

# MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

## The journal of the Maltese Diaspora

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### Il-Bewsa tan-Nanna

Waqt li Toninu  
 kien qiegħed jaqra  
 B'qattus ma genbu  
 U kelb daqs naqra  
 Dahlet in-nanna nkiss inkiss  
 U tatu bewsa, kif kien imiss

### WE STILL LOVE MALTA

When a Maltese  
 parliamentarian  
 visited Australia  
 an elderly lady,  
 a grandmother,  
 approachd him  
 with tears in her  
 eyes, and begged  
 him: "When you  
 go back to Malta  
 please tell that we  
 still love Malta.  
 Tell them that we  
 never stopped  
 loving our  
 country. We can't  
 come back because  
 our children and  
 grandchildren  
 live here."

This grandmother's  
 story is very  
 common in Australia  
 among the many  
 Maltese who settled  
 in Australia and other  
 countries.



Poezija miktuba  
 Profs. A. Cuschieri  
 Karmelitan

## Reform of Visa System to make it easier for students, Prime Minister Joseph Muscat says



**At the London School of Commerce in Floriana, the Prime Minister said the new system would make it easier for Malta to attract students from all over the world**

Prime Minister Joseph Muscat said that Identity Malta would soon be announcing reforms to the system through which individuals can apply for a visa to come to Malta by using web-based platforms, as well as existing international offices to speed up the process of obtaining a visa in countries and regions where Malta does not have a diplomatic presence.

“The idea is not to make it easier by removing requirements, but rather to make it easier for a student coming from Vietnam to apply for a visa to study in Malta,” said Prime Minister Joseph Muscat, explaining that as things stood, such a student would first have to travel to China where they would have to stay until a visa could be issued.

Muscat was visiting the London School of Commerce in Floriana, where he said that since its opening in 2014, the university had gone from strength to strength. He added that the institution was a part of Malta's strategy to become a global education hub, and to attract talented individuals to its shores.

Muscat pointed to regulatory reforms in education, which he said had created the necessary environment for private institutions. Ultimately, he said that Malta remained "vigilant" and on the lookout for opportunities that could strengthen its global position, while adding that education could become another pillar of the Maltese economy.

Lord John Tomlinson, the chair of the LSC advisory board, said that the school was an international group, boasting “over 30,000 alumni from over 160 countries”. He said that since its opening, the Malta campus had been a huge success.

"The crux of the success lies not just in the numbers...there is also quality," he said, adding that the school currently had over 400 students, with over 1,000 having graduated since its opening.

He said that during a meeting between himself, the Prime Minister and Home Affairs minister Michael Farrugia - who was also present for the visit – he had discussed issues related to immigration and students' access to visas and was convinced the government would be taking the necessary measures to address to issue.

Asked by journalists where he had had any contact with the European Commission or any members of the European Council regarding the resolution passed following a European Parliament debate on the rule of law in Malta, Muscat said it would not be prudent of him to discuss conversations he had had with other heads of state, adding that there had been no communication with the Commission since the vote.

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**MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER IN AUSTRALIA ON ARCHBISHOP CHARLES J SCICLUNA - [Laikos.org](http://Laikos.org)**  
**Thursday 16 November 2017; In the issue of November Maltese-Australian E-Newsletter was published the Biography of the Archbishop of Malta Monsignor Charles J Scicluna. Also in the same issue was published the speech that the Archbishop had made on Monday 27 April 2015 to those who took part in the convention of Maltese living abroad. [View the publication here](#)**  
**[Laikos.org](http://Laikos.org) is the official website of the Secretariat for Christian Laity in Malta**



## Malta Takes London 2017 Project Description

Andrew Farrugia [info@tefittazza.com](mailto:info@tefittazza.com)

<https://www.tefittazza.com/>

Malta Takes London was created by musicians for musicians. It unites Maltese artists based in London with Maltese artists that travel to perform at the event in London. The core organisers are Nick Morales, Craig Rogerson and the latest addition to the team Ben Vincenti & Rachel Fenech from Trackage Scheme. In previous editions, we have welcomed support from the Arts Council Malta, Farsons, Maltesefood2uk.com and Parparellu while being sponsored by Tal-Ostja, Rockna, Fruban Malti, Success Express Music, No Sweat Productions, Rejects Malta, Sun Sounds, Zion Reggae Bar, Amrita wellness centre, Panda Design, Cisk and Kinnie.

This is an event that is full of acts that are linked to Malta. It was created as a place to welcome a variety of acts from different genres. MTL aims to help promote and expose top quality acts from Malta as an extension to the local music scene in Malta. To date MTL has welcomed over 20 acts who have performed to sold out venues in London. Each year, attendance, awareness and excitement are growing with each edition. Consistency has been key to continue growing the MTL brand.

As the name implies, this takes place in London serving as a motivator to artists to increase their professionalism to perform in front of new, foreign and unfamiliar audiences. It also serves as a stepping stone for Maltese artists and event organisers to make new connections and expand the concept of exporting Maltese artists to perform in new countries. MTL has packed out the renowned London venues 'Water Rats', 'Surya' and 'Proud Galleries'.

While planning starts many months' prior, the event takes place once a year between September and November. Since starting in 2013, MTL has had four successful editions and has been growing awareness on both sides of the pond.

The long term goal of this event is to build a reputable platform to showcase talented Maltese artists. We look to inspire artists to venture further afield and we create this stepping stone for them to experience performing in front of new crowds. It gives the acts, as well as the organisers new opportunities to meet, network and collaborate with new people in the industry. MTL aims to put Maltese talent on the map through export while encouraging import of foreign talent to Malta as well. Through MTL, different organisers and artists are uniting and collaborating for the greater good of the Maltese music scene. Join us, let's party!



**The Maltese Youth of South Australia** together with the **Malta Community Chest Fund** Australia are proud to announce our first Fundraising Gala Dinner in Adelaide, with all profits going directly to the Malta Community Chest Fund in Malta.

Saturday 10 March 2018 **KRYSTAL FUNCTION CENTRE** (Port Adelaide, South Australia)

5 course meal (beer, wine and softdrink incl.)

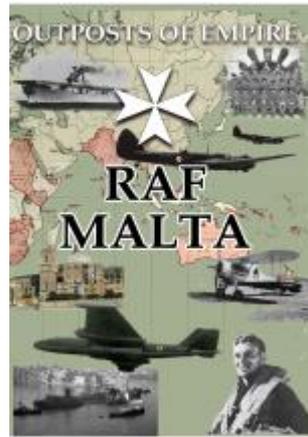
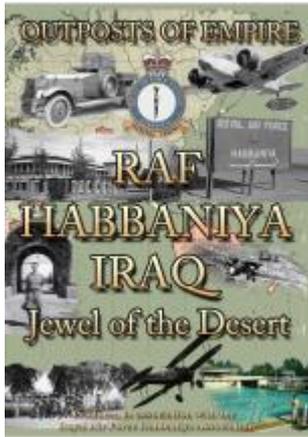
Live entertainment by pulse band

Adults: \$65 pp 12 & Under: \$40 pp

Gather all your family and friends and put a table together. Tickets to be released early

December!

Please contact Tessamarie Agius on 0410 890 225 or Jane Agius on 08 8268 7168. Alternatively through our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/malteseyouthsa>



## DOCUMENTARY RAF HABBANIYA Jewel of the desert

Hello, I am very pleased to announce to the readers of the Maltese eNewsletter, at last, the release on 17 November 2017 of the second 'OUTPOSTS OF EMPIRE' Documentary: 'RAF HABBANIYA, IRAQ, JEWEL OF THE DESERT'

This 105 minute programme reveals the story of the Kingdom of Iraq and the part the Royal Flying Corps and Royal Air Force played in forming and maintaining

peace in the new country from 1915 to the final bloody end of the Hashemite Monarchy in 1958.

