



# Maltese e-Newsletter



The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

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**Auberge de Castille**  
one of the finest  
architectural houses  
of the  
Knights of Malta



**It houses the offices of the Maltese Prime Minister, Joseph Muscat**

**FEAST OF OUR LADY  
OF MT. CARMEL  
ZURRIEQ**

**Mark Micallef Perconte  
2018**



PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER



## Speaker Farrugia receives French Ambassador on a farewell visit

Speaker of the House of Representatives Dr Anglu Farrugia received a farewell visit by Ambassador of the French Republic, Ms Béatrice Le Fraper du Hellen, whose term of office in Malta is coming to an end.

Speaker Farrugia expressed his appreciation to Ambassador Le Fraper du Hellen for her diligent and hard work, during her tour of duty in Malta, which resulted in intensifying the very strong bilateral relations that exist between Malta and France.

He also thanked the French authorities for showing solidarity in practice by taking a number of migrants who were brought to Malta

on board the ships Aquarius and Lifeline. The two dignitaries referred to the Maltese community in France and Malta's request to have observer status in the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie.

They also discussed issues of mutual interest such as the situation in Europe vis-à-vis migrants, in Libya and Syria as well as the effect of fake news. Cooperation at Parliamentary level, with particular reference to the Parliamentary Friendship Group, also featured in the discussion.

3, CASTILLE PLACE, VALLETTA VLT 2000 Tel +(356) 2200 1700 Fax +(356) 2200 1775 [www.doi.gov.mt](http://www.doi.gov.mt)



## Scott Morrison THE NEW PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA

Scott Morrison has been sworn in as the country's 30th PM, after beating Peter Dutton in a vote 45-40. Josh Frydenberg has also been sworn in as Liberal deputy leader

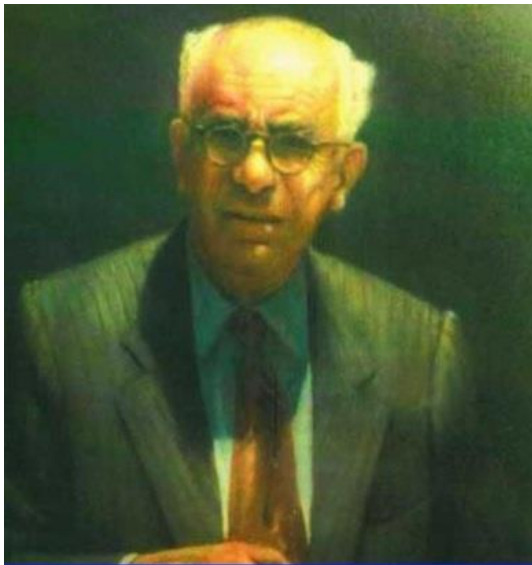
The leadership ballot was called after former prime minister Malcolm Turnbull agreed to the second leadership spill this

week. Governor-General Peter Cosgrove conducted the ceremony at Government House to officially make Mr Morrison the nation's 30th Prime Minister. Mr Morrison has described himself as the new generation of Liberal leadership who is "on your side".



## God bless the Maltese Migrant Chaplains

This year marks an important landmark in the social history of our people. On the 1<sup>st</sup> June 1948, Prime Minister Paul Boffa had the honour and satisfaction of announcing in parliament, the signing of the Assisted Passages Scheme for Maltese Migrants to Australia. The scheme was already working for migrants from Britain. Malta was the first country, after Britain, to benefit from such an agreement.



**SIR PAUL BOFFA**  
**Malta's First Labour Prime Minister**

There were strange, shameful accusations such as “*ser tispopulaw lil Malta*” and the even less intelligent assertion that migration was a ploy by the British which would allow them to settle in Malta and take us over by stealth.

This sad aspect dims in importance when other matters are considered. Much more important is a highly significant factor. Practically from the very beginning the Church became benignly and very actively involved in the welfare of migrants and we saw the arrival in Australia of Maltese priests who came to meet the spiritual needs of those who left their country.

Other communities, such as the Poles and the Italians, similarly benefited greatly from the arrival in Australia of their own priests, that is priests who spoke the language and understood the culture. We, Maltese migrants in Australia, have been privileged over many years and in various states, to be served by dedicated Maltese priests from various religious orders and also diocesan clergy.

At present the community is served with great love, dedication and enthusiasm by the Fathers of the Missionary Society of St Paul and by other stalwart priests as well. However, their relative paucity coupled with the vastness of the land and the distant localities in which many Maltese migrants have settled, make the assistance, solace and comfort of the priest at crucial moments of serious sickness and approaching death difficult to attain.

Over the years the needs have changed. Such changes must not delude us or be used as an excuse to suggest that there is no significant need. The scope of this letter is to put on record the gratitude of Maltese migrants for the selfless and outstanding service of Maltese migrant chaplains, past and present, over a period of seven decades.

That is indeed a long time! And to pledge them our help and support in their difficult task now and in the future.

It is an honour for me to remember the significant contribution of Paul Boffa in Maltese migration in this 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Assisted Migration Scheme. But, much more importantly, for me to have the opportunity to acknowledge the special place of the Maltese priest in the life of the Maltese Australian Community.

George M. Boffa (Dr)

# Fr Noel's faith in his Maltese community

By Jordan Grantham



Fr Noel Bianco MSSP is a priest of the Missionary Society of St Paul, a religious order founded by Mgr Joseph De Piro in 1910.

Fr Noel grew up in a traditional Maltese family as one of 12 children, and had a brother (deceased at 40) who was also a diocesan priest.

"I joined the Missionary Society of St Paul in 1969," Fr Noel reflected.

"I was sent here (to Australia) from

Malta in 1973 and I studied and worked in Melbourne for 34 years," he said.

Ministry in Malta, Rome and America followed this.

Fr Noel finds great satisfaction in his Maltese Chaplaincy including pastoral work, and Masses, be they christenings, weddings, requiems or memorials. For him, they are moments of evangelisation.

"I am happy to be the pastor of 47,000 Maltese passport holders in the Western suburbs (of Sydney), apart from the others without a passport," Fr Noel boasted.

The charism of the Missionary Society of St Paul takes inspiration from the arrival of St Paul the Apostle who was shipwrecked on Malta.

The seas have also spread the Maltese diaspora far and wide, from the Mediterranean to the Middle East, Australia, Canada and the United States.

