



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

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FREE - CULTURAL - APOLITICAL - BILINGUAL - INTERNATIONAL

The Enchanting Balconies of Valletta



Fireworks light up Malta in Summer



Sovereign Military and Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta





Order of St John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller (Malta)

Russian Grand Priory of Malta

pro fide, pro utilitate hominum



The Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller, whose motto means "For faith and for the service of mankind" is an ecumenical, international, Christian organization of Knights and Dames, and is rooted in, and directly descended from, the Order of St. John, the oldest order of chivalry in existence today.

Historically, the Order of St. John traces its existence back to a hospice founded in Jerusalem in the eleventh century by merchants from Amalfi, to assist Christian travellers in the Holy Land. Some knights of the First Crusade, upon entering Jerusalem in July 1099, joined in these good works and the resultant knight/hospitaller organization was recognized as a self-governing order by Pope Pascal II in a Papal Bull dated 15 February, 1113.

Today, all major Orders of St. John (including our Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller) stem from this recognition, retaining the symbol of the white Cross of Amalfi under which the serving brothers worked in Jerusalem. The Order quickly took the form of a military order of chivalry, continuing the hospitaller traditions, but also becoming one of the principal defenders of the Latin (Christian) States in the Holy Land. After the collapse of the Christian Kingdom of Jerusalem in the late thirteenth century, and the loss of the last mainland Crusader foothold at Acre in 1291, the Order of St. John was established briefly on Cyprus, then for more than 200 years on Rhodes, and finally on **Malta**, where they remained until the end of the eighteenth century.

During the epic siege of Malta in 1565, a tiny band of Christian defenders led by only 500 Knights of the Order defied the might of a vastly larger Ottoman invading force of over 40,000. This victory substantially slowed the movement of Suleiman the Magnificent and his Muslim armies into Christian Western Europe. Forced from Malta by Napoleon in 1798, various groups of the Order moved into Russia, the Balkans, Northern Europe, Italy, the Americas and Australia in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Our Order of St. John of St John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller, descends from the Russian priories established by Grand Master Tsar Paul I after the fall of the Order in Malta.

After the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917, many of the Russian Hereditary Knights of the Order went into exile in Europe and America. King Alexander of Yugoslavia was a member of the most closely-related Orthodox Royal Family to that of the Tsars, the House of Karageorgevitch. At the time of the Russian Revolution, the Sacred Relics of the Order were sent to the Yugoslav Royal Family for safe-keeping. Thus it was that, in 1962, King Peter II of Yugoslavia (descended both from Czar Paul I and Queen Victoria, and thus a cousin of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II), in exile and residing in London, was confirmed as High Protector. In 1964, he gave us our present Charter and Constitution. These documents contain the guidelines that we follow in our continuing work of assisting the less fortunate, in accordance with the traditions of the Order throughout the ages. In 1965, King Peter was elected as the Order's 73rd Grand Master.



The Malta Priory Council in 1964

Sitting: Chev. Joseph E. Storace ; Chev. Major John Bonello ; Comm. Ivo Muscat Azzopardi ; Bailiff Prior Prof. Gaston Tonna Barthet ; Chev. Dr. George Zammit ; Chev. Dr. Vincenzo Maria Pellegrini ; Chev. Salvino Xuereb ;

Standing: Chev. Major L. Manche ; Chev. Joseph DeConti Manduca ; Chev. Albert Cassola ; Chev. Dr. Joseph Morana ; Chev. Francois DeBarro ; Chev. Savior Savona ; Chev. George J. Vella.

8th March 1964

The Malta Priory within the Russian Priory was created on March 8, 1964. Bailiff Gaston Tonna Barthet elected 1st Prior.

H.M King Peter II of Yugoslavia, a member of the Order, and already the protector of the Order was asked to take the leadership of the Order. H.M King Peter II was elected as the 73rd Grand Master of the Order.

Grand Master King Peter II gives a new Constitution to the Order changing the habit to a red and white mantle. The Original constitution was brought to Malta from Switzerland by Commander Ivo Muscat Azzopardi

In 1970 Grand Master King Peter II elevated the Malta Priory to the prestigious title of Grand Priory of The Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Russian Grand Priory.

The Order granted official recognition by the International Commission of the Order of Chivalry. "Palazzino Sapienti" situated in St. Paul's Street, Valletta (Presently No. 223) purchased three quarters of the building by the Malta Grand Priory to serve as the Head Quarters of the Order. "Palazzino Sapienti" situated in St. Paul's Street, Valletta (Presently No.223) purchased the last quarter of the premises by the Malta Grand Priory to be the Head Quarters of the Order and the Quarters of the Order.



The Grand Commander of the Russian Grand Priory of Malta
Bailiff H.E. Paul Borg OSJ has been invited to be the guest speaker at a cocktail party organised by the South Australian Order of the St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller at the Naval, Military and Air Force Club in Adelaide

The British Royals - **Knights of Malta** Ando Ryu



A couple of years ago when Prince William joined the Knights of Malta, pictures of the initiation were shown on the News without. We all saw the Prince and other royal members dressed up in the outfits, and as usual, most people thought it was just one more charming royal tradition full of meaningless pomp and ceremony, without stopping to ask the most basic and fundamental question. Who are the Knights of Malta?

History

"The group was founded in 1048 by merchants in Jerusalem as a monastic order that ran a hospital to tend to Christian pilgrims in the Holy Land. At the height of its power, the order was also tasked by Rome with the additional military function of defending Christians from the local Muslim population..... When the sultan of Egypt retook Jerusalem in 1291, the Knights of St John (an alternative name for the knights of Malta) went into exile, settling in Rhodes 20 years later. In 1523 they were forced from Rhodes by the Sultan's forces and settled in Malta, which they ruled until they were dislodged by Napoleon's army in 1798. The order settled in Rome in the mid-19th century, where it remains to this day. Despite its name, the Knights haven't had any military function since leaving Malta. Instead, the order has gone back to its charitable roots by sponsoring medical missions in more than 120 countries".

