assistance, as well as a sports center. Psychological and legal consultancy is also offered. Based in the city of Lezha, in the

northeast of Albania, the multidisciplinary center is supported by the local municipality and by private donors.

The center was inaugurated by Fran Frrokaj, Mayor of Lezha and Franz Salm-Reifferscheidt, Ambassador of the Sovereign Order of Malta to the Roma population and has among its donors the Global Fund for the Forgotten People.

Order of Malta- Albania in the last 25 years has managed a range of projects in the medical, social and civil defense fields. These include the organization of first-aid courses in schools and assistance to some 4000 people living in remote areas without medical coverage. In the north of the country it runs a center for autistic children from 3 to 16 years and has extensive experience in assistance programs for the Roma people to help them integrate into society.





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## Press Release

### PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

## Speaker receives the Apostolic Nuncio

While receiving Apostolic Nuncio Monsignor Alessandro D'Errico on a courtesy visit, Speaker Anglu Farrugia said that Malta respects the value of the human life from its inception.

Speaker Farrugia and Monsignor D'Errico recalled the excellent and cordial relations that exist between Malta and the Holy See and emphasised the importance of Christian values, which are regrettably being put aside in lieu of economic figures and numbers.

Speaker Farrugia references the numerous Maltese clergy and laypersons who offer their services to the Catholic Church as missionaries.

The problems of Christian minorities, migration and the respect for human rights also featured in the talks. Monsignor D'Errico was accompanied by the Attaché at the Apostolic Nunciature Fr. Konrad Grech S.J. Clerk of the House Ray Scicluna was also present.



## Dedication of the Principal Church of the Order of the Knights of Malta Dedication of the Principal Church of Our Order

We remember on this day the dedication of the Church of St John the Baptist Co-Cathedral in Valetta on the Island of Malta.

It was dedicated as the principal church of

our Order, where through many generations the members of the Order joined fraternally and confraternally to worship the Holy Trinity, the Lord our God, to venerate Our Lady the Immaculate Mother of God under the title of Our Lady of Philermos, and to seek her intercession as well as the intercession of all the saints, most especially of all our brothers, sisters, confrères, chaplains, supporters, and associates who have joined our founder, Blessed Fra' Gerard, in his community in heaven. Let this day remind all of us of our close continuing ties in Christian love with the living, the future, and the deceased members of our Order.

Lord our God, every year you renew the day when your holy temple was consecrated: listen to the prayers of your people, that you may ever receive here a pure worship and that we may receive the fullness of redemption. We ask this through our lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

This information was provided by Fra' James-Michael von Stroebe



## Albania – Communism, Church, and Community

Posted by Peter Ellul

I spent five months living with Bishop George Frendo OP in Tirana Albania last year. Travelling to Albania felt like entering a time machine to the beginning of the church, not

because the country was never evangelized but because of the atheistic dictatorship of Enver Hoxha, a few decades ago.

In the 1976 constitution, Hoxha stated that “The state recognizes no religion whatever and supports atheist propaganda for the purpose of inculcating the scientific materialist world outlook in people” convincing people to recognize from their own experience the futility of religion and the harm it does to a socialist society. During these years, 34 religious and 4 lay people were martyred, and everything religious, including churches, were destroyed or else converted into gyms, schools and hospitals. With the death of the dictator in 1985 communism started collapsing.

In October 1993 Father George Frendo OP visited Albania, where the misery the people felt after 50 years of communism was still tangible. Through his contacts, he was convinced that he should return there, and in 1995 the Maltese province decided to open a Mission that since then has been going strong. In a few years, the country experienced two extremes. In a paradoxical way, in Albania, the collapse of communism opened the way for individualism and consumerism.

However it was more than this – besides simply helping the poor and the needy, the Catholic Church has been trying to develop a new mentality; that of the Gospel.

Nowadays, every year hundreds of youths and adults receive Baptism after careful preparation. Last year in the cathedral of Tirana 120 catechumens were Baptized on Easter day. This is the fruit of a church that suffered many persecutions because it never compromised with the regime that reigned with an iron fist in an anti-human and atheist way, and has nonetheless always helped everyone – Catholic, Orthodox or Muslim.