Mgr Joseph de Piro founded his order as a Missionary Society. One of its aims is to provide assistance and pastoral leadership to the community of these migrants in the difficulty of starting new lives and practicing the Faith in new lands. This was not understood in Rome at first but the founder insisted that this was important with the main aim of evangelisation in mission countries.

Like Mgr de Piro, Fr Noel feels sorrow for the decline of faith in Australian parishes, compared to earlier decades.

"It distresses me a fair bit what I see happening in some of our parishes," Fr Noel said.

"I want to have the smell of the sheep, so I believe in home visiting in the evenings, which has been the traditional way of doing pastoral work in Australia, when the priest was the hero of the Catholic community," he said.

He finds hope in new movements within the Catholic Church, such as the Neo-Catechumenal Way.

"I have been walking in the Neo-Catechumenal Way for 20 years and I find great nourishment and richness and generous support in the brothers and sisters."

Evangelisation is more important than preserving the present structures of the Church, Fr Noel said.

Re-evangelisation is also a distinctive part of the charism for the Paulist Missionaries.

The idea of being missionaries to an already Catholic people was not common in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century but now has a widespread appreciation in terms of Pope St John Paul II's 'New Evangelisation'.

The members of the Missionary Society of St Paul were amongst the pioneers who helped the Maltese in Australia and their work has flourished since Mgr de Piro's dream was realised, with the arrival of Fr Augustine Grech MSSP in Australia in 1948



The **Auberge de Castille** (Maltese: *Berġa ta' Kastilja*) is an auberge in Valletta, Malta. It was originally built in the 1570s to house knights of the Order of Saint John from the langue of Castile, León and Portugal. The present building dates back to the 1740s, when it was completely rebuilt during the magistracy of Manuel Pinto da Fonseca. The new auberge was built in the Baroque style, and it has been called "probably the finest building in Malta". It now houses the Office of the Prime Minister of Malta.

The auberge is located at Castille Place, close to Saint James Cavalier, the Malta Stock Exchange and the Upper Barrakka Gardens. It is situated at the highest point of Valletta and overlooks Floriana and the Grand Harbour area. The name *Castille* (or *Kastilja* in Maltese) is often used as a metonym to refer to the Prime Minister and his office.

**Hospitaller rule** - Auberge de Castille was originally built in 1573–74 to designs of the architect Girolamo Cassar. The original auberge, which took over the role of an earlier Auberge de Castille et Portugal in the former capital Birgu, was built in the Mannerist style, and it was regarded as Cassar's most innovative design. The auberge had a single storey, and its façade had panelled pilasters dividing it into eleven bays. The design of the auberge is known from a late 17th-century painting and an early 18th-century drawing.<sup>[2][3]</sup>

The original Auberge de Castille was dismantled and completely rebuilt in the Spanish Baroque style between 1741 and 1744, during the magistracy of Grand Master Manuel Pinto da Fonseca. The new building was built to designs of Andrea Belli, and construction was supervised by *capomastro* Domenico Cachia. Some alterations, including the enlargement of the main door, were made in 1791.

**French occupation and British rule** - The Order of St. John was expelled from Malta with the French invasion and occupation in 1798. The auberge subsequently became a headquarters for the French forces, and it later housed a Commission for National Property. The building suffered some damage during the blockade of 1798–1800.

After Malta became a British protectorate, in 1805 the auberge became the headquarters of the British armed forces in Malta. It was also used as a residence for British officers. In 1814, a disabled contingent from the army of Egypt was accommodated in the auberge. A Protestant chapel was opened in one of the rooms of the first floor in 1840. A signalling station with a large aerial was installed on the roof in 1889 to communicate with warships of the Mediterranean Fleet moored in the Grand Harbour.



The then princess, now Queen Elizabeth II, has worked with the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen Families Association (SSAFA) when it was housed at Auberge de Castile. In 1942, during World War II, the right side of the building was damaged by aerial bombardment. The damaged parts were later repaired, and the aerial was removed. The auberge was also used as the General Headquarters of the Army for Malta and Libya, and also for Cyprus after 1954.

**Malta Independent** - On 4 March 1972, the Office of the Prime Minister of Malta moved from Auberge d'Aragon to Auberge de Castille. The Prime Minister leads the business of the government from the auberge, and the name *Castille* (or *Kastilja* in Maltese) is often used as a metonym to refer to the Prime Minister and his office.

Over the years, some of the stonework began to crumble and the façades were blackened. The building was restored between 2009 and 2014. It now houses the offices of the Maltese Prime Minister, Joseph Muscat, and is beautifully floodlit at night.

The building was included on the Antiquities List of 1925 together with the other auberges in Valletta.<sup>[11]</sup> It is now scheduled as a Grade 1 national monument by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority, and it is also listed on the National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands.

## Marching in style as Annual Tattoo moves to

### Valletta



The unmistakable beat of drums and military bands will fill the air and wow crowds in September at St George's Square during the Malta Military Tattoo.

The event, now in its 15th edition, will make the move from the Malta Fairs and Convention Centre in Ta' Qali, where it was held last year, to Valletta.

The Malta Military Tattoo said hosting the event in the "superb environment of St George's Square was a must", in light of the fact that Valletta is the

European Capital of Culture title this year.

The Malta Military Tattoo has steadily grown into an event which provides a platform for military bands to come together and display their talents in an appealing and entertaining performance. "Together with the local element, the guests of the Tattoo offer an enriched contribution to the display and bring military music traditions from overseas," the organisation said in a statement.

Several local military groups will have their own display this year. Crowds are often entertained with music combining popular tunes with more classical music, all wrapped up in the context of a military march parade.

The word "tattoo", in this context, has ties to the Dutch expression tap toe, or "tap-shut". Originally, the word was linked to the noise made by mallets used to seal the beer barrels. The noise sounded like a drum and the word became a reference to the last military call at the time of curfews.

Several local military groups will have their own display this year.

The band of the Armed Forces of Malta, which annually provides a display prepared entirely for the Malta Military Tattoo, will this year provide a pleasant surprise to the audiences. They will be joined by a drill team, who display the precision and discipline of the military routines.

The show will be held on September 21, 22 and 23, starting at the Grandmaster's Palace courtyard and proceeding towards St George's Square. Tickets are on sale online from [ticketline.com.mt](http://ticketline.com.mt), from the MFCC Offices, Level One Millennium Stand, Ta' Qali and from the Embassy Cinema Complex in Valletta. For more information visit <http://mfcc.com.mt> or <http://maltamilitarytattoo.org>, follow MFCC and the Malta Military Tattoo pages on Facebook, or call on 2141 0371.