Status

"Despite having no fixed territory besides its headquarters building in Rome, the order is considered a sovereign entity under international law. It prints its own postage stamps and coins... and enjoys observer status at the United Nations. The Knights maintain diplomatic relations with 104 countries. The order does not have official relations with the USA, though it has offices in New York... and Washington." That's right. This organisation, for some strange reason, has the status of a sovereign nation, and can issue stamps, coins, and even passports! However, one thing is clear, it is no mere ceremonial tradition, and the British Royal family will certainly have a very good reason for being members.



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Citizenship by Investment Program



May 10, 2018 Elena Tahora

If somebody told you that you could gain citizenship to a country by simply 'buying' into it, you probably would laugh and shrug it off. However, this is the case in Malta where, since 2014, it has been possible to obtain Maltese citizenship through the Individual Investor Program. The pretty relaxed program enables outsiders to gain citizenship by satisfying a few simple criteria, including having lived there for one year or by buying in through an investment

scheme.

Malta is one of a few European countries which offer citizenship through an investment program. It is a highly-respected scheme which has worked wonders for the country, with major investment being put into major industries, helping the country's economy grow enormously. The Individual Investment Program is the very first investment program which has been officially recognized by the European Commission. It was a program designed for high net-worth individuals who want to obtain full citizenship within an EU country.

Here is a quick guide to the Individual Investment Program.

#1: Requirements for the Malta Individual Investor Program

To be eligible for consideration on the Individual Investment Program, you must meet a few requirements –

- Be 18 years of age;
- Pass a due diligence test;
- Provide proof of residence in Malta for the last 12 months; and
- Meet some investment requirements.

If you are not already a permanent resident in Malta, you must obtain a residential address in the country and apply for an e-residence card. You do not actually have to be physically present in the country for the 12-month period, you simply have to officially be a resident of the country.

Although it seems easy to gain Maltese citizenship on paper, the process is rigorous, and applicants must really get themselves together and get organized in order to be successful. The Individual Investment Program timeline can vary, and it is difficult to predict. In general, the Maltese government advises that it can take one year to obtain Maltese citizenship from the date of submitting an initial application. The process can be simplified into eight steps –

1. Application preparation and pre-approval.
2. Application submission.
3. Due diligence checks and processing by the Maltese government.
4. Approval in principle.
5. Contribution by the applicant to the National Development and Social Fund.
6. Investment in real estate and financial institutions within four months of approval.
7. Completion of the 12-month residency requirement.
8. The issue of citizenship certificate and passport.

#2: Options for Investment

The crux of the Individual Investor Program is an actual investment! If an applicant is unable to satisfy these investment requirements, the application simply will not be approved. The Maltese government requires applicants to the Individual Investment Program to contribute to the National Development and Social Fund, make an investment in a government-backed financial institution and invest money in some form of property.

1. **The National Development and Social Fund** - Applicants to the Individual Investment Fund must make a contribution towards this fund to the tune of €650,000 as a bare minimum, plus a further contribution of €25,000 for any spouse or children under the age of 18 and a €50,000 contribution for any dependent children who are aged between 18 and 26, or any dependent parents above the age of 55.
2. **Real Estate** - Applicants to the Individual Investment Fund must also commit to owning and retaining a residence in Malta for at least five years. This can either be through purchasing property (with a minimum value of €350,000) or through renting a property where the annual rent must exceed €16,000.
3. **Government-Backed Financial Institutions** - Applicants to the Individual Investment Fund must also commit to making an investment of at least €150,000 in a Government-backed financial institution or instrument, such as stocks and shares, which must be kept and not sold for a minimum of five years.

Although these requirements seem stringent (and expensive) they exist to ensure that only serious investors are given Maltese citizenship.

#3: Thinking of Applying? Make Sure You Have This Key Documentation

Unsurprisingly, there are several documents which you need to produce should you decide to apply for Maltese citizenship through the Initial Investment Program. All the documents required **must** be in English or accompanied by a translation which is authentic and provided by a professional organization. The following documents must be submitted in support of any application –

- A health certificate stating that you are in good health and are not a carrier of contagious disease;
- A report from the Maltese police force and your local police force, or the police force of anywhere you have resided in for longer than six months within the last ten years;
- An official declaration that you intend to remit all your contributions to Malta;
- Evidence that family members under the application are in good standing;
- A declaration of your commitment to invest in the country; and
- Any other documentation related to yourself, your travel habits, financial documentation and any other documentation requested by the Maltese authorities.

The Maltese authorities will properly vet you and verify that all information and documentation provided by you is true, proper and up to their standards. The Maltese Initial Investment Program is a selective process which has a cap of 1,800 people — when all these places are gone, there is no guarantee that the program will continue.



Henley & Partners new citizenship adventure

Henley & Partners has struck up a deal with Moldova, whose government is looking to attract €1.3 billion in citizenship sales over the coming five years.

A contract between the Moldovan government and a 'turnkey' consortium including Henley & Partners was signed in Chisinau. Henley & Partners are the concessionaires of Malta's Individual Investor Programme, with a main difference being that the Moldovan programme will be promoted by an international consortium, which includes Henley & Partners, which was selected by public tender.

Maltese Love their Fireworks

The people of these islands are captivated and enchanted with fireworks. Malta, the tiny nation in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea, is a popular destination with sun-lovers, but after a day on the banana lounge it's time to have some fun at one of the 120 village festivals which occur over the summer months.



Maltese Fireworks is part of the Maltese cultural traditions. They celebrate at least 120 feasts in our towns and village to the patron saint of each locality. It is a very old tradition linked with traditional religious ties over the last four centuries. It is also part of our character to expose our desire to celebrate and not the least with lots of noise.

They compete in all aspects between villages and band club with pyrotechnic capabilities. So much money is spent every year on fireworks displays with a spectacle of colours spread over various days of the week before the actual feast day.