God alone knows the number of persons who have knocked on the door of Fr Frendo's house, asking for the imam (himself), who through simple gestures of love, has helped so many find the God that was taken away from them. I am very grateful for the time I spent in Albania with Fr Frendo and with the Albanian community. It is reassuring to know that such tremendous love and hope exists in this country. As Pope Francis said during his visit to Albania, “This is a young people, very young! And where there is youth, there is hope. Listen to God, worship him and love one another as a people, as brothers and sisters.”



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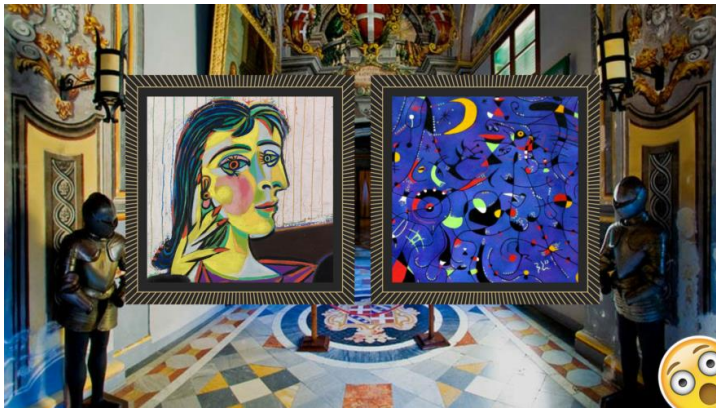
**THE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER**

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## 100 Pieces of Picasso's Work to be Shipped to Malta

One hell of a collection Chucky Bartolo



Maltese art fans clear your schedules; from the 7th of April right up till the end of June Malta will be hosting almost 150 pieces by the legendary artists Pablo Picasso and Joan Mirò. The exhibition, called *Picasso & Mirò, The Flesh & The Spirit*, will be hosted at the President's Palace, and is being funded by *Fundación MAPFRE* in collaboration with *Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti* and the Office of the President. Speaking to NET News, the curator of the event explained that it was taking place in tandem with 60 other

cultural hubs around Europe to celebrate Picasso's special bond with the Mediterranean.

The two artists' work was paired together because of the similarities that run through their style and creative process. It seems Malta has turned into somewhat of a 'Picasso hub' of late as superstar Antonio Banderas pops up across our island to film scenes for an upcoming biopic for the National Geographic Channel.

## THE ARCHBISHOP SEMINARY – MALTA

### Founding the Seminary



The Council of Trent (1545-1563) founded the Seminary institution for the formation of priests, making it obligatory for all dioceses to set up this institution. The purpose for establishing the seminaries was to provide the right environment wherein the candidates to the priesthood could be provided with the formation that would make them good pastors of the Christian community.

What constitutes an adequate preparation of the clergy both on the intellectual and spiritual levels in the Seminaries remains an ongoing dilemma, but it is generally assumed that the grouping of seminarians in Seminaries gives candidates for the priesthood a better spiritual and cultural education.

### The Seminary in Malta

The Seminary was instituted in Malta in a rented house in Notabile, Malta, on March 25, 1703. The Seminary opened its doors to six students who came from six different parishes. It was transferred from Mdina to other places in the diocese of Malta by different Bishops who deemed it necessary to make the shift to offer a better formation to future priests.

Bishop Gaspare Gore Mancini (1722-1727) transferred the Seminary to Valletta in 1723 but five years later Bishop Alferan de Bussan (1728-1757) wanted the Seminary to return to Mdina. In 1740 it was housed in a new building, blessed on May 20, 1742, situated near to the Cathedral Church.

At that time there were 1,679 priests in the diocese of Malta. The number of Maltese priests declined in the second half of the eighteenth century, a decline caused by the pressure that was brought about by the higher standards of education and intellectual formation that was asked of the candidates to the priesthood by the Holy See and by the Maltese Ecclesiastical authorities.