## **Message to all Maltese Australians**

### **Re Episcopal Ordination for Maltese born, Bishop-elect**

Fr. Charles Gauci Maltese born, Fr. Charles Gauci, currently administrator of St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Adelaide is appointed by Pope Francis to be the seventh Bishop of Darwin.

The appointed successor to Bishop Eugene Hurley is widely applauded by his peers who admire him for his deep spirituality and real commitment to evangelisation. Australian Catholic Bishop Conference President Archbishop Mark Coleridge said "he will be a great gift to the Church in Darwin with all its challenges and also a good addition to the Bishop's Conference because of his long and varied experience as priest and teacher of faith".

Applause for Fr Gauci's appointment is particularly strong from the Maltese communities of Australia. His Excellency, Mr. Charles Muscat, said Fr. Gauci's Episcopal Ordination on September 26th will bring great honour for the Maltese community of Australia. He believes there will be many Maltese who will wish to help the Committee preparing for Fr. Gauci's Episcopal Ordination with the significant cost of holding this important spiritual event.

The High Commissioner also supports providing all Maltese including Businesses, professionals, Maltese organisations and Community Councils with an opportunity to assist. Fr. Gauci's Episcopal Ordination is an occasion for all Maltese individuals and organisations – social or commercial – to demonstrate their unity and pride in their heritage by doing what they can to financially assist with the staging of Fr. Gauci's Episcopal Ordination. Details below offer the options to do so.

#### **DIRECT DEBIT**

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## **Bishop Elect Gauci will visit Malta**

After his ordination as bishop of Darwin at St Mary Star of the Sea cathedral on 26 September, Fr Gauci hopes to visit Malta for two weeks later this year and meet his relatives. He is especially looking forward to meeting his uncle, the Jesuit Fr Joseph Gauci Sacco, who is returning to Malta after 60 years in India.

Fr Gauci was born in Floriana, Malta and emigrated with his parents to Australia in 1965 as a 13-year-old. He has been a priest in the Archdiocese of Adelaide since his ordination in 1977 and has served in several parishes. He has also held a number of archdiocesan leadership roles, including as chairman of the Council of Priests.

## HIGHEST ACCOLADE OF SOMANZ TO MALTESE-AUSTRALIAN PROFESSOR



The Society of Obstetric Medicine of Australia and New Zealand has bestowed on Professor Stephen Gatt its highest honour – Honorary Life Membership – at its 2018 National Scientific Congress in Cairns in tropical Far North Queensland. This is a rare honour, indeed, having been granted only five times in the society's 30 years history and never to an intensive care and anaesthesia specialist.

Professor Gatt planned, established, staffed and directed, for more than a decade, the first obstetric intensive care unit in Australia and, most probably, the world, given that Australia was the first country to have formal Fellowship in Intensive Care, well ahead of the US and UK, with Dr. Gatt being in the first tranche of 12 qualified specialists.

The Honorary Life Membership was also granted for his vast contributions to Obstetric Medicine which include more than 280 publications and 4 books variously translated into Japanese, Bahasa Indonesia / Malaysia and Vietnamese. The Citation, by Associate Professor Sandra Lowe, noted that Dr. Gatt was instrumental in establishing the SOMANZ Research Foundation which has sustained a generation of obstetric medicine researchers.

Dr. Gatt is seen as a great innovator in his fields of endeavour with a string of inventions and devices, which subsequently made it to market, attributable to him. These inventions include the quadruple lumen catheter for simultaneous administration of powerful medication close to the heart (awarded the Matthew Spence Medal for Intensive Care), the disposable dual dose epidural infusion pump for pain relief in labour and the total parenteral feeding formulae for maintaining intravenous feeding in women unable to take any food through the mouth. Perhaps more pertinent amongst his academic achievements is a landmark paper, 'the Mallampati Score' of difficulty of inserting a tube into the throat for ventilation of the lungs during anaesthesia, written in 1984 while he was, for over 2 years, a Visiting Professor at Harvard University, Boston, USA and which, for more than two decades, has stood as the single most cited paper in anaesthesia and intensive care, globally and for all time. It sits, on most anaesthetic charts for surgery worldwide, side-by-side to another of Prof.

Gatt's brainchild, the Gatt Dental Chart for dental condition prior to surgery. For these achievements and contributions to medicine Dr. Gatt has received an Honoris Causa Fellowship of the Royal College of Anaesthetists in Kensington, London. Prof. Gatt is a Professor, Anestesi e Reanimasi, Udayana University in Bali, Indonesia and Associate Professor, University of NSW, Sydney, Australia.

Dr. Gatt, an MD graduate of the, then, Royal University of Malta, has maintained strong ties with Malta and the Maltese overseas. For over 30 years he has been the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Board of Management of St. Dominic's Home for the Elderly in Sydney, Australia. On the world stage, for 10 years, he was the President of the Federation of Maltese Abroad (FOMA) and has recently been renewed by the Prime Minister of Malta, The Hon PM Joseph Muscat, as an Australian Delegate Member of the Council of Maltese Living Abroad (CMLA), chaired by the Former Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Dr George Vella and, more recently, the current Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion, The Hon Carmelo Abela, with tenure until 2020.

Prof. Gatt is a Senior Staff Specialist and, formerly, Director of Anaesthesia, Royal Hospital for Women, Senior Staff Specialist and, formerly, Head of Division of Anaesthesia & Intensive Care of Prince of Wales, Sydney Children's & Sydney/Sydney Eye Hospitals and, formerly, Area Chair in Anaesthesia, South East Health; Emeritus Life President and, formerly, President, Obstetric Anaesthesia Society of Asia and Oceania (OASAO); Senior Visiting Consultant Anaesthetist, Prince



of Wales Private Hospital, Healthscope, Randwick, NSW, Australia in a career spanning over 40 years.

Prof. Gatt has been honoured with the Order of Australia (Medal - OAM) and the Malta National Order of Merit (Member – MOM). He has been knighted twice - in the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta (SMOM) – Knight, 11nd Class, of Magistral Grace in Obedience and the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem (OHS) - Knight Grand Cross Commander with Star of Jerusalem. He is intimately involved in the altruistic and humanitarian activities of both these lay Catholic religious orders.

