



# Maltese e-Newsletter

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora



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Feast celebrations  
to be limited to  
Sunday pilgrimages

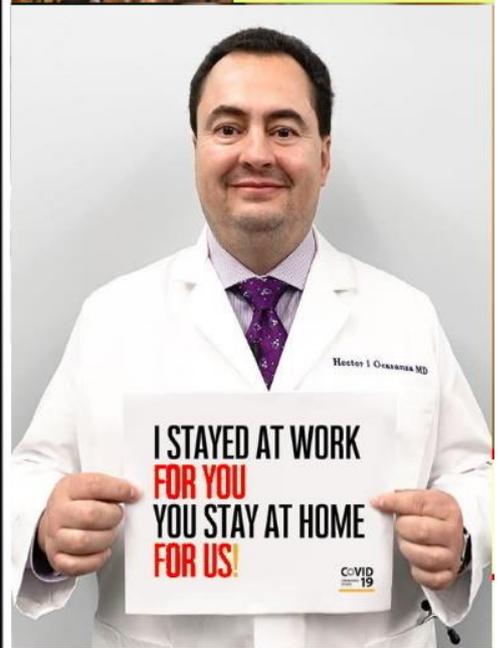
WHAT  
WILL  
YOU DO  
ONCE  
THIS  
COVID-19  
IS  
OVER

?????????



Can't wait for  
the day to hear

"COVID-19 IS FINALLY GONE"



ORDER  
OF MALTA



COVID-19  
Activities Worldwide

Maltese Living in Malta and Abroad  
Take care of each other and stay safe

## DIRETTIVI TAL-ISQFIJJIET DWAR IĊ-ĊELEBRAZZJONIJIET RELIĠJUŻI FIX-XHUR LI ĠEJJIN



Fid-dawl tas-sitwazzjoni preżenti b'riżultat tal-pandemija tal-Covid-19, l-Isqfijiet ta' Malta u Għawdex qegħdin joħorġu dawn id-direttivi dwar: il-Ġimgħa Mqaddsa u l-Għid il-Kbir, l-Ewwel Tqarbina u l-Grizma tal-Isqof, u l-Festi.

### IL-ĠIMGĦA MQADDSA U L-GĦID IL-KBIR

Din is-sena ma jsirux manifestazzjonijiet pubbliċi nhar id-Duluri u tul il-Ġimgħa Mqaddsa, inkluż l-Ħadd il-Palm, il-Ġimgħa l-Kbira u l-Għid il-Kbir.

Ser jintbagħtu direttivi dettaljati lill-kappillani, superjuri reliġjużi u saċerdoti, rigward iċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet fil-knisja b'rabta mal-Ġimgħa

Mqaddsa, fid-dawl tad-digriet maħruġ mill-Kongregazzjoni għall-Kult Divin u d-Dixxiplina tas-Sagramenti rigward il-funzjonijiet tal-Ġimgħa Mqaddsa.

Il-purċissjonijiet tal-Ġimgħa l-Kbira din is-sena ma jsirux. Dejjem jekk is-sitwazzjoni tkun tippermetti f'dak iż-żmien, il-pellegrinaġġ tad-Duluri jista' jsir f'Settembru b'rabta mal-Festa tad-Duluri nhar il-15 ta' Settembru.

### L-EWWEL TQARBINA U L-GRIZMA TAL-ISQOF

Iċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet tal-Ewwel Tqarbina u tal-Grizma tal-Isqof, li kienu ppjanati għal qabel is-sajf 2020, huma posposti għal aktar tard meta s-sitwazzjoni titjeb u jkun possibbli li jibdeu isiru mill-ġdid dawn iċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet.

### FESTI

Il-festi kollha li kienu ppjanati li jsiru fil-parroċċi u fil-knejjes sal-aħħar ta' din is-sena (2020) jistgħu jsiru biss wara li l-awtoritajiet tas-saħħa jkunu taw il-permess li jistgħu jingabru flimkien nies f'attivitajiet pubbliċi, u f'kull każ, għal din is-sena 2020, isiru biss f'din il-forma:

- Il-Ħadd biss (jew f'jum ta' festa pubblika) isir pellegrinaġġ ta' talb u ringrazzjament bil-vara meqjuma f'dik il-festa.
- Dakinhar issir ukoll quddiesa tal-festa fil-knisja.
- Ma jkunx hemm ċelebrazzjonijiet oħra interni jew esterni.

Aktar dettalji jingħataw skont kif tiżviluppa s-sitwazzjoni.

Nitolbu biex il-Mulej iżommna dejjem taħt il-harsien tiegħu.

Maħruġa mis-Sede tal-Konferenza Episkopali Maltija, il-Furjana, illum 24 ta' Marzu 2020.

#### + Charles Jude Scicluna

Arcisqof ta' Malta President, Konferenza Episkopali Maltija

#### + Mario Grech

Amministratur Appostoliku ta' Għawdex

#### + Joseph Galea-Curmi

Isqof Awżiljarju ta' Malta



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[www.ozmalta.com](http://www.ozmalta.com)

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**WE, MALTESE LIVING ABROAD, ARE UNITED, RESILIENT AND OPTIMISTIC**

**WE PRAY FOR A MIRACLE AND WE BELIEVE THAT THIS EVIL DISEASE**

**WILL BE BEATEN FOR GOOD**



## Coronavirus: Feast celebrations to be limited to Sunday pilgrimages

No other internal or external festivities will be held, the Church said

by Karl Azzopardi MALTA TODAY

Directives limiting traditional feasts have been issued by Malta and Gozo's bishops.

In a statement, the curia said that village feasts may only

be held if authorities lift the ban on social gatherings.

In any case, feasts will only be held on the Sunday of actual feast day if it is a public holiday. A thanksgiving pilgrimage with the statue of the village saint will be allowed.

High mass to mark the feast will also be held.

No other internal or external festivities will be held, the Church said.

Further details will be issued as the situation develops.

### Easter festivities

The celebrations of Holy Week and Easter for this year have also been cancelled.

In its statement, the church said that the procession of Our Lady of Sorrows could be held on the proper day of the feast on September 15.

Holy Communion and Confirmation ceremonies have also been postponed.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF MALTA TO CANADA.



*Dr. Ray Xerri*

**Dr Raymond Xerri**

**Maltese citizens and persons of Maltese ancestry currently live or reside in Canada**

**requiring the assistance of our Consulate are encouraged to reach out to us through the following contact details:**

**Telephone: 416 207 0922 (if busy please leave a message)**

**Email: [maltaconsulate.toronto@gov.mt](mailto:maltaconsulate.toronto@gov.mt)**

**FOR EMERGENCIES ONLY ON 416 832 4607**

Thanks you and regards,

**[Consulate General of the Republic of Malta to Canada](#)**

March 10 at 11:12 PM ·

INFORMATION FOR THOSE TRAVELLING TO MALTA MT - COVID 19 HELPLINE

For all those travelling to Malta in the days and weeks to come, can update themselves by calling the COVID-19 helplines in Malta on +356 2204 2200 or on +356 21324086 or google '[www.gov.mt](http://www.gov.mt)' and click on the COVID-19 icon for further information from the Department of Health in Malta.



## Taking care of each other - Byron Camilleri



Hon Byron Camilleri - Minister for Home Affairs

As the streets empty and the hustle and bustle of everyday life fades away, there is definitely a lot to think about. As a nation, we have come to realise that we cannot do the things we were doing a few months ago. Tasks that seemed mundane, such as driving kids to school or going out for a coffee, now seem like a privilege.

The coronavirus outbreak has posed significant challenges for countries all around the world. As a government, we have pulled the trigger on aggressive interventions in an effort to reduce the acute, exponential growth of the outbreak and diminish the strain on our healthcare system. However, during these times of uncertainty, we can put our minds at rest that our doctors, nurses, healthcare workers and disciplined forces are working around the clock to protect us.