Every year during April the Malta International Fireworks Festival is held with the participation of local and foreign pyrotechnic companies from all five continents. It is one of the main attractions in Malta with a spectacle of colours display in Malta's magnificent Grand Harbour, Bugibba and Marsaxlokk Bays.

The fireworks display goes back to the time of the Order of the knights of St. John. They specialized in this tradition as it was one of the times used in those days.

They used to fire canon shots and *musketerija*. These were called pyrotechnics at the time. They were used to be fired to celebrate the arrival of a Knight, or the arrival of a new born to an important European family, or when a new pope was elected and the celebration of St. John's feast the patron saint of the Knights of Malta.

By time this evolved into the fireworks of today, which are let out from rooftops together with the rotating wheel which let out rotating multi-colour fireworks. We call this **jigjifogo**.

Today many enthusiasts work in their village small factories manufacturing petards all year round for the village feasts. Unfortunately, it is a dangerous hobby as many accidents and explosions have occurred but the enthusiasm remains.

The villagers will not enjoy their feast without fireworks. They are awesome to watch. See our calendar of feast days with exact days of the feast or an indicative calendar for the month when the feast occurs for each individual month.

Malta is staunchly Catholic, and religion plays a major part in daily life, but that doesn't mean the Maltese are stuffy and conservative, quite the opposite. From June to September every village in Malta holds a *fešta* which is a daytime religious commemoration of the parish patron saint and a night time party of marching bands, food, beer and fireworks.



Malta at War

Godwin Gauci – Adelaide SA



World War II - When Germany went to war with Britain in nineteen thirty-eight, it was inevitable that Malta would be dragged in to the war as the British forces were there. British Spitfires are at Luqa and Hal Far airfields being serviced and deployed very regularly down to Africa fighting against Rommel, and to intercept the German and Italian bombers coming across the Mediterranean as they come to fly over Malta, the bombers would leave devastation of destruction to buildings, killing innocent people and then head over to the runways in the airfield to stop planes from taking off.



Many buildings over Malta and especially close to the Grand Harbour were blown up and reduced to ashes with people trapped under the rubble. Men, women and children died in the devastation of destruction and those that survived but trapped in the rubble, you can hear them yelling for help to be removed and perhaps ease the pain from broken limbs.

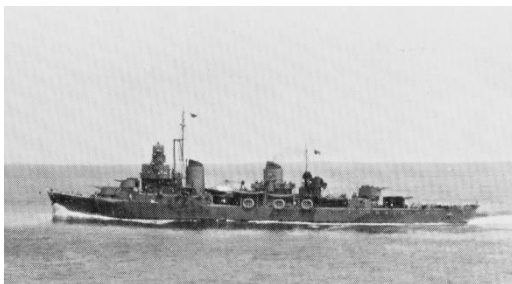
British and Maltese soldiers were manning anti-aircraft guns at key locations in the Grand Harbour at St Angelo, St Elmo and Senglea. As the German bombers fly over by day, the guns would shower them with bullets and occasionally they hit one or two and at night search lights are aimed at the sky trying to locate the bombers and try to stop them from doing more damage to Malta. I know that my father, although he was in the royal navy, he used to mention that he would help the soldiers with the anti-aircraft guns and the search lights while stationed in Malta.



As some of the enemies' aircrafts were shot down, the Maltese people would go and look for any enemy survivors, rummaging through the wreckage to see what they can salvage. There have been some instances where the enemy would parachute out of a burning plane and get captured by the Maltese. People would salvage the fabric from the parachute and make clothing for themselves or sell it to get some food.

The Maltese people are great ship builders which they have done for many years, so the British royal navy used the harbour for sheltering and for making repairs to their vessels. My father told me, whilst he was in the

Royal Navy aboard the destroyer **HMS TIGER**, it left the harbour and went to intercept an Italian cruiser



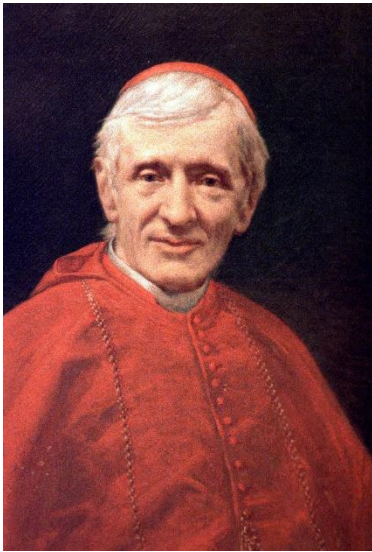
the '**Pompeo Mango**' as it was trying to conflict harm on Malta. The vessel surrendered, it was 9th September 1943, and it was escorted back into the Grand Harbour while the royal navy sailors including my father, boarded the Italian cruiser and disarmed it. All the ammunition, bombs, rifles, hand guns were all taken off the ship and destroyed. The turrets were made inoperable.

The Italian sailors were made to stay onboard under heavy guard. They made their own meals and did their own washing. Occasionally some of the Italian sailors could disembark the vessel under heavy guard and allowed to engage in some sports. This was a sort of exercise.

Time was pressing on and while the British were still at war engaging the enemy in the Mediterranean, the captured Italian sailors in Malta were getting very confident with the Maltese and in some instances they both engaged in soccer matches, swapping Italian cigarettes for some newspapers and books.

From the writer - The events that are told in this letter are true, told me by my father as he was in the royal navy and by other Maltese that have witnessed the events.

Cardinal John Henry Newman



John Henry Newman (21 February 1801 – 11 August 1890) was a poet and theologian, first an Anglican priest and later a Catholic priest and cardinal, who was an important and controversial figure in the religious history of England in the 19th century. He was known nationally by the mid-1830s. Originally an evangelical Oxford University academic and priest in the Church of England, Newman then became drawn to the high-church tradition of Anglicanism. He became known as a leader of, and an able polemicist for, the Oxford Movement, an influential and controversial grouping of Anglicans who wished to return to the Church of England many Catholic beliefs and liturgical rituals from before the English Reformation. He was ordained a priest and continued as an influential religious leader, based in Birmingham. In 1879, he was created a cardinal by Pope Leo XIII in recognition of his services to the cause of the Catholic Church in England. Newman's beatification was

officially proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI on 19 September 2010 during his visit to the United Kingdom.