For the Maltese community in Australia, Dr. Gatt has produced, in Maltese, multiple series of two TV programmes – ‘Konsulta’ and ‘Opinioni Medika mal-Prof. Gatt’. He has delivered over 425 lectures in 100 cities in 34 countries. He sits on the Editorial Board of several journals.

He is married to Alice Dingli, has four adult children and two grandchildren and lives and works in Kensington & Randwick in Sydney.

## Malta's first goalkeeper recalls national RECOLLECTIONS



**February 24, 1957 – 60 years have passed since Malta's international debut**

“The significance of our first international match could not be erased” – Victor Scerri  
Photo: Mark Zammit Cordina

*Alex Vella rolls back the years to evoke personal memories of Malta's first international match against Austria 60 years ago today*

Nostalgia has a soothing feeling of satisfaction as years are rolled back and events recalled. Life is full of such pleasant memories, not the least in football.

Past episodes are evoked mentally and, nowadays, visually through footage of goals and triumphs, particularly on landmark anniversary dates.



**Theodore Wagner scores Austria's second goal**

One such occasion is Malta's first international match 60 years ago, on February 24, 1957, when our team played the mighty Austria who had obtained a prestigious third place in the Switzerland World Cup three years earlier.

As a 16-year-old football fan I ventured to join the massive crowd that made its way to the Empire Stadium, in Gżira on a wintry day that eventually turned bright.

All roads led to our main football playing venue, in those days devoid of turf. We could only offer a dusty, abrasive surface which, however, was also amenable to cultured football

the Austrian were capable of producing.

Like many others, I feared that our national team would be the chopping block. At best, we could only offer patches of artisanship against the artistic skills of our continental opponents. The gap in playing levels between Malta and Austria was too wide for any comfortable expectation.

Our team, coached by Joe Griffiths and captained by that football wizard, Salvinu Schembri, with the great Tony Nicholl in the background, may have been too optimistic in offering an honest challenge to our continental aristocrats.

Nevertheless, these fears were to be allayed on the pitch. Spirited commitment and good tactical application were to be our weapons.

Our formation of Victor Scerri, Guži Bonnici, Lolly Debattista, Ninu Calleja, Joe Cilia, Joe Cini, Lolly Borg, Salvinu Schembri, Tony Cauchi, Sammy Nicholl and Pullu Demanuele, all local heroes in my eyes, walked onto the pitch greeted by a massive ovation from a bumper crowd that had thronged through the gates hours earlier.

Players from both teams were led out by the Italian referee, Vincenzo Orlandini, wearing a conspicuously elegant jacket.

The visitors' superiority yielded three goals, the first of which a Bonnici own goal, and soon my thoughts revolved around how our team could avoid an embarrassing defeat. We could not ask for more in those circumstances.

Surprisingly, we were transformed after the interval and started stretching the Austrians with some bold attacking fare. I then felt the crowd sensed some recuperative signs from our lads. To my relief, that was on the cards.

With the minutes ticking away, Cauchi nipped in to reduce the arrears and, minutes later, the inimitable Nicholl scored a superb second goal off substitute's George Jones's free kick and a Cini assist when he fired into the top corner of the net after side-stepping the Austrian defender Karl Stotz.

Could the unthinkable happen? Would tiny Malta draw level in those last minutes? Fate deemed it was not to be.

However, that did not deter a group of enthusiastic Maltese supporters from expressing their jubilation at the end of the match. Yes, our heroes walked tall as they left the pitch shoulder high. I relished those moments.

In the words of Nicholl and Scerri, now 82 and 89 respectively, "our performance against the great Austrians defied logic. That resulted in a group of supporters carrying us jubilantly to the dressing room at the final whistle".

The lanky goalkeeper, still very lucid despite his age, recalled that, some days before I met him recently for his comments, his son had showed him clips of that match.

"My memories were again revived when I saw that film showing a capacity crowd of over 18,000



***Captain Theodor Wagner (left and Salvinu Schembri with referee Vincenzo Orlandini before kick off***

spectators filling the stands and the vantage points surrounding the top of the dwellings overlooking the stadium while we went out on the pitch," Scerri said.

Nicholl was equally moved as he evoked the match. "The never-give-up approach spurred us on to a great second-half revival after conceding three goals in the opening period. This culminated in goals by Cauchi and myself."

"The fighting element was part of my set-up, which was also evident in several late goals I scored for

Sliema Wanderers to overturn results in my

team's favour," the former ace scorer remarked.

Both players agreed that the memories of that match will remain. "Subsequent to that match and along the years we did obtain a few prestigious results in and out of competition but nothing will compare with the aura surrounding that memorable February day six decades ago. The significance of our first international match could not be erased."

I, too, was proud to be part of that scenario even if in a vociferous but relatively passive way.

## Locations with Myths and Legends

by Chiara Micallef

Every country has its own myths and legends. We often hear about other countries', sometimes even getting to watch them on the big screen, but we seldom think about our own local legends. Some of them have an element of truth, some are unbelievable, while others are straight up true.

**St. Gregory's Hidden Tunnels** - The story starts in 1969 when a young man, Grezzju, was doing some work on the church dome in Zejtun. Grezzju got bored (don't we all?) and noticed a crack in the wall between some slabs. Vella threw some rocks in the crack, never even imagining what would happen next. He realised that throwing stuff in cracks was way bigger than he thought it to be, as he suddenly noticed that by the sound of it, it seemed like there was a chamber right underneath the roof. Vella called the fellow workers, the sacristan and a priest and they all proceeded to remove one of the stones to investigate.

Vella, being the scapegoat of the story, was tied to a rope and given a box of matches (yes, matches. Not a candle or a lamp, matches) and was pushed inside the hole to explore whatever treasures these people thought they would find. Needless to say that Grezzju was left traumatised by what he discovered — a substantial amount of skeletons, just chilling.

These unfortunate souls were said to have been trying to escape a Turkish attack, only to be sealed inside the hidden passage — starving to death, afraid and trapped the group of people slowly died one by one inside the secret passage which was ironically built to save them from a horrible death or slavery.



**First St. Angelo** - Fort Saint Angelo was built by the Knights, and leave it for those guys to make a place a hundred times more shady than it already is. The bastion has been known for its role in the Great Siege and people have been intrigued by this place and the area around it for a long time.

