

THE JOURNAL OF THE MALTESE DIASPORA

MALTESE NEWSLETTER

BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN MALTESE ALL OVER THE WORLD



Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull meets the Queen for the first time in Malta



.First meeting ... Queen Elizabeth II talks to Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull during a Heads of Government reception in Malta. Picture: John Stillwell-Pool/Getty Images

AUSTRALIAN Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, an avowed republican, has met the Queen for the first time at the Commonwealth Heads of Government

Meeting (CHOG) in Malta.

The Queen opened the event, saying she was “enormously proud” of the global grouping’s achievements over the more than six decades she has been at its head.

The opening ceremony in the Maltese capital Valletta on Friday was attended by representatives from 53 countries, including Mr Turnbull.

A new secretary-general will be officially chosen during the meeting. There’s been speculation that former coalition foreign minister Alexander Downer could be given the post. Mr Downer is Australia’s high commissioner in London. The Queen said she had come to live in Malta with her husband Prince Philip in 1949 when he was stationed there with the Royal Navy, the same year the Commonwealth was founded.

She said the Commonwealth was based on shared values and she had been privileged to witness a great advancement in freedom and human rights over the decades.

“I feel enormously proud of what the Commonwealth has achieved, and all of it within my lifetime.” The Queen said she was indebted to Prince Philip for his “boundless energy and commitment” to the Commonwealth over that time

NOSTALGIA



Top left: 1948 Maltese migrants disembarking from the Asturias in Melbourne with Fr. Robert Cassar O. Carm – chaplain.

Top Right: Parade of St Paul, Maltese festival, West Sunshine, 1980s

Bottom Left: 17th Melbourne First Malta Scout Group, 1957.

Bottom Right: Men playing bocce at St Paul's Maltese Bocci Club, around 1997.

Source: La Trobe Picture Collection, State Library of Victoria



Dan l-ahhar gbart serje ta' informazzjonijiet, stampi, ritratti u dokumenti dwar is-sehem li Malta hadet fl-Ewwel Gwerra Dinjija – MALTA AND THE ANZACS – THE NURSE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN. Fost il-hafna ricerki Inkludejt studju (3 pagni) li zewg kttieba Maltin (C. Baxter u M. Caruana) ghamlu u li tinsab fl-iNewsletter tal_MCCV (22 April 2014). Sfortunatament u minghajr ebda ntenzjoni hazina, ma zzidx ir-rizors u l-ismijiet taz-zewg awturi.

PS: One of the authors wrote to me: "You are most welcome to anything I write/wrote. As to me it is a compliment if someone uses the material I have researched."

MHC Press Release 12/2015



CHOGM Commonwealth Art Exhibition

*H.E. Mr. Charles Muscat, Mr.
Kanti Jinna, RCS President & H.E.
Mr. Yogesh Punja*

The CHOGM Commonwealth Art Exhibition, organized by the Malta High Commission, in cooperation with the Fiji High Commission and the Royal Commonwealth Society was officially opened on 23 November 2015. The Art Exhibition is being held to

promote Malta's hosting of the 2015 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting on 27-29 November 2015 and to provide a venue for Commonwealth Missions to work together and celebrate the diversity in culture expressed in the arts of Commonwealth member-countries represented in Canberra.

The High Commissioner of Fiji, H.E. Mr. Yogesh Punja, welcomed everyone to the Fiji High Commission, venue of the Commonwealth Art Exhibition and shared how the Malta High Commission had approached him with the idea and their eventual involvement in this event.

President of the Royal Commonwealth Society (RCS), Mr. Kanti Jinna, acknowledged everyone involved in the exhibition and expressed his appreciation for the High Commissions' participation in the exhibition and attendance at the reception.

The High Commissioner of Malta, H.E. Mr. Charles Muscat, in his short speech said that with the (Commonwealth) members spread all across the globe in the Caribbean, the Pacific, South East Asia, North America, and the EU, the Commonwealth is a rich and diverse institution well placed to influence the policy agenda of the most influential institutions in world politics, hence realizing this year's CHOGM theme, "Adding Global Value".

Finally, with the beating of the Lali (Fijian gong), the CHOGM Art Exhibition was declared open.

The Exhibition showcased paintings, sculptures, carvings, native craftworks, metal works and other art forms from the High Commissions of Malta, Fiji, Bangladesh, Canada, Cyprus, Ghana, Malaysia, Mauritius, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Samoa, the Solomon Island. Other High Commissions belatedly expressed their interest in joining the exhibition.

The Reception was graced with the presence of members of the diplomatic corps, led by the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, H. E. Mr. Pedro Raul Villagra Delgado, members of the Royal Commonwealth Society and friends of the High Commissions of Malta and Fiji.



TRIBALI

Tribali are a group of Maltese musicians who came together to celebrate their love of world music through ethnic rhythms and sounds from the orient and incorporating other styles such as Psychedelic, Reggae, Dub, Ska and Up-tempo beats.

Tribali – World Music of Malta If lively World music rhythms and ethnic percussion sound like a fine way to celebrate your day, look no farther than the newest music by international band Tribali from Malta. Placing a strong emphasis on cultural multiplicity in every project, the group Tribali intertwines traditional ethnic music of the

Maltese islands, with festive World Music rhythms. It is by all accounts, an arrangement that gives one a reason to celebrate.



Tribali is one of the most famous groups of Malta, if not the most famous. Either way you look at it there is a good reason they are celebrated locally. Tribali is first of all, a major headlining band at live concerts and music festivals in the Republic of Malta. The nationwide Ghaxaq Music Festival, Ta Qali National Park, and Byron Bay Blues fest are several of their recent concert venues, in a country immersed in a rich history and significance regarding traditional Maltese band music.

***Festa* by Tribali is a new release for 2012.** The *Festa* album, with 13 songs has a level of energy that is off the chart in terms of the lively atmosphere in which they cross blend influences ranging from world music, new age, folk, reggae, rock, and jazz. The variety of instruments is equally broad by incorporating didgeridoo, electric sitar, murchunga, guimbri, cahon, hang and tabla, with more traditional guitars, keyboards, vocals, violin, trumpet and percussion.

The international ethnic tradition of the group Tribali is a great way to revel any time, any place, and any day. There is even discussion in local Malta newspapers and among their fan base about the group Tribali representing Malta during the annual worldwide Eurovision Song Contest. With Tribali's loyal fan support, and intense blend of lively World Fusion and traditional Maltase music, I am among those who believe Tribali's festive music can indeed give the rest of the world a good reason to celebrate.

***The Traveller* By Tribali** is another excellent new album due for release in 2012. Currently available in Malta, *The Traveller* will be available worldwide later this year in September 24, 2012. *The Traveller* is another exotic blend of 13 festive songs by Tribali you can sample right now prior to release at Amazon. Everyone will have their favorite song on the album naturally, but I really like the songs *Rickshaw Ride* & *Yamasai*.

Visit **TribaliMusic.com** and purchase ***Festa*** by Tribali at Amazon.com. The Tribali Concert video below displays the excitement Tribali generates during their live shows. *Cover artwork courtesy Daniel & Reuben (Kuluri).*



The Malta Philharmonic Orchestra Orkestra Filarmonika Nazzjonali

Founded in April 1968 it was originally known as the Manoel Theatre Orchestra. It was the orchestra in residence at the homonymous theatre and regularly performed operas and symphonic concerts under the direction of its resident conductors Joseph Sammut (1968-1992) and Michael Laus (1992-1997).