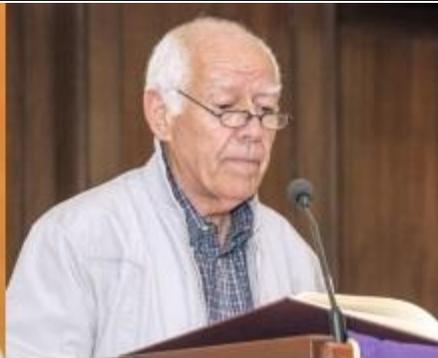
The story of RAF Habbaniya is revealed through Interviews with veterans and historians, illustrated with archive film from the vaults of the RAF Museum that has never been seen publicly, depicting the construction of the Station and daily life, on and off duty, during the fragile peace of the 1930s. British Pathé Newsreels and 1940s film from the World famous Imperial War Museum Archives depict the second World War Years and unique 1950's Colour film and photographs from the RAF Habbaaniya Association's collection show the station in its final years.

If you wish to purchase a copy of 'RAF HABBANIYA, IRAQ, JEWEL OF THE DESERT' you can order your copy online at [www.outposts-of-empire.co.uk](http://www.outposts-of-empire.co.uk) or contact me at this email address, [tod\\_nicol@msn.com](mailto:tod_nicol@msn.com) if you prefer to pay by cheque. With best wishes, Tod Nicol

## Quddiesa għal ruħ Daphne Caruana Galizia f'Għawdex



*Mons Mario Grech*



*- is Sur Charles Spiteri*



*- Kav. Joe Attard*

Fil-Knisja tar-Ragħaj it-Tajjeb Victoria, nhar il-Ħamis 16 ta' Novembru 2017, l-Għaqda Ġurnalisti Għawdxin għamlet quddiesa f'għeluq ix-xahar mill-mewt tragika tal-ġurnalista magħrufa Maltija Daphne Caruana Galizia li għaliha kienu preżenti għadd sabiħ ta' ġurnalisti u kittieba Għawdxin. Il-quddiesa tqaddset minn Dun Giovanni Curmi waqt li l-lezzjoni nqrat mill-President tal-Għaqda Charles Spiteri. Wara l-Vangelu l-Kav Joe M Attard, Segretarju tal-Għaqda Gurnalisti Għawdxin qara l-messaġġ li Mons Isqof Mario Grech bagħat għall-okkażjoni.

**Messaġġ lill-Għaqda Ġurnalisti Għawdxin Quddiesa f'għeluq ix-xahar mill-mewt ta' Daphne Caruana Galizia, b'suffraġju tagħha u tal-erwieħ kollha tal-ġurnalisti mejtin Knisja tar-Ragħaj it-Tajjeb, il-Belt Victoria Il-Ħamis 16 ta' Novembru 2017**

Hija haġa qaddisa li ltqajtu biex toffru talb għal ġurnalista bħalkom, is-Sinjura Daphne Caruana Galizia, li xahar ilu giet assassinata proprju għax kienet ġurnalista. Jien, li bħalkom nemmen li bit-talb nistgħu nissufrugaw lil fuqna mejtin, ukoll tlabt għaliha u għall-familja tagħha. Huwa dmir tagħna bħala Knisja li

noffru suffraġġi għall-mejtin, “b’mod partikulari s-sagrificċju Ewkaristiku, biex, imsoffija minn dnubiethom, jistgħu jaslu għall-viżjoni beatifika ta’ Alla” (*Katekiżmu*, 1032).

Quddiem dan l-att mill-aktar vjolenti li ħataf hesrem il-ħajja ta’ din oħtna fil-fidi u kollega tagħkom, inħeġġeġ lilkom, għeżiež ġurnalisti, biex ma tħallux li jitnisslu fikom dubji dwar l-importanza tal-ħidma tagħkom bħala ġurnalisti. Is-servizz tagħkom il-ġurnalisti huwa meħtieġ għas-soċjetà, għax barra li tgħin biex tkun magħrufa l-verità, il-komunikazzjoni għandha qawwa li tibni l-pontijiet bejn il-persuni, il-familji, il-gruppi soċjali.

Minbarra dan, kif stqarr ħija fl-episkopat, ilkoll għandna “nibzġħu għal xulxin” – u hawn inħoss li hija l-missjoni tagħkom li bħala ġurnalisti tkunu għas-servizz tal-verità li fuqha tissejjes l-għaqda u l-għożża ta’ bejn il-bnedmin. Għalhekk nagħmlilkom kuraġġ biex b’responsabbiltà taqdu l-missjoni tagħkom, tkunu nissieġa ta’ għaqda kontra kultura ta’ vjolenza, firda u mibegħda, u jkollkom dik l-attenzjoni u l-kura fraterna lejn il-persuni.

Flowers and a Maltese flag mark the spot where Daphne Caruana Galizia's car ended up after the powerful explosion. Photo: Matthew Mirabelli  
Tragic day: 16 October 2017



Kif josserva l-Papa Franġisku, “il-ħajja tal-bniedem mhix biss kronaka xotta ta’ ġrajjet, imma hi storja li qed tistenna li tiġi rakkontata permezz tal-għażla ta’ muftieħ interpretattiv li kapaċi jagħżel u jġbor il-fatti l-iżjed l-importanti. Ir-realtà, fiha nfisha, m’għandhiex tifsira univoka. Kollox jiddipendi mill-ħarsa li biha tiġi milqugħa, min-‘nuċċali’ li bih nagħżlu li nħarsu lejha: jekk nibdlu l-lenti, anki r-realtà tidher differenti” (*Messaġġ għall-Jum Dinji tal-Komunikazzjoni Soċjali*, 24 ta’ Jannar 2017).

Għal ġurnalist Nisrani dan “il-muftieħ” u dan “in-nuċċali” għandhom isem: hija l-imħabba. Għalhekk, nappellalkom biex tagħmlu kollox bl-imħabba u għall-imħabba.

## Għar Dalam - Cave of Darkness

The site consists of a cave, a Victorian style exhibition and a

didactic display as well as a garden planted with indigenous plants and trees



No matter how many times you have been to Għar Dalam, it is unlikely that you have ever visited it under a full moon. Heritage Malta will be holding an event, which in itself is a one-off opportunity to experience Għar Dalam and its surroundings at night.

Għar Dalam’s relevance as a prehistoric site was discovered in the latter half of the 19th Century with a series of excavations unearthing animal bones as well as human remains and artifacts. The Cave is a highly important site for its Palaeontology, archaeology and ecology.

The history of the cave and that of the Islands can be decoded from Għar Dalam’s stratigraphy. The lowermost layers, more than 500,000 years old, contained the fossil bones of dwarf elephants, hippopotami, micro-mammals and birds among other species. This layer is topped by a pebble layer, and on top of it there is the so-called ‘deer’ layer, dated to around 18,000 years ago. The top layer, or ‘cultural layer’, dates less than 10,000 years and holds evidence of the first humans on the Island. It was here that the earliest evidence of human settlement on Malta, some 7,400 years ago, was discovered.

## The future of the Maltese language

As I am worried that, given time, Maltese living abroad will find it more and more difficult to communicate with those living in Malta, I have collected several words which I came across over this week (attachment). I hope to pass this on to any venue available to me, including Newsletter editors, Radio announcers etc, hoping that Maltese living abroad might be made more conscious of the rate at which the Maltese language is morphing into a 'foreign' language. I intend to carry on this exercise for some time, and would appreciate your comments, including any list of 'foreign' introduced words into Malta which you come across. Best regards. Maurice Cauchi my email address is mnc81@yahoo.com

aġġornat -- diġitali -- eks -- estiż - faċilment -- fond (fondi) funds -- ġardinaġġ - incita - picc

konfliġġenti - konfront - midja - ntiż -- pjattaforma - reat - sit - skedat - sorvelljanza - dizil -trejdunjins



Do you agree with the trend of spelling English words phonetically in written Maltese? Is this assimilation of foreign words healthy or is it detrimental to the language? Is this also negatively affecting the standard of written English?