During the siege, some of the Ottoman soldiers were decapitated and their heads were used as cannon balls. To be fair, this was done because the Ottomans had just crucified a couple of knights. The place is said to be to this

day haunted by the headless Ottomans and the mysterious Grey Lady. The Grey Lady, like all the other bleak coloured ladies rumoured to haunt Maltese locations, was extremely beautiful and had a tragic life. She was one of the mistresses of a member of the Di Nava family. Tired of being only the mistress, the Grey Lady complained, and in true medieval fashion, she was killed and thrown into the dungeon known as *It-Toqba*. It was reported that it was exorcised the place, so there's no need to worry.



**Għar Hasan** - Għar Hasan is a magical cave in the south of Malta. The hassle to get to the cave and the eerie sound of the waves crashing against the rock formation below you is enough to make you feel uneasy wandering around this enormous cave. Named after Saracen Hasan, the cave tells the story of how he lusted after a girl from a nearby village and practically kidnapped her. Hasan kept the girl hidden away in this cave, presumably hoping she would get a severe case of Stockholm Syndrome.

A group of local farmers found Hasan's hiding place and ambushed him to rescue the girl. Panicked and most probably shitting his pants as he saw the raging farmers, Hasan threw the poor girl off the cliff (true love) and jumped right after. Another version says that the girl could simply not get herself to develop the much hoped-for Stockholm Syndrome, jumped off the cliff in despair, and Hasan soon followed.





Matthew Xuereb

## 'We are here to give Catholics a voice'

New group seeks to harness the power of public opinion

*Members of Catholic Voices, together with Archbishop*

*Charles Scicluna. Manfred Galdes is second from right, Arthur Galea Salamone is fourth from right, and Tonio Fenech is 6th from right.*

A former finance minister, a former head of the Financial Intelligence Analysis Unit and a former stock exchange chairman are among a group of people who got together for a project which is unrelated to the economy.

Instead, the three are lending their voices to the Church. They intend to engage in a dialogue with Maltese society through debates, seminars, television programmes, the Internet and newspapers.

Former finance minister Tonio Fenech, former FIAU director Manfred Galdes and ex-stock exchange boss Arthur Galea Salomone, who all campaigned against divorce, form part of a group of 25 who attended a training course to join Catholic Voices Malta.

There are also lawyers, medical professionals, educators, entrepreneurs, a social worker, an architect and a psychologist, among others. Catholic Voices originated in the UK in 2010, the aim being to improve the Church's representation in the media. Catholic Voices is now present in 21 countries.

Mr Fenech said that according to recent surveys, 94 per cent of the Maltese population identified themselves as Catholic.

"Despite the efforts of those who seek to project Malta as a secular country, Malta is predominantly Catholic. Catholic Voices Malta seeks to represent their voices, aspirations and the values that have underpinned our culture," he said.

"Pope Francis recently challenged the laity to stop watching from the balcony and to get right into the public square, given today's throwaway culture. We need to be active, not passive, and engage with people at different levels of society, answering their big questions. We are not a prayer group, nor are we the Church's PROs, but we are here to give people a voice," added Mr Fenech.

Asked which issues were of most concern right now, Mr Fenech said that Catholic Voices needed to speak out about everything, from the economy to the environment and poverty to immigration.

"Catholics are usually labelled as being interested only in issues like abortion and euthanasia. We need to speak not only about the protection of life from beginning to end but also about how to protect the common good," he said.

***Pope Francis recently challenged the laity to stop watching from the balcony and to get right into the public square.***

Catholic Voices does not represent the Maltese Church, nor does it act on its behalf. "We are blessed by the Church and by Archbishop [Charles] Scicluna and we are bound by the Church's teachings, but we take our own initiatives and attend radio and television programmes where we are invited."

Mr Fenech said the group's mission is to influence public opinion, because "we have shifted from politicians being influenced by public opinion to public opinion influencing politicians, and we need to be that voice".

He said the feedback had been very good and encouraging. Preparations were under way to start training a second group of laypeople willing to lend their energy to this cause.

Mr Fenech noted that poverty was one of the biggest issues facing the country at the moment. "The country is developing at a fast speed due to development.

"The number of those in poverty or at risk of poverty is on the increase.

"The rising prices in the rental market is making the situation worse



***Creative members: Vincent Grech, Henry Farrugia, Louis Parnis and Bill Micallef with some of the toys they have made for children.***



***Vincent Xuereb working at the workshop. He took over from Bill Micallef who died from leukaemia last year.***

## The George Cross Falcons Club Inc TURNING WOOD INTO TOYS FOR CHILDREN

The George Cross Falcons Club Inc was built in Cringila in 1951 when migration to Wollongong was at its highest.

Many Europeans, including Maltese, settled here to work at Port Kembla steelworks.

Club president Louis Parnis said the Maltese community wanted *somewhere* to congregate and celebrate Maltese events.

The clubhouse at 25-27 Lake Avenue started off as a humble one level concrete block building but over time, it was extended to two levels, with the commodities necessary to provide services to the community". "We've grown from 60 members to over 180 members

The club is in good hands and the future is bright" Mr Parnis said.

The membership is rivalticultural and comes from the Iliawarra and Sydney. Three years ago, Mr Parnis created a working group to clear the ground-floor room and cement rendered the walls, as well as installed a shower and toilets. The room is now the hobby carpentry workshop, led by toymaker Bill Micallef and five other volunteers.

Mr Parnis said the toys made are given to The Disability Trust, Salvation Army and Refugee for Battered Women in Shellharbour. The workshop is open on Mondays, at the same time as the seniors daycare program, and anyone who wants to learn woodwork skills is welcome.

Mr Parnis thanked Throsby MP Stephen Jones for his support and the Master Builders Club for its financial assistance. For further information contact: 0420 857 363

The knights of Malta were first called St. John's knights; when they settled in the island of Rodi they took the name of Rodi's knights. In 1530 they were defeated by Soliman the Great and they had to leave Rodi.



Some years later Emperor Charles V gave the Order permission to settle on the island of Malta. In 1565 led by 'Grand Master' Friar Jean de la Valette ( who gave the name to the capital of Malta) the knights defeated the Turks.

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# Top Malta Attractions from the Knights



ST. JOHN'S CO-CATHEDRAL - VALLETTA - MALTA

THE HOME OF THE KNIGHTS OF MALTA

## St. John's Co-Cathedral

One of the **most visited Malta attractions** is **St. John's Co-Cathedral** in Valletta. This impressive rich cathedral was built by the Knights of St John between **1573 and 1578**. It was commissioned by Grand Master Jean de la Cassiere. In the old days, the cathedral used to be the most important church of the Order of the Knights Hospitaller of St John, also known as the Knights of Malta.