LEAD KINDLY LIGHT

Lead, kindly light, amid th' encircling gloom,
Lead thou me on;
The night is dark, and I am far from home,
Lead thou me on.
Keep thou my feet;
I do not ask to see the distant scene;
One step enough for me.

I was not ever thus, nor prayed that
Thou should lead me on;
I loved to choose and see my path;
But now lead thou me on.
I loved the garish day, and, spite of fears,
Pride ruled my will;
Remember not past years.

So long thy power had blest me,
Sure it will lead me on o'er moor and
Fen, o'er crag and torrent,
Till the night is gone.
And with the morn those angels' faces smile
Which I have loved long since'
And lost while.

J.H. Newman



Open You Tube "**Lead Kindly Light**" and tell me if it is not the most beautiful hymn that you have ever heard – Vincent Peter Zammit – Adelaide, Australia

Rużar Briffa

t. is-16 ta' Jannar 1906 - m. it-22 ta' Frar 1963

Twieled il-Belt. Kien tabib u poeta. Meta kien għadu jistudja fl-università ta' Malta, hu, flimkien ma' siehbu fil-kors Gużè Bonnici, waqqaf l-Għaqda tal-Malti - Università. Minn hemmhekk bdiet toħroġ ir-rivista *Lehen il-Malti*.

Rużar Briffa huwa magħruf bħala wieħed mill-aqwa poeti Maltin. Il-poeziji tiegħu jinkludu *Lil Binti Waqt Air Raid*, *L-Għanja tal-Imnikket u Jum ir-Rebħ*.



In the Newsletter 226 we published a beautiful poem in Maltese called "Lill-Ommi," To my Mother.

That poem was written by the renowned poet Rużar Briffa in 1928. Dr. Oliver Friggieri gathered the poet's numerous poems and published them in 1983 in a book called "Rużar Briffa" Il-Poeziji Migbura.

In it he states that Briffa, a doctor and a poet, was born in Valletta on 16th January 1906. He studied Dermatology in London. He died on 22 February

1963 also in Valletta. Here are two of my favourite poems written by **Rużar Briffa**.

DAWL HANIN MEXXINI.

O Dawl il-Hniena, mexxi l-medda tiegħi
Ma tul id-dlam li qed jinfirx dwari.
La tintefiex imma ibqa dejjem miegħi
U t-triq urini fejn titnikker dari.
Mexxini Dawl Hanin. Xejn ma nixtieq,
Hlief illi dawlek jofroq dlam it-triq.

Mhux dejjem hekk jien tlabt l-ghajnuna Tiegħek,
U għalkemm imbazza jien hallejt kburiti
Tmexxi fejn le jiena niltaqa Miegħek,
U dwal ohrajn mexxewni tul zghoziti.
O Dawl il-Hniena dak li għadda mar,
Insa, Dawl Twajjeb, insa dak li sar.

U bhal ma s' issa dejjem sibtek hdejja
Xhin jien sejjahtlek meta tlift it-trejqa,
Erg'Int illum dawwalli lil ghajnejja
--- ghax id-dlam fahxi u jiena qalbi dejqa;
Wassalni fejn hemm dawki li jien habbejt
'mma mimli bija nnifsi kont insejt

L-GHANJA TA' L-EMIGRANTI MALTIN

Ahna sraqna miz-zonqor ta' Malta
Sahha gdida għal hidmet id-driegħ;
Ahna sraqna mill-bahar tal-Fliegu
Fehma shieha li tagħleb ir-rieh;
Minn gos-sema ta' Malta dalmani
Sraqna l-kwiekeb għal art il-Barrani.

Min se jogħtor mat triq jekk Maltija
Huma l-kwiekeb li jdawlu lill – qalb.
U bil- qawwa ta' bahar setghani
Ahna r-rwiefen negħilbu bit-talb?
Qatt ma tmermer iz-zonqor tal-Gzira:
Qatt ma sejra qawwitna tkun fqira!

Ahna t-tafal hallejna warajna,
Għax fit-tafal m'hemmx qawwa tad-diem:
U hallejna lill- mewga sajjija,
Għax fil-lajma sajjija m'hemmx sliem.
Mhux għalina is-seher tal-qamar,
Imma l-hegga ta' kwiekeb bla sabar.



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Journal of the Maltese Living in Malta and Abroad
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HOW TO MAKE JELLY AT HOME EASILY USING GELATIN

Jelly is considered as a commonly delicious dessert in summer. This is a good combination of gelatin and some fruits to become one of the most favorite desserts in hot summer days. Jelly is also very good for our health. The natural amino acid in jelly can help regenerate the cell, prevent aging effectively. Aspartic acid also helps stimulate the process of cell renewal and collagen production. Other substances like inositol and niacin are very useful for preventing skin inflammation, acne, and skin disorders. It is also rich in carbohydrate and vitamin B that can contribute to improving immunity.

Folic acid helps prevent hair problems. Moreover, jelly is also useful for many diseases like stress, depression, reducing bad cholesterol and strengthening good cholesterol for the body. That is why jelly is becoming more and more popular in the menu of many countries in the world like Japan, Philippines, and India. In fact, it is not difficult to get a healthy homemade jelly for your dessert. You can do it at home only with some simple steps.

How To Make Jelly At Home Using Gelatin And Fresh Fruits That Good For Your Health



Jelly like jam or smoothie is becoming more and more popular in our menu, especially homemade jellies without using pectin. Here is a homemade jelly that is very delicious and suitable for your dessert after having a big meal in hot summer days. Let's start to discover the following recipes for how to make jelly at home using gelatin and try to make it for your family. Let's see:

Coffee Jelly:

The first tip on how to make jelly at home using gelatin that we want to share with you is coffee jelly. This recipe may be the simplest and easiest to do and extremely excellent for the people love the coffee taste.