In September 1997 the orchestra became an independent body and was officially named as the National Orchestra of Malta. Ten years later, Orchestra was given the go ahead to start the process to augment its musicians complement to Philharmonic levels. The Malta Philharmonic Orchestra or Orkestra Filarmonika Nazzjonali in Maltese was launched on the 12th January, 2008, on the occasion of the official Euro change-over celebration concert marking Malta's entry into the Eurozone.

The Orchestra's extensive calendar of events consists mainly of symphonic concerts at the Manoel Theatre, the Mediterranean Conference Centre and other venues apart from opera productions in Malta and Gozo as well as abroad. Since January 2005 various projects were taken assiduously to tackle our musicians' performing standards. Co-operation programs with foreign orchestras were initiated which led to various learning and cultural exchanges.

In August 2006 the members from the string sections of the Orchestra teamed up with the Brno Philharmonic Orchestra through EU's Leonardo Mobility Project which enabled a number of our string musicians to join one of the world's top orchestras in workshops and two concerts held at the Spilberk 2006 Festival in Brno, Czech Republic, under the direction of Petr Altrichter and Leos Svarovsky respectively.

Among the many distinguished conductors and soloists who have performed with the Orchestra one can mention Peter Stark, Charles Olivieri-Munroe, Paolo Ponziano Ciardi, Rene Clement, Brian Schembri, Eugene Kohn, Jonathan Butcher, Alexander Rudin, Sergei Glavatsky, David Campbell, Roberto Cominati, Andrea Griminelli, Igor Ardasev, Carmine Lauri, Lukas Vondracek, Mats Rondin, Cecilia Gasdia, Ghena Dimitrova, Miriam Gauci, Joseph Calleja, Andrea Bocelli, Jose Carreras, Kate Aldrich, Daniela Dessi, Fabio Armiliato and the Royal Choral Society of London. The Orchestra is a predominant exponent of Maltese composers and one of its ambitions is to promote Maltese compositions beyond our shores and make them known to important international music centres as well as to a wider public around the world.



Teatru Manoel

The Theatre was built in 1731 by António Manoel de Vilhena, Grand Master of the Knights of Malta. He commissioned and personally funded the construction of this central building to keep the young knights of the Order of St. John out of mischief but also to provide the general public with "honest entertainment". This motto, "ad honestam populi oblectationem" is inscribed above the main entrance to the theatre. The first ever performance was Scipione Maffei's *La Merope* on the 19th January 1732. Teatru Manoel was originally known as Teatro Pubblico. Under British rule it

became the Theatre Royal, a title it lost in 1866 to its new rival, the much larger Royal Opera House, which was heavily damaged in World War II. As Malta's national theatre, the Manoel, as it is affectionately referred to by locals, is one of the main contributors to the development of the local cultural scene. Its mission is to entertain, inform and educate, thereby enriching the cultural life of the audience. It is committed to the presentation of quality artistic productions, to the creation of new audiences for dance, drama and music and to provide a major platform for local and international artists.

Mediterranean Conference Centre



The 16th century building now the Mediterranean Conference Centre has long been one of Valletta's most remarkable landmarks. Located towards the tip of Valletta peninsula, the MCC stands for distinction with magnificent views across the Grand Harbour. The sheer size and scale of the building coupled with its conversion into a modern conference centre in 1979 makes the MCC such an impressive architectural feat today. The sensitive and innovative restoration won the international acclaim with the

coveted 'Europa Nostra' Award for its successful blending of the fine old architecture with modern technology. In addition to conferences, it offers one of the finest venues in the Mediterranean for a range of events including product launches, exhibitions, conventions, banquets and theatrical performances. The Mediterranean Conference Centre is a rare example in the region of a heritage building functioning to the exacting demands of the 21st century. The Centre's long experience and reputation as a unique quality venue is confirmed by its membership of the prestigious Historic Conference Centres of Europe (HCCE). The Mediterranean Conference Centre is one of Europe's largest conference centres within a historical setting. The Centre boasts of impressive spaces, such as the main auditorium, Republic Hall, seating 1,400 in theatre style.

Source: <http://www.iso-festival.com/index.html>

MALTESE ASSOCIATION SECURES WESTERN AUSTRALIA SCREENING OF MOVIE 'SIMSHAR'

(mawai@bigpond.com)

The Maltese Association has secured the only WA viewing of the movie Simshar-The film was Malta's first ever submission to the Academy Awards. The screening is next Tuesday night at 6:00pm @ the Backlot Cinema, 21 Simpson St, West Perth. Tickets are \$20.00 each. Please text me on 0411 511 802 asap, if you wish to reserve a ticket as there will be no sales available at the door. Kind regards Steve Cauchi (Club President

More women in leadership can help international peace - President

International peace and security could benefit from more women in leadership roles as they would offer a nuanced perspective and bring everyone together in dialogue, President Marie Louise Coleiro Preca said this evening.



Addressing the first ever Women's Forum, held prior to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting next weekend, President Coleiro Preca hoped the forum would become a catalyst to influence much needed and long awaited changes.

Noting that women, girls and gender minorities continued to occupy a disadvantaged position throughout the world, she said such inequality was not limited to location. "It is also not limited to whether their oppression occurs in poor households, or in developing countries.

"Discrimination occurs in both situations of peace and conflict; however, it is much more devastating in situations of conflict."

The President said that reports continuously showed that inequalities persisted worldwide, affecting a wide range of rights, including health, education, public and political life, employment, and access to justice.

"In looking at a more equal future, we must all recognise that gender inequality negatively affects all people, regardless of their gender identities."

The road toward gender equality, she said, should be viewed not merely as a transfer of opportunities or privileges from one group to another, but as a fundamental necessity.

President Coleiro Preca referred to the HeForShe campaign spearheaded by UN Women, a leading global campaign on gender equality.

She said that together with fellow heads of State, she was committed to this campaign and its message of gender equality. "Together with other Champions, we are determined to make a difference in the lives of women and girls worldwide.

"To this mandate, through my Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society, I have added a significant focus on the protection, and empowerment, of gender minorities.

"We encourage all other HeForShe champions to do the same, recognising the importance of gender self-determination, in the creation of peace oriented and dignity affirming societies."

A key message of the campaign was that gender equality was not an issue faced by women or gender minorities alone but a human rights issue that affected everyone.

"We all stand to benefit from gender equality, liberating us from prescribed social roles and the gender stereotypes of a binary system that must be interrogated, and transformed," she said.

The President said together "we can reduce inequalities and create a world that reflects our most profound and deeply-held values". The time, she said, was ripe to move from rhetoric to action "before we run out of time".

President Coleiro Preca said that women's potential was still untapped and hoped the forum would elicit innovative ways of encouraging women to take an active role in society.

"It is only when women are present in numbers that they can make a real difference," she said.



Battle for Malta (World War 2 BBC documentary)

Historian James Holland presents a fresh analysis of the World War Two battle for the tiny Mediterranean island of Malta.