It is believed that at one point, the cathedral served as a "showcase" to prove that the Catholic church was still strong and powerful. This was

mainly during those times when the Catholic faith was being persecuted and in the eyes of the common people worldwide, the church was starting to get a bit too weak and disorientated.

To this regard, the Knights of Malta took it upon themselves to create a massive cathedral wherein all sorts of riches were put on display for all to see - signifying the church's power and prosperity.

Each Grandmaster in fact, added even more statues, coats of arms and countless silver and gold decorations than the Grandmaster that reigned before him!

Designed by the famous Maltese architect **Gerolamo Cassar**, it's mostly the cathedral's interior which attracts thousands of visitors each year.

The interior of the cathedral was mostly decorated by **Mattia Preti**, an Italian artist and knight.

Mattia Preti offered to paint the cathedral's ceilings for free. Although he did ask that he be given something in return. He in fact asked that he be made a knight. And so following his extensive work in the cathedral, Mattia Preti was made a knight.

Originally the ceiling was painted dark blue with stars as was customary during those times. In fact, the Vatican's Sistine Chapel was painted in this way too, before Michelangelo painted it!

St. John's Co-Cathedral has 8 chapels. In one of the chapels, namely the one dedicated to St. George, you can see an impressive painting made by Mattia Preti. This painting is considered to be one of his masterpieces.

Another highlight of the church, is the collection of marble tombstones in the nave. There are **more than 300 tombstones** in the cathedral! It was here that important knights used to be buried. Richly decorated, each tombstone has images and stories relating to the knight's life.

Although today you can see countless decorations and riches in the cathedral, during Napoleon's short "stay" in Malta, he ransacked and stole practically everything that he could lay his hands on in the cathedral!

So most of the decorations that you see now, have been created and added again after Napoleon left the Maltese Islands!

During World War II, the cathedral "escaped" unscathed, except for that one incident, when a bomb struck near the entrance. It is said that the bomb blast was so strong, that the front door ended up on the cathedral's central altar!





## WELCOMING PAUL TO MALTA

San Pawl Milqi is the ruin of a Roman-period agricultural villa, the most extensive to have ever been unearthed in Malta. According to tradition the villa is where St. Publius, the governor and first bishop of Malta, welcomed St. Paul after his shipwreck in 60AD. However, there is no

archaeological evidence in support of Christian claims, and it is considered a myth dating to the middle ages. In fact, evidence of Christian worship on the site only dates back to the building of the first chapel in the fourteenth century. The site was included on the Antiquities List of 1925.



Part of the Roman structures  
excavated under the San Pawl Milqi Church

Although the remains of the villa have long been well known, scientific excavations, led by the Missione Archeologica Italiana a Malta, did not commence until 1963.

San Pawl Milqi is a Maltese archaeological site located near the village of Barmarrad, on the side of a hill overlooking the fertile plain of Barmarrad and Salina Bay. As often in Malta, the site is used for several periods (prehistoric, Phoenician, Roman, Christian) but the most important remains date back to Roman times

and reveal an important agricultural villa centered on the culture of the olive tree. A small church stands on the site evoking the memory of the landing of St. Paul in Malta.

On site there was a temple dedicated to the Greek God Apollo and a Roman villa close to the Chapel of St. Paid el Milki (San Pawl Milqi). It is managed by Heritage Malta and closed for conservation except for the annual open day, which is usually in February.

The site has been in use since prehistoric times; a couple of tombs date back to the Zebbug and possibly the Borg in-Nadur phases of the Maltese Bronze Age. The first building on the site was probably built in the Phoenician-Punic period, when the site was used intermittently for agriculture. A small number of structures remain from this period and one burial bears a neo-Punic inscription.

**MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER**  
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**Building Bridges**  
**between Communities**

**A nation's history**  
**and culture reside**  
**in the heart and soul**  
**of its people**

**Mahatma Gandhi**

**INVITATION - You are sincerely invited to send a message to the bishop-elect Charles Gauci on his appointment as Bishop of Darwin. Send your email to [maltesejournal@gmail.com](mailto:maltesejournal@gmail.com) and your message will appear in the next edition of the Maltese e-Newsletter. Bishop-elect Gauci still treasures his Maltese heritage and he always support all the members of the Maltese community of South Australia**

**Frank Scicluna - Editor**

## Re/MARK/ABLE – Experience of contemporary craft in Gozo

Re/MARK/ABLE – is opening at the Cittadella Cultural Centre next month. This exhibition will allow the visitors a new way to experience contemporary craft.

It will showcase decorative, functional and wearable collections from nine Gozo artisans exploring chosen themes in wood, metal, mixed media, ceramic, jewellery, glass and mosaic.

Barbara Attard Pettett, Mario Cordina, Babs Davidson, Jayne and Paolo Giordanella, Abi Macleod Clark, Jackie Roberts, Rachel Robinson and Paul Singleton, are presenting contemporary applied craft influenced by nature, land and sea, architecture, nostalgia, storytelling and everyday life.



This project, organised by Makers Mark and curated by Jayne Giordanella, aims to highlight not only how craft can be presented in an engaging way, but how innovation and creativity in design and making are alive and vibrant on Gozo.

Makers Mark, a registered NGO, was established in 2014 by a group of professional designer/makers to promote excellence in contemporary craft both nationally and internationally.

The UnforgettABLE Pat – an installation, “weaving a fine line between shabby chic and urban squalor, an immersive sensory narrative depicting the art and life of the Unforgettable Pat Holtom,”

says Emma Victoria Morgan, designer and installation curator

This is a retrospective tribute to influential textile designer and weaver Patricia Ann Holtom (1939-2016) in the form of an installation offering a glimpse into her studio.

The installation captures the essence of Pat’s work process, her ‘doodles in 3D,’ artefacts, work in progress, and materials carefully removed from her house, just as she left them.

Pat had a long association with Gozo having lived and worked on the island, on and off, since the 1960’s. Some of the artists and makers who knew Pat were invited to create new work, inspired by her, some of which is on show.

Photographer, Federico Cini made a visual record of Pat’s studio before it was cleared. A selection of these images will form a backdrop to the installation

WorkABLE – work in progress A space dedicated to the design process, the tools and techniques of making. Designers and makers participating in the project will be on hand to demonstrate some of their processes; talk to visitors and answer questions offering insights into the inspiration and skill behind the work on show.