During the past few days, I led various meetings with members of our disciplined forces to discuss the implementation of the contingency plan

we have in place specifically for such a situation.

In these difficult moments, I was heartened by the collaboration and team spirit that exists among the different forces.

As soon as the prime minister announced new rules on mandatory quarantine, the police force was called in to assist the health department in enforcing these regulations.

Daily spot checks are being carried out by police officers from the Administrative and Law Enforcement Unit together with officials from the health department and Civil Protection Department.

To date over 1,000 spot checks have been carried out. It angers me to find out there are still people who continue to defy their quarantine obligations despite all the warnings given and the harsh fines imposed.

*Coronavirus has left us with time to think and reflect*

It is exactly for this reason that the prime minister decided to increase the fines significantly. However, in these troubling times what struck me most was the sheer dedication demonstrated by members of our disciplined forces.

The minute we asked for their help they were ready to jump into action and that's exactly what they did. The Armed Forces of Malta are delivering food to those who are observing mandatory quarantine and cannot go outside to buy essentials.

The Civil Protection Department, on the other hand, is providing decontamination training to various government departments and is also sanitising the health authority's vehicles and other buildings.

I cannot forget to mention the work being done by law enforcement and community officers from LESA, who are helping out by delivering medicines to our elderly all over the country.

And that's not all.

Prison officials, detention service officers and workers managing open centres also deserve appreciation. Not only are they continuing with their day-to-day role, but they are also stepping up their efforts to protect their residents in a time of extraordinary pressure.

Coronavirus has left us with time to think and reflect, and to realise that we live on a planet better connected than ever. We are a closer global community, and all the better for it – even if it has left us more exposed.

Nevertheless, nation-wide we have seen what a difference people working together can have. Our security forces have shed their traditional role to assist where they were needed most. COVID-19 is set to impact all of us and stronger local connections within communities are vital to see this crisis out.

To our health authorities, doctors, nurses, paramedics and heroes in uniform, we will forever be in your debt. However, I cannot stress enough that the biggest show of respect is to listen to the advice of health authorities. Staying at home when possible and practising social distancing is crucial for us to be able to fight the spread of the virus.

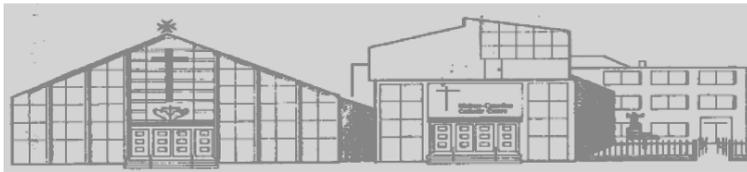
Let's take care of each other.

## Pope's visit to Malta and Gozo postponed

Pope Francis' visit to Malta and Gozo has been postponed in light of the situation with Covid 19 worldwide.

This was announced by the Archbishop of Malta, who in a statement said that the new date of the visit will be announced at a later date.

The visit of the Pope was scheduled to take place at the end of May. The Archbishop appealed to Christians to keep the Pope in their prayers.



## Coronavirus - further announcements

### St. Paul the Apostle Church – Toronto – Canada

Greetings, and I hope you are keeping well. During these trying and unusual times, looking after each other's health is of utmost importance. Following a request by Cardinal Collins, I have to advise you that, as from tomorrow until further notice:

- the Parish Office will be closed to the public. You can still reach us by phone or email.
- The Church will remain closed, even for personal prayer.

You can visit <http://www.archtoronto.org/covid19> for updated information from the Archdiocese of Toronto and for links to view the Daily Mass online. Please continue to pray for all who, in different ways, are being affected by this virus. Fr Ivano and myself keep you all in our daily prayers. We hope and pray that we will see each other again soon. Fr Mario Micallef M SSP Parish Priest

## A Maltese man based in Spain describes country's pitiful situation

In Spain, the death toll from Covid-19 now stands at 3,434, an amount which is greater than the deaths in China from where the virus originated.



Alistair Bugeja, a Maltese lawyer who lives in Spain, describes the pitiful situation in this country, which is one of Malta's Mediterranean neighbours.

He said that in Madrid the situation is so serious that the trade fair grounds and hotels have been modified to accommodate patients infected by the virus.

He described how it is obligatory for people to remain at home and that if they are spotted outside for no valid reason the Police take action against them.

### SAY THE ROSARY ON YOUTUBE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J5kYUHBQqJM&feature=youtu.be>



## **COVID-19 As there are now cases of local transmission, one can become infected with Covid-19 when outside – Professor Gauci**

Professor Gauci stated that since cases have surfaced of local transmission within the country, there is now a chance of persons becoming infected with the virus if they decide to venture outdoors instead of remaining in their homes.

The Superintendent for Public Health reiterated the importance of remaining indoors and avoiding exposures to other persons.

Professor Gauci repeated her appeal during today's media conference on the Covid-19 situation in Malta when it was announced that the number of infected persons has now gone up to 73.



## **Malta will lose €3 billion from lack of tourism but is offering a package of €70 million to employees**

In a media conference during in which Prime Minister Robert Abela announced a further financial package to aid the country's economy, he said the proposed measures will cost the Government €70 million monthly.

This is over and above the measures announced last week that reached €1.8 billion alone. He said the new package achieved is historic because it has been agreed with agreement by the Opposition and all social partners.

Sources close to the PM said it is estimated that this year the country will lose €2 billion from the tourist industry alone. He said that as all incoming travel has stopped we have now to restart to our own recourses. Because of this the Government now has to borrow more than €2 billion.

He said this borrowing will be more than seven times the normal but maintained this is still sustainable borrowing and this will be from local sources because families and commercial enterprises have good and strong liquidity. He said families have €13 billion deposited in local banks and commercial outlets have €3 billion laid by.

He said that although these are on a 0% interest holding, the Government will be offering a good rate of interest on them.

Meanwhile the Government is holding discussions with local commercial banks for these to exercise a moratorium, that is, on the debt that has already been accumulated



## It wasn't just St Paul Malta has had its share of shipwrecks

Report: Mario Xuereb

The vessel which ran aground in Qawra may recall the shipwreck of St Paul in 60 AD, an event which the Church in Malta celebrates on Feb. 10.

That shipwreck will always be remembered as the biggest ever tragedy in Maltese waters, as its story is even recorded in the Acts of the

Apostles. Fourteen other tragedies have occurred over the past 160 years, however, in which scores of sailors and passengers lost their lives, including many Maltese.

The tragedy which goes back to November 1908, nearly 110 years ago, in the seas close to Malta, is still considered the worst maritime tragedy. The 'Sardinia' had just left the Port of Malta, when fire spread throughout the ship.

"By the time it was sailing in the vicinity of Xghajra, the vessel was one huge fireball. It was a major disaster. No one could understand why the fire had spread so quickly. The Captain was the first person to lose his life, when an explosion occurred on board the 'Sardinia'. There was a rumour that the vessel could

have been carrying explosives, but the owners always denied this," maritime historian Victor Wickman points out.

There were some 150 Muslim pilgrims on board, on their way to Mecca. Over half of them perished in the tragedy, as well as 16 members of the crew, Europeans and Indians.

"It was stated in the inquiry that followed that there were serious shortcomings. Muslim pilgrims were left on deck together, and some were even cooking



their food. There were no fire precautions. The cooking fires could have led to the eventual conflagration," Wickman adds.

Mr Wickman points to fires, storms, on-board damage and bad navigation as the main reasons for the 14 shipwrecks around the Maltese coast in the past 160 years.