The Battle for Malta is one of the most vicious and violent episodes of the Second World War. The tiny Mediterranean island is smaller than the Isle of Wight, yet between 1940 and 1942 more bombs fell on Malta than fell on Britain during the

entire Blitz. As Axis forces threw all they had at the island, those on Malta were forced to endure a sustained attack from the air and a rapidly deteriorating condition on the ground. Beyond any form of austerity that we might understand, little Malta was close to starving. The struggle of the Maltese people against oppression was

recognised personally by King George VI, who awarded the George Cross to the entire island. Yet the Siege of Malta is only half of the story.

In this documentary, Holland argues that the real importance of Malta's position was its offensive role, which has been largely undervalued.

Caught in the crosshairs of a massive struggle between Britain and Germany to control the shipping waters of the Mediterranean, by 1942 Malta had become the most bombed place on Earth. Whilst the level of brutal attacks may seem out of all proportion to the islands size it actually only serves to underline its importance – for Malta held the key to the entire war in the Mediterranean and North Africa.



The Spitfire, the combat plane that made it all possible

Today I'm heading up to London for the last day on the Battle for Malta, a film I've been working on since the summer. The day will be spent at Envy, post-production officers off Oxford Street, where the last finishing touches are added: smoothing over edits, laying down music, checking facts are all spot on.

Then, in just five days' time, it will be aired, screened on BBC 2 next Monday evening. Fifty-nine minutes in which I hope I can not only tell the story of the entire Siege of

Malta in the Second World War, but also present a credible thesis. Doing this in a minute under an hour is no easy task, but I think we've pulled it off: it's exciting, moving, even haunting in parts, and, I reckon, conveys the very crucial role Malta played in the War in the Mediterranean.

We've also brought some new material and perspectives to the film, both of which I wish I'd included in my book, *Fortress Malta*, written ten years ago. New documents shown to me by Simon Cusens, an extremely assiduous local historian on Malta, show that by the summer of 1942, conditions on the island were even worse than I had appreciated. Simon managed to salvage a series of documents relating to the Chief Medical Officer, which show how horrendous compromises over the islanders' health were made in the interest of saving precious supplies. For example, orders were issued at official levels banning the use of running water for washing hands – something we now do as the most basic form of hygiene.

We've also had to make some pretty difficult choices. There is no mention of Faith, Hope and Charity, for example. I've always thought that too much importance has been given to that batch of Royal Navy Gloster Gladiators. After all, they were only used very briefly and at a time when the Italians were hardly pressing home their attack. It's a great story, but their impact on the wider battle for Malta was slight. Nor is there any mention of some of the more famous characters on the island, such as the ace reconnaissance pilot, Adrian Warburton, and his girlfriend, Christina Ratcliffe. There's no time for George 'Screwball' Beurling either. Beurling was unquestionably one of the finest fighter pilots that ever lived, but again, his impact on the wider battle was not huge, for all his extraordinary achievements. In any case, Warby was the subject of a BBC film a few years ago, and I was involved in a film about Beurling earlier this year.

In other words, they've had their share of screen time. I felt it was better to focus on a number of other, lesser known characters. Characters like fighter ace Denis Barnham, who wrote an incredibly detailed diary of his time on the island and which includes some of the finest descriptions of air combat I've ever read; Tubby Crawford, a very spry 94, and in 1941, second-in-command of the HMS Upholder, the most successful Allied

submarine of the entire war; Ann Agius Ferrante, Meme Turner and John Mizzi, Maltese citizens who lived through those dark days and who bring to life their experiences with a freshness and clarity that helps melt the intervening years. Another star of the film has been Malta itself. We have tried to emphasise the very small size of the island. Yes, it's a beautiful holiday destination now and a place of dazzling sun, azure skies and creamy limestone, but back then it was hellish, the most bombed place on earth. We wanted to convey something of the claustrophobia of the place and were lucky enough to see not only the amazing Lazaretto, where the submarines once had their base, but also some particularly interested shelters. Roman in origin, but expanded during the war, they were testimony to the richness of the island's history.

Overall, however, I wanted to emphasise the importance of Malta as an offensive base. Tiny Malta, a small scrap of rock in the very heart of the Mediterranean, stood in the way of Axis shipping crossing the sea from Italy and Greece to North Africa. Rommel's armies needed around 70,000 tons of supplies a month in 1941, and around 100,000 tons by the summer of 1942. Even a small dent in those supplies caused rapidly escalating problems, but it was Malta's task to make sure more than just a dent was made in Axis shipping. For much of the time, they succeeded too. In November 1941, for example, Malta-based strike forces sank 77% of Axis shipping to North Africa, a staggering figure. By the end of the year, Rommel's forces had been pushed back 500 miles in just six weeks.

You Tube ; Battle for Malta - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VeiVHq8TpXk>

MILL-ARKIVJI NAZZJONALI TA' MALTA



It-tim Malti (Malta XI) li lagħab kontra Austria XI ġewwa l-Empire Stadium (Gżira) fl-24 ta' Frar 1957. Din kienet l-ewwel logħba internazzjonali ta' Joe Cilia fejn kien l-unika player mit-tim tal-Belt Valletta; il-players l-oħra kienu ħamsa mis-Sliema u ħamsa mill-Furjana. Il-logħba intrebħet mill-Awstrija bl-iscore ta' 3-2. Arkivji Nazzjonali ta' Malta, Kollezzjoni Paul Cilia

The Maltese team (Malta XI) that played against Austria XI in Empire Stadium (Gżira) on 24 February 1957. This was Joe Cilia's first international for Malta and he was the only player from Valletta. The others hailed equally from Sliema and Floriana. Malta XI lost to Austria 2-3. Malta National Archives Photo: Paul Cilia



**The Editor of the
MALTESE NEWSLETTER
invites the readers and friends
to send a Christmas message
and it will be published in the
Christmas Special Edition
2015**



Malta and Japan look forward to increased co-operation

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The Minister for Foreign Affairs, George W. Vella, discussed the status and future plans on relations with Japan with the Parliamentary Secretary of the Japanese Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Miki Yamada, who is presently in Malta.

In welcoming the visit as an important milestone, Minister Vella observed that Malta-Japan relations have witnessed an expansion in various sectors over the past years. There remains untapped potential in the fields of trade, education, aviation and logistics which Malta will be looking at very closely in the coming months. Minister Vella expressed his satisfaction that the two countries are this year

celebrating fifty years since the establishment of diplomatic relations. Foreign Minister Vella stated people to people relations are of vital importance and underlined the value that Malta attaches to this particular aspect of relations. The countries' respective cultural heritage should lead to more intensive exchanges at grass-root levels, especially in terms of tourist exchanges.

The Minister also observed that Malta-Japan relations could also be further deepened through these countries' participation in inter-regional parameters such as the Asian–Europe meeting (ASEM).

On her part, Parliamentary Secretary Yamada agreed that there remains considerable potential that the countries could tap into and expressed a willingness on the Japanese side to engage more closely with the Government of Malta on all fronts. Parliamentary Secretary Yamada also spoke of Tokyo's plans to intensify relations with the EU through a "Strategic Partnership". She also expanded upon the interest recently expressed by Japanese tourists and students to visit Malta, particularly to pursue studies in the English language.