Re/MARK/ABLE – opens to the public from the 8th until the 29th of September, at the Cittadella Cultural Centre, Victoria, Gozo, daily 9am-5pm, admission is free

The exhibition is endorsed by V18 – Valletta European Capital of Culture and supported by the Ministry for Gozo.

The general public is invited to come along and ‘Meet the Makers’ in a series of informal show and tell sessions on: Saturday, the 8th of September from 4pm-6pm, on Friday, the 21st of September from 10am-12 noon and on Monday, the 24th of September from 10am-12 noon

For more information follow the [MAKERSMARKMalta facebook page](#).

*Photos: Centre is Pat Holtom, then from top left; Abi Macleod Clarke Mosaic making, Barbara Attard Pettett Raku firing, Jackie Roberts working with copper.*



## CANADIAN YOUTH MEET THE PRESIDENT OF MALTA

Last update: about 5 months ago



President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca began her working visit in Ontario last May by meeting with young Maltese-Canadian descendants in Mississauga. The President was accompanied by Foreign Affairs Minister Carmelo Abela, She emphasised the importance of making young people feel connected to the Maltese islands by praising the many contributions made by the Maltese diaspora who have helped Canada to prosper and flourish.

Furthermore, President Coleiro Preca focused on the need to harness and encourage the energy and enthusiasm of young people in the Maltese diaspora. In this context, she encouraged the young people to explore dual citizenship and the opportunities this provides within Europe.

The President mentioned Malta's impressive economic growth, low unemployment rate, and need to import workers from overseas as compelling examples of how the diaspora can reconnect with the Maltese Islands.

"Coming to live and work in Malta will be like coming back home", said President Coleiro Preca.



Photo: DOI - Clifton Fenech

The young people also shared their lived experiences, including Christine Bartolo, the newly appointed Maltese-Canadian Youth Ambassador. Bartolo said that she was working closely with Maltese-Canadian young people, and that their participation is steadily growing in the community. All the young people present for the meeting with the President said that there was the need to use digital technology more effectively and in more innovative ways so as to create new connections between young

people in the Maltese islands and in the diaspora.

For this reason, the President encouraged spaces for youth-to-youth connections which should take place in a more structured way between the Canadian-Maltese youth community and the youth community in Malta. In this way, young people could discuss shared issues, concerns, and experiences. Speaking about the uniqueness of Maltese identity, the President said that "the Maltese language gives us a sense of strength and connection." The President described the preservation of the Maltese language in Canada as an example of a celebration of diversity.

The President also praised Canada for having one of the first policies towards embracing the importance of diversity and multiculturalism. Such policies, said the President, reduce social tensions and foster a strong sense of solidarity in society. Echoing the President's remarks, a young Canadian-Maltese person concluded the meeting by saying that, "The government of Canada is supportive of diversity, and that helps us to value our Maltese culture."



## MARISA D'AMATO – MALTA'S COUNTRY SINGER



Marisa D'Amato is one of the leading country singers on the island and considered to be Malta's queen of country music.

Marisa has been in the local scenes since when she participated for the first time in the Malta Eurovision Song Contest in 1996. In the following years she participated again in 1998 and 2003, in the Malta Song Festival of 1996 and 1999 and the I-Ghanja tal- Poplu Festival of 1998, 2001 and 2004. She also took part in various musicals including "Jesus Christ Superstar", "the sound of music" and the leading role in the local produced musical, "Jisimni Katarina".

But her career had a big turnover when she turned to country music. It all started when she was asked to participate in a local TV programme called "RODEO",

After singing in 13 programs she decided to issue her first CD, "**Makin' Believe**". Consequently, she participated in other programs as a country singer, and performed in all the leading country activities on the island. After being chosen as one of the honorary singers of the country music appreciation society, in September 2000 she had the opportunity to sing in Louisiana and Tennessee where she performed in a concert with flatpicking champion, guitar player Steve Kaufmann and Dolly Parton's Banjo Player Gary Davis.

A few months later she released her second album, "**Country Heart & Soul**" And In February 2004 her 3rd album "**Heartaches & Roses**" that includes duets with j. J. Johns and local country music singer Araldo. In 2007 Marisa released her fourth album, "**My kind of country**" with some of her original tracks.

in 2007 Marisa toured in Australia for 7 weeks and also performed in Ireland and UK. In 2006, 2007 and 2009. She toured again for 6 weeks in Australia in 2009 and performed in Wolvestock Country Music Festival and at Fort San Antone In Birtchwood UK in July 2010-2013.

Since 2014 Marisa has been one of the main artists performing at the Phil Mack International Country Shows around the UK with Singers Jacqui Sharkey, Trevor Loughrey, Ben Troy, Caitlin, Raymond Froggatt, Philomena Begley, John Permenter, Lisa Stanley, Sarah Jory and The Ryan Turner Band.

In 2015 she released her latest album "**Real Live Woman**" together with a gospel album called "**praise him**". In 2016 Marisa released the album "**The Irish Country Collection**" and in 2017 her second gospel album "**Me & God**". Marisa also sings regularly on the local tv show "kalamita" on one tv, and is a member of The Country Music Association (cma).

Apart from her singing career, she is also has a daily radio show on Malta's leading radio station "one radio" and produces and presents a country tv program, "**Country Jamboree**" on Sky Channel 261 And Freesat 402. For the second consecutive year, the Maltese singer Marisa D'Amato was chosen among the best country music talent in Ireland.

Marisa D'Amato was singing during the annual Hot Country Awards which took place on Tuesday 1 May at Cavan. Her album, "The Irish Country Collection" was chosen as the best Irish country music album by international singers.

Marisa gives several concerts throughout Ireland and the UK and also presents a TV programme on SKY Freesat and Freeview, which is followed by millions around Europe.

Meanwhile, in 2017, Marisa won the honour of best international country music singer in Ireland at the same awards.



## The 'extraordinary' success of Salesian summer camps

Summer camp participants gather for a group photo. Photos: Equipe SDB

The annual Salesian summer camps held at Savio College were this year described as an "extraordinary success", attracting 382 boys and girls for five weeks of non-stop activity.

The aim, the Salesians say, is to offer holistic

formation during the summer months for boys and girls from all over the island. The activities offer spaces for prayer, formation and recreation in a typical Salesian environment. *A wonderful experience for the participating adolescents*

The camps remain focused on giving participants a personal and spiritual journey.