Ingredients:

2 cups of black coffee

Sugar

3 tablespoons of water, 1 package of gelatin

Directions:

Firstly, you need to put gelatin in the hot water in a small bowl to dissolve it well. After that, you pour the mixture of gelatin into the hot black coffee at the same time, add more sugar depending on your favorite taste. The last is to pour the mixture of gelatin and coffee into different glasses and chill them in the fridge for about 3 or 4 hours until they become solidified. Then you can get a tasty coffee jelly. If you love the taste of cafe latte, you can use cafe latte instead of black coffee. The directions of cafe latte are the same.

MALTA AND GOZO: Heatwave warning as temperatures continue to soar



People have been advised to stay in a cool place during peak hours and to drink regularly to avoid dehydration, exhaustion and heatstroke in the blistering heat by **Karl Azzopardi – maltatoday.com.mt**

Exposure to the sun is worse between 10am and 4pm

As the maximum temperature is expected to continue to rise further in the following days, the public has been advised to stay out of the heat by avoiding any unnecessary exposure to the sun, especially between 10am and 4pm, and stay in the coolest parts of the home and while at work.

The Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Directorate said that drinking water regularly was also encouraged, to make up for the loss of water in the body during the heatwave.

High temperatures cause water to be lost from the body at quick rates, resulting in dehydration. They can also lead to heat exhaustion or heatstroke.

Everyone is prone to the high heat levels but older people, babies and young children, people with chronic conditions, and physically active people were advised to take extra caution.

The Health Ministry has also encouraged the public to seek professional advice if any concerns arise.

How to make ice cream fast at home without an ice cream machine

Ice cream is a frozen food that is used as a dessert or snack especially in hot summer days. They are often made from dairy products like cream and milk and mixed with some fruits or other flavours to get more delicious taste. Now, it has become a favourite food for many people. The method to make it is not too difficult for us.

The most common way on how to make ice cream fast at home is often to use ice cream machine. However, this machine is not also available in many cases. If you don't have any ice cream maker and want to make homemade ice cream with your favourite taste for yourself or other people, you can see this recipe. It includes some common ice creams that are very easy to make with more healthy ingredients that may be very useful for your health. Easy-to-make homemade

Simplest Ice Cream With 3 Ingredients:



Ingredients:

2 cups of whipping cream

1 can of sweetened condensed milk

Any fruits or flavour you like

How to make:

This recipe is very simple and easy on how to make ice cream fast at home without an ice cream machine. All things you need are only to blend all ingredients together for about 4 to 5 minutes until you get a thick and creamy paste. Then, you can keep it in a container in the freezer for some hours before enjoying. You see, it is really easy to make for all of us.

ID-DRAWWA ta' SEBA' SANTA MARIJET

by Greg Caruana - Australia

Id-devozzjoni lejn il-Madonna ilha mifruxa fil-Gzejjer Maltin sa mill-qedem. M'hemmx ghalfejn nidhlu fid-dettalji biex infakkru kemm hemm knejjes u kappelli ddedikati lilha. Mhux biss bl-isem tal-Assunta jew kif inhobbu nsejhula ahna Santa Marija imma b'diversi titli ohra, bhal per ezempju tal-Karmnu; ta' Fatima; il-Bambina; id-Duluri; il-Kuncizzjoni; l-Annunzjata; ta' Lourdes; ta' Pompei; Stella Maris; ta' Loretu; tac-Cintura, tal-Gilju u diversi ohrajn.

Izda bla dubju ta' xejn dik ta' Santa Marija jiddomina tista' tghid il-paesagg kollu Malti. Il-Festa ta' l-Assunta fl-imghoddi kienet wahda minn daww il-festi kalendarji tal-knisja li missirijitna kienu juzaw flok l-ismijiet tax-xhur. Peress li fi zmien l-antenati taghna ftit li xejn kien hemm edukazzjoni, huma kienu juzaw il-festi tal-knisja bhal Milied, il-Gimgha l-Kbira, il-Vitorja, l-Imnarja, tal-Grazzja, il-Kuncizzjoni; San Guzepp u ohrajn ghal kuntratti jew attivitajiet importanti li kien ikollhom.

Nhar Santa Marija kien jum li fih jiftiehm u li jhallsu l-qbiela jew xi hlas iehor, kif tabilhaqq jghid il-qawl Malti, **"Santa Marija f'nofs Awwissu u kulhadd jiehu dak li jmissu"**. Nafu li f'Santa Marija l-bdiewa kienu jhallsu l-qbiela tar-raba jew l-irziezet taghhom.

Billi d-devozzjoni lejn il-Madonna kienet mifruxa hafna f'diversi parrocci ddedikati lil Santa Marija huma jinsabu f'irhula hdejn xulxin. Fosthom hemm li huma qrib hafna u ohrajn ftit aktar imbieghda. Din is-sitwazzjoni hajret lil xi whud biex izuru lil dawn il-knejjes ta' Santa Marija tal-qrib u xi drabi iktar minn wahda.

Minn hawn jinghad li harget id-drawwa ta' Seba' Santa Marijiet. Huma kienu jaghmlu seba' visti li tfakkarhom fis-seba' ferhat u duluri ta' Marija. Fit-temp sabieh t'Awwissu bosta kienu jithajru biex jaghmlu dan il-vjagg devozzjonali, imma billi kienet tkun is-shana, dawn il-visti kienu jibdw kif tibda tbatti x-xemx. Hawn kienu jiltaqaw id-devoti kollha tar-rali li jifilhu jimxu u jaghmlu din il-mixxa flikien. Niehdu bhala ezempju r-rali ta' l-Mgarr ta' Malta li dawn jaghmlu l-festa taghhom Hadd fuq il-Ghid ta' l-Assunta. Nafu li nies kienu jaghmlu dawn il-visti ta' seba' Santa Marijiet u huma kienu jiltaqaw fuq iz-zuntier lejliet il-Festa wara jnzul ix-xemx u jibdw mexjin u jghidu r-ruzaru, generalment l-irgiel quddiem u n-nisa wara u kulltant xi hadd li jkun ma jiflahx jimxi kien ikollom karettun zghir bil-hmara fejn jirkbu dawn l-anzjani jew daww ghal xi raguni ma kienux jifilhu jimxu, allura dawn l-imberkin ma kienux jitolbu din l-okkazzjoni.