Parliamentary Secretary Yamada expressed solidarity with Malta and Europe on the migration situation, and referred to plans by Japan to allocate over \$800 million for refugees and Internally Displaced Persons from Syria. Earlier in the morning, Minister for Foreign Affairs George W. Vella addressed the forum "Doing Business with Japan", held at the Chamber of Commerce, as part of the celebrations for the 50th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Malta and Japan. The forum was also addressed by Miki Yamada.



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and archived at the Migration Museum in Malta

TA' PINU AT BACCHUS MARSH, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

Rebecca Comini, Kairos Catholic Journal

Every year hundreds of pilgrims ascend the Flanagans Drive hill in Bacchus Marsh to celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin at Our Lady of Ta'Pinu Shrine.

Also known as the All Nations Marian Centre, the shrine is a beacon of light and love on the hill; large statues of the Stations of the Cross and the Way of the Rosary are clearly visible to passing traffic on the Western Highway.

The shrine is a replica of its Maltese namesake, Our Lady of Ta'Pinu ('of Philip') National Shrine in Gozo, so named because the original 15th century Shrine in Malta was restored by a person who possessed the surrounding fields and commissioned the Icon of Our Lady of the Assumption. In 1883 Our Lady spoke to a local woman, Carmela Grima, and asked her to say three Hail Marys in honour of the three days she lay in her tomb before the Assumption. The voice that Carmela heard came from the icon of Our Lady that was inside the rural chapel, which at that time had fallen into disrepair.

Mgr Benedict Camilleri is the Australian shrine's director. He has a long history of promoting devotion to Our Lady of Ta'Pinu. In 1967, Mgr Benedict served as assistant priest at the Gozo shrine and he was appointed rector the following year—a role he held for 30 years. 'During the 31 years I served the shrine, I did my utmost to improve the state of the shrine, both spiritually and materially,' Mgr Benedict said.

'I increased the number of religious celebrations by multiplying the number of Holy Masses, by the presence of priests for confessions, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on certain days during the year, filling the empty niches with the respective statues, completing some mosaic works and providing facilities for tourists.'

Taking advantage of the experience he gained through his frequent visits to the United States while working in Canada, Mgr Benedict was also instrumental in promoting devotion in America, erecting a replica of the Our Lady of Ta'Pinu icon in the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington DC in 2006.

The first time Mgr Benedict came to Australia was in 1991. In 1992, he was authorised by his bishop in Gozo to help establish a shrine in Australia.

'As the rector of a Marian Shrine that is considered to be the most visited pilgrimage place in Malta, I felt it was my duty to support her devotion among the Maltese migrants here in Melbourne and at the same time promote as much as I can devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary among the locals as well as ethnic groups in the Archdiocese of Melbourne.'

The Bacchus Marsh site was selected as the suitable pilgrimage place in 1992 and in 1993, while awaiting formal approval by the Archdiocese of Melbourne, Mgr Benedict said Mass privately and blessed the site. In the following years, this pilgrimage place continued to develop with the help of a few active members from the Maltese community and continues to flourish and spread devotion to Our Lady, both among the Maltese as well as other ethnic groups.





BACCHUS MARSH - THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Stations of the Cross represent Jesus's painful journey to His crucifixion at Ta' Pinu Marian Centre, a symbolic path was marked out around the hill, starting near the monument of Our Lady and ending near the chapel.

On 26th February 1996, a road was constructed to house the fourteen Stations of the Cross. Fourteen olive trees were planted the Stations of the Cross. The first pilgrimage of the Way of the

Cross was held on the Easter Vigil Saturday 6th April 1996. Three years past and fourteen wooden crosses were made to be placed at every station in front of every olive trees .

For this occasion, a very special celebration was held on Sunday 7th March 1999. His Lordship, Late Msgr Joe Grech, then auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne, blessed the 14 wooden crosses and then led the pilgrimage of a large crowd up the hill. Every cross was carried in a formal procession and every cross was placed at every Station. It was a very touching ceremony reflecting the crucifixion of Our Lord.

Part of Monsignor Benedict Camilleri's vision for Ta Pinu Marian Centre included a Way of the Cross replicating the Via Crucis on Ghammar Hill in Gozo, Malta. a few months after the wooden crosses were put in place, 43 lifesize concrete statues depicting Jesus' crucifixion were ordered from Vietnam. In order to make the statues as real as possible, photos of the Stations of the Cross in Gozo were sent to Vietnam to ensure a precise reproduction. Each statue was funded by different individuals. Two of those were donated By Bishop George Pell -one in the name of his parents and one on behalf of the Archdiocese.

The first set of Statues weighing 1500 kilograms were unloaded at Bacchus marsh on Wednesday 28 July 1999. Over the next sixteen months, the remaining thirteen Stations were delivered to the site with the last set unloaded on 17th November 2000.

The Miracle of the Bomb and the Dome.



Thoughts of Fr. David Farrugia O.P.

Miracles happen. Some said that if we look around us , we find out that we are surrounded by miracles. Sunrise , sunset, beautiful flowers and the beauty of the universe. These are things that we take for granted. Some reduce the Christian faith to that which can be seen and understood under the microscope of rational examination , that which can be proved and demonstrated.

We forget that He who fixed the course of nature can alter, suspend or supersede it at His own pleasure. God 's ways are not our ways, and many a time, we do not understand God's intervention in history. Miracles make known God's presence among his people.

I grew up on the island of Malta , during the second world war. The Maltese Islands were the most heavily bombed area in the world. Sometimes an air raid went for hours non stop. We took shelter underground, where we spent most of the nights. Food was rationed, buildings were destroyed, including our house (luckily we were in the shelter) and many people lost their lives.

The Rotunda hit..... The church of the Assumption of Mary in the town of Mosta, is the third largest unsupported dome in the world . It is also known as the Rotunda , for the plans were based on the Pantheon in Rome. The construction started in 1833 and completed in 1860. The church was officially consecrated in 1871. I want you to bear in mind that the walls and the dome itself are built of the local limestone and are between 4 to 6 feet thick.

I am very familiar with this church. During the war I spent a lot night in the basement, before shelters came into being. Then , after the war I became an altar server in this wonderful church. The priests were hardworking and totally dedicated. They were holy and friendly priests. Later, when I became a high schooler , I worked as a part time custodian. I can say that the seed of my vocation as a priest, germinated in this wonderful church.

The miracle:On April 9, 1942 in the afternoon, the news spread quickly, ‘ A bomb went through the dome of the Rotunda’



and another two bounced off. Everyone got out of the shelter and went to have a look. The bomb pierced the dome and hit a wall then rolled on the floor and came to a stop by the sanctuary steps. At that very time there were about 300 people awaiting early evening Mass. The bomb did not explode and no one was hurt, no even by the falling debris. The same type of bomb as pierced the dome is now on display (replica) in the church's sacristy. It's about four feet high and two feet in diameter . Every year on the 9 of April a Mass of thanksgiving is celebrated.

