

# THE JOURNAL OF THE MALTESE DIASPORA

## MALTESE NEWSLETTER



BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN MALTESE ALL OVER THE WORLD



### MALTESE BIOMETRIC PASSPORTS

Malta introduced new biometric passports with digital facial imaging and fingerprints scan biometrics recorded on a microchip, also known as ePassports. On 30 September 2008, the first Maltese biometric passport was issued.

The digital capture process was implemented first in Malta some years ago and gradually extended to Malta's representative offices abroad, including Australia. The process implies that applicants living in Australia would have to report in person to the Malta High Commission in **Canberra** or the **Consulates in Melbourne and Sydney**.

Alternatively, applicants may renew their passport while in Malta as close to its expiry date as possible.

The difficulties in applying or renewing a biometric passport for Maltese citizens in Australia living in places other than Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne are sometimes quite grave. During meetings and Conventions held in Malta in these last seven years two practical suggestions were put forward. This would alleviate the need for the applicant to travel thousands of kilometres to one of these cities to comply with the process. It was suggested that a High Commission or Consulate officer could travel with the necessary digital capture equipment to the other state capital cities and large towns in Australia.

The other suggestion was for the Maltese Government to enter into an arrangement with the Australian federal government or state governments in **Queensland, Tasmania, South Australia, Western Australia, and Northern Territory** (or an appropriate government agency, such as, the Police force, to provide the electronic capture services on its behalf. It should be noted that many years ago the Australian Government authorised Australia Post as its agent to receive passport applications and, more recently, capture digital images of applicants for ePassports on its behalf.

Five delegates from Australia, including myself, are travelling to Malta for the next meeting of the Council of Maltese Living Abroad in May 2016. This will be one of several topics which will be put forward for discussion and hopefully resolution. I invite and encourage Maltese citizens who are seeking to apply or renew a passport to write to us and send constructive comments and suggestions. Your input will be studied and taken seriously. You may write in Maltese or English. Your emails should reach us not later than 15 April.



## Directorate for the Maltese Living Abroad

### **Directorate for Maltese Living Abroad**

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### ***The Mission Statement of the Directorate***

The Directorate of the Maltese Living Abroad (DMLA) is the central source of information, provides advice, support and co-ordinates all aspects related to Maltese citizens living abroad for the Government of Malta and its overseas representation. The DMLA strives to protect the rights and interests of our citizens around the globe, their registered non-government organisations, the constant monitoring of local, European and Diaspora countries' legislation affecting them and the implementation of Chapter 515 – Council for the Maltese Living Abroad (CMLA) Act.

### ***The source of information concerning Maltese living abroad***

The DMLA provides consultation, support and advice to the Maltese Government about the Maltese living abroad. This is to maintain a close and effective liaison with Malta's overseas diplomatic missions and the CMLA on matters related to the operations of the Directorate.

### ***Implementation of the CMLA Act 2011***

The DMLA ensures the follow-up and implementation of decisions made by a convened of the CMLA. It assists the Secretary of the CMLA, who is autonomous but in the same time cooperates, in the organisation of the convening in Malta or teleconferencing of the CMLA and decisions taken by the same body.

- Maintain a register of NGOs and Associations of the Maltese Living Abroad.
- Maintain a register of Maltese living abroad who are successful in an array of areas.
- Promote and encourage the voluntary registration of Maltese citizens living abroad and for the reporting of births, change of names (by marriage) and deaths of Maltese living abroad.
- In conjunction with the Office of the Attorney-General, monitor all newly introduced and gradually review legislation to ensure that the rights and obligations of Maltese living abroad are safeguarded.
- Facilitate, assist and attend major and relevant Maltese cultural and traditional meetings and events organized by Maltese organizations in Diaspora countries

**To download the registration form of the Voluntary Notification for Maltese Citizens Living Abroad – Notification D open <http://foreignaffairs.gov.mt/en/Pages/Maltese-Living-Abroad.aspx>**  
See below

**Notification D**

www.gov.mt

**Voluntary Notification for  
Maltese Citizens Living Abroad****A. Who can fill Notification D?**

Notification D is a voluntary notification system to be filled and submitted by any Maltese citizen who intends to or already resides outside the territory of Malta for more than one month for the following reasons: (1) Permanent Resident; (2) Holiday (for more than one month); (3) Employment and (4) Other reasons. It is important that Notification D is filled for each member of the family or group.

**B. Why should I fill and submit a D Notification?**

Notification D should be filled to assist the Maltese Government through the Ministry for Foreign Affairs as a point of reference when the applicant requires assistance in cases of emergency, and when this assistance can be provided.

**C. What will the information I provide be used for?**

All personal details collected through this notification are processed in a confidential manner for the specific purposes mentioned in question B and in accordance with the Data Protection Act, Chapter 440 of the Laws of the Republic of Malta. The Data Controller is the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The information being provided could be made accessible to public or private competent entities in cases of emergency, to provide assistance as cases may require.

You have the right under the Data Protection Act to inquire about information that is being processed about you, and to request rectification of inaccurate data and the blocking or deletion of such personal data that has not been processed in accordance with the Act.

Such requests to access personal data held by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs are to be made in writing and have to be addressed to:

The Data Protection Officer  
Ministry for Foreign Affairs  
Palazzo Parisio Merchants' Street  
Valletta VLT 1171  
The Republic of Malta

**D. For how long is this information retained?**

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs will retain details provided in accordance with the following schedule:

- Permanent residents abroad: details are retained for a period of five years; Holiday: details are retained for the period indicated by the applicant;
- Employment: details are retained for the period indicated by the applicant;
- Other reasons: details are retained for the period indicated by the applicant.

indication is provided, the data will be retained for a maximum period of two years.

Upon expiry of the period referred to above, the manual notifications will be destroyed by the Directorate and any electronically held information will be deleted, should the applicant not renew the notification or no update is further submitted by the applicant. The retention period will be automatically renewed when the notification is updated.

**E. Disclaimer Note**

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs will do its utmost to offer the best possible service. However, in the event of extraordinary circumstances when contact is not possible with you or the next of kin the Ministry cannot be held responsible and in such situations you are directed to contact the nearest Embassy, High Commissioner and/or Consulate. It is the applicant's responsibility to inform the Ministry for Foreign Affairs if any of the personal details on the Notification have changed. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs can not be held responsible in emergency situations if it wasn't informed of such changes beforehand.

**F. I have an unanswered question or require further information.**

Jekk għandek xi mistoqsija jew tixtieq aktar informazzjoni, ikteb jew ibgħat imejl lil:

If you have questions or wish further information write or e-mail to:

The Director, The Directorate for Maltese Living Abroad,  
Ministry for Foreign Affairs,  
Palazzo Parisio, Merchants Street, Valletta VLT 1171,  
THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA

Telephone: +356 2204 2264 / 2204 2371 / E-mail: [malteselivingabroad.mfa@gov.mt](mailto:malteselivingabroad.mfa@gov.mt) .

## FLAGS AND SYMBOLS OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA



**The National Flag of Malta** --- The Constitution provides that the National Flag of Malta consists of two equal vertical stripes, white in the hoist and red in the fly, with a representation of the George Cross, edged with red, in the canton of the white stripe; the breadth of the flag is one and a half times its height.