### **A radical reform**

In the first half of the nineteenth century, the Maltese clergy was divided into two categories on the intellectual level, with only the higher clergy being eligible to vote in elections. In 1858, Bishop Pace Forno (1857-1874) wanted to make "a radical reform in the Seminary".

Taking the Seminary from Mdina to Floriana marked also a change in the curriculum of ecclesiastical studies, introducing new subjects of study such Holy Scripture, Hebrew and English languages, Sacred Eloquence. Bishop Pace Forno also granted degrees in Theology at the Seminary, with the permission of the Holy See, from 1860 to 1874.

### **Investigating Seminary life**

Stricter demands were imposed on candidates for the priesthood by the Apostolic Administrator Bishop Antonio M. Buhagiar (1885-1888). Bishop Buhagiar removed the possibility that future priests would be trained by individual priests who provided them with private tuition. There were now only two ways by which the candidates to the priesthood could follow their ecclesiastical studies: either at the Seminary or at the Faculty of Theology within the University of Malta.

Whether attending lectures about Ecclesiastical studies at the Seminary or at the University, students could live outside the Seminary with the authority of the Rector of the Seminary at the time of Monsignor Buhagiar and sometime after. The Holy See, however, sent Cardinal Pietro La Fontaine as an Apostolic Visitor in Malta in 1909 with the mission to investigate the Seminary life.

Following this visitation and upon the recommendation of the Sacred Concistorial Congregation, Bishop Pietro Pace (1889-1914) ordered that all students, whether studying at the Seminary or the University, had to reside at the Seminary.

These reforms in the educational system of the seminarians brought about two main consequences in the Seminary life. All ecclesiastical studies were now under the control of institutions approved by the Ecclesiastical authorities, namely the Seminary and the Faculty of Theology, but these policies could have also contributed to the decline in the number of candidates to the priesthood.

### **A new home**

Bishop Gaetano Pace Forno transferred the Major Seminary to the Casa de Manresa, formerly a Jesuit retreat house, in Floriana in 1858 and he carried out a thorough reform in its curriculum of studies. The Major Seminary remained at Floriana for about fifty years, as it was transferred once more to Notabile after the Apostolic visitation of Cardinal Pietro La Fontaine in 1910.

When Monsignor Angelo Portelli (1914-1915) was nominated Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Malta, the Seminary was transferred from Casa de Manresa in Floriana back to Mdina, "where the seminarians could pray and study in a more silent and recollected atmosphere." This stay in the old city was only of a short duration as Bishop Dom Maurus Caruana (1915-1943) in 1921 brought it back to Floriana.

### **'An ardent desire to be useful in serving others'**

The reform of the Seminary continued to make great strides forward when Monsignor Giuseppe De Piro was Rector of the Seminary. De Piro's eleven-page report dated from August 27, 1920, at the end of the second scholastic year of his rectorship, lauds the teaching of Philosophy and Theology under Archbishop Caruana and raises concerns, amongst others, about the revolutionary spirit that had infiltrated the Seminary.

During the Second World War the building of the Seminary was hit three times and sustained considerable damage. For a short period the Major Seminary was transferred to the Oratory at Birkirkara.

Twentieth century Malta grew increasingly aware of the need of holy vocations. The future priest was to look up to the Maltese priest himself, not only during Mass but also while hearing confessions, preaching, assisting the dying for long hours and accompanying the deceased to Church and to cemetery. A local document issued from the Maltese Diocese in the first half of the twentieth century described the priestly vocation as an ardent desire to be useful in serving others.

### **A changing world**

Archbishop Guzeppi Mercieca (1976-2006) decided to move the Seminary back to the Mdina area and to its present place, in Tal-Virtù, Rabat, on September 28, 1977. Formerly known as the Mater Admirabilis Training College, the present complex has a history of its own.

The foundation stone was laid by the Governor Gerald Creasy in 1952 and was officially opened by Queen Elizabeth II in 1954. The main chapel was consecrated by Archbishop Michael Gonzi (1943-1976) on 31 May, 1955.