Holy Mass, formation sessions and moments of reflection and prayer featured daily, a spokes-man noted.

Guided by the Salesian vocation promoter in Malta, Fr Louis Grech, and Br Clint Rizzo, 62 young Salesian animators generously offered five weeks of their summer to provide "a wonderful experience" for the participating adolescents.

"In a contemporary culture which mostly promotes individualism and materialism, it is truly amazing to see so many young people ready to freely offer their energy to be of service to other young people," the spokesman remarked.

## THE BOAT



A film produced and written by a Maltese father and son Winston and Joe Azzopardi will be premiering next month in a prestigious film festival in Austin, Texas. The Boat sees Winston Azzopardi direct his son Joe in this solo voyage of survival. The film is completed and will be screened to buyers in Cannes.

An unnamed fisherman sets out on his daily run but finds himself irredeemably lost when a thick fog

suddenly surrounds his boat. However, it is when he crashes into an abandoned sailboat that his troubles really begin. Trapped onboard, he is forced to face an unknown enemy whose sole raison d'être seems to be the fisherman's destruction.

Building on a tradition of eerie, ghostly British tales, THE BOAT is a menacing thrill ride that pits a violent survival drama against the supernatural. In the leading role, Joe Azzopardi excels as the fisherman, a practical man whose quick thinking and sea-faring experience ensure that his fight against the unnatural force is more than even.

It would be churlish to not mention the role the brilliant cinematography plays in a film that relies on its setting to keep the mood sustained. Winston Azzopardi captures the sea in a duality that is immediately logical. While calm, serene and beautiful, it is also more than capable of turning into a monster ready to devour those who are not prepared. Scenes of storm and chaos are handled with aplomb, relying on practical effects and visual trickery as opposed to endless CGI, drawing the audience further into its world.

A B-movie in the best sense of the phrase, THE BOAT is a brilliant thriller that cleverly highlights the natural in the supernatural. Facing that most unforgiving and vicious enemy, Nature, the fisherman needs to keep his wits in order to survive. But the mysterious boat and the force that drives it add a superlative genre element to a film that will leave those who see it breathless, entertained, and convinced of the arrival of a new filmmaking duo whose next step they'll want to watch very carefully.

With Director/Co-Writer Winston Azzopardi and Actor/Co-Writer Joe Azzopardi in Attendance.





THE MALTESE GUILD OF SA INC.

*70th Birthday Ball*



The Committee of the  
Maltese Guild of South Australia  
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**Saturday, 8th September 2018**

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**70<sup>th</sup>**  
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**Anthony Farrugia - 8182 4600**

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## Australian Birds – The laughing kookaburras

Kookaburras are the largest members of the kingfisher family. There are four species in total.

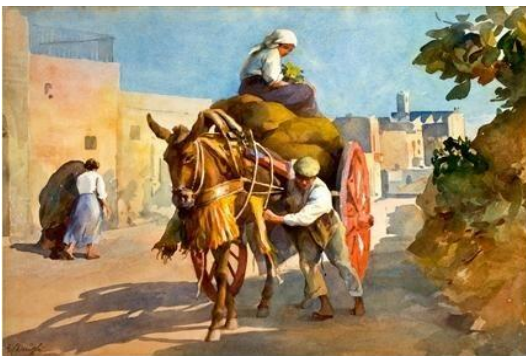
The **Blue-winged Kookaburra** of northern Australia makes a call described more like a harsh, cackling scream! It is slightly smaller than its laughing cousin with more blue on the wing.

The **Laughing Kookaburra** of eastern Australia makes a very familiar call sounding like raucous laughter. It's used to establish territory among family groups, most often at dawn and dusk. Unfortunately, Kookaburras are also well established in south-west Western Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand after being artificially introduced. In WA they are significant threat to native lizard species and take up vital nesting hollows that endangered black cockatoos need to breed successfully. They have a distinctive dark eye stripe. The Spangled and Rufous-bellied Kookaburras, natives to Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, occasionally visit Australian islands of the Torres Strait.

### A tough start to life

Kookaburra chicks may be blind and naked once hatched but they are still very aggressive. The young chicks have special hooks on their beaks. They use these to fight each other in the nest – the first two hatchlings often pecking the third and final chick to death leaving more food for the themselves.

Kookaburras are almost exclusively carnivorous, eating mice, snakes, insects, small reptiles and the young of other birds. In suburban parks and gardens they can become quite brazen and will happily snatch a sausage or two off your barbecue!



Edward Caruana Dingli (1876-1950) is without doubt one of the finest artists Malta has ever produced.

His love for all that was beautiful and his impeccable eye for detail, coupled with an unfaltering technique, produced the most appealing and charming of paintings of the 20th century



**Bishop-elect  
Charles Gauci  
Will say Mass at  
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Lockleys  
On Sunday  
September 9,  
2018  
For the  
members of the  
Maltese  
community in  
Adelaide**

In Loving Memory Of



**Peter Paul Scerri**  
15.3.1930 – 15.5.2018  
Born in Rabat, Malta

Loving husband of  
Nina.

Cherished father of  
Marlene, Victor and Net.

Loved father-in-law of  
Terry and Jamie.

Valued friend of David.

Adored Nannu of  
Laura and Christian,  
Alexander,  
Stephanie and Nick,  
Eloise,  
Joel and Tyler-Skye.

Doting Buz-Nannu of  
Annabelle.



## 10th ANNUAL FESTA IL-VITORJA SUNDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 2018

Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc.  
1832 Michigan Avenue, Detroit, Michigan 48216

*Celebrating 78 Years in Corktown*

For more information: Email  
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Facebook; Check-out our website [DetroitMaltese.com](http://DetroitMaltese.com)

Come Celebrate Our 10th Gathering for the  
Maltese Festa IL-Vitorja – Our Lady of Victory  
Celebrating the Birth of Our Lady, the Mother of God  
and the Victory of World War II –  
The Great Siege of 1565

Festivities will begin with a Mass Celebration at  
Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church  
1050 Porter Street, Detroit, Michigan 48226  
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Our Statue of Mary will be Processed into Church and  
Receive its Annual Blessing

**11 a.m. Mass at Most Holy Trinity Church**

**1:30 p.m. Food Available at Club**

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\$10 – Rabbit Stew or Baked Macaroni  
\$5 – Choice of 2 Hot Dogs & Potato Chips  
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\$40 for Non-Members**

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