Just as the vessel carrying St Paul in 60 AD hit a reef, the same fate overtook the battleship HMS Sultan, when it was manoeuvring with torpedoes close to Comino in 1889. The battleship's Captain ended up being blamed. Although the reef was not marked on any navigation chart, he was still held responsible.

More recently, in the mid-50s, the 'Star of Malta', carrying passengers, merchandise and mail from Sicily, ran into problems close to Dragonara Point. "It was a morning when the weather was not so good. There was some navigational error. The vessel was kept close to Dragonara and ended up on the rocks. The vessel was nearly a total loss. A ship's cook and a female passenger had lost their lives."

Conscious of the fact that one doesn't take risks with the all-powerful sea, Maltese mariners are used to praying to St Andrew and other patron saints of seamen to protect them from the dangers they might encounter in the course of their work. [N. Cutajar sent us this link]

**Maltese Living in Malta and Abroad  
Take care of each other and stay safe**

## People in Malta Open Up About Living Under Shadow Of Coronavirus – Survey by [lovinmalta.com](http://lovinmalta.com)

By [Tim Diacono](#)

Coronavirus has swept the rug from under the world's feet and Malta is no exception. Basic things in life we used to take for granted now sound precious while what the near future will look like is anybody's guess.

With this in mind, **Lovin Malta** ran a survey which asked people for their personal experiences about how their lives have changed in the past few weeks.

We received over 350 responses to our survey and here's a selection of them:

*'I do not have a life, I live in fear'*

*With local transmissions of the coronavirus now confirmed, several people voice their concerns that they could end up contracting the illness.*

*"The main problem for me in our eighties is queuing outside a pharmacy when holding a disability card, which is no use in this crisis," said an 82-year-old English woman who has been living in Malta for several years. "Not enough is being done for elderly people who are most at risk."*

*"I am constantly alert, especially on public transport," a 46-year-old Maltese woman said. "At home I have turned into an OCD, cleaning all the time with bleach and disinfectants. I became more suspicious of the people surrounding me."*

*A 29-year-old Maltese woman with Crohn's disease said she is so petrified of getting sick that she has stopped going out altogether, except to walk her dogs in the very early morning, wearing gloves and a mask in doing so.*

*"All I do is watch the news and worry about how Malta will handle the situation if it gets to the point of Italy," she said. "I do not have a life, I live in fear."*

*A 27-year-old Maltese healthcare worker said her job has become very tense and sombre as everyone is worried about the coronavirus and is expecting an influx of patients.*

*"Patients are constantly expressing their worries with us and we are remaining strong for them, constantly reassuring them," she said. "I'm scared of getting sick but more than that I'm scared of all my relatives, especially those who are more vulnerable and can't help but think ... will they all get through this?"*

*"I own clothing shops which turned from a success to nullity in two days and we closed our doors," a 40-year-old Maltese man said. "Even my employees were afraid to come to work. My family is at home but I cannot stay with the right mind so there is a lot of frustration."*

*A 29-year-old Serbian woman said both she and her husband have lost their jobs and that they and their two children, both under three years old, cannot go anywhere as their only family is in Milan, which has been badly impacted by the coronavirus outbreak.*



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[www.ozmalta.com](http://www.ozmalta.com)

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## The Island of Comino Has Returned To What It Was Like When I Was 10 Years Old' *Salvu Vella* By [Tim Diacono](#)



*Salvu Vella (right) drives Robert Abela around Comino shortly after his election as Prime Minister*

COVID-19 has impacted the whole world in some way or other and the tiny island of Comino is no exception. And for 72-year-old Salvu Vella, one of Comino's only residents, things have actually changed for the better. "Comino has returned to how I remember it when I was ten years old," he told [TVM](#). "People used to come here everyday but now we're truly by ourselves again. From my end, Comino is lovely now; it's as though it's having a breather

from all the noise and people."

Despite the lack of visitors, Salvu said he is concerned that the COVID-19 coronavirus could end up impacting Comino too, and this because his brother Anġlu needs to travel to the mainland for dialysis treatment every two days. "Hopefully, I won't contract the virus so I will be able to keep taking care [of Comino]," he said.

## Prime Minister pledges to forfeit a month's salary, urges other civil servants to follow suit



Albert Galea

Prime Minister Robert Abela pledged on Tuesday to forfeit a month's worth of his salary as a gesture of solidarity towards those who have been worst hit by the economic impact of the public health crisis that the outbreak of Coronavirus in Malta has brought about.

Asked whether he believed anyone in the civil sector who earns more than €40,000 should take a pay cut to help fund small businesses struggling to make ends meet, Abela said that this was a measure which he was going to announce later in due course, but noted that he is indeed ready to forfeit a month's worth of his salary.

"I've made this gesture because this is how I see things," he noted. "I won't force any public official to reduce their salary but the spirit of solidarity is there and should be there. This is the time of 'us', which means we must all show solidarity with each other", he said, urging others to follow his example.

"I know some people are suffering, that the fear and uncertainty they're feeling is getting in the way of their work. This will be a moment that defines us and we should help those who are less privileged", he said.

Tourism Minister Julia Farrugia Portelli also later joined the Prime Minister in announcing that she too will forfeit a month's worth of her salary.

Economy Minister Silvio Schembri will be forfeiting a month's worth of his salary as well, noting that he could not help but follow the Prime Minister's "humble" example. He encouraged those who could to follow suit in the interest of those going through difficult times as a result of the crisis.

Abela made his announcement while speaking in a press conference where he announced a new economic package worth some €70 million which will see, amongst other things, the government paying €800 per month to some 60,000 workers who work in the industries which are worst hit by the current crisis.

## Yes, there is a Santa Corona - and she's the Patron Saint of Plagues and Pandemics



### Her remains are kept as relics in Northern Italy

In a strange coincidence, it turns out, yes, there is a Saint Corona and, incredibly, she is a patroness of plagues and epidemics.

To make the coincidence even stranger, her remains have been kept in a basilica in Vicenza, Northern Italy, the site of the first



COVID-19 lockdown in the EU, since the 9th century.

Little is known about her, but, according to *Aleteia*, sixteen-year-old Saint Corona was martyred in Syria by a Roman judge named Sebastian, under the reign of Marcus Aurelius, sometime around 170 A.D.

At that time, it was illegal to be Christian, and the punishment was death, so Saint Corona and others who converted to Christianity kept their religion secret.

One such was St. Victor, who by some reports was St. Corona's husband, by others her brother-in-law or close friend of her husband.

When St. Victor was discovered to be a secret Christian, he was brought to court to denounce his faith, but he refused. As St. Victor was publicly tortured, St. Corona came to his aid, kneeling to pray for him and comfort him as his skin was torn from his back with whips and his eyes gouged out.

The judge then ordered St. Corona to be tortured and executed for her defiance.

Her feet were tied to the tops of two palm trees which were bent to the ground. When they let the palms loose, she was torn apart. Victor was beheaded.

St. Corona and St. Victor are very early saints, recognized even before the church's official canonization process was standardized.

*Aleteia* reports that German-language sources reveal St. Corona's status as patroness of pandemics, since she is especially venerated in Austria and Bavaria, where she is perhaps best known for her association with money, gambling, and treasure-hunting.



### CANADIAN-MALTESE ACHIEVER

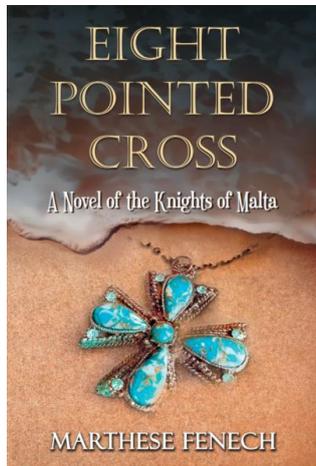
Marthese Fenech is the author of epic historical novels set in sixteenth-century Malta and Istanbul. Research has taken her to the ancient streets her characters roamed, the fortresses they defended, the seas they sailed, and the dungeons they escaped.