Matthew Borg kiteb fuq NEWSBOOK (12/16) "In-nuqqas ta' interess fil-lingwa Maltija mill-

Maltin fl-Awstralja wasal ukoll fl-iskejjel li jgħallmu lingwi differenti. Waħda minn dawn l-iskejjel hi s-Saturday School of Community Languages fi New South Wales. Joe Axiaq tar-radju SBS intervista lill-prinċipal Nancy Morvillo, li esprimiet it-tħassib tagħha dwar il-futur tal-Malti fl-iskola tagħha. Qalet li kulma hemm 9 studenti jistudjaw il-Malti f'sitt snin differenti. Sostniet li dawn in-numri beħsiebhom ikompli jickienu sakemm jixxejnu, u għall-2017 hemm iċ-ċans li l-Malti ma jibqax jingħata għat-tagħlim.

### Għaliex?

#### Jedd l-Ilsien Malti - Dun Karm Psaila

Għaliex tarmih l-ilsien li tatek ommok,  
U tiflek għaqlek wara lsien barrani?  
Maltija kienet l-ewwel kelma f'fommok,  
U bil-Malti tkellimt tifel daħkani.

U kiber miegħek dak l-ilsien ewlieni,  
U ġmielu ntiseġ mal-ġrajjet ta' ħajtek:  
Bih fissirt qalbek meta sfajtli hieni,  
Bih fissirt għommtok meta mbikki rajtek.

Għaliex immela tiċħad, Malti ħija,  
Lil dan l-ilsien li bih int Malti sewwa?  
F'hobb, jekk jiswewlek, l-ilsna barranija,  
Iżda le tbarri lil min hu ta' ġewwa.

B'dispjaċir, Morvillo qalet li tkun ħasra kbira li kieku dan ikollu jgri, għax lingwa tagħtik identità, sens ta' appartenenza u familja, kif ukoll tiftahlek opportunitajiet li lanqas tkun qed tistenna. Kull lingwa tagħmel hekk. Is-Saturday School of Community Languages twassal għall-eżami tal-Higher School Certificate of Education (HSC), li eventwalment iwasslek għall-Università."

### Semma lehnek – lbghatilna

I-kummenti tiegħek,  
jekk jogħgbok!!

Be heard - Send us your  
comments, please!!



## Mgr. Lawrenz Cachia awarded with gold medal 'Ġieħ I-Akkademja tal-Malti'

**Report:** Norma Saliba **Photos:** OPR

President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca presided at an investiture ceremony at San Anton Palace of the gold medal *Ġieħ I-Akkademja tal-Malti* which this year was awarded to

Monsignor Lawrenz Cachia.

Mgr Cachia, a Żebbuġ resident, graduated in Theology from the University of Malta, was ordained priest in 1956 and was Gudja parish priest and archpriest at Żebbuġ. In 1984 he was appointed on the Marriages Tribunal, where he served for 22 years until 2006. He was given the title of monsignor in 1994 as a member of the Cathedral Chapter. He is now retired at the Dar tal-Kleru where he has lived for the past 16 years.

Mgr Cachia was one of the founders of the Pastor magazine; he was involved in broadcasting and contributed to various religious programmes on Radju Malta and RTK. In 1996, the Government honoured him as a member of the Order of Merit for his work on the Maltese language.

He is also the author of various publications, including on national poet Dun Karm and Mikiel Anton Vassalli as well as publications on the Maltese Language.

President Coleiro Preca thanked Monsignor Cachia for the great contribution he made to the country with his publications and the awareness on the greatness of our language. She said that the award of the golden medal of *Ġieħ I-Akkademja tal-Malti* is only a small demonstration of appreciation to his everlasting contribution. [Tvm.com.mt/](http://Tvm.com.mt/)

## If You're A Maltese Migrant Living Abroad, This Documentary is for you

One quest to gather the stories of a scattered people

Patrick Wallbank



*Photo credit: Ali Tollervey*

A team of Maltese artists has just arrived in Detroit for a documentary project to collect stories and engage individuals who left Malta to make the US their home. Entitled **LEAVING LATITUDE 36**, the documentary is being made for the Valletta 2018 European Capital of Culture and gets its name from the latitudinal coordinates of the Maltese archipelago, which are 35.8997200° to be precise.

**Headed by Charlie Cauchi, the projects seeks to share the stories of Maltese diaspora, showing how and why Maltese people emigrated and how connected they feel to their ancestral home.** It forms part of a larger Valletta 2018 supported trans-media project, called Latitude 36, that engages Maltese individuals and their community located around the world. Collecting stories and unearthing both personal and collective narratives. The migratory experience is placed at the core, mapping and examining migratory patterns and narratives through the visual arts.

**Diaspora:** The dispersion or spread of any people from their original homeland

Chauci is the UK-born daughter of Maltese migrants, who lived in London until she was 12, before the family moved back to Malta.



"I'd always been fascinated by the Maltese relationships that formed in the UK," said Ms Cauchi. "My father always had Maltese friends that we would visit and they would speak Maltese, and my father – once in a while – would maybe take me to a place where we could buy trays of *pastizzi*."

#### Maltese Migrants arriving in America

Starting in Detroit, the team will be documenting the Maltese community in their local clubs as they ready themselves for their yearly festa of Maria Bambina, which is also the last of summer festa's celebrated in the Maltese villages of Mellieha, Senglea and Naxxar.

The Detroit leg of the trip is being funded by the Malta Film Fund (MFF), out of which a short feature documentary is to be produced. Moving to West

Virginia, where Cauchi, a Queen Mary University Phd candidate, will deliver a paper on her work at the University of West Virginia.

The team then drives to Toronto where they will be based in Little Malta. And for their final city they will travel to New York to meet with the Astoria community as well as the many other Maltese migrants that call the Big apple their home.

Currently there are thousands more Maltese people that live abroad than in Malta itself. And seeing how our culture has evolved, changed and survived in so many places across the world, this is sure to be a fascinating story. In 2016 the documentary team gathered stories from in and around the U.K and the next leg of their journey will take them to the U.S and North America.

The documentary is co-produced by Rebecca Anastasi, and the crew includes Brighton based photographer Ali Tollervey, Maltese artist Sebastian Tanti Burlò, First Assistant-Director Nick Woolgar, and Maltese-American researcher Marc Sanko. Leaving Latitude 36 is supported by the Valletta 2018 Foundation, the Malta Film Fund, The American Embassy in Malta, the University of West Virginia and PBS.

*If you or your family would like to contribute to the documentary please send an e-mail to the Latitude36 team at [contact@latitude36.org](mailto:contact@latitude36.org)*

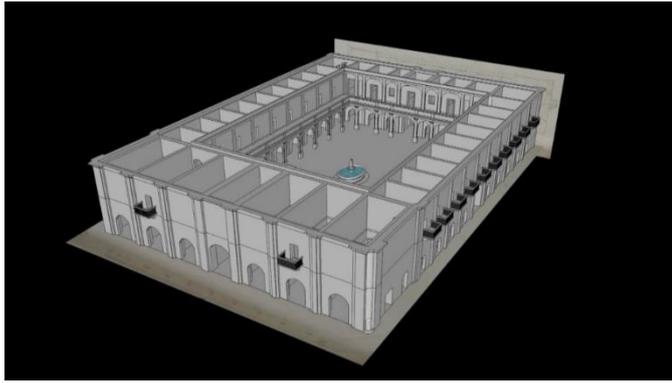
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Christmas is fast approaching  
We intend to publish a special  
**CHRISTMAS EDITION**  
Send us your greetings, stories, news etc..  
to be included in the publication



## VALLETTA MARKET *Is-Suq tal-Belt*

THE the indoor market, was built in 1860s under British rule. Although a few businesses still operate within the market, it has for the most part been neglected over the years. The regeneration of the old market, located in the heart of Merchants Street, is long overdue. This overlooked gem deserves to be restored to its former glory – a central hub of activity.