Under the direction of Monsignor Lawrence Gatt, the now Archbishop's Seminary was transferred to tal-Virtù in two stages: on November 15, 1977, the Minor Seminary started lessons in the new premises and the next stage took place in September 1978 when the Major Seminary moved to Tal-Virtù, also housing the Faculty of Theology until 1988.

Seminarians have the formation programme at this place while all students read for their degrees at the Faculty of Theology of the University of Malta. Formation at the Archbishop's Seminary now also includes collaboration



with other institutions, in Malta and abroad, seeking an adequate preparation for future priests to minister in a changing world.



Il-manifestazzjoni tibda minn quddiem l-Iskola Primarja Sir Arturo Mercieca tar-Rabat, Ghawdex u tghaddi minn got-toroq tipici u pittoreski tal-parti qadima tar-Rabat, Ghawdex sakemm tasal fi Pjazza Savina. Din l-attivit  qed issir bil-kollaborazzjoni ta' l-Iskola Primarja Sir Arturo Mercieca tar-Rabat Ghawdex, Ministeru ghal Ghawdex u Visit Gozo.



jista' jsegwi d-dhul trijonfali ta' Gesu' Kristu gewwa Gerusalem fejn gie milqugh minn diversi tfal u nies ohra bi zfin u tixjir ta' palm .

Id-dramm jibqa' sejjer ghall-parti ohra minn Pjazza Sant' Wistin fejn ser tittella' x-xena tas-Samaritana hdejn il-bir. Issegwi x-xena tal-mara midinba fil-Pjazza Patri Akkursju Xerri. Imbagħad, fi Triq Vajringa, precizament quddiem l-iskola primarja tal-Belt Victoria, Ghawdex issehħ ix-xena tat-Tempju fejn Gesu' jirrabba mal-bejjiegha tat-tempju xhin jara li t-tempju ta' missieru gie konvertit f' suq. Fl-istess post, il-pubbliku jiltaqa' ma' l-appostlu Guda l-Iskarjota u Malku qaddej tal-Qassisin il-Kbar Lhud li flimkien jiftehmu dwar kif Guda kien ser jittradixxi lil Gesu'.

## ATTIVITAJIET TAR-RANDAN 2018 F'GHAWDEX

L-Ghaqda Dilettanti Gimgha l-Kbira Ghawdex sejra torganizza għat-tieni darba manifestazzjoni ta' tfal bl-isem "Hallu t-Tfal Jigu Ghandi". Din sejra tinzamm fit-22 ta' Marzu 2018 fis-6.00pm. Din l-attivit  tikkonsisti f' manifestazzjoni (purcissjoni) bil-vari tal-Gimgha l-Kbira, liema vari gew mahduma f' minjatura sabiex is-sehem kollu jkun tat-tfal.

L-Ghaqda Dilettanti Gimgha l-Kbira (Ghawdex) in kollaborazzjoni mal-Ministeru ghal Ghawdex, Visit Gozo, Oratorju Don Bosco u Dance Narratives sejra ttella' d-dramm tal-Passjoni ta' Sidna Gestu Kristu magħrufa bl-isem "Imballab fi Triqatna" is-17 ta' Marzu 2018. Dan id-dramm issa ilu jittella' madwar it-triqat tal-Belt Victoria, Ghawdex sa mis-sena 2000.

Id-dramm beda dejjem jikber fil-popolarita' tieghu fil-gzejjer Ghawdxin tant li fis-sinjura li għaddew, id-dramm ittella' wkoll mill-Ghaqda Dilettanti Gimgha l-Kbira (Ghawdex) anke f' lokalitajiet diversi f' Malta fosthom fil-Belt Valletta, f' Hal-Qormi, Marsaskala, Mtarfa u l-Imqabba.

L-originalita' ta' dan id-dramm huwa li l-pubbliku jkun jista' jsegwi episodi saljenti mill-Passjoni u Qawmien ta' Sidna Gesu Kristu filwaqt li jhoss li huwa wkoll parti minn dak li jkun qed jigri madwaru. In fatti, l-atturi kollha jgħamlu l-parti tagħhom fost il-pubbliku biex b' hekk il-pubbliku jkun qed jippartecipa wkoll f' dan id-dramm bħala l-folla ta' nies li kienu dejjem jsegwu lil Gesu' Kristu kull fejn kien imur.