Mill-Mgarr kienu jmorru Had-dingli fejn kienu jieqfu jitolbu, wara jimxu ghal xi tlett sieghat biex jaslu il-Qrendi, li sa dak il-hin il-knisja kienet tkun maghluqa, imma huma xorta kienu jieqfu jitolbu wara l-bieb tal-knisja, u minn hemm imorru l-Mqabba, il-Gudja u ghal Hal Ghaxaq. Wara dawn l-irhula kien ikun hemm bicca trieq twila gmiela li twassalhom H'Attard u minn hemm jibdu lejn il-Mosta fejn jaslu ghas-sebh tal-gurnata u jisimghu l-quddies u joqghodu jistrieu, u wara jerhula lura lejn l-Mgarr. Niftakar meta konna guvintur fis-sittinijiet konna nikru karozza u jnduru dawn il-knejjes fill-gurnata tal-festa fill-ghodu. Imma llum f'jum il-festa jkun hemm il-marci ta' fil-ghodu u l-guvintur u t-tfajliet imorru jizfnu u jiddevertu mal marci; mhux jinvistaw is-seba' Santa Marijiet,

Tkun haga sabieha li kieku xi zaghzagh jorganizzaw dawn l-speci ta' visti, halli din t-tradizzjoni antika ma tintilfx ghal dejjem.





Six parishes in Malta and one in Gozo celebrate the feast of The Assumption, the day when Malta's festive season reaches its height. For the Church this is a Holy Day of Obligation and is regarded as the greatest feast day because of the number of parishes and chapels involved in celebrations.

Marian symbols and hymns are mainly associated with Attard, Mosta, Ghaxaq, Gudja, Mqabba and Qrendi in Malta and in Rabat, Gozo which celebrate the day with much pomp and circumstance and commemorate the 15th August as the day of the Virgin Mary's ascent to heaven with religious and public festivities. Dingli and Mgarr in Malta and Zebbug in Gozo will mark the same feast.

Professor Ray Mangion explained that the Marian Culture has been associated with Malta for centuries. He said it was difficult to pinpoint when the tradition began but it does go back to the Middle Ages although no documentation is available. He said that by 1800 the culture had 92 dedicated churches and 22 altars and was a culture that predominated.

Although it is mainly associated with seven parishes, in a number of other churches solemn processions are held bearing the statue of the Virgin Mary, including the old church in Birkirkara as well as the Samra Church of Hamrun and these were also historic and the church dedicated to The Miraculous Madonna.

There are similarities in the celebrating parishes as they are neighbouring parishes and have similar titular statues. Professor Mangion also observed that two of the churches were rotundas and that the oldest titular statue was that of Gudja although a pastoral visit in 1680 established that Qrendi had held public festivities for the occasion.

He referred to who he termed as "the father of Maltese history" Gian Frangisk Abela who in 1647 wrote that the Mdina Cathedral had originally been dedicated to The Assumption.

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER
The Journal of the
Maltese Diaspora



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I love talking to people and hearing their stories. Everyone's got their own story to tell, and when you sit down with someone and really talk to them, you can learn so much.

THE TRADITIONAL CUSTOM - IL-QUČČIJA [Melisande Aquilina](#)



Il-Quččija, which could be roughly translated as 'the choosing' or 'the choice' is one of the ancient old traditions dating back to the 18th century, which is still predominantly popular today. A year after a baby is born, its parents organise a party and invite all the family members and close friends for the gathering. After having eaten traditional Maltese party food, drunk a drink or two and chatted to their heart's content, the parents prepare a table, basket, or section of the room for the Quččija. The aim of the Quččija is to determine or try to prophesy which profession or career the child would have later on in life, depending on which object he or she would pick up from all those offered in the pile.

This entails collecting and setting out many different items, all reflecting or relating to a particular profession, career or aspect of life. For example, a calculator denotes that the child will become a mathematician, a rosary that he would become a priest, a pen that he would be a writer and a book that he would be learned and wise.

In the past, different items would be set forth for the child to pick up, depending on his or her gender. If the child was a girl, most often the parents prepared a dish or table containing a pair of scissors, meaning that the girl would become a seamstress, cooking items, a ribbon, which if picked, would mean that the girl would be a beauty, corn which denoted fertility, or an egg which used to signify that the girl would have a big and prosperous home. If the child was a boy, the items would reflect totally different professions. A stethoscope would definitely be one of the items, in the hope that the boy would grow up to be a doctor, if he grabbed an inkstand it would mean that he was going to sit for the bar and become either a lawyer or a magistrate, while if he touched a geometry instrument it would mean that he would become an architect or engineer.

Today, the tradition has changed to reflect the society we are currently living in. Careers and professions are no longer subject to one's gender, therefore usually the same items are offered to the child at the ceremony, be they male or female. The items themselves too have evolved, in reflection of today's technological aspect. A baby might therefore grab a computer mouse, pointing at a career in I.T, or a credit card, pointing either towards a banking career or at the promise of future wealth.

In the end, there is really no strict list of items which must be presented, and parents tend to let the baby crawl around everyday things which are to be normally found around the household. The object the child touches first, tradition holds, will be a dominant aspect in his or her life. This small ceremony, apart from being held in the Maltese islands, is also believed to be something of a custom in some remote parts of Sicily, Italy, and Greece.

Traditions are what makes a culture unique and this is why they should be fostered and cherished. I doubt anyone really believes that whichever item a baby grabs first has actually anything to do with his or her future, since babies usually tend to grab the most colourful and shiny object out of a group of things, or the closest one, however the Quččija is a sweet and entertaining custom, and a good way of celebrating a child's first birthday. Also, be sure not to forget the birthday cake!