The process of evaluation of ideas and proposals for the regeneration of the market is at an advanced stage. The regeneration takes into account the historical character of the site, so as to respect Valletta's credentials as a World Heritage Site and as a future European Capital of Culture.

The project will take place in public private partnership and will lead to economic, social and urban regeneration. The design, composed of wrought iron of which the inner part of the building is constructed, will serve as inspiration for the future works on the place, including restoration works on the building and its facade.

Work on the project is expected to start in the second half of 2014 and is to be completed by 2017. The estimated investment will amount to around €8 million and will lead to the creation of 140 jobs once complete. The project aims to boost social, economic and cultural activity in Valletta as well as its surroundings.

The restored market will not only simply sell fruit and vegetables, as is currently being done. Several food stalls and a lounge area will also be installed. 15% of the building will be retained for cultural activity.

This is the Valletta market none of us can remember. There is a yard with a fountain the middle, no roof, flanked by arches on three sides and with shops distributed over two floors.

In fact, the market began as a simple open space known as Piazza del Malcantone, where produce from the countryside was sold to the people living in towns and cities. Eventually, the Knights felt the market should be better organized. This model, created as a result of research by two archeologists, Christian Mifsud and Chantal Cassar, shows how the market developed over two floors, with the facades of the building built in the Baroque style like the rest of the city.

In 1784, the building had two doors. One of them leading to what is now Merchant street, and other to St Paul's Street. Indoors there is a yard surrounded by an arch on three sides. The arch used to serve as a large entrance to the shops and at the same time used to lead to the second floor where there were also a number of shops. In the middle there was a fountain which supplied water.

Ms Cassar said that "basically some small cisterns carved out of stone still exist, and we found the antique levels of stone as they used to appear in the time of the Knights, and some dividing walls which were also potentially from that era. We also found three cisterns in front of the market dating back to the British era."

The research has shown that the Valletta market was smaller than it is today. In the 19th century during the British period, the market was torn down and re-built with a roof and a steel structure, in the Victorian style. New entrances were also added on the side. The British had designed everything from scratch for sanitary reasons.

Mr Mifsud said, "many of the shops used to spill over onto the streets and there were a lot of merchants. In order to solve this situation the only solution was to remove everything and re-build. "

The Second World War meant the end of the Valletta market because the building sustained extensive damage and even lost its facade. Eventually the space occupied by the market was reduced to one third of its original size.

Many of the remains of the market from the period of the Knights will be integrated into the new cultural and commercial project being carried out at this site by the private sector.



## Napoleone Tagliaferro, esteemed educator and dedicated patriot

*Group photo with Cardinal Lavigerie.*

*Tagliaferro is standing, second from left, with his wife seated in front of him.*

About hundred years ago Malta mourned the death of one of its most esteemed sons: Professor Napoleone Tagliaferro, ISO, for several years director of education and rector of the University of Malta, whose entire career

spanning over half a century had been connected with the department of public instruction.

Napoleone Tagliaferro in civil uniform, levée dress. Tagliaferro died a lingering death; during his final illness he was visited by many friends and colleagues and yet when the end came the nation seemed stunned by the demise of a humble patriot who revelled in Malta's distant past.



Tagliaferro was born in Vittoriosa on August 19, 1843, to poor and modest parents. He was the only boy among four sibling sisters. His father, a maritime captain, descended from a long line of Ligurian mariners, struggled to make ends meet and the family grew up in straightened circumstances. When still an adolescent Tagliaferro's father died and the young man vowed to take his father's place as breadwinner of the family. Fortunately the young Tagliaferro was endowed with an acute intellect.

Christened Francesco Napoleone Tagliaferro, he displayed a precocious mind, and one of his early teachers, recognising his gifts, decided it was more fitting to call him by his second name. His teacher was perceptive: on December 16, 1858, aged just 15, Tagliaferro was appointed assistant teacher of arithmetic and mathematics at the Lyceum. This was, in effect his date of entry into the civil service and public employment that was to benefit Malta enormously.

The government further recognised Tagliaferro's talents by sending him, from 1860 to 1863, to attend courses at the École Polytechnique in Paris; this institution was founded in 1794 specifically to train engineers and scientists for military and civil service, and by 1848 had become the most prestigious of France's grandes écoles. His experiences in Paris must have encouraged his interest and laid solid foundations for his later work in mathematics, science, philosophy, cosmology, zoology and archaeology. Music was another peripheral interest. In an article in The Sunday Times of Malta of July 4, 2004, I had written on the possible influences of Tagliaferro's studies in Paris on his musical interests.

On his return to Malta, Tagliaferro initiated courses in descriptive geometry and applied mathematics, teaching them to great effect. At a young age he was also called upon to fill the chair of physics at the University for one year; it was a task he acquitted with great credit. From 1880 to 1887, Tagliaferro served as secretary to the University, after which he held the position of assistant director of education until 1897 and rector of the University from 1897 to 1904. He was also a member of the Council of Government (an ex officio position as rector) from 1899 to 1904.

On December 18, 1903, Tagliaferro celebrated his completion of 45 years of public service. At the time he was the doyen of all civil servants in Malta. On September 16, 1905, King Edward VII appointed Tagliaferro a Companion of the Imperial Service Order for his long and meritorious service.

At various times during his career Tagliaferro enjoyed membership of a number of prestigious foreign institutions, among which were the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain; the British School at Rome (honoris causa); the Anthropological Society of Rome and the Société Préhistorique de France. He also held similar positions in Malta: he was a member of the Committee of Antiquaries and founder member and twin president of the Malta Historical and Scientific Society.

Tagliaferro was also a member of the organising committee for the 1913 Eucharistic Congress that was held in Malta. For this service he was awarded the gold cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice by Pope Pius X.

Tagliaferro married Maria Grech Mifsud, sister of highly respected lawyer Oreste Grech Mifsud. Maria, affectionately known within the family as 'Marietta', and Napoleone were a devoted couple. She predeceased Napoleone in 1910 and he missed her sorely. The couple had no children.

Tagliaferro's death actually occurred on October 3, 1915; however, according to the custom of the times, a solemn memorial service was held 30 days after the death of the deceased. In the intervening period, 30 Gregorian Masses would have been celebrated, by the same priest, on consecutive days, with the intention of procuring the release of the deceased's soul from Purgatory. The tradition dated back to the time of Pope St Gregory the Great (AD540-604).



**Family group at Villa Grech Mifsud, 1896: (standing, from left): Napoleone and Marietta Tagliaferro, Teresina Levy Grech; seated: Giovanni Grech Mifsud, Marianna and Gaetano Grech Mifsud, Oreste Grech Mifsud. Seated on the ground is Wyndham Grech.**

Anastasio Cuschieri, the ornament of the Carmelite Order in Malta, delivered the funeral oration. It was a masterpiece of oratory as was to be expected from one of the greatest orators and littérateurs our island has ever produced

The date thus chosen for the memorial Mass was November 4, the location was, appropriately, the church of the University – the Jesuit church at the corner of Merchants' Street and Archbishop Street in Valletta; the time, 8.30am.