'The Rotunda' – A Testament to Faith, Courage and Love'

Mhux bogħod mill-ħatra tal-Arċipriet il-ġdid tax-Xewkija, Monsinjur Daniel Xerri imwieled ix-Xagħra,

ir-raħal tal-Battista qed jerga' jsemma leħnu bil-pubblikazzjoni ta' dan il-ktieb fil-lingwa Ingliża minn Teddie Mizzi li niftakru sewwa fuq il-bankijiet tal-Liceo waqt li nsellem lil martu Vivienne, għalliema brava tal-Malti fl-iskola sekondarja. Naħseb li l-awtur għamel sewwa fetaħ dil-pubblikazzjoni tiegħu billi sellem lil dawk kollha, kontributori u voluntiera, ħajjin u mejtin li taw sehemhom bla ebda interess biex illum qed ingawdu dan it-tempju monumentali. Naħseb rari ssib biċċa art oħra fid-dinja li fiha daqshekk knejjes, kappelli, tempji neolitiċi bħalma ssib fil-gżira ċkejna ta' Għawdex.

Biex wieħed japprezza aħjar din il-knisja monumentali nissuġġerilu jieħu f'idejha dan il-ktieb-gwida għaliex qed jinkiteb minn xi ħadd (Xewki) li segwa u ra b'għajnejh – kif beda dan it-tempju, minn xiex għadda sa ma gie inawgurat u mbierrek wara tant snin ta' ħidma u sagrifiċċju, każ rari ta' daqsxejn ta' raħal, żgur mhux għani imma deċiż u determinat. Huwa xhieda ta' kuraġġ, perseveranza u s-sengħa kbira tan-nies tax-Xewkija.

Biżżejjed insemmu n-numru bla għadd ta' mollijiet, madwar 1600, li kellhom isiru matul ix-xogħol tal-bini. Bla dubju minn jista' jgħodd l-għadd ta' voluntiera Xewkin li taw sehemhom matul l-għoxrin sena li damet tiela' din il-knisja; żgur li mingħajr l-għajnuna tagħhom din l-opra hekk grandjuża ma kenitx tieħu l-ħajja f'għoxrin sena. L-arkitettura li naraw imferrxa ma' kullimkien ispirata minn Arċipriet li kellu ċerta passjoni lejn is-sengħa tal-bini, tassew timpressjonak u nistgħu ngħidu bla biża' li niżbaljaw li t-tliet bennejja li bnew ir-Rotunda tax-Xewkija, Ġużepp Cauchi, Toni Vella u Ġużepp Vella, huma miżmuma bħala wħud mill-aħjar bennejja fil-gżejjer tagħna.

Kif jaf kulħadd dawn għamlu użu mill-*ġebbla tal-franka* li f'Għawdex issibha sew, riżultat ta' binja xejn komuni b'koppla ta' 45.000 tunnellata li tistrieħ fuq tmien kolonni tal-konkrit miksi jin bil-ġebbla Għawdxija. Dawn jirrappreżentaw it-Tmien Beatitudni. Żgur li kull ġebbla li tagħmel parti minn din il-knisja, qabel tqiegħdet f'postha, kienet studjata bir-reqqa mill-perit bravu Giuseppe D'Amato li ħadem id f'id mal-Arċipriet tar-raħal Dun Ġużepp Grech li kellu jmut qasir il-għomor b'mewta li ġiet fuq għal għarrieda.

Ta' kull darba li jżur lil Għawdex bil-familja tiegħu għal xi ffit jiem, il-Professor tas-Socjologija fl-Universita' ta' Malta, Godfrey Baldacchino, imur joqgħod ix-Xewkija fejn jiltaqa' ma' tant karattri ħelwin bħal ngħidu aħna Marija ta' Bejża li ma toqgħodx lura milli titolbok tieħu biljett fil-lotterija b'risq il-knisja tar-raħal. Il-Professor kemm idum Għawdex ma jittliffx il-quddiesha fir-Rotunda, knisja li taffaxxinah u tagħmlu hieni. Jistqarr li kien għadu student f'The Hague fl-Olanda jistudja għal Masters meta sema' għall-ewwel darba bir-Rotunda mill-Professor Olandiż, Gerard Kester li żar Malta iktar minn darba u li deherlu li kelli jirreferi għar-Rotunda tax-Xewkija bħal xogħol kbir riżultat tal-ħidma kollettiva u magħquda tal-

ħaddiema Għawdxin. Anke f'dan iż-żmien jista' jkollok proġett f'moħħok li mhux bilfors isir għall-qliegħ materjali u eżempju ħaj ta' dan kollu hija din il-knisja fil-qalba tar-raħal tax-Xewkija.

Matul dawn l-aħħar sentejn l-awtur jistqarr li ma kienx waħdu biex joħroġ dan il-ktieb imma sab l-għajnuna ta' diversi persuni fosthom il-fotografu Max Xuereb, bniedem tassew professjonali fil-fotografija, li ħafna drabi, senza interessi, ġibed il-magħor parti tar-ritratti li jidhru f'din il-pubblikazzjoni, kif ukoll l-Arkivji u kollezzjonijiet privati.

Irodd ħajr ukoll lill-Prof. Baldacchino għall-Introduzzjoni tal-ktieb, kleru tax-Xewkija anke dawk li ħallewna, lill-Arċipriet Emeritu Mons Carmelo Mercieca u f'ih Dun Gorg Mercieca Viċi Parroku, Dun Gwann Mizzi li jigi f'ih l-awtur, Benny Mercieca u Dun Edward Xuereb li ħadu f'ih il-qari tal-provi, martu Vivienne u bintu Francesca, lin-nepputi Anthony P. Mizzi, Edward Farrugia mill-Progress Press, Ray Grima u Albert Pearson għall-pariri tagħhom kif ukoll lil Gorg Grech fotografu anzjan mill-Belt Victoria li familtu kienet mqabba biex tiegħu r-ritratti meta l-Isqof Pace qiegħed l-ewwel ġebbla tar-Rotunda.

Teddie Mizzi jrodd ħajr ukoll fil-kelmtejn li għamel fil-bidu tal-ktieb tiegħu lis-Sindku ta' raħlu, lil Randu Zammit miż-Żebbuġ u Joseph Camilleri mix-Xagħra li għaddewlu xi ritratti mill-kollezzjonijiet privati tagħhom, lil Kav Pawlu Camilleri Cauchi u lis-sagristan iddedikat tar-raħal, lil George Schembri tas-Super high lifts, lill-Perit Jos Mizzi, kuġinuh Joe Xerri ta' Xmun, Guża Vella tal-Malla, Feliċ Spiteri tal-Pisklu, Gużep Pace ta' Pawla flimkien ma' ħafna oħrajn li mpossibbli nsemmuhom kollha minħabba raġunijiet ta' spazju. Mhux intenzjonat li jkun xi xogħol akkademiku kbir, imma man-nisġa ta' dal-ktieb wieħed jinnota l-istorja, il-ġrajiet, d-drawwiet, it-tradizzjonijiet, l-użanzi, il-valuri u t-twemmin qawwi ta' komunita' sħiħa bħalma hija dik tax-Xewkija ddedikata lill-Għammiedi. The Rotunda – a Testament to Faith, Courage and Love nistgħu ngħidu li huwa vjaġġ li jibda minn żmien it-Tempju Megalitiku u jintemm mat-tqegħid tal-aħħar ġebbla tar-Rotunda u li matulu niltaqgħu ma' diversi persunaġġi li għamlu f'ihom biex jaraw dil-ħolma sseħħ.

Forsi din il-pubblikazzjoni twieldet mis-sehem li kien jagħti l-awtur f'magazine li beda joħroġ f'raħlu 42 sena ilu bl-isem ta' Gourgiun. Kien l-assistent editur tiegħu f'dawk l-ewwel snin bikrija u kien qed jaħseb biex joqgħod għall-eżamijiet tal-GCE u nemmen li Teddie Mizzi kien jissokta f'dik it-triq li kieku f'ih bla waqt id-destin ma bidilx ir-rotta. F'Mejju tal-1974 ċemplulu li kien hemm lest għalih biljett fuq l-Alitalia Flight għal New York. L-ispisa kienet ta' ħames liri u l-bqija jagħmel tajjeb għalihom il-Gvern. Teddie tefa' kollox wara spalljeh u f'ih bla waqt sab ruħu New York biex jiltaqa' ma' oħtu u jfittex xogħol. Wara tant snin reġa lura fostna u bna l-familja ċkejna tiegħu. Issa qed nirrealizza għaliex dan il-ktieb ħareġ bl-Ingliż għalkemm jien għallimtu Malti tajjeb u kellu jiltaqa' ma' mara għalliema u ggradwata fil-Malti. Sadanittant ktieb bl-Ingliż, isib ċirkulazzjoni iktar wiesa milli kieku miksub bil-Malti u niesna illum tista' tgħid li kollha taqra u tikteb bl-Ilsien Ingliż.

Naħseb li sallum dan il-ktieb diġa laħaq daħal f'ħafna mid-dar tax-Xewkin u ċert li sa jkompli jittferrex fost tant oħrajn li għandhom għal qalbhom l-istorja soċjali tagħna kif ukoll l-istorja tal-Knisja fi gżiritna.

Din il-pubblikazzjoni se tiġi mnedija lejn l-aħħar ta' Novembru.

Kav Joe M Attard Victoria Għawdex



Maltese dish a genuine hit in Unanderra - Wollongong NSW

By DOMINIC GEIGER Nov. 5, 2013 Ray, Doris, Justin D'Amato and Anna Apap with a plate of Nanna's ricotta ravjul. Picture: ROBERT PEET

Serving Maltese ravioli – or ravjul – “just like mama used to make” is a big call in a city as culturally diverse as Wollongong. For Ray and Doris D'Amato however, the call was already made

for them the day “Nana Anna” decided to help out at the family restaurant in Unanderra.

So far, Anna's hand-made dish has been a roaring success, particularly with the Illawarra's middle-aged Maltese.

Mr D'Amato says as first generation migrants begin dying out, their children are left missing that special home-made taste.

“You get people our age where mum and dad have passed away, they don't have it no more,” he says.

"They're the only ones that can do it so once they find out we've got it here they come and say 'Oh, just like my mother used to make.'" Nana Anna is Doris D'Amato's mother, real name Anna Apap.

At 70 years young, Mrs Apap visits the store twice a week to create her special pasta, taking about six hours from start to finish to prepare the recipe from scratch. And once it's done, the ravjul sells like hot cakes.

"She can't make enough of them," Mrs D'Amato says.

"It's something she's been doing for years – it's exactly the way her mother made them."

The decorations adorning the walls of the cozy restaurant are evidence of how the Maltese community has embraced D'Amato's.

Customer-donated photos and maps of the Mediterranean island sit above the tables and chairs, and a jersey worn by a member of the first rugby league team to travel from the Illawarra to Malta occupies a prime spot.

Specialties listed on the lengthy menu include the Maltese Connection – a gourmet pizza using Maltese sausage, Maltese pepper cheese and freshly baked ricotta, among other ingredients.

There's also the Maltese Mouse – a popular dessert Mrs D'Amato admits is a "bit of a cheat".

"It's got Maltesers in it," she said.

The couple have also introduced temporary items to their menu as blackboard specials in the past.

One such meal was rabbit stew or "stuffat", which was available last father's day. Mr D'Amato said it was incredibly popular: "We could not keep up with it."

"A lot of Maltese bought it because we eat a lot of rabbit."

The D'Amatos purchased the restaurant and the building on Central Road, Unanderra about 12 months ago after the previous incarnation, in existence for about 40 years, came up for sale.

Mrs D'Amato said Unanderra was a "great stopping point" for people making their way into Wollongong in the evening.

"We've found a lot of people are coming, having dinner and then venturing off to Wollongong. It's a great area, a growing area, but in saying that we get people from places like Thirroul and Kiama."

D'Amato's Family Restaurant is located at 106 Central Road, Unanderra and is open 10am to 2.30pm for lunch Monday to Friday and 5.30pm to 8.30pm Monday to Sunday.

Ravjul – Maltese Ravioli

Ravjul, the Maltese version of ravioli, is tasty, hearty and filling.

Nanna Anna's recipe remains a closely guarded family secret, but if you want to make ravjul, try this recipe.

Preparation time: 90 minutes



Cooking time: 10 minutes

Serves: 4

Ingredients

200g plain flour, 150g semolina, pinch of salt, 2beaten eggs, 400g ricotta, 2eggs beaten, 4tbsp grated parmesan cheese, 1tbsp chopped parsley, salt and pepper

Method

Mix the sieved flour, semolina and salt carefully.

Add the eggs and knead until dough is like elastic. If too stiff add a drop of cold water.

Rest the dough for 1 hour and prepare the filling.

Put all the other ingredients – ricotta, beaten eggs, cheese, parsley, salt and pepper – into a mixing bowl and mix well.

Divide the dough into 4 pieces and roll into long thin strips. Dampen the edges with water.

Place small balls of ricotta 2cm from the edge of the pastry and 4cm apart.

Turn one edge of the pastry on the other one and press to seal.

Use a ravioli cutter to cut out the pastry 10cm from the filling.

Leave to rest for a few minutes. Boil in salted water till soft. Serve with tomato sauce (salsa) and grated cheese.

From taste.com.au



In February 2014 Maree Bezzina, a registered nurse at Saint Francis of Assisi home in Mackay and Judy McIntosh, Administration Officer, visited the Philippines to volunteer with the Franciscan sisters in the poorer areas of Manila. They also visited Mother Margherita De Brincat Catholic School, which has 800 students. This school is run by the sisters, Sr Gemma Fenech, Sr Cellina and some very dedicated support staff. Mackay residents Maree Bezzine and Judy

McIntosh with the Sisters and children of a school in Manila.

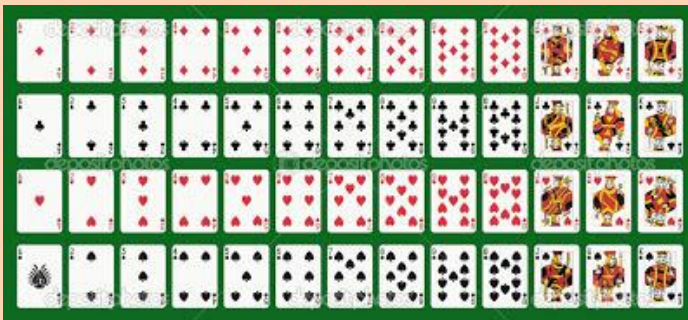
Mackay Maltese community HELPS children of the Philippines

Sister Maria Esther Attard is known to the children (all 6000 of them) as Local Superior for the Franciscan Sisters of the Heart of Jesus Order. Sister Esther's mission work with Third World children and their mothers started in 1985 and has taken her to Brazil, Kenya, Pakistan and now her current posting in the Philippines.

She delights in the beauty of these countries, however these encounters have brought her close to the realities of life - the refugees, the street children and the destitute who have no option than to beg for their daily survival. Currently her main aim is to give the children a sound education.

To be able to pursue their studies she and her sisters, together with several community members, are able to provide a food programme to make this dream a reality. With \$40 Australian, Sr Esther feeds 80-100 children each Saturday.

Few of us are in a position to serve in another country as Missionaries, but we can all share in the wider mission through prayer and by financial support. By doing so we will make a huge difference in the lives of many in need..



The Deck of Cards

During World War II, a soldier passed a small church, looked in and saw that the townsfolk had gathered for worship. The soldier wandered in, walked down the aisle and slid into a pew. He took his seat next to some worshipers who were at that moment sitting with their heads bowed in prayer. The soldier having no prayer book took out a time-worn deck of playing cards. He fanned the cards before him and started to mumble to himself. His fellow worshipers, amazed at the soldier

for displaying a deck of cards in the house of the Lord, nudged him and whispered, "Put those away, you can't do that here!" The soldier paid little attention to them and carried on with his cards and mumblings. Soon the fellow worshipers became alarmed and sent out for the constable and the soldier was arrested. He was placed in the jail for the night and the next morning was brought before the town magistrate, charged with disorderly conduct for displaying a deck of cards in a place of worship. The Magistrate asked what he had to say for himself, "Guilty or not guilty?"

The soldier standing before the bar of justice replied, "Not guilty, Your Honor, and with your kind permission, I would like to present this defense for my actions."

With that, he took out his old time-worn deck of cards, fanned them out before him, and then he began:

"Your Honor, to me this deck of cards is my prayer book and Bible.

When I look into these cards and see an Ace, it reminds me that there is only one God.

When I see the Deuce, it reminds me that the Bible is divided into two parts, the Old and the New Testaments.

When I see the Three, it represents the three persons of the Blessed Trinity: the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

When I see the Four, it reminds me of the four great Evangelists, who wrote the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

When I see the Five, Your Honor, I think of the five virgins who kept their lamps trimmed in waiting for the coming of the Lord.

When I see the Six, it reminds me that in six days God made this great Heaven and Earth.

When I see the Seven, it represents the Sabbath, a day of rest and worship.

When I see the Eight, it reminds me of the eight righteous persons who were saved from the Flood: Noah, his wife, their three sons and their wives

When I see the Nine, I'm reminded of the nine lepers who were cleansed of their sins, but did not give thanks, such was their ingratitude.

When I see the Ten, I think, not only of the tenth leper, who did give thanks, but of the Ten Commandments handed down by Moses on the stone tablets, each spot for one Commandment.

Now, Your Honor, the Jack reminds me of the Trickery of the Devil and to shun his temptation. When I see the Queen, I think of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who is Queen of Heaven. The King is, of course, the King of Heaven and Earth and All Things, to whom we should all bow down and give thanks."

He folded up the deck of card, shuffled them once, and fanned them out before him. Then he continued: "Your Honor, when I look into this deck of cards, I see that there are 365 spots, as there are 365 days in the year. The Joker stands for Leap Year, 366 days. There are fifty-two cards in the deck, just as there are fifty-two weeks in a year. There are twelve face cards in the deck representing the twelve months of the year. Actually, there are thirteen lunar months in the year represented by the thirteen cards in each suit. Speaking of the suits, the deck is divided into four suits: Clubs, Diamonds, Hearts and Spades; and we know that the year is divided into four seasons: Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. Lastly, Your Honor, this deck of cards has two colors, red and black; the red stands for the daylight, and the black for the night. So you see, Your Honor, not only is this deck of cards my prayer book and Bible, it is also my Almanac!" With that, His Honor said, "Case dismissed!"

(This story has been recorded as a song in the 1960s)

The Advent Wreath



A popular custom that has become part of our liturgy is the blessing of the Advent wreath in churches, as well as homes. The tradition comes from the Scandinavian countries, which experience very short days and long dark nights, and so they bring all their farming equipment inside their homes for the winter months. Some of the folks started to decorate the wheel of their carts with green bows and then attached candles to them. The idea developed to introduce a similar custom

in churches, with the four candles to symbolize the 4 Sundays of Advent. Three purple candles and a rose-color candle are lit on the Sundays, respectively for the color of the vestment the priest uses. On the third Sunday a rose-color or pink vestment is used to symbolize joy. Some churches leave the Advent wreath throughout the Christmas season and add a white candle for Christmas. Each Sunday of Advent has a theme which is frequently highlighted by just one word. First Sunday: **WATCH**, 2nd Sunday: **PREPARE**, 3rd Sunday: **REJOICE**, 4th Sunday: **BEHOLD**, Christmas: **CELEBRATE**.

TA' MARIJA RESTAURANT – MOSTA - MALTA



Ta' Marija Restaurant was first established by Benny and Marija Muscat in 1964 as the Whisper Knightclub and Farmhouse.



In those days the island was a base for the British and Nato forces. Officers and crew of all ranks and nationalities, as well as many personalities from the local and foreign scene were regular guests to the 'in-place' for succulent steaks and varied entertainment.

With the passage of time the island became a wider holiday destination greeting visitors from all corners of the world. The Muscat family felt the need to introduce genuine Maltese cuisine and took the plunge to create Ta' Marija Restaurant in 1990.

Since then Ta' Marija has become the foremost exponent of Maltese cuisine offering a combination of traditional Maltese products, a platform for local artists' talent and the renowned friendly Maltese hospitality forthcoming from the Muscat family and their staff.

Ta' Marija Restaurant was awarded **Best Maltese Food Restaurant** for nine consecutive years by the Definitive(ly) Good Guide to Restaurants, sponsored by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture. In addition, Ta' Marija Restaurant was also awarded the Best Maltese Wine List award and Most Popular for Lively Entertainment in 2011 & 2012. We cordially invite you to savour our blend of traditional Maltese dishes, local wine and friendly atmosphere and wish you a pleasant experience. Ta' Marija Restaurant, Constitution Street, Mosta: <http://www.tamarija.com/index.php/about>

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Joseph Calleja to perform in annual fundraising Christmas Concert



BY GOZO NEWS.COM · The third edition of the BOV Joseph Calleja Fund Raising Christmas Concert will be held on Sunday, the 20th of December, at the Divine Mercy Chapel in San Pawl tat-Targa starting at 7.00pm.

Joseph Calleja, accompanied by a number of scholars currently being supported by the BOV Joseph Calleja Foundation, will be performing a repertoire of Christmas songs in an intimate atmosphere.

The concert will be followed by a reception at Villa Arrigo that will also be attended by Joseph Calleja and the accompanying artists.

All donations raised from the Concert will go towards the BOV Joseph Calleja Foundation.