Obstinate curiosity has led her to sixty-five countries across six continents. She does her best plot-weaving while hiking mountain trails, wandering local markets, paddle boarding cliff-sheltered bays, and sitting at home with her Siberian husky curled at her feet.

The youngest of five, Marthese was born in Toronto to Maltese parents. At twelve, she moved to Malta for six months and was enrolled in an all-girls private school run by nuns; she lasted three days before getting kicked out for talking too much. Back in Toronto, she started a business recording, editing, and selling bootleg heavy metal concerts. She later worked with special needs children and adults, witnessing small miracles daily.

Marthese has a Master's degree in Education and currently teaches high school English. She speaks fluent Maltese and French and knows how to ask where the bathroom is in Spanish and Italian. She took up archery and wound up accidentally becoming a licenced coach. A

former kickboxing instructor, she surfs, snowboards, scuba-dives, climbs, skydives, throws axes, and practices yoga—which may sometimes include goats or puppies. She lives north of Toronto with her brilliant, mathematically-inclined husband and brilliant, musically-inclined dog, known to lead family howl sessions on occasion.



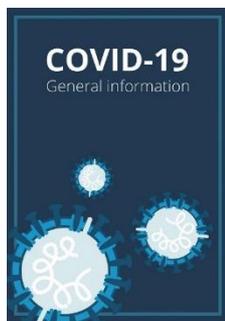
### About Eight Pointed Cross by Marthese Fenech

Those who cannot bravely face danger are already slaves of the enemy.

The violent clash between the Ottoman Empire and the Knights of St John on the island fortress Malta serves as the backdrop to Eight-Pointed Cross. Young siblings Domenicus and Katrina Montesa live under constant threat of raids by the Ottoman Turks, the staunchest enemies of the Christian knights. All the while, hundreds of leagues away in Istanbul, Demir’s dream of becoming an imperial horseman in the Sultan’s cavalry is his only salvation against relentless torment by his cruel brother.

The Turkish invasion of Malta and the island’s bloody defence will forever change the lives of the three protagonists, whose fates are intertwined not only with each other, but with nobles and peasants, knights and corsairs, tyrants and galley slaves, on both sides of the conflict as the novel sweeps across the Mediterranean world of the sixteenth century—from Malta, a barren Christian outpost, to Istanbul, the glittering seat of Islam, from filthy prison cells to lush palace gardens.

Against soaring sea-cliffs and open sea-lanes, the men and women of Eight Pointed Cross face corruption and oppression, broken vows and betrayal, as two great empires collide. Surviving this battle-soaked world of swords and scimitars will test the limits of every character’s courage, loyalty, and love. Available at BDL Books and Amazon



### BOOKLET FOR EVERY HOUSEHOLD

Every household in Malta will be receiving a six-page information booklet explaining the basics of the COVID-19 virus, including tips on protection, quarantine and symptoms.

Distribution of the booklet, in both English and Maltese, begins today.

“Please read well and follow advice,” Health Minister Chris Fearne tweeted, in a social media post promoting it.

The booklet was developed by the Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Directorate

It also includes tips on keeping busy while locked indoors and urges people to remain at home and contact the 111 helpline if they develop COVID-19 symptoms

**»» Fpaġna 20**  
Coronavirus: Għalfejn l-Ewropa qiegħda tthatt iktar mie-Cina?  
Ricerca mill-Università ta' Oxford tistgħi li twardi demografiku u kulturali fir-rata ta' fattalijiet.

**»» Fpaġna 8 B**  
L-MFA dwar l-isfidi li gabet magħha l-coronavirus  
Ikompju d-diskussjonijiet bejn l-MFA u l-inviżibba tagħha dwar l-isfidi tal-Covid-19.

**Il-pandemija madwar id-dinja**  
»» Fpaġna 4 u 9  
Bħallissa l-esportu tal-pandemija tal-Covid-19 qiegħed fl-Ewropa.

## l-orizzont

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p. 10 - MEUSAC: IL-COVID-19 - Xped tagħmel l-Ungjoni Ewropea? | p. 12 - Carmelo Abela: Gvern li jkun imma li fuq kollox Gvern li jiddecedi

“

"Irridu nies b'saħħithom u fuq kollox li jimxu mad-direttivi"

”

"Irridu nżommu n-negozji ħajjin u naraw li ma jintilfix impjegji"

- Il-Prim Ministru Robert Abela jindika l-possibilità ta' aktar għajnijiet għan-negozji u l-familji

CLAUDIO COLIBRO  
colibroc@post.rosnet.com

Wagt li soqna li bħallissa għad-  
hejjen minn moxerri partik-  
lari li jirrikjedi li akkura solidari ma'  
subin, il-Prim Ministru u Mexxer  
tal-Parti Laburista Dr Robert Abela

»» Ikompji Fpaġna 3

### CORONAVIRUS: IMPOSTI MIŻURI ĠODDA MIL-LUM

- Ipprojbti attivitajiet pubbliċi;
- Jingħalqu hwienet u servizzi mhux essenzjali;
- It-total ta' każijiet jittilghu b'17 għal 90;
- Isiru mal-2,000 spezzjoni... 23 immultati.

M... 8:00 a.m. tal-lum, jidhlu fuq-  
s-sabha Chris Fearne. Fearne  
habbar ukoll li b'effett mill-lum, kull attivitá jew in-  
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għallu. Ipprojbti ukoll, in-  
lezzant mill-ammont ta' nies li  
m-8:00 a.m. 1 quddiem. Habbar dan  
l-ibierar waqt konferenza stampa

CARMEN CACHIA  
carmen.cachia@post.rosnet.com

Bħal kull informazzjoni oħra, il-  
tal-Coronavirus huma meħtieġa  
l-istess prekawzjonijiet universali  
għas-sigurtá u bies ma jkun hemm  
aktar trazzjonijiet.

»» Ikompji Fpaġni 6 u 7



## How did Australia's cruise ship debacle happen?

Thousands of passengers left the ship unaware of a Covid-19 outbreak on board. On Thursday, the Ruby Princess cruise ship docked in Sydney with dozens of undiagnosed coronavirus cases onboard.

Almost 2,700 passengers - some coughing and spluttering - were allowed to leave the ship at Sydney Harbour, catching trains, buses and even overseas flights to get home.

At least 48 people to test positive have now been traced to the cruise, making it the biggest single source of infections in Australia. It's caused much anger: why was the ship allowed to dock and unload people? What passengers were told. Passengers who were later confirmed to have the virus have vented their anger over how the situation was handled by ship operator Princess Cruises and Australian authorities. Some recalled coming into contact with sick people onboard the boat, but said they did not receive warnings. "I think that they let us down," said Bill Beerens, a Sydney man who tested positive for the virus in hospital on the day he disembarked.

"I do honestly believe that they [cruise ship management] knew what was going on and they just wanted us off the boat," he told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

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**MESSAGG MILL-KAV. JOE M ATTARD – VICTORIA-GHAWDEX Marzu 2020**

### **Dan il-mishut Mikrobu – Coronavirus**

Jiena ngħix fil-qalba tal-belt Victoria u s-soltu biex nofroq Pjazza San Gorg irrid nagħmel wegħda għax din issa saret qisha s-Salott tar-Rabat b'tant nies u barranin imdawrin ma' xi mejda jgħidu kelma waqt li jieħdu xi capuccino inkella jitrejqu b'xi snack u drink. L-istess xena kont tilmaħ fi Pjazza Indipendenza! Issa dawn iż-żewġt imsieraħ saru qishom tal-waħx; lanqas qattusa ma tara taqsam il-wesgħa. U dan kollu għabulna l-mikrobu li ħareg miċ-Ċina u dar id-dinja kollha. Ahna ma ahniex xi eċcezzjoni u lilna din ix-xorti ħażina messitna wkoll. Biex niġġeldulu irridu nobdu l-istruzzjonijiet li ħarġilna l-Istat kif ukoll l-Awtoritajiet Ekklesjastiċi li t-tnejn li huma ċertament jixtequlna kull ġid.

Nemmen li l-magġoranza tal-poplu tagħna qed tobdi dawn l-istruzzjonijiet imma fadal xi ftit li donnhom jiġu jaqgħu u jqumu minn dawn l-ordnijiet. Veru li l-għeluq għewwa ta' bilfors jinħass iebes u skomdu imma mportanti li nagħmlu dan is-sagrificċju jekk irridu li l-knejjes tagħna jerggħu jifthu l-bibien tagħhom, l-istess jagħmlu l-iskejjel, l-uffiċini jerggħu jibdew jiffunzjonaw b'mod normali, il-lukandi, il-bars, ir-restoranti, il-logħob tal-ballun u mitt ħaġa oħra jerggħu jidhlu fis-seħħ u l-ħajja terġa' lura għan-normal. Fuq kollox mal-qerda ta' dan il-virus, li lanqas biss irrid insejjaħli b'ismu, l-ekonomija tagħna terġa' tieħu r-ruħ. Prosit tassew lis-servizzi mediċi kollha tagħna li tant qed jaħdmu b'risq is-saħħa tal-poplu tagħna. Fuq kollox, għeżiež qarrejja, ejjew nitolbu lil Sid il-ħolqien li Hu biss għandu d-dritt li jieħu lura l-ħajja biex jeħlisna kemm jista' jkun malajr minn dan il-mikrobu kiefer li niżżel lid-dinja għarkubbejha, forsi min jaf, għax tagħtu l-ġenb.

Ejjew ma nersqux lejħ biss meta niġu bżonnu imma nżommuh f'qalbna u f'darna it-365 jum tas-sena. Forsi mhux dnub jew ġejjin fuqna tant festi sbieħ u għeżiež u se jkollna noqogħdu magħluqin id-dar. Veru li l-mezzi tal-kommunikazzjoni soċjali qed joffrulna ċ-ċans li nsegwu mid-dar, imma x'differenza meta tmur il-knisja, taraha mzejna u b'tant statwi fil-korsija, tisma' quddies, issegwi xi kors ta' Eżercizzi, tieħu sehem fil-Purċissjoni tal-Gimġha l-Kbira, toħroġ tagħmel il-Visti lis-Seba' Knejjes f'Hamis ix-Xirka, tgawdi xi pageant (fil-Victoria kien se jkollna l-20 edizzjoni tal-**Imsallab fi Treqatna**) il-Purċissjoni tant devota u għažiza tad-Duluri, u tant okkażjonijiet oħra. Ngħid għalija

kont inħobb immur laqgħa tal-AK kull nhar ta' Tnejn filgħaxija u oħra tal-Koperaturi tal-Museum kull nhar ta' Hamis filgħaxija kellna nwaqqfuhom it-tnejn biex ma nimirdux minn xulxin!

X'ma jifrahx ix-xitan u jahseb li hareġ rebbieħ! Mill-ġdid din is-sena, il-Ministeru għal Għawdex ħadem tant biex jagħtina f'idejna pubblikazzjoni taseww sabiħa b'dak kollu li kien ippreparat matul dan iż-żmien; nibza' ngħid tant sforz u spejjes se jmorru fix-xejn.

Naturalment inutli noqgħod neqred u nokrob għax is-sitwazzjoni hi dik li hi; ejjew nagħmlu ħilitna u nikkoperaw mal-Awtoritajiet u ma nwarrebux lil min ħalaqna fil-ġenb. Nersqu wkoll lejn l-Omm tagħna Marija u naqbd u f'idejna l-kuruna tar-rużarju u nitolbuha bħala familja biex tbiegħed minna din il-pesta li pajżżna qatt nara bħalha u li tant qed iġġegħilna nbatu. Meta jrid l-Imgħallem jagħlaq bieb u jiftaħ mija!

## Malta - Public Broadcasting Services reinforces information and education



Public Broadcasting Services Limited

PBS has strongly increased the provision of timely information on its audiovisual platforms by broadcasting live transmissions of the regular press briefings by the Health Authorities and by the Prime Minister Dr Robert Abela.

The Superintendent for Public Health Prof Charmaine Gauci delivers a daily press update which is aired live in the main

television news bulletin at Noon. Similar regular live broadcasts are transmitted during which the Prime Minister and his senior ministers give updates on the government's management of the Covid-19 outbreak with preventive measures and economic mitigation packages.

Medical experts have increased their regular participation in the daily magazine, lifestyle and current affairs programs to disseminate professional awareness and education. As a result of an Agreement with the Ecclesiastical Authorities, TVM2 broadcasts two daily live Masses (9.30am and 5.30pm followed by the recitation of the Holy Rosary) from the Curias's Chapel celebrated by His Grace the Archbishop and the Vicar General.

TVM's flagship 8pm news bulletin's audience share is currently hitting 60%, reflecting the national commitment of Public Service Media to provide timely, updated, reliable information and education.

### **CAN'T WAIT FOR THE CORONAVIRUS DISAPPEAR FOR EVER**

When this ends - AND IT WILL - every football match will sell out, every restaurant will have a two-hour waiting list, every child will be GLAD to be in school, everyone will love their job, the economy will sky rocket, pubs will be rammed and gigs will be plentiful and we'll kiss, embrace and shake hands. Stay strong Malta!

If we all work together, we will overcome it. But everyone has to do their part, so **STAY HOME IF POSSIBLE PEOPLE!**

Let's hope that we as humans have learnt plenty from this . We all need to slow down and appreciate the basic and simple things in life. Material things don't matter, our health and family do.

And we will get back to the same old ,mass traffic,car horns,high levels of air pollution....killing our planet will resume as normal,the human race is the real disease on this planet!!!!

When the coronavirus is over I will book a ticket to Holland to go to my son and granddaughter and family to give them a big hug and tell them that I love them very much and I hope my daughter.

And there will be huge queues at the hairdressers and barbers as well. Stay safe all in Malta

## Keep on trucking: Trucks must keep moving across Canada-U.S. border amid coronavirus



Canada and the United States have agreed to restrict non-essential trips across their common border, while leaving it open for the movement of freight in trucks. While the justification of banning crossings by “non-essential” people is open to question, the economic arguments for preserving the movement of trucks are clear.

On an average day, about 30,000 trucks roll across the Canada-U.S. border, carrying more than \$1 billion in trade. If truck movements were banned, critical

supplies of food and medicine would be interrupted and production at some of the largest manufacturing plants in both countries would cease, idling thousands of workers.

### **The economic damage from interrupting the flow of trucks would be both direct and indirect.**

The direct damage would come when needed goods are cut off. For example, pharmaceuticals are a major export from Ontario to the U.S. and thousands of truckloads of agri-food products, from live animals to processed food, are shipped in both directions. The indirect damage would come when supply chains that straddle the border break down, making it impossible for factories and other economic activities to keep operating.

The automotive sector is a good example. Tariff-free trade in cars and parts dates to a Canada-U.S. agreement in the 1960s, long before NAFTA. This industry has more than 50 years of evolution based on cross-border supply chains.

### **A complicated supply chain**

Production of cars and SUVs depends on parts from hundreds of different factories being passed up through several “tiers” of suppliers and gradually combined into larger components before they ultimately arrive at the final assembly plant. Nearly all these factory-to-factory movements are made in trucks, many of which cross the Canada-U.S. border.

### **The future of cross-border supply chains?**

For some industries, such as food production, there is an argument for a shift to separate domestic supply chains.

But for industries where scale is important — automotive, aerospace, defence and industrial machinery — such consolidation systematically works against Canada. In those industries, supply chains will not be duplicated in each country, but rather concentrated in the country with the largest market — which is generally the United States. Demonstrating that cross-border logistics can function in a crisis would be beneficial for business investment in Canada.

The COVID-19 crisis is a time for bold action. But it’s also a time to resist taking actions that cause economic harm without protecting public health. The co-ordinated decision by the governments of Canada and the United States to keep the border open to trucking makes sense.





## HOW TO TALK TO YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

[www.unicef.org.au](http://www.unicef.org.au)

Eight tips to help comfort and protect children.

It's easy to feel overwhelmed by everything you're hearing about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) right now.

It's also understandable if your children are feeling anxious, too.

Children might find it difficult to understand what they are seeing online or on TV – or hearing from other people – so they can be particularly vulnerable to feelings of anxiety, stress and sadness. **But having an open, supportive discussion with your children can help them understand, cope and even make a positive contribution for others.**

**1. ASK OPEN QUESTIONS AND LISTEN** Start by inviting your child to talk about the issue. Find out how much they already know and follow their lead. If they are particularly young and haven't already heard about the outbreak, you may not need to raise the issue – just take the chance to remind them about good hygiene practices without introducing new fears. Make sure you are in a safe environment and allow your child to talk freely. Drawing, stories and other activities may help to open up a discussion. Most importantly, don't minimize or avoid their concerns. Be sure to acknowledge their feelings and assure them that it's natural to feel scared about these things. Demonstrate that you're listening by giving them your full attention, and make sure they understand that they can talk to you and their teachers whenever they like. Children have a right to truthful information about what's going on in the world, but adults also have a responsibility to keep them safe from distress.

**2. BE HONEST: EXPLAIN THE TRUTH IN A CHILD-FRIENDLY WAY** Children have a right to truthful information about what's going on in the world, but adults also have a responsibility to keep them safe from distress. Use age-appropriate language, watch their reactions, and be sensitive to their level of anxiety. If you can't answer their questions, don't guess. Use it as an opportunity to explore the answers together. Websites of international organisations like [UNICEF](http://www.unicef.org) and the [World Health Organisation](http://www.who.int) are great sources of information. Explain that some information online isn't accurate, and that it's best to trust the experts.

**3. SHOW THEM HOW TO PROTECT THEMSELVES AND THEIR FRIENDS** One of the best ways to keep children safe from coronavirus and other diseases is to simply encourage regular handwashing. It doesn't need to be a scary conversation. You can also [show children how to cover a cough or a sneeze with their elbow](#), explain that it's best not to get too close to people who have those symptoms, and ask them to tell you if they start to feel like they have a fever, cough or are having difficulty breathing.

**4. OFFER REASSURANCE** When we're seeing lots of troubling images on TV or online, it can sometimes feel like the crisis is all around us. Children may not distinguish between images on screen and their own personal reality, and they may believe they're in imminent danger. You can help your children cope with the stress by making opportunities for them to play and relax, when possible. Keep regular routines and schedules as much as possible, especially before they go to sleep, or help create new ones in a new environment. If you are experiencing an outbreak in your area, remind your children that they are not likely to catch the disease, that most people who do have coronavirus don't get very sick, and that lots of adults are working hard to keep your family safe. If your child does feel unwell, explain that they have to stay at home/at the hospital because it is safer for them and their friends. Reassure them that you know it is hard (maybe scary or even boring) at times, but that following the rules will help keep everyone safe.

**5. CHECK IF THEY ARE EXPERIENCING OR SPREADING STIGMA** The outbreak of coronavirus has brought with it numerous reports of racial discrimination around the world, so it's important to check that

your children are neither experiencing nor contributing to bullying. Explain that coronavirus has nothing to do with what someone looks like, where they are from or what language they speak. If they have been called names or bullied at school, they should feel comfortable telling an adult whom they trust. Remind your children that everyone deserves to be safe at school. Bullying is always wrong and we should each do our part to spread kindness and support each other.

**6. LOOK FOR THE HELPERS** It's important for children to know that people are helping each other with acts of kindness and generosity. Share stories of health workers, scientists and [young people](#), among others, who are working to stop the outbreak and keep the community safe. It can be a big comfort to know that compassionate people are taking action.

**7. LOOK AFTER YOURSELF** You'll be able to help your kids better if you're coping, too. Children will pick up on your own response to the news, so it helps them to know you're calm and in control. If you're feeling anxious or upset, take time for yourself and reach out to other family, friends and trusted people in your community. Make some time to do things that help you relax and recuperate.

**8. CLOSE CONVERSATIONS WITH CARE** It's important to know that we're not leaving children in a state of distress. As your conversation wraps up, try to gauge their level of anxiety by watching their body language, considering whether they're using their usual tone of voice and watching their breathing. Remind your children that they can have other difficult conversations with you at any time. Remind them that you care, you're listening and that you're available whenever they're feeling worried.

Malta's very own Profs Charmaine Gauci has been calming the nation on a daily basis as the COVID-19 pandemic sweeps the world – but it comes as no surprise, seeing as she is part of a fraternal Order made up of religious hospitallers. **Gauci is a member of the Grand Priory of the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem.**

“The care and assistance of the sick and the poor, and to the support and defence of the Christian faith and the traditions and principles of Christian chivalry” is the purpose the historic Order.

And in some very epic photos, Gauci can be seen taking part in candle ceremonies dressed in the green and black regalia of the Order, which was founded over 100 years ago.

We aren't sure whether she was saying anything as she lit her candle during an event by the Order, but we are hoping she was reciting an ancient recovery prayer passed down through multiple generations of white mages and healers.

In all seriousness though, her steadfast resolve in the face of a panic-inducing pandemic even earned her high praise from the Order itself, who released a statement praising Gauci in these tough times.

“We are particularly proud to have the present Superintendent of Public Health Prof. Charmaine Gauci a member of the Grand Priory. Her composure in the face of the present Coronavirus COVID-19 epidemic in Malta proves her to be a worthy member of the chivalric hospitaller community,” they said, **“We are proud of you and our medical and paramedical personnel who are on the frontline of this battle.”**

The modern Order of Saint Lazarus claims to maintain the spirit and history of the medieval Order of Saint Lazarus and claims a historical continuity to the French branch of the Medieval Order through the 17 to 19th century.

**With an emphasis on healing and helping Malta's medical forces, they urged Maltese people to help support Gauci and her push for a safer Malta amid this outbreak.**

“Let us muster our forces and join the battle and give our contribution in any way we can,” they ended. With Malta's medical authorities attempting to wrestle back control of the coronavirus situation by rolling out new measures while taking all the precautions they deem fit, we can only continue to offer our support to Gauci and her team – while fully appreciating how awesome she looks in that black and green gown.



**Who are some patron saints of plagues? Here are a few who you could pray to for help during the outbreak.**

## St. George

he is one of the 'Fourteen Holy Helpers' – a group of saints people turned to for assistance during times of need. St George is also the patron of other things including soldiers, armourers, farmers and even sufferers of the plague and syphilis.(1)

The 1675–76 Malta plague epidemic was a major outbreak of plague (Maltese: pesta) on the island of Malta, then ruled by the Order of St



### Patron Saints of Plagues

1. St. George
2. St. Roch
3. St. Sebastion
4. St. Rosalia



John. It occurred between December 1675 and August 1676 and it resulted in approximately 11,300 deaths, making it the deadliest epidemic in Maltese history. Most deaths were in the urban areas including the capital Valletta and the Three Cities, and these had a mortality rate of about 41%. In the rural settlements, the mortality rate was 6.9%.

There was a religious revival during the epidemic, resulting in the veneration of the Blessed Sacrament and relics.

Most sources agree that the epidemic killed about 11,300 people out of a population of about 60,000 to 70,000. The Order's archives record only 8,726 deaths, while other sources give the death toll as 8,732 or estimate it to have been between 11,000 and 12,000. This death toll makes the epidemic Malta's deadliest plague outbreak.

Among the clergy, the dead included a Knight Grand Cross, 8 other knights, 10 parish priests, 1 canon, 95 other priests and 34 monks. 10 physicians, 16 surgeons and over 1000 hospital attendants also died in the plague.

**St. Roch** Born at Montpellier towards 1295; died 1327. His father was governor of that city. At his birth St. Roch is said to have been found miraculously marked on the breast with a red cross. Deprived of his parents when about twenty years old, he distributed his fortune among the poor, handed over to his uncle the government of Montpellier, and in the disguise of a mendicant pilgrim, set out for Italy, but stopped at Aquapendente, which was stricken by the plague, and devoted himself to the plague-stricken, curing them with the sign of the cross. He next visited Cesena and other neighbouring cities and then Rome. Everywhere the terrible scourge disappeared before his miraculous power. He visited Mantua, Modena, Parma, and other cities with the same results. At Piacenza, he himself was stricken with the plague. He withdrew to a hut in the neighbouring forest, where his wants were supplied by a gentleman named Gothard, who by a miracle learned the place of his retreat. After his recovery Roch returned to France. Arriving at Montpellier and refusing to disclose his identity, he was taken for a spy in the disguise

of a pilgrim, and cast into prison by order of the governor, — his own uncle, some writers say, — where five years later he died. The miraculous cross on his breast as well as a document found in his possession now served for his identification. He was accordingly given a public funeral, and numerous miracles attested his sanctity.

In 1414, during the Council of Constance, the plague having broken out in that city, the Fathers of the Council ordered public prayers and processions in honour of the saint, and immediately the plague ceased. His relics, according to Wadding, were carried furtively to Venice in 1485, where they are still venerated.

**St. Sebastian** He converted to Christianity after seeing the bravery of Christian martyrs and eventually compelled close companions to convert, including a Roman prefect who was cured of a plague when he renounced his pagan idols. Because his intercession to God contributed to the cure of the Roman prefect, Sebastian became widely associated with the cure of plagues, especially in cities throughout the Italian Peninsula and cities and villages often adopted a “plague saint” to protect them from pestilence in addition to a patron saint. Florence, the birthplace of the Renaissance and cultural hub of Europe, relied on Saint Sebastian’s intercession after the city’s bishop constructed an altar in Sebastian’s honor as a last resort to stopping the Black Death. Shortly thereafter, the plague ceased, and the bishop built a church dedicated to Saint Sebastian in thanksgiving for his intercession. (3)

**St. Rosalia** “Santuzza”, as St. Rosalia is affectionately called in Palermo, emerged as one of the best known and most venerated saints in Christianity, especially in Sicily; still today, anywhere in the world, the people from Palermo exchange the greeting “Viva Palermo e Santa Rosalia.”

Rosalia was born in 1128. She was a young girl descendant of a noble family, named Sinibaldi, who lived at the court of Roger II of Sicily. When Rosalia was 13-15 years old, the count Baldo vino asked her in marriage in return for saving the king’s life, but she refused him and decided to follow the Basilian Order, living a religious life in a cave in the Quisquina forest, not far from Bivona, a village near Agrigento. Later Rosalia moved to Palermo, hiding in Monte Pellegrino, in a cave with abundant water, where she lived until her death.

In 1624 a plague beset Palermo. In the same year a sick woman went to Monte Pellegrino and drank some water dripping from the rock inside the cave. Suddenly she saw an apparition of the Virgin Mary and Rosalia who told her that in the cave was hidden a treasure: under a sheet of marble they found human bones smelling of flowers.

One year later a hunter, named Vincenzo Bonello, went to Monte Pellegrino to kill himself after his wife died because of the plague. There, Saint Rosalia appeared to him, saying that the only way to save Palermo from the plague was to bring her bones through the town. A few months later in Palermo took place the procession on honour of Saint Rosalia, during which a miracle happened: when her bones were carried around the town, plague ceased, people suddenly recovered and the contamination stopped. COVID-19

is a respiratory illness caused by a new virus. Symptoms include fever, coughing, sore throat and shortness of breath. The virus can spread from person to person, but good hygiene can prevent infection.



**IF YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL SEND IT TO US AND SHARE IT WITH OTHERS**



## COVID-19: Order of Malta Activities Worldwide

With its centuries-old hospitaller tradition, the **Sovereign Order of Malta** is actively participating in the management of the Covid-19 pandemic, both through forms of cooperation with national health services and civil protection corps and with health and social assistance centres. Below are some of the initiatives of associations and relief and volunteer corps in various countries.

### EUROPE

**ITALY** In Lombardy, one of hardest-hit regions, the Order of Malta's Italian Relieve Corps (CISOM) has deployed its volunteers to help set up a new hospital, built in record time in the Milan Fair pavilions. With 200 intensive and sub-intensive care beds, it will be an essential medical unit for treating the most serious cases. Order of Malta Italy will donate 260 ventilators to the new hospital. From today, Order of Malta volunteers are assisting Covid-19 patients, and those who have recovered but need further treatment, in the hospital ship the Ligurian Region has set up in the port of Genoa, able to accept up to 400 patients. The intervention of the Order of Malta's members and volunteers in Italy is mainly in the health, psychological and logistic sectors, with the distribution of food and medicines to the elderly or those in isolation. The health-screening services continue for passengers arriving in the main Italian airports, an activity launched by CISOM at the start of the coronavirus emergency. Support is also offered to municipal operations centres in ten different regions. Some of the Order's social initiatives that continue to give daily assistance to the homeless, the elderly in need, the unemployed, immigrants and those living in extreme poverty, are still up and running.

**Germany** In Germany, the Order of Malta has opened a central and various regional crisis management centres, where task forces specialized in health emergencies are managing and monitoring all the assistance services provided, ensuring they respect the protocols issued by the respective health authorities. Medical teams are operating on several fronts, in Baden Württemberg, two drive-through stations test people sent by their doctor without having to leave their cars. There are also numerous mobile clinics for consultations, as well as pre-hospital triage services. Ambulance services have been intensified. The eleven hospitals run by the Order have partially been equipped to face the healthcare crisis, one of which now specialised in respiratory diseases. Finally, the Order of Malta's volunteers are providing various new services such as shopping for elderly citizens and visiting by telephone.

**FRANCE** Order of Malta France emergency teams have been working with the prefectures and hospitals since the beginning of the crisis. As requested by the authorities, they intervene in various sectors, such as assisting the sick and transporting them to hospitals, supporting call centres giving advice on health issues and delivering supplies to hospitals. Medical protocols have been activated for guaranteeing the safety of patients and staff in the various facilities for the disabled and elderly run by the Order of Malta in France.

**HUNGARY** The Order of Malta's Relief Corps in Hungary (MMSZ) has activated a service to deliver food and basic necessities to the guests of its 30 institutes for the elderly or sick, now in complete isolation. Thanks to its online platform, it has also activated educational services for students – mostly young people from disadvantaged families – in the twelve institutes the Order runs in the country. Since freezing temperatures are forecast for the coming days, MMSZ will temporarily re-open its overnight shelters with 100 beds for the homeless, again in total respect of medical assistance and healthcare provisions.

**IRELAND** In various towns, the Order of Malta's ambulance corps has set up an emergency hotline for those in isolation needing food and/or medicines and offers support to those in need.

**Slovakia** In Slovakia, the Order of Malta is attempting to maintain its activities for the homeless and continues to distribute food and hot drinks.



**MIDDLE EAST** Attention remains high in the Middle East, where for now there are few Covid-19 cases recorded. However, the precarious medical and social conditions in many countries has prompted the Order of Malta to activate a series of monitoring services.

**PALESTINE** In Bethlehem, the Order of Malta's Holy Family Hospital – the only facility in the region with a neonatal intensive care unit – remains open to take care of the most vulnerable mothers and infants in the region. Since 5th March, when the area was declared a red zone, some 150 babies have been born. The infection-control measures have been intensified in line with the Palestinian Ministry of Health protocols and one of the operating theatres has been turned into an isolation ward for infected patients. The lockdown of the region has however caused further difficulty in moving premature babies or those needing surgery.

**LEBANON** The Order of Malta's association in Lebanon has launched a series of initiatives for containing the virus in some of the poorest areas of the country. Since the outset of the health emergency, the association's medical staff have been conducting awareness and educational campaigns in all the outlying regions where the Order of Malta has health centres and mobile clinics. In addition, all the nurses in the Order's facilities in Lebanon have received specific Covid-19 training offered by the public Health Ministry.

## ASIA

**SOUTH KOREA** In one of the first countries to tackle the health emergency, members of the Order of Malta's delegation in South Korea have prepared and distributed thousands of basic kits – including masks and alcohol detergents – to disadvantaged families in the cities of Seoul and Suwon. Some 2000 people have been the beneficiaries of these kits.

**PAKISTAN** The Order of Malta's international relief agency, Malteser International, has intensified its hygiene information campaigns and established public hand-washing facilities.

**BANGLADESH** In Bangladesh, kits have been prepared to help contain the spread of the virus in cooperation with local partners.

## AMERICAS

**UNITED STATES** In Hartford, capital of Connecticut, the Malta House of Care mobile medical clinic, in cooperation with the Saint Francis Hospital, has set up a drive-through for coronavirus testing near a busy circular driveway, right in front of the hospital. The patients sent by their doctor to use this facility will receive a result within 24 hours

**Haiti** In the poorest country in the American continent, Malteser International is distributing flyers on Covid-19 containing hygiene indications and is offering assistance to the elderly.

**COLOMBIA** Malteser International has intensified its health and hygiene education activities aimed at migrants and refugees as well as host communities in La Guajira department. Health personnel have also received extensive training on protective measures for COVID-19. In addition to scaling up mobile medical missions to remote and border areas, Malteser International has distributed hygiene articles to people in need. Peru Adjustments have been made to Malteser International's project for the elderly, with house calls replacing group activities, providing information on preventive measures to avoid infection with COVID-19. Hygiene materials are also handed out.

## OCEANIA

**AUSTRALIA** The members of the Australian association are preparing food parcels that also contain hygiene articles such as soap and antibacterial gel. They are also offering assistance to the elderly in isolation and the homeless.

Engaged in various emergencies worldwide, Malteser International has intensified some of its programmes in the areas at risk and at the same time ensuring its medical and social assistance activities are continuing in the areas caught up in wars and violence. "With over 60 years of experience in managing crises, including epidemics, we are tackling the coronavirus emergency with the utmost seriousness and professionalism," declared Malteser International's Secretary General Ingo Radtke. Hence the programmes providing healthcare, food, drinking water and the distribution of medical materials continued to be an absolute priority.

## What would you do when all of this is over?



This question seems to be the one on everyone's mind as people around the world struggle to deal with paradigm shifts in their routines caused by social distancing or self quarantine, which are apparently the only ways of keeping the deadly COVID-19 at bay.

Even as the number of confirmed cases in the world increases at an alarming rate, more and more people are being encouraged to stay at home and not step out, especially since there's no cure in sight. But staying at home isn't really as easy as it sounds. It's one thing if you prefer to stay indoors all the time, but

being forced to do so is a completely different ballgame altogether.

We asked our readers what they will do they once this pandemic is over, and the answers have given us hope and show that every cloud does indeed have a silver lining.

The answers are fairly simple and nothing out of the ordinary - but it is proof that we've been taking the little things that life has to offer for granted, things like eating out at a restaurant, hug or shake hands with a relative or friend. . Or maybe, this could finally give you an opportunity to love, respect and help all the members of your family, relatives and friends and members of the community.

Or just travel, maybe? Take for example, a reader who had really been looking forward to his trip to Japan for five months before it got cancelled due to coronavirus. Surviving the pandemic could be a sign from the universe that it's time you popped the question. Perhaps sometimes, a natural disaster can really put some perspective in place.

Other readers too poured their hearts out in the comments section of the thread. While one said they would hug his mother in public, another person said that they would be happy to just hug another human being. Another spoke about his birthday party being cancelled, while a sad grandparent said that when this is all over, he or she would really like to visit the grandchildren, and just stop crying.

One billion people around the world are feeling the weight of the dire circumstances. Some are lucky enough to be home with their families to help them get through the pandemic, while some are stuck in foreign lands far from home. Whatever it may be, this too shall pass, one can hope. And when that happens, what is it that you plan to do?

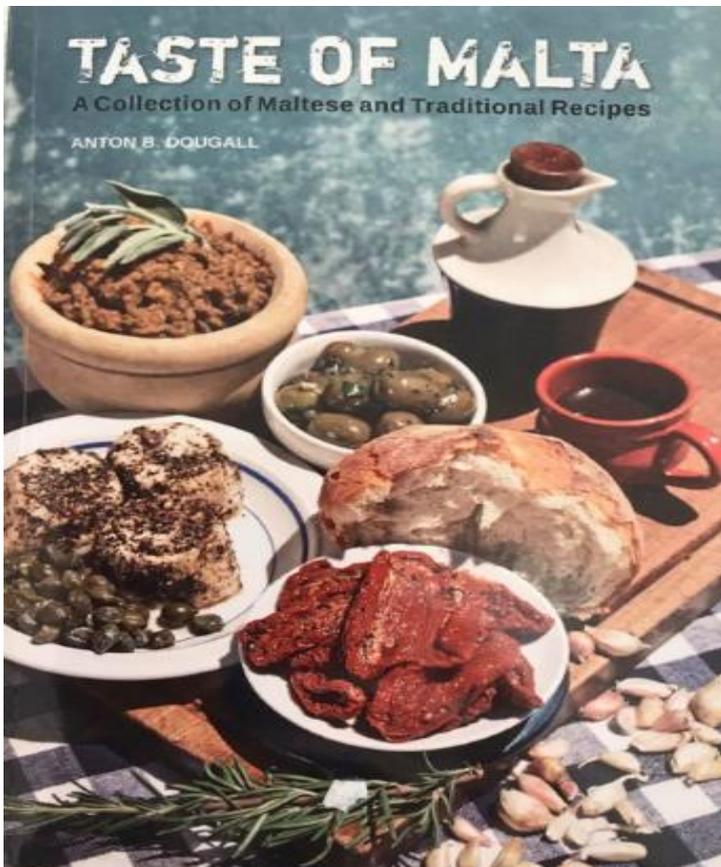


## Photos: Life under coronavirus lockdown around the world

The coronavirus pandemic has affected the lives of people around the world. People have been advised to stay indoors and many cities went into complete lockdown to contain the spread of the disease. Here is a look at how people are getting on with their lives through the period of self-isolation and lockdown.



FACEBOOK: Australian Maltese March 20 · Knights of Malta have arrived to Cole's in western Sydney



Maltese People In Malta by Lillian Chetcuti Riolo

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<https://www.facebook.com/pg/PastizziCafe/>