Id-dramm jibda nhar is-17 ta' Marzu 2018 fis-7.30 pm minn Pjazza Sant' Wistin fejn issir ix-xena ta' Dahla ta' Gesu' Kristu f' Gerusalem. Hawnhekk, il-pubbliku jkun





## Syrian nun on her way to Malta - recounts near-death experience 'It was like hell. It was raining bombs'

A Syrian nun who narrowly escaped one of the deadliest days in Damascus this week, is on her way to Malta to provide a first-hand account of the devastation left by a conflict that has been raging for seven years.

On Tuesday, the skies turned black in the Syrian capital, where Sister Annie Demerjian helps provide emergency help.

The nun, a leading project partner for Aid to the Church in Need, which has an office in Attard, referred to unconfirmed reports of up to 51 rockets landing in and around Bab Touma, a borough of the old city of Damascus.

"It was like hell. It was raining bombs. There were so many shells and so many people injured," she told international charity ACN.

"I saw people taking their children and running – it was just like Aleppo where I was before the ceasefire there. At 3.30pm a rocket landed on the roof of the Patriarchate close to us. Somehow it did not explode. Had it exploded, we could have been killed."

Her comments come after a sudden spike of violence in Damascus, including in the rebel-held Eastern Ghouta.

On Tuesday, international media reported that intense Syrian government shelling and air strikes of rebel-held Damascus suburbs killed at least 98 people on what was the deadliest day in the area in three years. Sister Demerjian believes that the residents have no other choice but to carry on: "Life is stronger than death. We don't know how long this violence will continue but it can't last forever."

She is due to arrive in Malta on March 15. A public talk about her experiences in Aleppo and Damascus has been planned for March 16 at the Good Shepherd church in Balzan.

Risking her life to deliver aid at the centre of the conflict engulfing Syria, few people know the situation on the ground better than Sister Demerjian. The region has been left sorely bereft of electricity, heating, medicine, schooling, food and clean water.

Born in Damascus, Sister Demerjian initiated an outreach programme in Aleppo as the humanitarian crisis deepened. There, she coordinated a team of volunteers who visited people at their homes to assess their needs and provide basic help, especially for the trapped sick and elderly.

She is now based in her hometown of Damascus providing similar emergency and pastoral help.

Syria is a priority country for ACN and last year the charity fulfilled more than 140 projects there – most of them emergency help including food, shelter and medicine.

For more information visit [www.acnmalta.org](http://www.acnmalta.org) or get in touch on [info@acnmalta.org](mailto:info@acnmalta.org) or 21487818

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## Case Study

### Data shows how diverse Maltese towns and villages are

**A growing number of foreigners taking up residence in towns and villages across Malta is contributing to a more diverse country but also creating new challenges for community leaders, KURT SANSONE reports**

St Paul's Bay was described as the "most complex" locality in a 2012 study that looked at the seaside town's changing social fabric. The study that formed part of former Nationalist MP Censu Galea's MA thesis highlighted the locality's rapid expansion driven by a growing number of foreigners living there.

But if St Paul's Bay was a complex locality then, it is even more now. Population estimates released by the National Statistics Office last week showed that 37% of people living in St Paul's Bay by the end of 2016 were foreigners.

The locality's population was estimated at 23,112, making it the largest town in Malta, surpassing Birkirkara that held that title for many years. Of those living in St Paul's Bay, 8,515 were foreign nationals – this is equivalent to the whole population of Siggiewi.

But the seaside locality is not alone to experience an influx of foreign residents. The smaller localities of Gzira and Msida came just after St Paul's Bay with 35% of residents living there being foreigners. In Sliema, the 6,688 foreigners living there made up 34% of the locality's population.

All seven localities along the northern harbour coastline, starting from Pieta all the way to Swieqi, make the top 10 localities with the highest density of foreigners.