Please be advised that the St Catherine Society Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 5 August 2018 at 2.00pm at St Brigid's Hall, LeHunte Street, Kilburn, South Australia. Regards Carmen Spiteri - Secretary St Catherine Society OF South Australia Incorporated



23 June – 7th October

**Exhibition – Valletta and the Dominicans:
a common journey
Dominicans Priory, St Dominic Street,
Valletta**

As from its foundation, the story of the city of Valletta has often intertwined with that of the Dominican Community in the capital. The initial presence of the Dominicans among the city's builders, evolved into a 500 year rich and inseparable history. In the year in which we are celebrating the city of Valletta as the **European Capital of Culture**, this exhibition will help you to appreciate the rich historical,

socio-cultural and artistic legacy left by the Dominican Order as reflected in the development of Valletta.

Opening hours: 10.00 till 16.00hrs **Admission free of charge.**



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Joint Concession* 60+ / Disabled Pers / Student	€60	€150	€245

* In order to apply for concession rates you will be requested to show identification that you are over 60 or possess a Special Identity Card issued by KNPd or an equivalent entity. Students must show proof that they are full time students or 17 years or under. Students above the age of 15 cannot apply for a 3 or 5 year concession membership.

WIED IZ-ZURRIEQ - ZURRIEQ VALLEY



Wied iz-Zurrieq and the adjacent Blue Grotto are popular sites for swimming, diving, snorkelling and to enjoy relaxing days in Mediterranean waters.

Wied iz-Zurrieq is an authentic little village on the west side of Malta, famous for the steep cliffs and deep sea waters. Also it is one of the top 10 tourist attractions around the island, hiding seven smaller and bigger caves, approachable only from the sea, with the organized boat trips.

Zurrieq Valley or Wied iz-Zurrieq is located by one of the most popular sites in Malta, the Blue Grotto, just off the town of Zurrieq. It is a popular area with both locals and

visitors. From Wied iz-Zurrieq or Zurrieq Valley you have beautiful panoramic sea views over the beautiful blue Mediterranean Sea and over the small island Filfla.

The entry to the water is from a small dock and the water here is deep and only recommended for those who know how to swim well. In summer this small dock gets very busy with the traditional Luzzus taking tourists to Blue Grotto. Wied iz-Zurrieq is very popular with divers as there is the Um El Faroud wreck and also offers excellent snorkelling and underwater photography opportunities with several caves located near Wied iz-Zurrieq/Zurrieq Valley. Zurrieq also offers very nice country walks with beautiful views and scenery.



1.5m passengers travel to Gozo in second quarter of 2018

In the second quarter of 2018, sea transport between Malta and Gozo registered increases compared to the corresponding quarter of 2017, the NSO said today.

A total of 1,535,414 passengers travelled

between Malta and Gozo during the second quarter this year, up by 8.5 per cent when compared to the corresponding quarter in 2017. The highest number of passengers was recorded in May - 513,598 or 33.5 per cent of the total for the quarter. The number of vehicles increased by 7.4 per cent, totalling 423,152.

The number of trips amounted to 5,776, an increase of 4.2 per cent over the same quarter in 2017. Most trips took place in June - 2,008 or 34.8 per cent of total trips for the quarter.

January-June

During the first six months, vessels operating between Malta and Gozo carried 2,656,415 passengers, an increase of 8.2 per cent over the corresponding period in 2017.

Passenger traffic originating from Ċirkewwa was busiest on Friday and Saturday, whereas highest numbers from Mgarr were recorded on Sunday and Saturday.



THE CARMELITES CELEBRATE 600 YEARS OF SERVICE IN MALTA

This religious order has contributed to the country in many ways over the years This year is a special year for the Carmelites as they are celebrating 600 years since their advent to Malta. On May 7, 1892, the Maltese Carmelite Province was founded previously forming part of the Sicilian Province named after Saint

o and becoming independent under British rule.

According to local history, the Carmelites arrived in Malta in 1418, when a noble woman, Lady Margarita d'Aragona, left a chapel and the land around it, at a place known as I-Lunzjata (the Annunciation) in the limits of Rabat, Malta, to the religious order that would recite daily the Liturgy of the hours.

Since the Carmelites accepted to carry out this obligation, they received the inheritance Lady D'Aragona left in her will. This is documented in the book by Fr Serafin Abela, O.Carm, published in 1993 called L-Ewwel Karmelitani f'Malta fil-Lunzjata l-Qadima (1418 – 1659) [The first Carmelites in Malta at the old Lunzjata (1418-1659)].

After the Carmelites had established themselves in Lunzjata, they realised there was a need for pastoral service in Valletta. It was in 1570 that they founded their first priory and church outside Rabat, namely in Valletta. Following this, a few years later, they moved into the Carmelite Priory in Vittoriosa. However, their stay there was short-lived as they only spent 70 years there between 1582 and 1652. Soon after the closure of this priory, they established themselves in Mdina in 1659. Over two centuries passed before they resolved to set up another priory. Thus in 1892 they founded the Carmelite Priory in Balluta, Sliema. Two decades later and just over 100 years ago, in 1913, they founded the Santa Venera Priory. Subsequently, they established themselves in Fgura in 1945 and Fleur-de-Lys in 1947. In 1980, they set up a priory in Santa Venera. Today, four of these priories are parishes, namely Balluta, Fgura, Fleur-de-Lys and Santa Venera.

Many Carmelites remain known for their life of holiness, their wisdom and for their apostolic work

In 1944, the Carmelites established a secondary school by the name of Scola Mariano Apostolica, in their priory in Valletta. This was later transferred to Santa Venera and became known as Mount Carmel College. Today the school is called St Elias College and has moved to the Santa Venera square. Many vocations are known to have emerged from this school, including Carmelites, other orders and diocesan priests and other people with special professions.

In 1949, the province responded to the call made by the Prior General to send friars to work in the missions in Africa. However, this did not materialise and they ended up establishing themselves in Peru in 1949 and later in Bolivia in 1956.