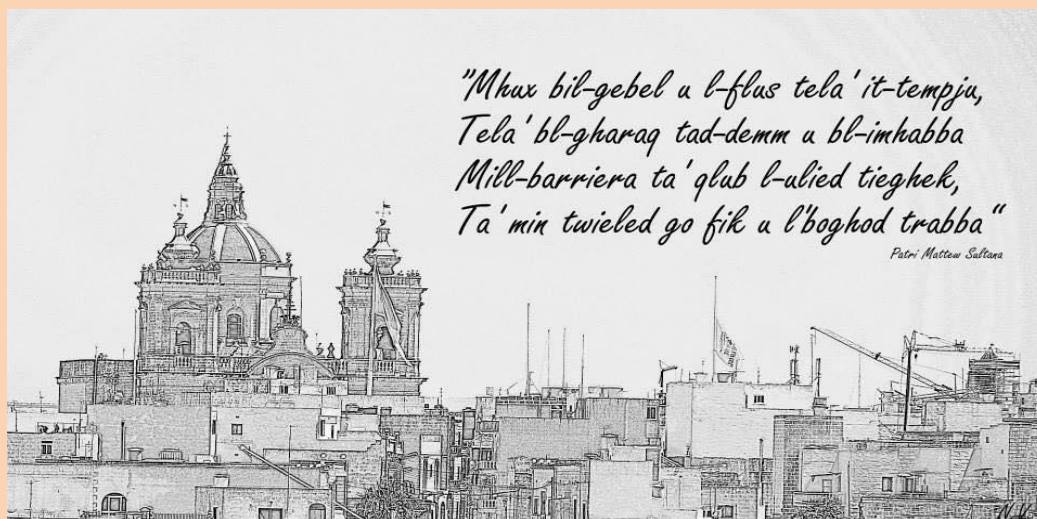
"In the relatively short time since the inception of the Foundation, we are already supporting a good number of 'scholars' to maximise their artistic potential and making a difference in their lives," explained Joseph Calleja.

He added, "I am really eager to perform alongside these exceptionally talented musicians during this concert, which has now become a regular event in our cultural calendar."

Set up two years ago, the Foundation has a two-pronged focus, 'the Gifted Youth' and 'the Vulnerable Child'. Launched earlier this year, 'The vulnerable child' arm sees the Foundation partnering with a number of organisations with a view to develop specific programmes that aim to assist the development of underprivileged children.

Speaking about the Patron scheme of the Foundation, Roderick Chalmers, Chairman of the Foundation's Board, explained, "in addition to the annual contributions of the founding parties, Bank of Valletta and Joseph Calleja, the Foundation relies on the generous response of a number of patrons and benefactors to be able to perform its mission. This concert is our major fund raising event, and we are anticipating another sold-out event this year." Seats for the concert are available against a donation of €100 each. Tickets may be reserved through the booking website <http://www.ooii.com.mt>. Benefactors who attend the concert will also have the opportunity to meet Joseph Calleja and the guest artists during a reception hosted at Villa Arrigo following the concert.

Further information about the concert and the BOV Joseph Calleja Foundation can be found at <http://www.bovjosephcallejafoundation.com>.



*"Mhux bil-gebel u l-flus tela' it-tempju,
Tela' bl-gharaq tad-demem u bl-imhabba
Mill-barriera ta' qlub l-ulied tieghekk,
Ta' min twieled go fik u l'boghod trabba"*

Patri Matthew Sultana

**IL-KNISJA U L-VILLAGG
TAX-XAGHRA
GHAWDEX**



XAGHRA ASSOCIATION OF NSW INCORPORATED

was officially formed in 2008, though it had been operating for the previous 5 years. One of its aims and objectives is to preserve the Maltese cultural and religious values and traditions. An annual dinner dance to commemorate the festa of the nativity of Our Lady, or as it is known by the Maltese, 'Il-Vitorja', is celebrated on the first or second Saturday after the 8th of September (depending on what day the 8th of September falls on).

In the past special guests of honour from Malta came to celebrate this event with us. Amongst them were Monsignor Carmelo Refalo (currently Archpriest of Xaghra), Monsignor Joseph Sultana (currently Archpriest of Gharb), Canon Michael Galea, (currently the assistant director of Arka foundation, a home in Gozo, Malta, for people with disabilities). Last year we had amongst us a very young priest, Fr. Richard Nazzareno Farrugia, who is still studying in Rome. Also last year Monsignor Mario Grech, Bishop of Gozo, Malta, came on a pastoral visit to Australia. The Xaghra Association was asked to look after the program for NSW & a special organising committee was formed. It consisted of 3 of its committee members, members representing the community as well as the President of the Maltese Community Council of NSW.

A religious & social program is prepared for the visiting clergy when they come to NSW so they can outreach to the Maltese community at large. We organise fundraising trips which have taken us interstate as well as overseas. We also go to the 'Tal-Vitorja' festa in Melbourne and celebrate with the other Maltese and Gozitans there.

We thank our loyal supporters and sponsors for their continuous support, which is greatly appreciated. The association has helped missionaries, charities, not for profit organisations and individuals overseas.

Office Bearers: **President:** Josephine Bigeni JP **Assistant President:** Mary Anne Teuma
Secretary: Mary Sultana **Treasurer:** Raymond Bigeni

Xaghra Association of NSW Inc. invites you to come & celebrate

AUSTRALIA DAY With a Dinner Dance Date: Saturday 23 rd January 2016

**Time: Doors open 6:30 pm for 7:00pm start Place: Mandavilla Function Centre
1788 The Horsley Drive, Horsley Park**

Entertainer: Joe Apap

Dinner: 3 Course Meal, Beer, Wine, Soft Drinks, tea, coffee, pastizzi & fruit platters

**For more information contact: Ray & Josephine Bigeni: 9627 4182, Mob: 0439 974 182
M'Anne Teuma: 9627 4641**

VALLETTA 2018 AND MCAST INSTITUTE



As with previous years, Valletta 2018 has teamed up with MCAST Institute for the Creative Arts students to work on the annual Christmas 3D architectural projections that illuminate the facade of the Grandmaster's Palace. The colourful 3D projections will be adding to the Christmas spirit in Pjazza San Gorg from the 23rd to the 27th December, with a final special show on December 31st to usher in the New Year during the New Year's Eve celebrations, organised by Valletta 2018 in collaboration with the Ministry for Culture, the Malta Tourism Authority and the Valletta Local Council. We're also collaborating with Mdina Glass on a large Christmas tree and other Christmas

installations which will be showcased near the new Parliament Building and Pjazza Teatru Rjal. Let's celebrate together!



December at Strada Stretta

We've teamed up with the Strada Stretta Concept once again to work on a cultural calendar for this month. On December 10th, Strada Stretta will come alive with music by Edith Piaf, courtesy of a collaboration with the French Embassy's Cultural Section, while a conference titled 'Peripheral Alternatives to Rodin in Modern European Sculpture' is set for the 15th December. Bartone Joseph Lia will be performing Neapolitan classics on the 17th December, and another performance, 'J.S. Bach / Cincievski "Goldberg Variations" BWV 988 for string trio', will also be taking place on the 21st December at Splendid.

- 🌀 Nistiednuk tibghat xewqat tal-Milied lill-qraba, il-hbieb u l-qarrejja ta' dan il-gurnal taghna l-Maltin. Iktbilna issa u jidhru fil-**HARGA SPECJALI TAL-MILIED** li tohrog ftit jiem qabel 25 Dicembru. Grazzi bil-quddiem.
- 🌀 We invite you to send Christmas greetings to your family, friends and readers of the Maltese now. We will published them in the **SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EDITION** few days before the 25 December. Thank you.