By the end of 2016 it was estimated that 54,321 foreigners lived in Malta, making up 12% of the population. St Paul's Bay and Mellieha are the two localities in the north that make the top 10 list, while Birzebbuga is the only southern locality to feature among the top with foreigners making up 32% of its population.

The NSO figures show that by the end of 2016 it was estimated that 54,321 foreigners lived in Malta, making up 12% of the population.

Over the past five years the number of foreigners moving to Malta has grown exponentially in line with an expanding economy that has been clamouring for more labour. This has brought with it several challenges at local level, especially in towns where the density of foreigners is the highest.

Gzira mayor Conrad Borg Manche told MaltaToday the influx of foreigners is a very recent phenomenon in his locality. With an estimated population of 9,806, Gzira had 3,440 foreigners living there at the end of 2016, according to the NSO.

Borg Manche said the council was trying to find ways and means of including foreign residents in the community but this was not an easy task.

"The main problem in Gzira, which may not be the same for other localities, is that the foreigners who live here are not a static community because there is a lot of mobility," he said. This makes it hard to foster a sense of community.

There are 130 development sites in Gzira and all are for apartment blocks, which will most probably be rented out. Borg Manche said this turnover among foreigners created particular problems that impacted the rest of the community.

"At a very basic level you get people taking out garbage bags at inappropriate times because they do not know the locality rules and by the time somebody draws their attention to the matter, they would have probably left," Borg Manche said.

But language could also be another barrier for foreigners who do not speak English or have a poor understanding of it. Gzira is home to a lot of foreigners working for gaming companies, most of which operate in neighbouring Sliema and St Julian's. But it is also home to others who work in the construction sector.

#### **A construction boom and law enforcement**

The statistics released by the NSO are a year old and the mayor anticipates the situation will only get more intense over the coming years. "There are 130 development sites in Gzira and all are for apartment blocks, which will most probably be rented out," Borg Manche said.

The dual challenges of a construction boom – driven by the demand from foreigners – with all its detrimental impact on residents and a rapidly growing community of people unwilling to plant roots in the locality, is also

creating a problem of enforcement. Towns like Marsa, which host an open centre for migrants and asylum seekers, are usually first choice for migrant workers to settle down. Although community leaders report problems of anti-social behaviour, criminality is not necessarily linked to foreigners