- a. It is the custom to display the National Flag of Malta only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and stationary flagstaffs in the open. However, it may also be displayed at night on special occasions, and in such case it should preferably be floodlit.
- b. The National Flag should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously.
- c. The National Flag should be displayed near the main administration building of every public institution on all days when the weather permits and especially on National Holidays.
- d. The National Flag should be displayed during school days on or near every school building and in or near every polling place on election days



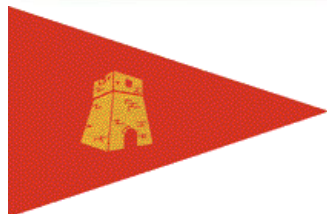
**The emblem of Malta** The emblem of Malta is described by the Emblem and Public Seal of Malta Act (Cap.253) as a shield showing an heraldic representation of the National Flag of Malta; above the shield a mural crown in gold with a sally port and eight turrets (five only being visible) representing the fortifications of Malta and denoting a City State; and around the shield a wreath of two branches: the dexter of Olive, the sinister of Palm, symbols of peace and traditionally associated with Malta, all in their proper colours, tied at base with a white ribbon, backed red and upon which are written the words "Repubblika ta' Malta" in capital letters in black.



**The Presidential Flag of Malta** The Presidential Flag of Malta was introduced by Proclamation dated 12th December, 1988. This flag is flown on the President's official residences and offices and on all occasions at which he is present. It has the same proportions as the National Flag and consists of a blue field with the Emblem of Malta at its centre; and a Maltese Cross in gold in each corner.



**The Merchant Flag of Malta** The Merchant Flag of Malta introduced by the Merchant Shipping Act (Cap. 234) consists of a red field bordered in white, with a white Maltese Cross at its centre.



**The pennant used by the Commander of the Armed Forces of Malta** The pennant used by the Commander of the Armed Forces of Malta consists of red field with the symbol of the Armed Forces in gold at its centre



**The pennant used by the Commissioner of the Police Force**



## Memorandum of Cooperation signed between Malta and Albania

Reference Number: , Press Release Issue Date: Feb 18, 2016



The Minister for Foreign Affairs, George W. Vella today had a bilateral meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Albania, Ditmir Bushati. During this meeting the two Ministers signed a Memorandum of Cooperation on the Integration Process of the Republic of Albania into the European Union.

The signing of the Memorandum signifies that Malta will further promote its political support for Albania's EU integration process. Malta will also have the opportunity to share its experience and expertise as a member of the EU, especially in the implementation of EU policies and the accession process. Another important point of the memorandum is that Malta will focus on issues related to EU enlargement. Malta will of course support Albania during its efforts to implement the necessary

reforms.

The bilateral meeting between the two Foreign Ministers took place during the recent State Visit to Albania by the President of Malta Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca. Malta and Albania enjoy very positive dynamic relations. Since the establishment of diplomatic ties, both countries collaborated together on a number of issues, including child adoption. At present, Albania is facing some challenges which include migration, security in the Balkans, the judicial reform and European integration. Malta has always supported Albania's EU aspirations, and is also willing to explore possibilities of economic cooperation and greater exchanges of trade. These are all issues that encourage stability, peace and prosperity in the Mediterranean and Balkan regions.

### THE AUSTRALIAN KOALA



The koala is a small bear-like, tree-dwelling, herbivorous marsupial which averages about 9kg (20lb) in weight. Its fur is thick and usually ash grey with a tinge of brown in places.

The koala gets its name from an ancient Aboriginal word meaning "no drink" because it receives over 90% of its hydration from the Eucalyptus leaves (also known as gum leaves) it eats, and only drinks when ill or times when there is not enough moisture in the leaves. ie during droughts, bushfires etc. The koala is the only mammal, other than the Greater Glider and Ringtail Possum, which can survive on a diet of eucalyptus leaves.

**EMAIL FROM BRAZIL – SOUTH AMERICA** - Dear Frank, I am a Maltese priest from Gozo, living in Brazil since 1961. But, almost all my family live in Australia: States of Victoria, N.S.W. and Queensland. Some second cousins, born in Broken Hill, N.S.W., live in Adelaide. I have been in Australia several times performing weddings, baptisms and funerals. I am planning to come again next year and I hope to meet you there..... Last year, I completed 50 years of priesthood and some of my Australian and Maltese relatives came over. As I receive and like to read your journal of "the maltese Diáspora". Thank you for your useful newspaper, mostly for being able to unite maltese migrants from different countries. God bless your work - Rev. Msgr. Joseph (José) Agius. (03/03/2016)

## L-GHID F'MALTA

### Kitba ta' Greg Caruana - Awstralja

L-Ghid huwa probabbilment l-aktar perjodu sinifikanti fil-Gzejjer taghna, minhabba l-gheeruq qawwija fil-Kristjanezmu. Dan huwa zmien meta l-maggoranza tal-poplu taghna jiltaqa flimkien biex jiccelebrew tlett festi religjuzi mportanti fil-kalendarju tal-knisja, il-Passjoni, l-Mewt u l-Qawmien ta' Kristu mill-mewt. Ghalkemm waqt ir-Randan u l-Ghid isiru avvenimenti differenti, matul dawn il-granet, l-insara hafna huma, li jgawdu celebrazzjonijiet religjuzi jew le. U dan kollu minhabba li qieghed fil-kalendarju Malti, li jesprimi l-ispiritu u l-kultura taghna. Kull turist jaghmel għazla għaqlija li jzuru l-Gzejjer taghna, bejn Marzu u April.

Il-perjodu tar-Randan jibda bl-Erbgha Ras-ir-Randan, li din tigi l-ghada li jispicca l-karnival, li huwa zmien ta xalar u celebrazzjonijiet qabel jibdew ir-restrizzjonijiet u s-sagrificciji li jitlob ir-randa, speċjalment għal dawk li huma ferm religjuzi. Hafna huma dawk il-Maltin li jagħmlu xi sagrificciji zghar bhal per eżempju, ma jieklux hlew-wiet u ma jieklux laham f'certi granet ta matul il-gimgha. Nahseb li għadek issib ukoll li certu nies is-sagrificciji tagħhom jibqa sejjer sal Hadd l-Ghid. Matul ir-Randan isiru avvenimenti varji li jizvolgu festi bhal il-festa tad-Duluri, l-Gimgha l-Kbira u fl-ahhar Hadd il-Ghid. F'kull wiehed min dawn il-granet isiru purcissjonijiet jew zijarat fil-knejjes.

Fl-ahhar mill-ahhar, iz-zmien tal-Ghid u l-festi li jsiru madwar l-Ghid huma kollha ikkaratterizzati min hlew-wiet tradizzjonali Maltin li jkunu jistghu jtgawdew fid-djar jew fit-toroq taghna. Fost dawn l-aktar li huma popolari huma l-Kwarezimal, l-figolli, il-qaghaq tal-appostli, karamelli tal-harrub u sfinegg. Waqt certu ikel li nsibu għal dawn il-granet huma bhal kuskus bil-ful, soppa tal-armla, qaqocc mimli u soppa ta' l-armla. Huwa tajjeb li ngħidu li l-Ghid huwa l-aktar zmien popolari tas-sena fejn speċjalment it-turisti jzuru l-Gzejjer taghna u jigu affixinati bil-kultura taghna u jingħaqdu magħna għal ftit mument, xejn xejn, jinsew xi ftit mill-hajja kontemporanja u jimpjenjaw ruhhom fil-kultura Maltija li ilha tezisti għal mijiet ta snin.

**KRONOLOĠIJA TAL-FESTI TAL-GHID** Ras ir-Randan : Dis-sena Ras ir-Randan gie kmieni jgħid li għaxra ta Frar, jgħid hamsa u erbghin gurnata qabel l-Ghid. Il-gurnata ezatta tal-Ghid tinbidel kull sena, u allura l-istess ngħidu għal Ras ir-Randan u l-avvenimenti li jsiru madwar l-Ghid. Din il-gurnata hija gurnata ta sagrificciji u sawm, li tipikament ebda laham jew helu

jittiekl u f'dan il-jum, u fil-knejjes jtgħid l-irmied fuq mohħna forma ta salib li jigi mbierrek waqt il-quddies tal-gurnata stess.

**Id-Duluri** : Din il-festa tad-Duluri dejjem issir gimgha qabel il-Gimgha l-Kbira, u hija kkaratterizzata bil-purcissjoni bl-istatwa tal-Madonna Duluri. Din il-purcissjoni ssir go hafna bliet u villaggi kemm f'Malta u f'Għawdex, u dejjem issir il-gimgha filghaxija. Din il-festa hija wahda mill-ikbar festi għezieq go Malta.

**HADD IL-PALM** : Din il-gurnata tikkommemora d-dhul solenni ta' Gesu f'Gerusalem. F'Malta t-tradizzjoni hija li jgħid il-weraq tal-palm u l-ferghat taz-zebbug.

**HAMIS IX-XIRKA** : Din tigi ccelebrata gurnata qabel il-Gimgha l-Kbira, fejn mijiet ta familji Maltin, kbar u zghar f'kull belt u vilagg f'Malta u f'Għawdex, wara l-funzjoni li ssir fil-knisja, jibdew il-visti tas-seba knejjes. Waqt dawn il-visti jingħad certu talb f'kull knisja li jidhlu. Fl-istess gurnata jingħad li fit-toroq kien jinbiegh il-Karamelli, u f'dawk iz-zminijiet kienu popolari hafna.

**GIMGHA L-KBIRA** Bhal ras ir-randan, fil-Gimgha l-Kbira ma jittiklx laham u lanqas hlew-wiet, u kienet ukoll gurnata solenni izda fl-istess hin gurnata pessimista ta' qima ta meta Gesu, miet fuq salib. Fit-toroq kien jinbiegh il-kwarizamel, karamelli, sfinegg u anki qassatat tal-incova. Hut kien jista jittiekel fil-Gimgha l-Kbira. Illum wara l-funzjoni li ssir fil-knisja, qisu għal hamsa ta filghaxija tibda tohrog il-purcissjoni tal-Gimgha l-Kbira b'diversi statwi mill-isbah, b'nies li jilbsu bxi karattri mit-Testment il-Qadim u l-Gdid, u anki jkun hemm certi episodji tal-Passjoni ta Gesu Kristu.

**HADD L-GHID** Hadd l-Ghid jimmarka t-tmiem tar-Randan fejn il-knisja tcelebra l-qawmien mill-mewt ta' Sidna Gesu Kristu, fejn f'bosta parrocci issir il-purcissjoni bill-vara ta' Kristu l-rxox bill-girja tradizzjonali f'diversi partijiet matul il-purcissjoni, din issir fill-ghodu għall-kemm hemm xi zewg parrocci li jagħmluha fill-ghaxija u kull familja tkun ferrihija, għax ikun jum ta ikel, parties u anki celebrazzjonijiet. Għal dik il-gurnata, l-ikla ta nofs in-nhar kienet tkun l-ikla tradizzjonali, li l-bicca l-Kbira tkun haruf bil-patata l-forn u xi haxix. Izda llum juzaw varjetajiet ta laham iehor. Anki t-tfal jgħid f'din il-gurnata, għax jkun kemm il-figolli u c-cikkulati, speċjalment bajd tac-cikkulata tal-Ghid

## TEREZA TAL-KLIEB - KITBA TA' LINA BROCKDORFF

Naħseb li hemm xi ħadd fostkom li jiftakar lil Tereza tal-klieb. Aktarx li kienet toqgħod xi mkien l-Imsida, imma li ta' kuljum preċett, bil-Ħdud b'kollox, kienet tgħaddi tul is-sigħat ta' filgħodu kemm fix-xemx tiżreġ tas-sajf u kemm fil-kesħa u x-xita tax-xitwa minn kull triq tal-Gżira u ta' Xbiex, biex tiġbor fdal tal-ikel għall-klieb. Ma tiddejjaq xejn tqalleb il-bramel taż-żibel, li konna nużaw dak iż-żmien, biex minnhom tagħżel xi għadma jew farka ħobż niexfa inkella xi fdal ta' tisjir. Wara terġa' tħalli kollox bil-galbu kif sabitu. Kienu s-snin ta' bejn nofs is-Sittinijiet u l-bidu tat-Tmeninijiet.

Qatt ma qaltilna sew kemm kellha klieb, imma żgur li kienet mitlufa warajhom, għalihom kienet itterraq, tittallab u tqandel. F'idejha kien ikollha tgħidx kemm il-borża tal-karti, plastik jew drapp, drabi wkoll xi landa tal-kunserva kbira jew barmil imsaddad għax hi mill-ewwel kienet tqiegħed il-fdalijiet fil-post merfugħ apposta għalihom. Drabi kont niċċassa nħares lejha biex nipprova nifhem b'liema sigriet ta' bilanċ jirnexxilha żżomm fuq riglejja u ma tgħelibx taħt dak it-toqol li ggorr.

Naqtagħha li kellha fuq is-sittin sena. Ta' statura żgħira, niexfa għuda, xagħarha twil griż miżmum f'toppu waqt li bziebeż wkoll jiġġerrew fuq wiċċha u wara widnejha. Wiċċ żgħir mgħaddam u mkemmex, ħalqha nofsu bla snien. Liebsa dejjem imlaqqat, dublett twil li fuqu flokk li kien ilu li ħareġ mill-fabbrika għax saħansitra mqatta' u mraqqa'. Karkur dieħel u ħiereġ minn saqajha, li kienet tibdel spiss. Jista' jkun li kienet tiġbor dawn ukoll minn xi landa taż-żibel.

Dejjem bi tbissima, l-aktar jekk tilħaq tidrak u li jkollok spiss xi ħaġa lesta għall-għeżiež klieb imqar jekk tkun kisra ħobż iebša. U ma tonqos qatt dik il-kelma ta' ringrazzjament, il-'grazzi' u t-bissima – li kważi bilkemm tistennihom minn mara hekk fqira u aktarx bla skola. Ħafna minna konna niggustawha, mhux biss, konna ftehemna magħha li malli tasal tiftaħ l-antiporta u tgħajjat "Tereza tal-klieb!" għax ma stajniex inħallu l-ikel barra inkella klieb oħra jsibuh qabilha. Iva, ikolli nammetti li wara li titlaq hi kien ikollna naħslu l-pum tal-antiporta mit-tidlik li tħalli warajha.

U tant kienet minfuħa b'dak l-isem ta' "Tereza tal-klieb" daqs li kieku kienet qed tħabbar bit-titolu ta' "Il-Barunissa ta' Bubaqra"! B'dankollu qisha kienet iġġorr il-ferħ minn fuq għatba għall-oħra. Min jitbissem għax jiggustaha u min qisu bilkemm ma jridx jgħaddiha biż-żmien. Mhux l-ewwel wieħed li xtaq jgħaddiha biż-żmien u jsejthilha: Xiha żmagata! B'dankollu żgur li f'qalbha kellha l-imħabba ... ukoll jekk għal gozz klieb mitluqin u mejtin bil-ġuħ. Mhux għalkemm tifhimha, għax l-imħabba hija l-akbar misteru tal-ħajja!



**Lina Brockdorff qed tkellem it-tfal li jattendu l-klabb tal-kotba**





## Monthly Archives: December 2013

### Laqgħa Ma' Lina Brockdorff

[December 10, 2013](#) | [klabbtalkotba](#)

Nhar il-Ġimgħa 6 ta' Diċembru l-istudenti li jattendu l-klabb tal-kotba kellhom ix-xorti li jiltaqgħu ma' Lina Brockdorff. Għad illi Lina m'għadhiex żagħżugħa fl-età, żagħżugħa bil-bosta fl-ispiritu. Meta kienet żgħira tgħidx kemm kienet tagħmel praspas ukoll. Irrakkuntatilna l-grajja tas-sufan u kif dan is-sufan spiċċa gol-baħar fi żmien il-gwerra.

L-istorja kollha tinsab fil-ktieb *Sireni u Serenati*; il-memorji ta' Lina fi żmien il-gwerra. Dwar tal-ktieb qaltilna aħbarijiet sbieħ ħafna imma għalissa se nżommu kollox sigriet. Lina qaltilna xi praspas oħra u tgħidx kemm dhaqna! Kien hemm diversi studenti li staqsewha mistoqsijiet interessanti fosthom kemm ilha tikteb u xi tħobb tikteb. Fuq kollox Lina ħallietna b'toġħma ħelwa ta' kitba tajba u ħafna tbissim... għax il-kitba u l-qari huma tnejn mill-pjaċiri tal-ħajja!

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## MKR's (Maltese /Australian) Anna and Jordan wow judges



MKR's Anna and Jordan top the leaderboard.

**MOTHER and son Anna and Jordan have topped the MKR leaderboard, serving up three stellar dishes including "one of the best desserts" in the show's history.**

The Perth duo, who impressed the judges with their traditional Maltese cooking, came close to scoring several perfect scores from the judges, but a few small fumbles got in the way.

While they've cooked their entree of baby octopus with spicy sausage, potato and salsa verde countless times at family

dinners, they strayed from their usual methods. Their decision to give a smaller serving of the salsa verde left the judges wanting more flavour and the way they cut the sausage left it dry.

"I love the flavour of the sausage, I love the spiciness because it brought this dish to life," Pete said. "If you'd stuck to what you usually do you would have got a 10 out of 10." Both judges scored the dish a seven.



Heading back into the kitchen, Anna and Jordan stuck to their methods while preparing their main of braised rabbit with pappardelle. It's a recipe that's close to Anna's heart.

"My dad and I, we always had rabbit nearly every Sunday," she said. "This was my dad's recipe of the way he liked to feed us the rabbit. This dish, it just means so much to me." And the dish delivered.

"Mumma, you knocked me off my chair," Pete said. "The onions that were in there were just to die for. That sauce was just profound. It was probably one of the nicest sauces we've had in the competition. Your rabbit leg — sensational. Beautifully cooked.

"The only negative, and it's a really small negative, is it was a little bit dry. I'm picking at the smallest possible thing." While Pete scored it a nine, Manu went one better with a 10.



The praise brought Anna to tears.

Preparing their dessert of imqaret with orange blossom ice cream, things looked like they were about to get shaky when Jordan didn't secure the lid on the ice cream maker properly. But it barely had an effect on the judges feedback.

"You've presented us with something that could quite easily be served in a beautiful restaurant," Pete said. "Just the technical issue with the ice cream, that's it. You've presented us with probably one of the best desserts I've ever had in the competition. If that orange blossom ice cream had have been perfect I would call it the best dessert I've ever had in this competition." Both judges scored the dish a nine.

With the combined score of 43 from the other teams, Anna and Jordan ended on a grand total score of 94. It bumped them to the top of the leaderboard above Mitch and Laura who sit on 89 points.

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## Is-Seba' Duluri ta' Marij

Kienu sebgħa d-Duluri  
Illi nifdu qalb Marija  
Li riedet ma' Gesu' tterraq  
Biex iħollna minn kull ħtija!

### L-Ewwel Dulur:

Xmun fit-tempju lil Marija  
Bassrilha illi dan Binha  
Fuq salib jispiċċa msammar  
U lilha bil-hemm jifniha.

### It-Tieni Dulur:

F'dad-dulur Marija ħarbet  
Sabiex teħles minn Erodi  
Illi ried lil Kristu joqtol  
Bix-xwabel kiefra u sodi.

### It-Tielet Dulur:

Ġo belt kbira kollha folol  
Ħin bla waqt 'l Gesu' tilfuh –  
Tlett ijiem għamlu mbikkija  
Bla ma setghu jsibuh!

### Ir-Raba' Dulur:

Omm u iben fil-Passjoni  
Ġew mifruda mis-suldati  
Lil Gesu' komplew ikaxkru  
Illi b'mewtu kien fdati!

### Il-Ħames Dulur:

Għiduli dlonk x'jibqa' minnek  
Meta fost l-eħrex tbatija  
Imdendel ma' salib aħrax  
Tara 'l ibnek fl-agunija!

### Is-Sitt Dulur:

F'dad-dulur lil Omm f'ħoġorha  
Naraw tbus lil Binha mejjet;  
B'qalb maqsuma qegħda tingħi,  
Tolfoq, tgħid: 'issa biżżejjed'!

### Is-Seba' Dulur:

Minn ħdanha żewġt irġiel twajba  
Lil Gesu' geżwruh f'liżar  
Imxew bih dlonk lejn il-qabar  
B'qalb mimlija sew sax-xfar.

.....  
F'għieh dawn is-Seba' Duluri  
O Marija inwiegħduk  
Li lil Ibnek sejrin ngħożžu  
Lilek f'qalbna indaħħluk!

U kif int b'rassenjazzjoni  
Ġarrabt das-Seba' Duluri –  
Kif tal-ħajja nġorru s-slaieb  
Bil-paċenzja lilna uri!

*Kav Joe M Attard  
Randan 2016*

Welcome to our new readers. Every week we receive emails from our readers requesting us to send the Newsletter to their relatives and friends in Malta, Australia, New Zealand, UK, USA or Canada. This is your Newslettern, so please support it and participate in it in order to reach its aim  
**BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN US AND DESTROY WALLS.**



Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, along with the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall, visited Malta in November 2015 for a three-day state visit and for the opening of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. Queen Elizabeth visited the island of Malta several times during her rule. The Queen with Prince Philip, came to celebrate their diamond-wedding anniversary in 2007. Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh are no strangers to the island. Between 1949 and 1951 Prince Philip used to live in Malta, where he served as a Royal Navy officer, and where the newlywed wife spent her days able to drive her own car, go dancing and shopping, before her accession to the throne. Therefore is a strong sentimental value with the island, as this is the only place outside of Britain that the Queen has ever called home. This latest visit to Malta is most probably an emotional one, as this might be her last Commonwealth visit since she will try to avoid long-haul travel.

## Night Shelter in Malta

**Information** The Department for the Elderly and Community Care in collaboration with the Jesus of Nazareth Sisters of Zejtun is proud to introduce the first Night Shelter in Malta, aimed for the elderly persons who live alone. The reason behind the origin of this service is to offer a secure and protective environment for the elderly who lives alone and whom, at night, for various reasons, they feel insecure.

**Procedure** The person who fulfils the eligibility criteria to benefit from this service must fill in the prescribed application form, which can also be obtained from the local councils, from the Night Shelter itself, from The Elderly Community Care Department, Ċentru Servizz Anzjan or it can be sent to the applicant by post.

**Eligibility** (a) Preference is given to elderly females (for Zejtun Night Shelter) aged 60 and over whom are presently living alone. For Luqa & Mellieħa Night Shelters, both males and females can apply.

(b) Those who lead an independent life.

(c) Not having any other medical condition which may, in some way or another, rise any problems with the rest of the residents using the Night Shelter.

### Required Documents

A filled application form / application in Maltese / application for Gozo

### Fees/Charges

The fee for the use of the Night Shelter is of 2 Euro per night.

### Frequently Asked Questions

**Question:** What type of facilities will the Night Shelter provide?

**Answer:** You will be having at your disposal the use of a bedroom, a bathroom, a living room and a kitchen.

**Question:** What do I require to bring with me?

**Answer:** You are required to bring with you a towel, a soap or liquid soap, a face cloth, appropriate clothing for bed plus any medicinals you usually take.

**Question:** What are the opening hours of the Night Shelter?

**Answer:** Winter time - from 5.00pm till 8.00am.

Summer time - from 7.00pm till 8.00am.

### How to Contact Us

You can contact us by:

- Coming personally to our office
- Contacting us via telephone or fax
- Writing to us

Department for the Elderly and Community Care

Centru Servizz Anzjan 3, Old Mint Street, Valletta MALTA

Telephone: 2557 5000/2557 5101 E-mail: [ecsd@gov.mt](mailto:ecsd@gov.mt)

<http://www.activeageing.gov.mt/en/>

## Cora Turner – Maltese Dancer, Actor and Singer



Cora Turner is a Maltese performance artist based in Germany. Cora dances, acts and sings. Her dance styles include Jazz, modern dancing, Cabaret as well as her Oriental Belly Dance. Cora started learning dancing when she was only 3 years old. Her mother took her to a ballet school after noticing that Cora already loved music and dancing from a tender age.

By the time she was 18 years old, she had already appeared in many popular Maltese Television programmes including Xarabank, Hadd Ghalik, Monalisa, Euro Show box, singled out and many others. Cora became a household name for Belly dancing in Malta and was often quoted as the most popular belly dancer on the island. Her success in Malta soon started to attract the attention of foreign directors.

She also danced in the popular Indian Movie *Vinnaithandi varuvaya*.

One of the songs she appeared in was in fact composed by A.R. Rahman, the same composer of the popular song *Jai Ho* (from *Slum Dog Millionaire* and also interpreted by the *pussycat dolls*). Cora moved to Germany to pursue her shows in continental Europe. Apart from Nuremberg and other German cities, she also performed in Czech Republic, Austria, Switzerland and other neighbouring countries. In 2012 and 2013 she was also invited to teach belly dance and perform in Egypt at the *Lelah Masriya International Festival of Oriental Dance*.

In 2015 she also starred in the short film *Neykia* by Italian/German director Davide Grisolia. Since her relocation to Germany, she also appeared as a dancer/actress in various rap videos and rap shows such as in the rap video *Mazide* by Cihat Celik and Rico Caliente and several shows with the rappers *Brak'lul*. In January 2016 she was interviewed in Malta in the TV programme *20:30* and she revealed a lot about her career and her life in Germany. In 2016, she is expected to appear in regional movie directed by Davide Grisolia.

Apart from her performing arts, Cora is also interested in languages and different cultures. She currently speaks Maltese, English, Italian, German, Spanish, Arabic and French and is currently writing her Master Thesis at the University of Erlangen, Germany. (Submitted by Tania Turner)

## ONCE UPON A TIME (DARBA WAHDA)



**Darba Waħda... (Once Upon a Time...)** is a project which bridges the generational gap between children and the elderly through the use of storytelling, games, drama and other fun activities. The project travels around different localities around Malta and Gozo. Currently, individuals from Sliema, St Julian's, Żabbar, Marsaskala, Żejtun, Siġġiewi and Żebbuġ are invited to participate in these community sessions. The programme of the sessions can be found here.

**SLIEMA / ST JULIAN'S** Tuesdays 4.30pm-6.00pm 1, 8, 15 March – 5, 12, 19, 26 April – 3, 10, 17 May Ċentru Titu Brandsma-Balluta, Triq Scicluna, Balluta, St Julian's

**MARSASKALA / ŻEJTUN / ŻABBAR** Wednesdays 4.30pm-6.00pm 2, 9, 16 March – 6, 13, 20, 27 April – 4, 11, 18 May Ċentru Ċiviku, Triq iċ-Ċawlsli, Haż-Żabbar

**SIGĠIEWI / ŻEBBUĠ** Fridays 4.30pm-6.00pm 4, 11, 18 March – 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 April – 6, 13 May Ċentru Ċiviku, Pjazza San Nikola, Siġġiewi –

See more at: <http://valletta2018.org/events/darba-wahda-sessions/#sthash.P8X3cPtj.dpuf>





**S.M.O.M.**



The actual smallest sovereign entity in the world is the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (S.M.O.M).

It is located in the city of Rome, Italy,

has an area of two tennis courts

and, as of 2001, has a population of 80

-- 20 less people than the Vatican.

It is a sovereign entity under international law, just as the Vatican is.

**Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta**  
Magistral Palace, Via Condotti, 68 Rome – Italy Tel. +39.06.67581.1 | [info@orderofmalta.int](mailto:info@orderofmalta.int)

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Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter & St. Paul



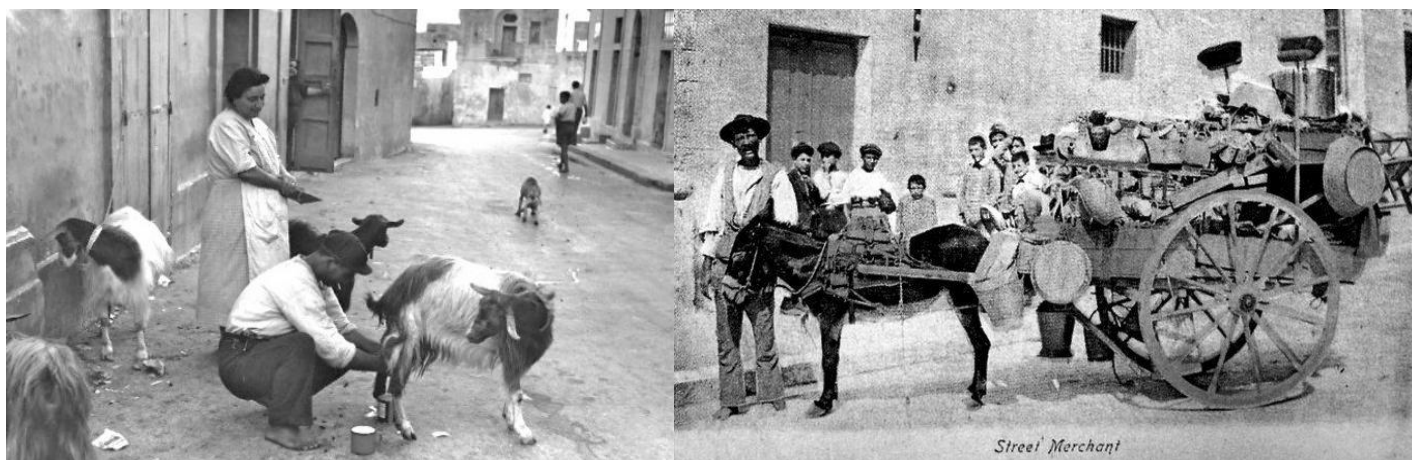
*Nam semper pauperes et infirmos*

H. E. Chevalier Peter Paul Portelli  
Grand Master.



This is a photo of the macer Chevalier Saverio Greto wearing the mantle with the Maltese Black Cross last Sunday, during the feast of St. Paul celebrated in the parish of St. Paul in the suburb of West Sunshine, in Melbourne.

The Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter & St. Paul is an international charitable organization with the aim to help sick children and the poor. The aims and objectives of the Order is to recognize the tireless voluntary work that many people do in their respective community, dedicating many long hours, day after day.



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## More memories ..... STREET VENDORS IN MALTA

I am so impressed that you always manage to find interesting things to put in your newsletter! I'm just reading about the street vendors (Newsletter 113) - but there was one left off the list, that I remember coming round my nanna's house. It would be in the dark of the winter night, and the guy had a hurricane lamp in the back of his cart - and he sold hot bigilla!



Also, my dad remembers when he was a boy in the early 1930s that the goat man would come round with his herd and milk the goats directly into the mugs and jugs of the waiting families. Mothers would warn the goat man to be sure and not make too much froth while he is milking the goat.

When I was a child our milkman used to come round in a motorised truck, and as well as pint bottles of regular milk, he also sold half-pint bottles of chocolate, strawberry or banana milkshakes. At this time there was also a dairy shop in Merchant's Street in Valletta, where you could buy the milkshakes and it made a pleasant interval to a long day's shopping!

Where we lived (Bormla) we also had an old woman come around during the month of May, with bundles of fresh **cicri** (chickpeas/garbanzo beans) which she pushed around in an old pram. The bundles were sold for few pennies, and we would sit on a step shelling and eating the delicious little green morsels. Occasionally as well, a tinsmith would come round and offer to mend and solder the pots and pans and sharpen knives and scissors. ROSANNE



## SOME OF THE TOWNS AND VILLAGES OF EXOTIC MALTA

### VALLETTA

Valletta, the capital city of Malta, is a mixture of culture and commerce. There are many small chapels and a vast amount of cathedrals, museums, galleries and public gardens within the walls and fortifications bordering the city. There is a street market every morning and one can also attend several of the sound and vision shows illustrating all aspects of Malta's history.

### SLIEMA

Sliema is both a major holiday resort and a local residential area, combining the activity of designer shops and cruise boats with the relaxation of street cafes, restaurants and beach lidos with facilities for water sports. Gzira with its long wide promenade extends from Sliema to Manoel Island and the yacht marinas. (**more on Sliema - Sliema Hotels**)

### PACEVILLE, ST.JULIAN'S AND ST.GEORGE'S BAY

Paceville offers a vibrant night life with restaurants, bars and clubs and a cinema complex which are extremely popular with young people from all over the island. One can also find a number of lidos and a casino.

### QAWRA, BUGIBBA AND ST.PAUL'S BAY

This area has been a fishing village for over a thousand years and it is now popular for swimming, shopping, restaurants, cafes and beach bars. Today, it is one of Malta's most popular touristic villages. Pleasant walks along the promenade offer stunning views of St.Paul's Islands, Gozo and Comino. Apart from beaches and water sports facilities, one can spend the day on one of the cruises available in the area. (**more on Qawra - Qawra Hotels, more on Bugibba - Bugibba Hotels**)

### MELLIEHA, GOLDEN BAY AND GHAJN TUFFIEHA

All three are situated in the north of Malta and have sandy beaches. Mellieha is found on a hill and it is surrounded by fertile valleys, legendary caves and hills overlooking Malta and Gozo. It has some of Malta's best restaurants and a number of bays and beaches, of which Ghadira (Mellieha Bay) is the largest in Malta. Golden Bay and Ghajn Tuffieha are surrounded by countryside and the sandy beaches are unspoilt spots for sun seekers and swimming enthusiasts.

### MDINA, RABAT AND TA'QALI

Mdina is rich of history and architecture. Known as the Silent City, it offers excellent cafes and restaurants housed in old houses and palaces, craft shops, chapels, cathedral with its museum and gallery, natural history museum and the Mdina Dungeons depicting scenes from the city's history. Rabat has been a residential area since before Roman Times. It has fascinating streets holding bars and bakeries, craft shops, chapels. Ancient Catacombs can also be found in this village. On the outskirts, close to Mdina, one can find the Museum of Roman Antiquities including the remains of a Roman town house (the Roman villa). At Ta' Qali Crafts Village, one can see glass blowers, potters, filigree jewelers, woodworkers and craftsmen. This is a very well known locality for traditional souvenirs.

### MOSTA AND NAXXAR

Mosta has been occupied by settlers since early times. The current church is famous for its famous dome which remained intact despite being penetrated by a bomb which rolled through the church that was full of people at the time, and still failed to explode. Mosta has many fascinating sites including chapels, old houses and Fort Mosta on the Victoria Lines which stretch across the valley to Naxxar. Naxxar has several small interesting chapels. Besides the Victoria Lines there are two small towers which are unique to the islands. Of archaeological interest are the pre-historic remains found in the surrounding countryside and the cart-ruts on the ridge along the Victoria Lines.

### BALZAN, ATTARD AND LIJA

The history of these villages goes back about 400 years. Their narrow and winding streets reveal small shops, churches, band clubs and bars. San Anton Palace, dating back to the knights, is situated between Balzan and Attard. It is now the official residence of Malta's President and its gardens are open to the public.

### MARSASCALA AND MARSAXLOKK

These two coastal resorts in the south of the island have kept their identities as fishing villages and their fish restaurants are known throughout the island. Both villages are surrounded by countryside and offer interesting coastal and country walks.

### THE THREE CITIES - COTTONERA

These are the three fortified harbour towns all of which were Malta's main maritime cities for many years. Known as the Three Cities, they are Vittoriosa, Senglea and Cospicua. Apart from a number of auberges and chapels, one can find the Inquisitor's Palace, Fort St. Angelo and a maritime museum.



I was going through your previous Newsletters on [www.ozmalta.page4.me](http://www.ozmalta.page4.me) and I came across this article in the Newsletter 20 of November 2013, page 2. Can you tell me if there was any progress on this issue? A. Camilleri Queensland, Australia

**In order to avoid hardship, inconvenience and financial burden for Maltese citizens living abroad the Government of Malta is embarking on this project, which, we hope, will be operational in not distant future.**

- Mounted in a briefcase weighing 9 kg, this innovative system makes it possible to capture a traveller's biographical and biometric data quickly and easily
- The solution captures fingerprints, hand-written signatures and facial features, and integrates them into the EU information system
- Indra is a pioneer in secure identification with over 30 million identify cards and passports issued using its technology

Indra has completed development of an innovative mobile system for capturing biometric information for issuing visas which has already started to be supplied to Maltese embassies and consulates. In total, Indra will deliver close to 500 of the mobile stations to the Foreign Ministry.

The system makes it possible to quickly and easily capture the necessary biometric information for issuing the travel document. In addition, it facilitates consolidation of the data with the visual information system of the European Union, the VISA Information System (VIS). Thus it meets the most stringent applicable standards and guarantees complete interoperability with the systems of other European countries.

The Indra solution is mounted in a briefcase that contains all the necessary elements for capturing the data. Specifically, it includes a robust laptop computer, a fingerprint scanning device, a digital camera and a tablet for recording the traveller's signature.

Weighing only 9 kilograms, the briefcase complies with IATA requirements for carry-on luggage on commercial flights. Its standard dimensions make it possible for the embassy official to travel with it onboard. Thus, the authorities will be able to issue the permit even when the person cannot visit the embassy or is in a city or country without a Maltese embassy.

The digitisation of the biometric information performed by the Indra system avoids the risk of identity theft and facilitates the visa holder's passage through security controls upon arrival in Malta. This aspect is especially important for a country that depends on tourism as a major source of revenue.

The system is based on SIBED software developed by Indra for issuing identity documents and passports. This system is widely implemented in different countries and has been adapted to the needs of the Maltese Foreign Ministry. Indra is a pioneer in developing secure identification systems, with over 30 million identity documents and cards generated using the company's technology.

**As part of this project, Indra technicians have been training Maltese embassy and consulate staff members to enable them to make the most of this technology.**

Indra has extensive experience developing intelligent identity documents, biometric identification systems, cryptography systems and PKI solutions. Indra is one of the world's largest consultancy and technology multinationals, a leader in Europe and Latin America and is expanding in other emerging economies. Innovation is the cornerstone of its business, which is highly focussed on the customer and on sustainability. The multinational is one of the leaders in its sector in Europe in terms of investment in R&D and innovation, having invested more than €550M in the last three years.

With sales approaching €3,000 million, it employs 42,000 professional and has customers in 128 countries.

## Pope's first children's book brings curious kids to Vatican



Pope Francis met a group of children who helped him write his first kids' book at the Vatican today.

The pontiff has penned weighty encyclicals and decrees, and now has taken a stab at the simpler side of his job with a book for children entitled "Dear Pope Francis".

The book was a brainchild of Fr Antonio Spadaro, a priest and editor of the Italian Jesuit journal *Civiltà Cattolica* who was the first person to interview Pope Francis after his election in 2013.

Fr Spadaro brought the pope the 31 drawings and questions by children from around the world and Pope Francis dictated his responses in simple language.

One of the queries was: "What did God do before the world was made?"

That question was put to him by eight-year-old Ryan K., from Canada. Like the other questions in the book, it was written above a simple drawing - in this case, Ryan's rough sketch of a bearded God standing on a globe surrounded by gold stars.

The pope's answer, written in a few sentences on the opposite page, was that God "created time" but that most of all "he loved".

At the meeting, one boy asked if it was easy being the pope.

"It's easy and it's hard. Like the life of any person. It's easy because you have many people who help you. For example, you are all helping me now.

"Because my heart is being filled with happiness and I will be able to work harder and to do more things. And there are hard moments because difficulties in every job exist. Both things are good," the pontiff replied.

## Lampedusa' by Anders Lustgarten at St. James Cavalier, Valletta

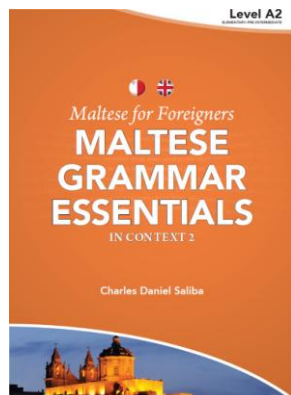


In its overseas premiere, the powerful play *Lampedusa* contrasts the lives of a fisherman retrieving the bodies of refugees drowned at sea with a Syrian woman facing daily prejudice in the UK. Through two interwoven monologues, Stefano (Mikhail Basmadjian) narrates his terrifying, yet real stories. And in bleakest corners of the UK, Denise (Pia Zammit) collects pay day loans, witnessing crippling hardship and faces a barrage of complaints about immigration.

Anders Lustgarten's powerful story puts us behind the headlines of two strangers finding hope and connection where they least expect it. Set in Lampedusa and the UK, the storyline echoes the sentiments felt in Malta... and beyond. The play is directed by Herman Grech.

The play will be held at St James Cavalier, Valletta on the following days: In **English** on 26, 28 February at 8pm and in **Maltese** translated by Immanuel Mifsud on 21, 25, 27 February at 8pm. There will be a discussion with the author after performances on 25, 26, 27, 28 February.

## MALTESE FOR FOREIGNERS: ANOTHER BOOK AND CD



After publishing the Maltese/English book series entitled *Maltese for Foreigners*, Charles Daniel Saliba, recently completed a new book, *Maltese Grammar Essentials in Context 2*, to supplement this series. It is designed in a similar way as the first grammar book in this series. Thus, this is a bilingual grammar book in both Maltese and English that teaches Maltese grammar in an easy-to-follow format. It covers in more depth the major grammatical concepts taken from various readings and situations commonly encountered in daily life. It is designed to teach the language contextually in a cyclical manner, while enabling vocabulary acquisition and effective comprehension and communication skills. Saliba has also updated the accompanying CD, with the audio files linked to the books' content, so learners can listen to native Maltese speakers reading the text and performing the dialogues. For more information about the book, Visit: [www.charlesdanielsaliba.com](http://www.charlesdanielsaliba.com) Email: [maltesecourses@yahoo.com](mailto:maltesecourses@yahoo.com)

### Moves to limit overseas travel for pensioners 'discriminatory' say migrant, refugee groups

THE AGE 24 JANUARY 2016

The Coalition government is under fire from migrant and refugee groups, who say a plan to limit the time pensioners can spend in another country before their pension is cut discriminates against Australians born overseas. Under the change, pensioners who have spent less than 35 years of their working life in Australia will find their pensions reduced after six weeks of overseas travel – down from the current time limit of 26 weeks. The new rule, which is due to start in January 2017, was announced in the last budget and is yet to pass Parliament. It will save about \$168 million over four years.

*"Cracking down on poor hardworking migrants spending a few weeks offshore, but free rein to billionaires and greedy multinationals "offshoring" their profits!"*

*Quite right. It should also be realised that the justification advanced by Scott Morrison is spurious. For many years, Australia has had a policy which takes account of the fact that many migrants spend only part of their working lives in Australia. This policy leads to migrants who came to Australia in (say) their 30s or 40s to be eligible for a part pension in Australia, on the assumption that they will also get a part pension from their country of birth.*

*Cancelling someone's pension for going overseas for 6 weeks, however, goes beyond that. Even assuming that the Australian part pensioner is also receiving another part pension (and, as discussed in the report, this isn't always a valid assumption), the new rule will mean that the pensioner in question will be reduced to living on the part pension of their country of origin.*

*Even if the part pension rule for mature age migrants is valid (and I disagree with it), the new time limits are discriminatory and unjust.*

*Finally, I can suggest a revision to the part pension rule. If a pensioner has spent less than 35 years of their working life in Australia, their Age Pension should be reduced by the dollar amount of the Age Pension to which they would be entitled in their country of origin. To get their income up to the Australian Age Pension, they would then have to apply for the pension in their country of origin.*

**Read more:** <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/dhs/centrelink>





## PRESIDENT MARIE LOUISE COLEIRO PRECA TO VISIT THE UK

Preca left Malta for an official visit to the UK this morning, where she will give a lecture at Warwick University as an Honorary Professor.

During her visit, the President will visit the Maltese and Gozitan patients in three hospitals in Oxford and

Warwickshire, and will make a visit to HMP Parc Prison in Wales. Ms Dolores Cristina will be Acting President

## THE NEW USA AMBASSADOR IN MALTA



H.E. Kathleen Hill, a Career Member of the Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, was sworn in by Secretary Kerry as Ambassador to the Republic of Malta on January 13, 2016.

Ambassador Hill was most recently Senior Advisor in the Office of the Executive Secretary at the Department of State. She previously held positions as Deputy Executive Secretary and Executive Director of the Office of the Executive Secretary from 2013 to 2015, Deputy Executive Director of the Executive Directorate for the Bureaus of European Affairs and International Organizations from 2012 to 2013, and Supervisory Post Management Officer in the Executive Directorate for the Bureaus of Near Eastern Affairs and South and Central Asian Affairs from 2010 to 2012.

Before that, Ms. Hill was a Political Economic Officer at the U.S. Consulate General in Vancouver, Canada from 2007 to 2010 and a Management Officer at the U.S. Consulate General in Milan, Italy from 2004 to 2007. She was a Human Resources and

Budget and Fiscal Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Tashkent, Uzbekistan from 2002 to 2004.

Ms. Hill previously held positions at the Department of State as Post Management Officer in the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs from 2000 to 2002, Watch Officer in the Operations Center from 1999 to 2000, Assistant General Services Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina from 1997 to 1999, and Political and Consular Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Belgrade, Serbia from 1995 to 1997. Ms. Hill received a B.A. from the University of Denver and an M.A. from Columbia University.



**US Ambassador Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley has come to the end of her three-and-a-half year stint as ambassador and bid farewell to Malta in January 2016. She described her stint in Malta as a "wonderful experience." She presented her credentials in May 2012. Ms Abercrombie-Winstanley left Malta to take up a post in Washington DC.**

## MSSP MALTESE CHAPLAINCY IN WESTERN SUBURBS IN ASSOCIATION WITH LA VALETTE SOCIAL CENTRE

Lenten Program 2016

**Monday 7th March**, Tuesday 8th March and Wednesday 9th March – Lenten talks at St Francis Chapel (La Valette Social Centre) starting at 6 pm with the recitation of the rosary, sermon and benediction. The concluding evening will be on Wednesday, with the celebration of Mass and Benediction.

**Monday 14th March**, Tuesday 15th March and Wednesday 16th March – Lenten talks at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes starting at 10.30am with Mass, sermon and Benediction. Preacher Fr. Benedict Sant MSSP.

**Tuesday 15th March**, Wednesday 16th March and Thursday 17th March, Lenten talks at Horsley Park parish starting at 6.30pm with Mass, sermon and benediction. Preacher: Fr. Tarcisio Micallef MSSP.

**Thursday 17 March** Group recitation of the Way of the Cross at La Valette hall at 10.30 am. The Centre will then be open as usual for food and bingo.

**Friday 18 March** Commemoration of Our Lady of Sorrows – An evening of Marian devotion dear to the Maltese community. Starts at 6.30pm with Mass celebrated at the chapel followed by a procession with the statue of Our Lady of Sorrows and Recitation of the rosary. The procession will end at the hall and will be followed by prayers and the Way of the Cross sang to Maltese Folkloric music –L-Ghana.

Saturday 19th March and Sunday 20th March (Palm Sunday) - the blessing of palms will take place at each Mass.

**Maundy Thursday 24th March** at 7.00pm. At the Centre, the Last Supper Eucharist will be commemorated with the washing of the feet. After Mass (weather permitting), we have a procession with the Holy Eucharist to the chapel where one can pray in silence and devotion. If it is at all possible we will also have the traditional visits to seven churches.

**Good Friday 25th March.** At the Centre at 3.00pm the Good Friday Celebrations will take place. The Passion will be read and the Adoration of the Holy Cross will also be celebrated.

**Easter Saturday 26 March.** The Centre will open early for the usual meals at 5pm. Bingo starts at 7pm and after 8.30pm the Easter Saturday Vigil starts, this is the Highlight of the Liturgical Year – it is the Most Solemn Night in the Church's calendar. (There will only be one Mass on Easter Saturday that is at 8.30pm and there will be no Mass in the chapel at all.)

These religious and cultural celebrations are open to all. If there are non-Maltese in the congregation explanations and summaries of sermons will be done also in English.

**The Committee wishes all members and friends a Happy Easter festivity. For more information, contact the Centre on 9622 5847 or the Maltese Chaplaincy (Fr Noel Bianco MSSP) on 9622 5850 or 0417 651 889**

## WILL THIS BE THE NEW FLAG OF NEW ZEALAND?



Today (3 March 2016) is the first day New Zealanders can have a say in whether they want to swap their flag for an alternative featuring the silver fern. Prime Minister John Key says his message to voters is it's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. 'It will probably never happen again in the lifetime of most New Zealanders who will vote in this referendum,' he told reporters on Wednesday. The referendum runs from March 3 to March 24, and ballot papers will be in the mail on Thursday. Mr Key, wearing the alternative silver fern design on his lapel, said he wouldn't take the result personally. 'Not in the slightest ...

I think it's been a pretty healthy debate about New Zealand and our nationhood, and I hope people will vote for the right reasons - if they vote because they don't like me, they will be wasting their vote.' Opinion polls are showing more than 60 per cent of voters do not want to change the flag, but Mr Key says he is hopeful.

'We are seeing the number of people who definitely want to keep the existing flag continuing to drop, but there is such a big factor in there of the undecided, and those things, and it depends on how many people turn out.' - See more at: <http://www.skynews.com.au/news/top-stories/2016/03/03/nz-votes-in-flag-referendum.html#sthash.i2xbSlg9.dpuf>

**That's all, folks!!!!!! See you later - dak kollu ghalissa... sahha u sliem**