The Daily Malta Chronicle, which excelled in recording contemporary events in great detail, provides an excellent source of information. The November 5 issue of that newspaper devoted many column inches to this solemn event and the following details are taken from that account.

In the middle of the aisle was a large catafalque covered with a black velvet pall, over which were placed the cocked hat and sword of the deceased, the insignia of the Imperial Service Order, and the golden cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice bestowed on the lamented gentleman by his late Holiness Pope Pius X.

Surrounding the catafalque, which was draped with black crepe, were large lighted candles, near which, beside the conventional emblems of death and trappings of mourning, were cypress wreaths, and the coat of arms of the University of Malta and of the Tagliaferro family. On the interior side of the main door hung the magnificent oil portrait of Prof. Tagliaferro, painted by Prof. Giuseppe Cali, the eminent Maltese artist, which was presented to the deceased on his retirement from the public service in 1904, and which, we may add in passing, has by him been bequeathed to the University.

At the head of a vast congregation were the chief mourners: the Tagliaferro, Grech Mifsud and Formosa families, together with the professors and examiners of the University, headed by the rector; the headmaster and teaching staff of the Lyceum, the director and deputations from the government secondary and elementary schools, a large number of University and Lyceum students, present and retired heads of the departments, and a considerable number of other friends and admirers of the deceased.

The Mass started punctually at 8.30am, the celebrant being the Rt Rev. Mgr Dr G. Formosa, Professor of Dogmatic Theology, assisted by deacons Enrico Bonici and Alberto Pantallaresco, both of the theological course of the University, as were also all the clerics who assisted in the divine service. Contemporaneously with the solemn service, a low Mass de requiem for the repose of the deceased gentleman was said in each of the chapels of the church; and they were all numerously attended. The musical part, which was exceedingly well executed, was conducted by Maestro Caruana.

Shortly after 9am, High Mass being over, the Very Rev. Father Provincial Anastasio Cuschieri, the ornament of the Carmelite Order in Malta, and one of the most brilliant professors of the University, where he graces the chair of philosophy, ascended the pulpit, which was also covered with black damask with white trappings, and delivered the funeral oration. It was a masterpiece of oratory and literature as was to be expected from one of the greatest orators and littérateurs that our island has ever produced. For well over half an hour, the large, distinguished and representative congregation hung from the lips of the learned professor, as he conjured up the revered figure of Prof. Tagliaferro from the honoured grave wherein he was so recently laid to sleep the sleep of the just. "And for too short a time alas!" the Daily Malta Chronicle reported "that figure lived and moved amongst us once again".



# THE SALESIANS IN MALTA



The main objective of the Oratory, better known as 'Salesjani' in Sliema, is to carry out activities aimed at promoting holistic education of young people. All members are helped to understand that they belong to a family in which they are welcome and to which they have a positive contribution to make. Throughout the years, the Oratory has been able to reach out to various young

people by helping them to develop and implement new ideas while creating new opportunities for them. The Oratory which was founded back in 1908 embraces several sub groups, each with its own specialization designed to empower young members to become leaders. 2017 was no exception. Throughout this year, 70 young people were lucky enough to have the opportunity to be prepared to become good leaders after due formation sessions.

One of the main projects animated by these qualified leaders, is the Bosco Summer School which has been going on for the last 18 years. From mid-July to the end of August, this year, these young leaders were ready to share their creative expertise with 225 children between the ages of six and 13. This year's theme was *"This is my Home, my Family"*, an educational journey which ended up with a great and colourful, *Evening of Awards*, where, during a memorable evening, on 31 August, all the children and young leaders, displayed their style and creativity on stage in the presence of Education and Employment Minister Evarist Bartolo.

In August 2017 a group of 18 young people also had the unique opportunity to unite with other 300 young people from Europe and the Middle East who gathered in Turin, the birth place of Don Bosco, to celebrate a time of sharing known as the *Confronto*. Together with the Rector Major and Mother General of the Salesian Family, they spent a week of activities full of fun, music, dance, reflection and prayer. During the year 2017, the Salesian Oratory realized successful Youth Projects funded by the EU. These opportunities are motivated by the young people and their leaders to help them gain various skills. From the 25th June till the 2nd of July 2017, the Salesian Oratory hosted 4 partner countries, namely, Lithuania, Spain, Czech Republic and France for another successful Erasmus+ Youth Exchange named "INTO ACTION". Through non-formal and informal methods of learning, the group of 27 young people had the opportunity to share various skills while obtaining further skills which qualify them for employment, employable through workshops and various activities. The Salesian Oratory also had the opportunity to join other young people overseas, while participating in other EU funded Youth Exchanges in Montenegro, Belgium, France, Czech Republic, Germany. Yet another Youth Exchange program will be hosted by the Salesian Oratory in October with the theme: "Social Integration for Happier Societies".

Again, in 2017, the Salesian Oratory in Sliema also benefitted from projects funded by Agenzija Zghazagh through the project "Con-net", where young people gained further skills through enhancing the WI-FI system within the premises and its better use. Another project funded by Agenzija Zghazagh was "Plumbing: Hands-On Approach". Through this project young people from the Salesian Brigade were motivated to work on a leisure space in Ghajn Tuffieha. This facility, with camping space, spacious live-in and sleepover area, for members of the Brigade, members of the Oratory or any NGO, will offer an 'away from it all' pristine location and will give the opportunity to young people to further explore their knowledge and skills.

More opportunities for 2017 were provided by the Creative Communities of Malta Arts Fund through the project "An Introduction to Music Production". Workshops were facilitated in the already existing Band Room of the Oratory whereby, a number of young people learned how to record a song. In this same leisure space, another project called "Record in Progress", was also funded by the Small Initiative Scheme (Malta Council for Voluntary Sector). Experts in this field were able to provide the necessary skills to various young people who are willing to further their competences. The song, composed and recorded, is now being used during various activities within the Salesian Oratory in Sliema.



**The Sliema Amateurs team at the Mile End Sports Ground - 1935-36.  
Back row: Borg, Cesareo, Spiteri, Azzopardi, Ellul, Fenech.  
Front: Cilia, Callus, Briffa, Debono, Falzon.  
Sliema Amateurs were the product of the Salesians Oratory**



## Ful tan-Nanna

**Serves: 8 Difficulty: Easy Cook Time: 40 mins Prep Time: 20 mins**

### Ingredients

- 2kg fresh broad beans
- 1 large onion sliced
- 3 tbs olive oil
- 3 tbs tomato puree
- 2 slices Maltese bread (without crust)
- 2 tbs white vinegar
- 2 cloves garlic crushed

- 2 tbs mint chopped

### Method

1. Shell the broad Beans. Remove the crescent shaped piece at the top of each bean. Heat olive oil in a pan, and fry chopped onion until soft and golden.
2. Add the tomato puree and then add the beans.
3. Add enough water till it covers the beans completely. Simmer until beans are tender.
4. Soak the bread in the vinegar, remove any surplus vinegar by squeezing then mash using a fork.
5. Add the garlic and mint (and some salt and pepper to season). Stir the mixture with the cooked beans.
6. Serve hot! With lots of Maltese bread.

**What an excellent journal. You managed to keep such a high standard. I am sure everybody looks forward to receiving the eNewsletter which is always full of news, interesting articles and cultural items. It's free and priceless. Anna and Joseph Baldacchino - Canada**

## 11 June 1940: Malta's First Day at War



### GOVERNOR CONFIRMS MALTA AT WAR

Lt General Sir William Dobbie today addressed the population of Malta in response to last night's announcement from Italy: "Whereas I have received information that War has broken out with Italy, I hereby announce to His Majesty's Subjects in the Islands the outbreak of hostilities in humble trust in the guidance and protection of Divine Providence, and in assured confidence of the cordial support and tried fidelity and determination of the people of Malta." The Governor and Commander in Chief followed up his announcement with a visit to several Army

Battalions across the Island. A night-time curfew has also been announced from today until further notice, to begin at 8.30pm. The bus service will cease at 7pm each evening.

### EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNTS

**SPECIAL CONSTABULARY 11 JUNE 1940 AT 6.50 AM PHIL PULLICINO, ADJUTANT, AGE 24** - "I was rudely awakened...by a novel sound which swept across the whole length and breadth of the Island...there were cries of 'the sirens' and 'air raid'...we rushed to the shelter. For one hour we crouched to the accompaniment of the roar of distant guns..."

I put on my uniform and hurried out as we heard the long steady note of the sirens giving the 'raiders passed'. Everyone thought it was a well-timed rehearsal, though it was difficult to explain the guns. I had not been out ten minutes when for the second time the wailing sirens sent us scuttling for shelter... I jumped into my car and rushed to the office...I found out that it had been a pukka raid. [High explosive] bombs had been dropped and had killed people... I admit I was scared at this swift murderous blow from the skies...

PARISH PRIEST 7. 20 am

**MGR LORENZO SPITERI, PARISH PRIEST, MQABBA** - "On 10<sup>th</sup> June 1940, as I was listening to the radio with a friend of mine, Guzeppi Ellul, we heard Mussolini declare war on Britain. We were struck dumb. On the following morning at about seven we had the first air raid. From the church roof I watched as the Italian planes released their bomb-loads. I turned to my companion, a priest, and suggested we give each other absolution in case of sudden death. My friend made light of my proposal and said, 'Let's not panic; this is the time when everyone has to play his part.' On that first day Guzeppi Ellul was to lose his life as he was on his way to report for duty; instead of getting off at Blata l-Bajda as usual, he decided to stop at Porte des Bombes, where he was killed by one of the first bombs to be dropped ever Malta."

**AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS (ARP) 1925 HRS ZABBAR ARP CENTRE: HIT BY BOMBS** - "The sound of crushing masonry, the screaming of the bombs, the explosions – all new to the men – caused concern among the personnel.' The superintendent, L Demajo Albanese, calmed his men...He later wrote in his logbook: "Soon bombs were heard exploding in my area. All of a sudden we saw dense clouds coming from Rock Gate and some casualties started coming in the Centre to receive some treatment. [They informed] us that houses were demolished and that there were several casualties. Sergeant Lorenzo Attard took his squad with him...he found two dead bodies near Rock Gate and several other casualties which were inside the demolished houses and could not get out. Attard worked magnificently with the help of his squad and in a short time six persons were brought out, put in an ambulance and rushed to the Centre."

*I am Addicted to  
Maltese Newsletter*

**ARP 1925 HRS COTTONERA ARP CENTRE** - "One bomb hit the Centre and another two the Convent of St Teresa adjoining...Ordered my men to collect picks, bandages, cotton wool and disinfectants that lay scattered about and rushed out... Opened rock tunnel near Silver Jubilee Gate on the road to Zabbar and organised a First Aid post – everyone suffering from serious shock.



Attended to about 40 wounded in two motor trucks and despatched same to...hospital. Attended to about 20 walking casualties and sent them to their homes. Attended to six casualties on motor lorry (military) coming from the direction of Zabbar Gate.

Rescued casualties from under the debris...Number of houses demolished and partly demolished and damaged by blast may be considered to be above 250 (conservative figure)...dead bodies sent to Central Civil Hospital." The Cottonera ARP centre handled 82 casualties of whom 22 were found to be dead. **Cottonera ARP Centre logbook (3)**

**CIVILIAN 1925 hrs Emanuel Scicluna, Married Quarters, 4B Zabbar Gate** - "Myself, and my married daughter Maria Bujega, and her husband Anthony, with ten children were taken to the Central Hospital, all injured; my wife Concetta and my daughter Giuzeppa, 34 years of age who was a caretaker at the Cospicua School...were seriously injured. Since then I have seen my dead wife at the Central Hospital but as regards my daughter I have not yet heard of her to this day, and I do not know whether she is dead or alive." **(3)**

**SPECIAL CONSTABULARY 1925 hrs Philo Pullicino, Adjutant, age 24** - "...another raid, this time a big one. It lasted from 7.25pm to 8.30pm...We heard the planes droning continuously – and the firing: God, it was a nightmare! Every gun in the neighbourhood blazed away at machine-gun speed. The monitor HMS Terror barked above them all with her 4.7s...[A] lull in the storm saw us tearing down to the Duluri Church with thirteen blankets [for refugees] on our heads. We dumped them there and, stopping a truck, we made him drive us both to Gzira. The 'Raiders Passed' signal had not sounded yet...

The streets were deserted and we got to Manoel Bridge in record time. About five hundred yards on we came upon disaster. Three houses had receive direct hits (on their facades) and had strewn the main road with debris... In the gathering darkness the scene was terrifying: there was a strong smell of gas...Telephone and electricity wires hung limply across the road. I ran up Ponsonby Street. A house had disappeared...Further on, more commotion, more ruin, more disaster. Corpses and casualties were being unearthed. People, white and haggard, peeped frightened from broken windows and doorways...Six persons rushed up to me, I being in uniform, and asked me to take them somewhere – anywhere!...

I told them to wait on the pavement...soon more came. These I also lined up. But presently they came in hundreds and swamped me. What could I do? Where should I send them? Then...I remembered vaguely that it was stated that refugees could go into churches.

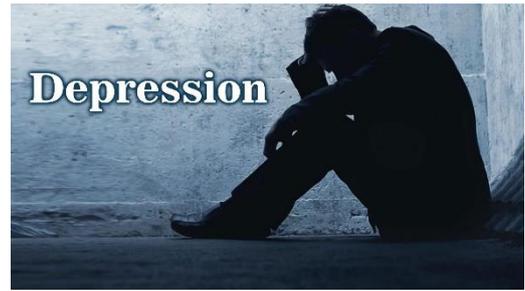
I ordered, asked, persuaded people to walk towards Msida and Hamrun and Birkirkara. I said transport would follow and pick them up; they were to stop cars and ask for lifts...I stopped a bus, asked the driver where he was going, but before he could answer the bus was full! I ordered him to take the to the place he was proceeding to, no matter where it was.



*Dr Victor Chircop-Sullivan*

## DEPRESSION

In the last two episodes, I described to you the psychotic illnesses, This time on, I will describe to you the Non-psychotic (Neurotic) illnesses,. So let's now start first with Depression.



**What is Depression** - Depression is used to describe feelings of sadness and grief which most of us experience at stages through our lives. It is also a clinical term used to describe forms of mental illness.

Clinical depression is not such one condition but a group of conditions ranging from understandable reactions to stress to a serious depressive illness. When we are faced with stress such as a loss of a loved one relationship breakdown, great disappointment or frustration most people will feel unhappy or sad.

These are emotional reactions which are appropriate to the situation, and will last only a short time. It is not regarded as depression in a psychiatric sense. but a part of everyday experience. Because depression is so common, it is important to understand the difference between unhappiness and a depressive illness.

### **Types of depression**

**Reactive depression** – This illness is a reaction to distressing situation in our lives but to a greater degree than is average or usual. This depression is more intense than the unhappiness experienced in daily life. It lasts longer and the symptoms often include anxiety, poor sleep and loss of appetite.

The time which reactive depression lasts varies. It usually goes away when the cause is removed or when the person finds a new way to cope with the stress. Many people require intense professional help and treatment to overcome this type of depression.