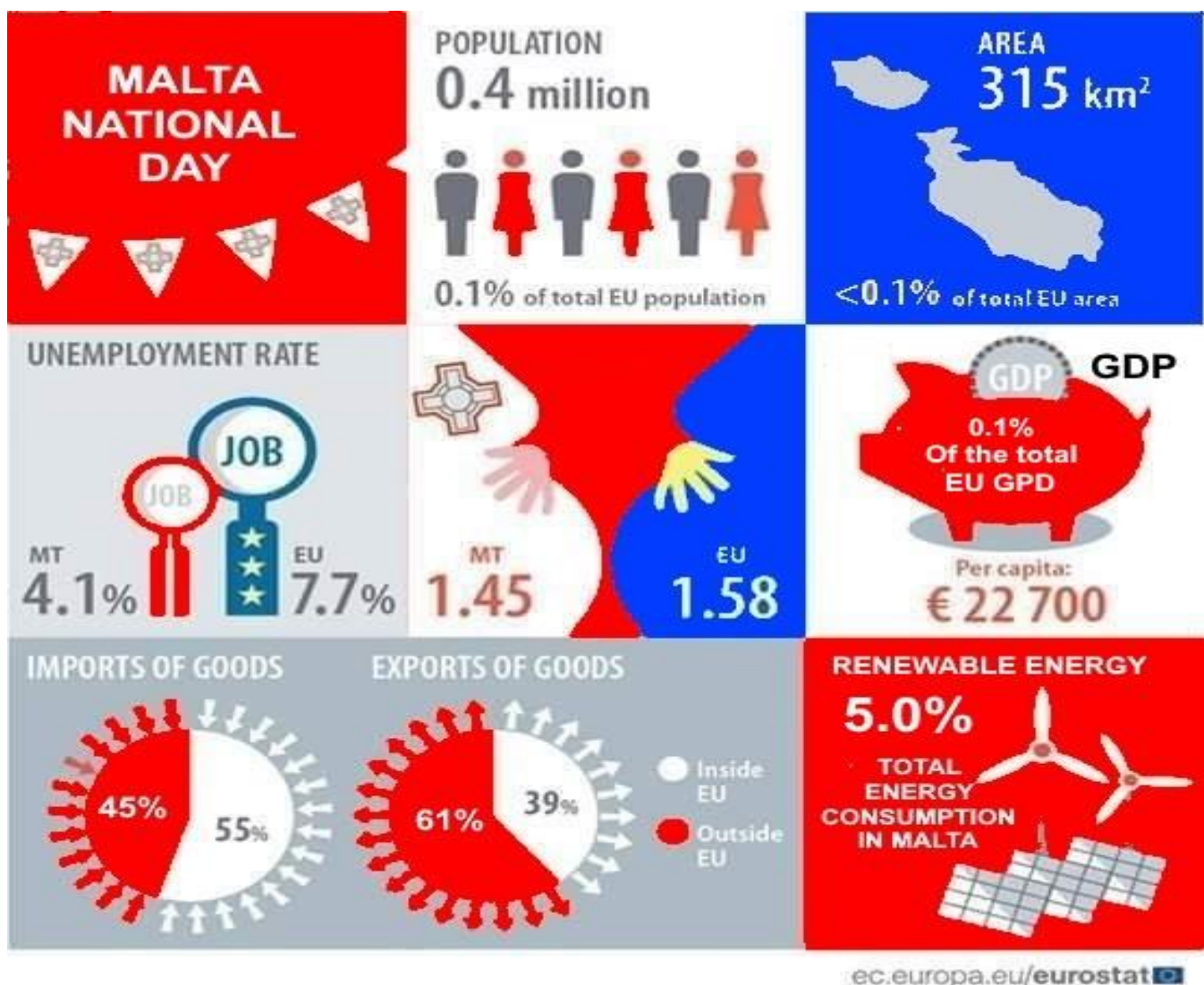
In a court judgment last week, magistrate Joe Mifsud felt the need to underscore his concern on the number of crimes being perpetrated by foreigners. He was sentencing a 37-year old Somali man who lives in Xewkija, jailing him for two years after being found guilty of grievously injuring two other Somalis in a stabbing incident.

"The Court notes that the overwhelming majority of foreigners in this country are peaceful and law-abiding. The Court expresses concern on the increasing number of crimes being committed by a small number of foreigners. Such a situation is intolerable," Mifsud said. His statement follows the concern expressed by the Marsa council last December over anti-social behaviour migrants living there were engaging in.

While criminality in both Gzira and Marsa has its own genesis that is not necessarily linked to foreigners – both localities have historically been linked to prostitution and associated crimes – changing social realities require a better understanding of new enforcement requirements.

Borg Manche said enforcement at all levels had to improve. "The economy is growing, the population is growing, the number of visitors is growing and at the same time law enforcement in all its aspects, including regulating the construction industry, has not kept up with the pace," he said, clamouring for more public investment.

Speaking recently to The Malta Independent, economist and JobsPlus chairperson Clyde Caruana, said that if the current rate of economic growth persisted, Malta could be looking at an increase of between 28,000 and 30,000 foreign nationals over the next four years.





## Unite with Tomorrowland returns on 28 July at Marsa sports grounds



The international celebration will connect Malta, Abu Dhabi, Italy, Lebanon, Mexico, Spain and Taiwan with the Tomorrowland celebration in Belgium

21 February 2018, 7:22pm

The 400,000 visitors from all over the world that are expected to gather in Boom, Belgium for the double edition of Tomorrowland this summer, will be joined by more than 100,000 people in seven countries, including Malta.

The musical celebration will be held in Malta for the second time in as many years. It will be held at the Marsa sports grounds.

On Saturday, 28 July, during seven exceptional celebrations 'UNITE With Tomorrowland' will connect Tomorrowland in Belgium with Abu Dhabi, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Mexico, Spain, and Taiwan, alternating an impressive DJ line-up with a live satellite connection.

This will be the fourth edition of this musical festival.

Organisers promise a stage that appeals to the imagination, enchanting decorations and special effects to ensure an extraordinary experience. Technically, the festival is also a masterpiece, because thanks to the satellite connection, the show will run completely synchronized at all

locations. Everything during these seven events revolves around the escape from reality, partly thanks to the spectacular Tomorrowland MainStage, and the connection between the People of Tomorrow across the continents.

The pre-registration for Unite With Tomorrowland in Malta is now open via this website. <https://www.tomorrowland.com/en/unite-malta/en/welcome>.

Everyone who pre-registers will receive an email with a link on Wednesday 28 February that gives them the opportunity to access pre-sale and purchase tickets at the best price.

People should click attending on the official Unite With Tomorrowland Malta FB Event Page to be the first to know.



### New appointment: Gozitan priest to be appointed bishop, move from Vatican to South Korea

**Monsignor Alfred Xuereb**, former second secretary of Benedict XVI and for some months also of Pope Francis, will take up a new appointment in South Korea, international media report. Xuereb (photo, with

Pope Francis) is currently prelate general secretary of the Secretariat for the Economy led by Cardinal George Pell. Born in Victoria in October 1958, Xuereb will be appointed bishop and will be taking over the apostolic nunciature of Seoul in South Korea.



Windmills are as Australian as lamingtons, dirt roads and kangaroos. They have graced the Australian skyline for nearly a century. Before electricity was available to drive pumps, or large machines to build dams, the windmill had become a vital component of rural life, pulling water from bores and wells. They can be traced back to the year 644 in Persia. It was Persian millwrights taken prisoner by Genghis Khan who instructed the Chinese in their construction for irrigation, a use that lasts to this

day. They became increasingly widespread in Europe from the 12th century to the 19th when steam power caused their slow demise, which was accelerated after World War One by the internal combustion engine.

Australia and its vast rural areas was still a stronghold of this inexpensive low maintenance method of watering stock and moving water for irrigation. In 1871 George Griffiths set up a mechanical workshop in Toowoomba thus starting, what is now the Southern Cross Group of Engineering Companies. His first wooden framed windmills were built in 1876 and supplied to Jimbour Station at Dalby on the Darling Downs. Between 1876 and 1884 these simple direct acting windmills were made in several sizes up to 16ft in diameter.

A patent had been applied for in 1875. The "Simplex Economy" and "Little Wonder" mills were produced in various sizes and often to customers' specifications until 1893. Usually of timber, the wheel operated behind the tower while reefing (to control the speed) was done by means of a counterweighted vane on a lever at right angles to the vane pole.

1893 saw the first geared windmills and the advent of the wheel on the windward side of the tower. In sizes to 18ft in diameter and with progressive improvements, over 300 of these mills were built in a decade. In 1903 the brand name Southern Cross was given to windmills produced by the Toowoomba Foundry and a range of both geared and direct action self-oiling mills is in production to this day. Over nearly a century, in excess of 200,000 have been produced, the majority for use in rural Australia where they have become an indelible feature of our landscape.



Several groups of Southern Cross Mills contributed to the unique visual flavour of Expo 88, while another stands outside the Stockman's Hall of Fame at Longreach to symbolise the role played by these machines in the development of the outback. Others have been exported to Ireland to pump out peat bogs prior to extracting the fuel, and others to Kwinana where nearly 100 resembling a forest of steel wheels are recovering chemicals from an underground aquifer.

Birdsville's water supply is driven by a huge, Southern Cross Windmill drawing water from the Diamantina River, while in Hawaii another is irrigating a tropical fruit farm. Architects and developers are increasingly using windmills to add visual excitement and a truly Australian flavour to their projects. But the nicest touch of all is the recent shipment of 100 windmills to their original birthplace – Iran – formerly Persia.