Nowadays, the Mission of Peru is no longer in the hands of the Maltese Carmelites.

In 1987, the Province set up a church and priory in Milazzo in Sicily, but this had to close due to a lack of members. In 1990, the Carmelites restored the Lunzjata chapel in Rabat and founded the Lunzjata – House of Prayer, where they welcome groups wish-ing to hold spiritual retreats.

Throughout their existence in Malta, the Carmelite friars and religious sought to contribute as much as they could to the Maltese Province. Many Carmelites remain known for their life of holiness, their wisdom and for their apostolic work.

These include Fr Avertan Fenech whose case for Beatification is under way. He spent long hours praying for people and hearing their confessions. Another worthy of mention is the 'poet of Our Lady', Fr Anastasju Cuschieri, who made a name for himself in Maltese literature.

Other authors are Fr Lawrence Sammut and Fr Serafin Abela, who contributed to Maltese education. In addition, a number of Carmelites founded the Carmelite periodical magazine Il-Karmelu to spread the Carmelite charism around our islands. It is worth noting that among the members of our Province there were two bishops. One was Mgr Francis Raiti, bishop of Trapani in Sicily and the other Mgr Redent Gauci, bishop of Chuquibamba, in Peru. Currently, the Maltese province has around 43 priests in all who serve in Malta, Italy, the US and in the mission in Bolivia. **by Fr Hermann Duncan** O.Carm



The Maltese Weasel (IL-Ballotra)

POSTED BY JOHAN SIGGESSON

Photo By: Raymond Galea

Today I had the opportunity to join a student from University of Malta on his ongoing study of the Maltese Weasel. The aim is to see what impact habitat fragmentation has on the weasel (*Mustela nivalis*) population in Malta. Not many studies are

available on this shy and elusive species here in Malta so this is kind of baseline.

I have had a wish to work with the weasel for a while now since not many great images are available in Malta, so when this opportunity was presented to me I was very excited. The aim is to catch some individuals and GPS trackers on them to be able to study them better. For me it means that I can improve my chances of being in the right place at the right time with my camera. For the student in question I hope to provide him with some good images and maybe some video of this creature's behaviour.

The student has been trying to catch individuals for 2-3 months now but so far hasn't been successful. The weasel is shy, elusive and very intelligent so catching one will be hard so wish us luck.



I am a wildlife and nature photographer from Sweden but residing on the small Mediterranean island of Malta. From an early age I was passionate about animals and the natural world. Before Animal Planet, Nat Geo Wild and the likes, I was always glued in front of the weekly nature program on Swedish state television. No matter if it was lions in Africa, wolves in Yellowstone or Polar bears in Svalbard, I practically grew up with Sir David Attenborough's voice at the back of my head.

From the moment I bought my first digital camera I was hooked. The creativity that is unleashed with instant feedback on the screen, variable ISO and more or less unlimited image capacity is something that really appeals to me. This, combined with a passion for animals, is a recipe for a wildlife photographer.

When I am not out photographing or stuck in front of my Mac processing images, I enjoy a good meal or watching a game of soccer with friends... And a cold beer. I hope that you like viewing my images just as much as I enjoyed taking them! <https://www.johansiggesson> Find us on Facebook

(Thanks to Fr. G.S.Micallef)

If you are one of the thousand readers and never wrote to us acknowledging the receipt of this Journal, it is important to let us know if you wish to remain on our data-base. It takes us so much time to distribute the journal – very time consuming and, although we enjoy writing and collating this cultural magazine, we are extremely busy with our everyday commitments. So please, let us know if you don't want to keep on receiving this e-newsletter



This space could
be yours

L-‘Amery Hill School Choir and Band’ f’Ghawdex u f’Malta



L-‘Amery Hill School Choir and Band’ mir-Renju Unit matul din il-ġimgħa taw żewġ serati mużikali, waħda fuq iż-żuntier tal-Knisja Parrokkjali Ta’ Sannat sponsorjata mill-OKunsill Lokali tar-raħal, u oħra fuq iż-żuntier tal-Knisja Parrokkjali ta’ Raħal Ġdid. Dan il-kumplex kien taħt id-direzzjoni tal-Kap tal-iskola Liz Wylie, skola ta’ madwar elf student ta’ bejn il-11 u s-16-il sena fl-Alton Hampshire. Il-

pjanista kien Paul Arbon. Huma taw ukoll kunċert ieħor fis-Sant Antonio Hotel db Qawra b’risq l-istazzjon tar-Radju Marija. Fil-kunċerti hađu sehem grupp ta’ studenti jdoqqu l-flawt, grupp ieħor idoqq il-klarinetta waqt li grupp ieħor idoqq l-istrumenti tal-qasba. Il-kor kanta diversi biċċiet li kienu jinkludu l-Kyrie, Can you feel the love tonight, Spirituals, Wimboweh, Stand by me beautiful, Down by the Riverside, Do Re Mi u għalqu bl-Hallelujah. L-istudent Ben Williams ikkompona ‘Harmonic Differences’ li dderieġa huwa stess.

Matul dawn l-aħħar snin il-Kor flimkien mal-Banda rebaħ il-Farnham Festival u l-Basingstoke Arts Festival waqt li kellhom ukoll l-okkażjoni jagħtu shows fl-Olanda, fi New York u fi Spanja. Idoqqu u jkantaw temi varji u popolari, minn tradizzjonali sal-Kyrie u Adiemus kif ukoll temi klassiċi sa mużika Jazz u siltiet minn films, bħal Ghostbusters, Mixed Bag of Boogie, Send in the Clouds, Sound of Music u iktar. Dan kollu kien organizzat mill-Fondazzjoni Papa Gwanni Pawlu t-Tieni fl-okkażjoni tal-40 sena mill-bidu tal-papat ta’ dan il-Prelat Pollakk tal-Knisja Kattolika Illum Qaddis.

Kav Joe M Attard - Victoria Ghawdex





A LITTLE BIT OF HUMOUR