**Post natal depression** – New mothers feel mildly depressed, anxious, or unwell and may have difficulty sleeping even though they are tired and lethargic most of the time. This type of depression may last only hours or for a few days, then disappears. Mothers with this illness find it increasingly difficult to cope with the demands of everyday life.

Emotions range from anxiety, fear, despondency and sadness with some mothers suffering panic attacks or becoming tense and irritable. There may be a change in appetite and sleep patterns.

To some mothers a depressive reaction makes a mother feel inadequate, incompetent and unable to care for her baby, herself or for anyone else. She may lose her motivation and sense of responsibility. She may reject the baby feel particularly guilty about her lack of maternal feeling.

**Endogenous or Major depression** – The cause of endogenous depression is not understood but it is believed to be associated with a chemical imbalance in the brain. It is the more severe type of depression and can come on without any apparent reason. Symptoms include loss of appetite,

weight loss, feelings of hopelessness and despair inexplicable to the person experiencing it. These feelings may lead to suicide attempts or self-harm. In its most severe form, depression can become psychotic depression which means losing touch with reality. One may stop eating or may hear voices which for example, may tell someone the he or she is no good and deserve to be punished. Others may experience delusions or false beliefs.

### **Factors that contribute to depression** -

**Heredity** – It is well established that the tendency to develop this type of depression runs in the family.

**Biochemical imbalance** – Endogenous depression is thought to be due in part to a chemical imbalance in the brain. This can be corrected with anti-depressant medication.

**Stress** – Depression is associated with stress such as following personal tragedies or disasters. It is more common at certain stages of life, such as at childbirth and the menopause in women and retirement in men.

**Personality**—People with certain personality characteristics are more prone to depression. Perfectionists who set high standards for themselves and others and who find it difficult to adjust their ideas and standards to changing circumstances are often easily depressed. Also those who are very dependent on others are susceptible to depression if they are let down.

**Learnt response** – In some cases, a person who is exposed to repeated losses or stress throughout their life loses their optimism and feels helpless and depressed.

### What treatment is available

**Professional counselling** to assess people to sort out practical problems and conflicts and to help them understand the reasons for their depression.

**Anti depressant drugs** to relieve the depression, restore normal sleep patterns and appetite and reduce anxiety. These drugs are addictive.

**ECT or shock treatment** are used for severe forms of depression, especially to those who are at high risk of suicide or who because of the severity of their illness, have stopped eating and drinking and will die as a result.

**Where to go** - Community Mental Health Centre or to a General Practitioner (GP) who will refer the patient to either a Psychiatrist or a Clinical Psychologist for medical help.

## Aboriginal Boomerang

### How Europeans Discovered the Aboriginal Boomerang



From William Dampier in 1688 - to Phillip Parker King in 1818. Aboriginal man Combo of Bogan River 1836 The extraordinary English explorer and adventurer William Dampier was the first European to leave us a written description of the boomerang used by Australian Aborigines. On his grand voyage of 1688 he explored parts of the west coast of Australia, then known as New Holland. Observing the Aborigines on several occasions, Dampier reported on their appearance and some of their tools. The boomerang was *'made of wood and rudely shaped somewhat like a cutlass.'*

Exactly one hundred years later, in 1788, an English settlement, soon to be known as Sydney, was established on the east coast of New Holland. In that year, and throughout the following decade, many hundreds of Europeans eagerly observed Aborigines of the region. Not a single boomerang was spotted. However, when the boomerang was eventually discovered further inland, it provoked an enthusiastic reception in both Australia and beyond.

Clearly it was the boomerang's ability to return that aroused such interest in the colonists. Returning boomerangs were embraced as a toy in Australia, and interestingly, even more so in America and Europe. *'Walking sticks and umbrellas have gone out of fashion; and even in this rainy season no man carries anything but a boomerang'* - reported Dublin University Magazine in 1838.

The public and some scientists marvelled patronisingly: *'How could the improbable idea of making such an extraordinary implement have occurred to the Aborigines?'* Ironically, the remarkable returning habit, which so impressed the white public, was actually a hindrance for the Aboriginal hunter. The boomerang was designed and used for purposes where the returning was neither needed nor wanted. *'It is used by the natives with success in killing the kangaroo'* observed accomplished marine explorer Phillip Parker King in 1818.



GOZO CREATIVE THEATRE CLUB  
bil-kollaborazzjoni tas-  
SEMINARJU MAĠĠURI TAL-QALB TA' ĠESÙ  
tipprezenta

**IL-ĦMAR T'ALLA**  
Dramm Kontemporanju dwar il-Kurat ta' Ars  
(San Ġwann Maria Vianney)

Kitba - Joseph W. Psaila  
Direzzjoni - George Mizzi

Jieħdu Sehem  
George Camilleri  
Jamie Camilleri  
Joseph Bartolo  
Helen Camilleri  
Anthony Debono  
Alvin Scicluna  
Matthias Mercieca  
Dianne A. Portelli  
Mariella Cassar  
Maria Cassar  
Marisa Grech  
Marvic Bajada  
Francesca Petra Mizzi  
Joseph Portelli  
Jerome Mizzi  
Ruth Portelli  
Michel Refalo  
Joellson Bezzina  
Matthias Refalo



Hadat gost immens nattendu għad-dramm f'att wieħed 'il-Ħmar t'Alla' li ħareġ mill-pinna ta' Joe W Psaila, wieħed mill-kittieba Għawdxin, li sar dan l-aħħar fis-Seminarju t'Għawdex li tellgħu għadd ta' atturi żgħażaġħ (Gozo Theatre Creative Club) taħt id-direzzjoni ta' Gorg Mizzi. Dawn ħaqqhom Prosit mhux biss għall-wirja li taw imma wkoll għax kif smajt lir-Rettur jgħid, ipprezentaw dan id-dramm li ħa madwar siegħa u kwart bħala apprezzament għax-xogħol kollu li wettaq

is-Seminarju f'Għawdex sa mit-twaqqif tiegħu, 150 sena ilu. Il-kast kollu ħadem il-parti tiegħu b'sengħa dwar il-Kurat ta' Ars li kif nafu ma kienx xi saċerdot ta' xi intelliġenza speċjali; għal kuntarju kien saċerdot umli, ibati biex jitgħallem u li ltaq' ma' tant ostakli u tfixkil sakemm irnexxielu jsir Saċerdot tant li ħafna kienu jzommuh bħala bniedem ħmar, tant li l-awtur semma d-dramm tiegħu 'Il-Ħmar t'Alla'. Imma għalkemm f'għajnejn il-bnedmin dan il-bniedem seta' deher nieqes minn kull tagħlim u intelliġenza, quddiem Alla l-istorja kienet xorta oħra għaliex bih inqeda biex għamel bidla shiħa fir-raħal fejn kien jgħix u ġibed lejha lil dawk kolha ta' madwaru tant li illum huwa qaddis u Patron tal-Kappillani. 'Il-Ħmar t'Alla' se jerga' jsir għall-aħħar darba nhar is-Sibt li ġej, 25 ta' dan fis-7.30pm. **Kav Joe M Attard** [marios@hotmail.com](mailto:marios@hotmail.com)



Li-speaker Onor. Anġlu Farrugia rċieva żjara ta' korteżija minn Patri Firas Lufti li għaddej b'ħidma pastorali u umanitarja f'Aleppo, is-Sirja.

Matul il-laqgħa Patri Lufti spjega fid-dettall is-sitwazzjoni f'Aleppo. Qal li mhux biss il-gwerra ċivili hi l-problema iżda agħar kienu s-sofferenzi tal-insara li spicċaw ippersegwitati mill-militanti tal-Istat Iżlamiku.

Fil-laqgħa, l-Ispeaker ġie pprezentat b'rapport imniedi mill-fondazzjoni *Aid to the Church in Need 'Persecuted & Forgotten'*.

L-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia ringrazzja lil Patri Firas Lufti tal-ħidma qaddisa li wettaq u li għadu qed iwettaq fost dawk - huma ta' liema reliġjon huma - li jinsabu abbandunati jew ippersegwitati minħabba t-twemmin tagħhom.

Contribution: Greg Caruana

## CULTURE - Malta Band Clubs and Band Marches



Band clubs in Malta are part and parcel of the social and cultural history of the Maltese islands and have, over the years, established themselves as an institution in the core of every town and village, aimed at spreading Maltese culture and teaching of music. Many musicians who have gone on to make a name for themselves, locally or abroad, owe their success, in part, to the encouragement and teaching of the local band club.

The idea of forming philharmonic societies or band clubs was already brewing in the minds of a few dilettantes back in the second part of the 19th century. Small bands were formed by individuals – most of whom could not afford to buy a musical instrument of their own. Businessmen dug deep into their pockets to help those individuals who possessed the talent to learn how to play an instrument. The first band clubs were formed and the primary aim was that the musicians would perform in their village feast.

The number of clubs flourished and a sense of professionalism prevailed. After turbulent and then conciliatory circumstances, the Band Clubs Association was formed. This year the Association is celebrating its 60th anniversary, endorsing a membership of 84 band clubs across the island. According to the latest survey by the local National Statistics Office, the total number of bandmen/women (bandisti) amount to over 4000, both residents and trainees, more than a quarter of whom are women.



Every town and village in Malta and Gozo has its own band club, some even have two, as there are certain villages which celebrate two feasts – one dedicated to the patron saint and the other celebrating the so-called 'secondary' feast of another saint. In the past, unfortunately, an intense rivalry developed when a village had more than one club and this rivalry at times became violent as each struggled to better the other when it came to the celebration of their saint. Nowadays, however, this competitiveness is channelled in a more positive way, with rival band clubs leaving no stone unturned as they

strive to decorate the façade of the club's premises in the most colourful and vivid way, launch new musical numbers, and create the most merry-making atmosphere possible. Marching in rows of six, wearing uniforms and proudly showing off the badge of their club, a band is normally composed of between 60 and 70 bandmen/women playing a variety of instruments.

The premises of most of the clubs are attractions in themselves, places to show off musical memorabilia as well as souvenirs of major achievements over the years. They offer a meeting place for members and a teaching place where young musicians are encouraged to join their colleagues in the next village festa festivities. Musical programs along the main streets of the village herald a week of festivities and celebrations and, in most instances, end with the popular "*marc ta' filghodu*" – the morning march. Feasts are practically held every Sunday between June and September and usually, more than one is celebrated during the weekends.

## London School of Commerce Malta



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# The Order of Malta in Peru

[andrewcusack.com](http://andrewcusack.com) |

A correspondent of this site sends these images of the Order of Malta in Peru. The Order of Malta has a long history in Peru: Manuel de Guirior, 1st Marqués de Guirior and a knight of the Order (*right*, baptised José



Manuel de Guirior Portal de Huarte Herdozain y González de Sepúlveda) was Viceroy of Peru from 1776 to 1780, having previously served the King of Spain as Viceroy of New Granada.

In 2008, this investiture was presided over by Fernando de Trazegnies, Marquis of Torrebermeja, the former Dean of Law at the Catholic University of Peru and now head of the Peruvian Association of the Order. The investiture took place in the eighteenth-century Church of the Magdalena, and the Mass was offered by the Cardinal Archbishop of Lima, Juan Luis Cipriani.



THE photo (left) shows the Marquis of Torrebermeja beside the Papal Nuncio to Peru, Archbishop Rino Passigato. Here on the right, the knights and dames of the Peruvian

Association gather beside the Church of the Magdalena (the modern parish school lurks in the background).



## Spectacular New Year celebrations when Valletta will be the European Capital of Culture in 2018

Daphne Cassar

The first details were announced today of national celebrations that will mark the beginning of the new year in Valletta.

Valletta 2018 Foundation chairman, Jason Micallef, said celebrations will be spectacular and are well placed for the European Capital of Culture. He stated that celebrations will start at around 8.00 pm with music, visual arts and innovative attractions that reach their peak at midnight. Mr Micallef added that lights with a baroque style which are

already illuminating Republic Street are already providing a festive atmosphere. This atmosphere, he said, will continue to increase on the 23rd of December when the visual projections will be lighted on the Palace facade in St George's Square. The projections are the work of MCAST students.

Culture Minister Owen Bonnici said the open air celebrations in Malta are comparable with those organized in major cities, saying that activities are attracting not only the Maltese but also the thousands of tourists who visit Malta in Christmas time. Activities are organized by the Valletta 2018 Foundation in collaboration with the Valletta Local Council and the Tourism Ministry.

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/Valletta.NYE/videos/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/Valletta.NYE/videos/?ref=page_internal)

## Poetry in Potato Bags



Nhar it-30 ta' Novembru 2017 fis-6pm ġewwa Ta' Nenu, il-Belt Valletta, Valletta 2018 flimkien ma' Inizjamed u Ta' Nenu se jniedu kollaborazzjoni ġdida marbuta mal-proġett Poetry in Potato Bags.

Poetry in Potato Bags huwa proġett li jagħmel użu miċ-ċiklu ta' skambju ta' żerriegħa u patata biex jinkitbu poeżiji ġodda marbuta mat-tema filwaqt li jiċċelebra it-titlu ta' Belt Kulturali Ewropea fl-2018. Il-poeti tal-proġett huma

magħrufa sewwa. Hemm, fost l-oħrajn Simone Inguanez, Claudia Gauci, Rita Saliba, Achille Mizzi, Joe P. Galea, Walid Nabhan u Adrian Grima. Kollha kemm huma kitbu poeżija minn lati differenti dwar is-suġġett.

Ġħat-30 ta' Novembru qed nistiednu lill-midja tingħaqad magħna biex inħabbru din il-kollaborazzjoni ġdida filwaqt li nagħtu dettalji dwar il-proġett marbut ma' Poetry in Potato Bags għall-ftuħ tal-Belt Kultura Ewropea fix-xahar ta' wara, Jannar 2018.

Ġħal din l-attività se jkun mistiedna l-poeti tal-proġett u wara jitqassmu xi ftajjar bil-patata.

Ġħal iktar dettalji kkuntattjawna fuq: [inizjamedprojects@gmail.com](mailto:inizjamedprojects@gmail.com)



In English

**On the 30th of November 2017 at 6pm at Ta' Nenu in Valletta, Valletta 2018 together with Inizjamed and Ta' Nenu will be launching a new collaboration in relation to Poetry in Potato Bags.**

Poetry in Potato Bags is a project that capitalizes on the cycle on seed and potato exchange between Malta and Leewarden that leads to new poetry written on the respective theme whilst celebrating the title of Capital of Culture 2018. The poets involved in the project are renowned poets such as Simone Inguanez, Claudia Gauci, Rita Saliba, Achille Mizzi, Joe P. Galea, Walid Nabhan and Adrian Grima. All of these poets and others wrote poetry about the topic from different angles.

On the 30th of November we are inviting the media to join us for this press launch during which we will give information about the new part of the project and also some details about the opening activity for the Valletta 2018 celebrations to be held the following month, January 2018.

During this activity the poets of the project will be present. Afterwards ftira with potatoes will be served. For more details contact us on: [inizjamedprojects@gmail.com](mailto:inizjamedprojects@gmail.com)

Leanne Ellul – Administrator - Inizjamed

Thank you for reading and supporting the

# MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora