

Maltese eNewsletter

Journal of the Maltese Diaspora



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ORDER OF MALTA

The oldest medical mission
in the world

WE are proud of Margaret Zita (nee Puli)
1st generation Maltese, who was awarded
the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)

MESSAGE of

*Her Excellency
Marie-Louise
Coleiro Preca
President of
the Republic
of Malta*

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ANZAC
MONUMENT

FLORIANA
MALTA



100 YEARS
OF WORLD WAR ONE



2019 We Will Remember Them Red Poppy Commemorative

For more than 100 years
Australians have fought bravely in conflicts
that have taken them to all corners of the globe

Malta honours the courage and sacrifice
of the ANZACS



MACQUARIE MINT

We wish
our readers
Peace
this Easter

President of Malta – H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca Message



It has been my honour and privilege to have had this opportunity to be able to share with you, as one of you, these past five years as President of the Republic of Malta.

Throughout that time, I have worked hard to uphold my constitutional duties, because I believe that democracy is the best means that we have, in today's world, to celebrate human dignity and to safeguard the observance of human rights and peace, in our communities and in Maltese society.

Serving as your President has been a privilege, and I am grateful to the representatives of the people through Parliament, where for the first time the nomination of President of Malta was reached through unanimous agreement, both by Government and Opposition, notwithstanding my coming from the Government benches.

I hope this consensus will continue for my

successors, because the President of our nation should have no party but should serve the people, with loyalty and with a conscience that goes beyond any desire for popularity.

Therefore, as I conclude my term, I wish to express my gratitude to the Government and Opposition who received my criticisms with respect, and accepted a number of my proposals and suggestions.

Dear young people of Malta and Gozo, I urge you to be our islands' activists

Above all, I wish to thank the entire people of Malta and Gozo for the respect and support they have given me. My gratitude also goes to those among us who have criticised me, perhaps at times in haste and with lack of forethought, because I have learnt from the experience.

I learnt from everyone, especially when I spent time among you. I learnt from our children and young people. I learnt most keenly about how we are capable and competent in our capacity as individuals, but far more capable when we are united, and mindful of one another.

Today, more than ever before, I believe that we, as a nation, have the ability to be unique. We have the ability to ensure that nobody feels isolated. We have the ability to strengthen unity, and moreover, to nurture peace among the nations.

Our children want us to be united, and they want Malta to be a country in which nobody is made to suffer or to feel excluded.

Our children want us to respect one another. Our children do not want conflict, rather, they want our country to welcome them and give them peace of mind.

Dear young people of Malta and Gozo, I urge you to be our islands' activists, because our island has always been valued for its genuine efforts, in favour of inclusion and resilience among our people. God willing, you will be worthy to become the future leaders of our country.

Dear brothers and sisters, I assure you that all the experiences we have lived through together will remain engraved upon my heart with love. Let me also take this opportunity to wish George Vella every success in his forthcoming new role, as the President of Malta.

I augur that, in a new capacity, I will continue to do my part to promote further strategies for sustainable peace, inclusive prosperity and holistic wellbeing to the people of the Maltese Islands, our Euro-Mediterranean Region and beyond.

I thank you, wholeheartedly.



ORDER OF MALTA

Church of St. Mary on the Aventine glows again after two years of restoration

Two and a half centuries after its construction, the important restoration of the Church of St. Mary on the Aventine, work of the Venetian genius Giovanni Battista Piranesi, was presented yesterday. The renovation, involving both the

interior and exterior of the church, was commenced in 2015 from the altar and completed a few days ago. 900 square metres of scaffolding, 12 metres high, were necessary to restore the only architectural work of the famous Venetian engraver to its original glory. Thus one of the oldest churches in Rome glows again on the Aventine Hill in the complex of the Magistral Villa, seat of the Sovereign Order of Malta's government.

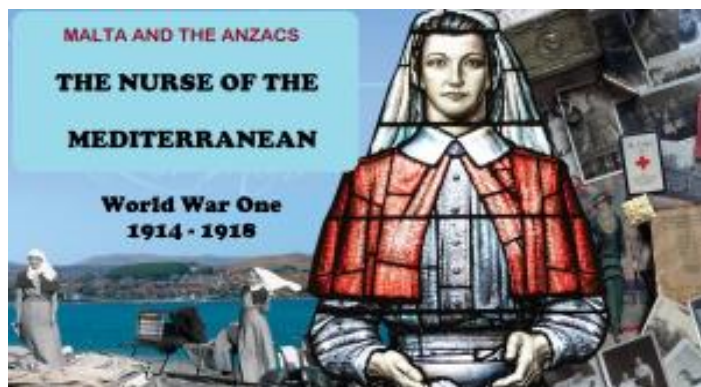
In front of a considerable media presence, the curator of the Order of Malta's Art Collections Fra' John Critien illustrated the most salient features of the church, whose renovation Cardinal Giovanni Battista Rezzonico – Gran Prior of the Order and nephew of Pope Clement XII – entrusted to Giovanni Battista Piranesi in 1764 together with the Villa and the Piazza in front. The work – concluded in October 1766 – consolidated the structure of the 16th-century church and raised the side walls. Piranesi also restored the vault and designed the decoration for its new aspect.

Very few interventions have been made since then, except for those of ordinary maintenance, something that renders the recent restoration particularly significant, generously sponsored by the Fondazione Roma and Grand Priory of Rome.

"The restorers used only scalpels for their meticulous work, carried out with extreme delicacy especially in those parts where inappropriate decoration had covered the original moulding," the technical director of the work, architect Giorgio Ferreri, explained, pointing out the richness and minutiae of the details, testifying to the great talent of the Venetian engraver. "The method adopted was that of the restoration of painted surfaces, like a picture," Ferreri said.

The inauguration of the Church was enriched by J.S. Bach's partitas and sonatas for violin with the reading of passages from an anonymous manuscript, written in the period after Piranesi's intervention around the end of the 18th century and referring to the completed restoration. Some 150 guests admired the splendour and magnificence of the building, adorned with symbols of the Order of Malta, to which Piranesi was profoundly linked, as Grand Master Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre recalled in his concluding address: "The church eloquently represents the patronage of Cardinal Rezzonico and that of the Order of Malta. This is testified to by the many symbols on the vault, in the niches and on the façade, as well as in the piazza dei Cavalieri di Malta, that narrate the military and naval deeds of our ancient institution, and its character as a religious order of the Catholic Church."

"It is the responsibility of the Order's government to preserve and enhance the artistic and cultural heritage of which we are transitory beneficiaries," Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre concluded.



Learn more about Malta's role in WW1 and why Malta earned the title of NURSE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN. Read about the military hospitals and the cemeteries where ANZACs are buried. Reserve a copy for your family. Contact the editor on

maltesejournal@gmail

New project provides shoes to 15,000 disadvantaged adults and children in the Philippines

A new project by the Order of Malta Philippines has provided 15,000 pair of shoes to



disadvantaged adults and children.

Thanks to a generous donation from Vans Philippines, who donated the shoes, Members and volunteers of the Order of Malta arranged for the distribution and fitting of the shoes to those in need. Many of the recipients have never had a shoe. Not only do the shoes prevent the spread of disease, they

provide the owner with dignity and opportunities to participate in work, education and other activities that may not of previously been possible.



ORDER OF MALTA

**The oldest medical mission
in the world**

The Order of Malta is permanently present with medical, social and humanitarian projects in most countries in the world. Its 13,500 members, 80,000 permanent volunteers and qualified staff of 42,000 professionals – most of whom are medical personnel and

paramedics – form an efficient network that includes everything from emergency relief for refugees and the displaced living through war and conflict, to intervention in areas hit by natural disasters, hospital work, medical care and social services. Its programmes, run independently or within a framework of partnerships with governments and international agencies, are now active in 120 countries.

Aid for the victims of natural catastrophes and armed conflicts has intensified in recent decades. Through its national Associations, volunteer corps and worldwide relief agency, Malteser International, the Order of Malta provides emergency medical and humanitarian aid and works with the affected populations to implement reconstruction and disaster preparedness programmes.

Veru din il-Gazzetta hija katina taghna il Maltin. Grazzi lilek ghax inti qieghed tkun mhux biss biex izzomna maghqudin, imma ukoll biex tinfurmana b'affarijiet sbieh li forsi qatt ma smajna bihom. Nerga nghidlek grazzi hafna Frank ghal l'ghan li ghandek u li qieghed taghmel. Kompli xerred u aqsam dan id-don. VERU PROSET TASSEW. Percy Eugene Cartwright Jnr Mt Warrigal Shellharbour City NSW (March 2019)

AGIUS IN WW1 - Mary Muscat (1887-1976)



Mary Anne Muscat was born in Mdina, Malta, in 1887. 2nd child of four to Joseph Paul Anthony Muscat (1858-1908) and Teresa Schembri-Torregiani (1855-1922). Joseph's elder sister was Maria Concetta Muscat, who married Edward Tancred Agius in 1873 in Valletta and was mother of the 5 Agius brothers in WW1.

Mary's grandfather was Carlo Maria Muscat (married to Guiseppa Cohen, a direct descendant of Guiseppe Cohen who foiled the plot to assassinate Grandmaster Pinto). Carlo was President of the Chamber of Commerce in Malta in 1889 and lived in the house on Strada Reale/Kingsway/Republic Street that is now the La Valette Restaurant and Club.

In WW1 Mary's brothers Joseph Louis Muscat and Charles Muscat both served in the British Army. At first Joseph was with the Kings Own Malta Regiment of Militia at Gallipoli and then with Kings Royal Rifle Corps and Munster Fusiliers. Charles served with the 7th South Staffordshire Battalion, first at Gallipoli and then the Battle of the

Somme, when he was awarded his MC for actions during an offensive near Thiepval in July 1916. He later took part in the Battle of Passchendaele near to where his 1st cousin Richard Agius was killed on the morning of 26th October 1917.



As all the wounded from Gallipoli arrived in Malta in 1915 there was a great expansion of the number of hospitals and a call for more nurses to which Mary responded. She nursed mainly at the established hospital at Cottonera and St Patrick's temporary tented hospital.

Mary made a major photo album of her time as a nurse in Malta in WW1 and thanks to Charles's son John and grand-daughter Anne we are able to publish the album here <http://agiusww1.com>. The photos include many unique views around Malta and names of a number of soldiers, that Mary nursed and worked with. St Patrick's Hospital was dismantled in April 1917 and Mary then returned to Cottonera Hospital, Cottonera Hospital became St Edwards College in 1929 and Mary's friend and colleague Nurse Violet Briffa became a Matron in the school 1930-1965.

Between the wars Mary nursed in London and remained close to her cousins, the family of Edward Tancred Agius in Hampstead. She ran a boarding house in Sheffield Terrace, Holland Park, London, during

WW2, then moved, with her newly married brother Charles and wife Ellen, to her 2nd boarding house in Lexham Gardens, where her nephew, John, was born in 1946.

In 1946, she returned to Malta leaving the boarding house in Lexham Gardens in the care of Charles and Ellen, but returned 2 years later to help Ellen bring up John and look after Charles, who had become unwell. She sold the lease on Lexham Gardens and opened a new boarding house in Stanford Road nearby, where she welcomed family and any Maltese friends visiting London. She stayed in London until 1957 (after Charles died in 1955) and then returned to Malta where she became a resident at the Regina Hotel, Sliema, always welcoming the many cousins who would visit from England. She was back near her brother Joseph and sister Lily as well as the Agius sisters who had married Maltese men and raised their families in Malta (Inez Cassar, Laura Mompalao De Piro, Mabel Arrigo & Marie Denaro).

Those Who Served In The Great War 1914-1918 We Will Remember Them



Dom Achille Samut



Major Arthur Samut



Lt George Samut



Lt Leonard Samut



Major Alfred Agius



Captain Arthur Agius



Captain Richard Agius



Lt Frank Samut



Nurse Mary Muscat



Dom Ambrose Agius



Captain Edgar Agius



Lt Joseph Muscat



Major Charles Muscat

Margaret Zita OAM

We



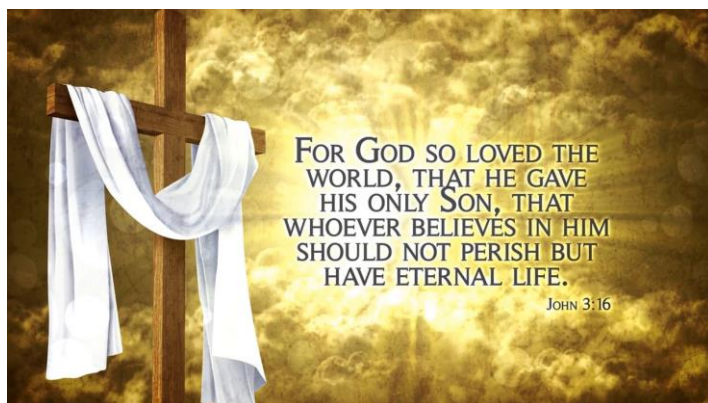
are proud of Margaret Zita (nee Puli), 1st generation Maltese, who was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) which was announced in the Australia Day 2019 Honours List on 26 January, 2019. Her award was for services to the community through charitable initiatives.

Margaret is Vice President of the Charity "My Room". My Room is a volunteer-led organisation dedicated to raising funds to achieve a 100% cure rate for all childhood cancers, funding clinical research and clinical trials, clinical care, medical equipment and family support to patients and families affected by childhood cancer without bureaucracy. The charity started in 1992 when a group of parents came together with the humble goal of raising enough money to renovate the rooms on the cancer ward at Royal Children's Hospital after their children were diagnosed with cancer. They went on to achieve this goal and more. Margaret joined the committee 15 years ago and the charity has raised over \$20 million dollars to date. The money raised funds Clinical Research and Clinical Trials which is required to help improve treatment options and hopefully lead to a cure; Clinical Care which funds positions such as a Social Worker and Dietician which enhances the level of care to strive for the best possible outcome for children with cancer; My Room also helps to support families with financial and emotional assistance to patients and their families as well as funding the right equipment which can make life more comfortable for a child getting treatment. The charity is driven by volunteers and monies raised go right back to supporting research in finding a cure for childhood cancer.

Margaret also sits on the Advisory Council for the Multicultural Commission which she is extremely passionate about given her Maltese heritage. Margaret's parents William Puli (deceased at the age of 44) and mother, Teresa Puli (nee Borg) emigrated from Malta in 1955. Her mother raised 4 daughters under the age of 10 when she became a widow at 35 years of age (Margaret was only 3). Teresa was instrumental in helping Margaret's passion of giving back to others. As a widow, her mother was very much into giving back to the community that helped her in her time of need. With these memories and teachings from her mother, Margaret has worked tirelessly to give back through her work on the My Room charity. Her network in both the business and local communities have been instrumental in her success to drive outcomes for the charity.

Aside from her charitable initiatives, Margaret has been working full time for Qantas as Commercial Stakeholder Specialist. She has been with Qantas for 30 years and in that time she has seen the growth and mergers between Australian Airlines and Qantas. Her key focus is to maintain and grow Qantas' relationships with major key stakeholders. She is married to Tony Zita, Lawyer, and has 3 sons ages 22, 17 and 12.

For more information on My Room and ways you can make a donation or volunteer at one of our events, please visit my Room.com.au or email at hello@myroom.com.au



Stedina lill-Maltin
L-Ghid April 2019
Celebrazzjoni tal-Ghid
fil-Kappella ta' San Pawl
Mgr De Piro House Stanley
Street East Sydney NSW

Rev Fr Tarcisio Micallef MSSP

Jixtieq jistieden lill-kommunita Maltija għac-celebrazzjonijiet li ser issiru b'tifkira solenni, għal passjoni, 'l-mewt u 'l-qawmien ta' Sidna Gesu' Kristu.

Nhar il- Hadd 14 ta' April, ser tkun iccelebrata Hadd il-Palm, id-dahla solenni tal-Mulej f'Gerusalem. Ikun hemm it-tberik tal-palm u wara jkun hemm il-quddiesa bhas soltu fl-10.00 am, fil-Kappella ta' San Pawl De Piro House Stanley Street Sydney.

Nhar il-Hamis 18 ta' April, fis-7.00 pm, issir it-tifkira tal-ikla tal-Mulej, b'quddiesa solenni, wara 'S-Sebgha Visti tas-Sepurklu.

Il-Gimgha 19 ta' April, fis-2.30 pm, tibda l-Via Sagra u fit-3.00 pm, ikun hemm il-funzjoni tal-passjoni ta' Sidna Gesu Kristu.

Is-Sibt 20 ta' April, fis-7.00 pm, tibda l-funzjoni tas-sahra tal-lejl qaddis, tal-qawmien tal-Mulej mill-imwied.

Il-Hadd 21 ta' April, niccelebraw il-Jum Qaddis tal-Qawmin tal-Mulej. Fid-9.45 am ikun hemm quddiesa, tal-Ghid 'Mqaddes fejn ser jattendu Maltin min Melbourne li gejjin għal okazzjoni tal-Ghid, wara kulhadd huwa mistieden għal kika kafe. Kulhadd huwa mistieden.,

F'isem is-Socjeta Missjunarja ta' San Pawl, Fr Tarcisio Micallef, jixtieq il-Ghid it-tajjeb lil kulhadd u jirringrazzja lil kull min jattendi għal funzzjonijiet organizzati mat-tul is-sena specialment il-priedki tar-Randan fejn għadhom issiru.

Nhar il-Erbgha 10, il-Hamis 11 u l-Gimgha 12 ta' April, ezercizzi spiritwali fil-parrocchia ta' Our Lady Queen of Peace Greystanes. Nibdew fl-10.30 am. Jipriedka Fr Lonnie Borg MSSP. Ikun hemm quddiesa, priedka u barka sacramentali.

Nhar il-Erbgha 10, il-Hamis 11 ta' April, ezercizzi spiritwali fil-parrocchia ta' Horsley Park Our Lady of Victories, fis-6.00 pm jipriedka Fr Lonnie Borg MSSP. Ikun hemm quddiesa, priedka u barka sacramentali.

Il-Kommemorazzjoni tad-Dulri ta' Marija Santissima

Nhar il-Gimgha 12 ta' Marzu, fil-kappella ta' San Pawl De Piro House Stanley Street Sydney, fis-7.00pm tibda l-quddiesa fejn nikkommemoraw id-Duluri ta' Maria Santissima, li ahna l-Maltin nikkommemoraw b'devozzjoni.

Nixtiequ nheggu lill-kommunita biex tattendi għal din l-kommemorazzjoni tad-Duluri kif ukoll għal kull ma' qed norrganizzaw biex niccelebraw il-festa tal-Ghid il-Kbir, il-mewt u l-qawmien ta' Sidna Gesu Kristu.

Fr Tarcisio Micallef MSSP Tel: 9380 8398
Chaplain for the Maltese Community in Sydney

TAL-IMGHOBBI

Hija Gorġ kien iħobb jerfa'
mill-Vari tal-Gimgha l-Kbira;
Tal-Imghobbi Kristu mżebbaħ
tiegħu kien dejjem il-mira.

Għal daż-żmien kien jibda jhejji
sa mill-bidu tar-Randan,
fost il-jiem kollha tas-sena
ma kienx jara isbaħ minn dan!

In-nies tagħna għandha d-drawwa
tiegħu sehem fil-purċissjoni;
O kemm hi haġa sabiha
tara lil kulhadd unjoni!

Min bħal hija taħt xi statwa,
oħrajn ikaxkru l-ktajjen,
min jerfa' xi bandalora,
min itterraq haġi, sajjem!

Anke l-Knisja xxidd l-iswed
tar-Randan tul l-erbghin jum
u t-Triq tas-Salib timxi
sakemm dan iż-żmien idum.

Illum daħlet sewwa d-drawwa
illi jagħmlu l-Wirjiet
li juruna t-tbatija
sakemm Kristu ssallab, miet.

Dil-Passjoni Huwa beda
hekk kif rifes ġewwa l-Ġnien;
sal-istess dixxipli tiegħu
Lilu telqu bla dewmien!

Quddiem Kajfa u Erodì
w iċ-ċorma tal-Qassisin
tawh bil-ħarta u beżzulu
u għaddewh ta' assassin.



Ma' kolonna lilu rabtu,
għal hin twil ifflaġellawh;
ma baqax sura ta' bniedem –
l-Imghallem ittorturawh.

U fit-triq lejn il-Qorriegħa
waqa' fl-art għal tliet darbiet
u tal-qiegha t-trab mesaħ
waqt karba tal-uġiħ dwiet

Li dlonk nifdet il-qalb t'Ommu
li man-nisa mxiet warajh
sakemm fuq salib lemħitu
b'dawk l-imsiemer ġo saqajh.

L-aħħar qtar tal-ilma hareġ
mat-tmiem tat-Testment divin
li Gesu' ried iħalliha
għal kemm għad itulu s-snin.

Dana kollu li għidtilkom
Ta' spiss tarawh esebit
f'dal-Wirjiet illi jsiru
b'sagrifiċċju u taħbit.

Jalla jissuktaw u jinbtu
iktar minn dawn il-wirjiet
sabiex nifhmu minn xiex għadda
l-Iben t'Alla sakemm miet.

Ejjew hbieb iflu l-istatwi,
Gorru t-toqol tas-Salib
La tisthux tistqarru illi
Kristu hu l-aqwa ħabib!

Qabel nagħlaq nixteqilkom
Randan mimli paċi w ġid –
wara Kristu ibqgħu miexja
b'rieda soda tal-ħadid!

Kav Joe M Attard
Victoria Għawdex

Mary Rose Mallia Stars In Teatru Malta's 'Il-Madonna Tieghi Ahjar Minn Tieghek'



The operetta is all about the rivalry between band clubs and parishes in most of our towns and villages, especially those that celebrate the feast of the Virgin Mary under various titles and attributes. Imagine what havoc would erupt if the Vatican had to declare that all the parishes in Malta have to celebrate the same feast dedicated to only one Virgin Mary! With clubs come sides and with sides come rivals. Nannu Fred whose as witty and sharp as they come has no time for those who don't support his beloved Madonna tal-Warda. The ever-patient median, Il-Kappillan is played by Simon Curmi, and charming fresh-faced Amber Mansueto takes on the role of Zija Katya's

favourite niece, Violet.

Teatru Malta's 'Il-Madonna Tieghi Ahjar minn Tieghek' is an operetta, penned by Trevor Zahra, composed by Alex Vella Gregory and directed by Peter Busuttil. The show will also see the involvement of Malta's National Youth Band under the direction of band master John Ivan Borg. This production has been made possible with the support of the Valletta 2018 Foundation, Agenzija Żgħażaġh, and The National Association of Band Clubs. With popular names like Aaron Fenech, Dorothy Baldacchino, Rachel Vella, Karl Cassar, Christine Francalanza and Ivan Vella the theatre wants to see you praising the heavens this Christmas season.

The play will be staged at Teatru Pandora in the heart of Żejtun on the 8-9th and the 12th-16th December. For tickets, see the [official website](#).

What's the go with H2O (Water) in Malta?

Since Malta has no rivers, lakes or reservoirs, Maltese has to get its water from its surroundings. Malta's tap water is desalinated sea water - water that has been through the process of reverse osmosis. Malta has three reverse osmosis plants - one in **Ċirkewwa**, one in Pembroke, and one in Għar Lapsi. Water is a problem in Malta, either not enough, or too much. The tiny islands don't have rivers, so tap water is desalinated seawater and groundwater.



Many rely on rain, which comes not at all in summer and in floods in winter.

Taste Not Toxic - Officially the tap water is safe to drink in Malta, but it tastes awful. The desalination process removes particulates and contaminants but leaves it heavy in minerals. It's not toxic, but many visitors find it hard to stomach – literally. Traveler's Diarrhoea is the most common illness to strike tourists but there's

no cause other than "a change in the water".

The desalinated water is perfectly clean and safe when it leaves the plant, but there's no vouching for the cleanliness and integrity of the pipes that deliver it around Malta. Many of the pipes are very old and cracked.

In apartment buildings, the water may be pumped to roof-top holding tanks before coming out of the tap. Some of those tanks are in poor shape.

Bottled or Tap? - Seasoned Malta visitors say a combination of tap water and bottled water is best. Brush your teeth, bathe and cook with tap water (perfect for pasta – no need to add salt!), but drink bottled water. It's a matter of taste, but the heavy mineral content of tap water doesn't make an appealing cup of tea, so fill the kettle with bottled water.

Water Everywhere - If you're in Malta during the summer months there's no need for an umbrella. The average rainfall in July is just 1 millimeter (.03 inches), that doesn't even settle the dust!

But come October and the islands are awash with rain, an average of 120 mm (almost 5 inches) falls in tropical downpours.

Old watercourses, long since built over, revert to their original state, and streets become raging torrents. Roads, cars, people and anything not nailed down (and quite a bit that is) gets washed away. There's an infamous incident from the October 2010 floods, in which a [coffin was videotaped](#) floating down the Qormi valley. Thankfully it wasn't from a cemetery, an undertaker's warehouse with 800 stored coffins had been inundated.

Now it's a part of the Eurozone, Malta is supposed to be attempting to comply with European flood prevention practices, so things are improving – slowly.

If you're in Malta during one of these downpours check with locals before venturing out. They'll know which streets always flood and how likely it is you'll encounter a wall of water coming your way



German Maltese Medical Society

The German-Maltese Medical Society (GMMS) was founded in 1999 under the patronage of the German-Maltese Circle.

The institution aims at promoting:

- The exchange of knowledge about generally accepted scientific standards and the present and future state of the art in medicine
- The organisation of high-level scientific medical symposia and educational programmes for postgraduate medical training
- Teaching courses in public speaking, moderation and especially presentation of medical data in English for international congresses
- Exchange programmes for training, tutorials, hands-on live surgical demonstration
- Exchange programmes for students and for children of GMMS members
- Support of clinical studies ([Clinical Traineeship / Internship Scheme for Maltese Medical Students](#))



The Council is made up of:

Honorary President: Dr
Herbert M. Lenicker,
President: Dr. med.

Maria-Iris Felice-
Klaumann

Vice-President: Prof. Dr.
med. Michael Knauth,
Göttingen, Germany,

Secretary/Treasurer: Mr Stefan Cassar, Secretary – Germany: Mr Karl-Heinz Oedekoven
(Stolberg im Rheinland, Germany)

Postal address – Malta: Messina Palace, 141, Triq San Kristofru, Valletta, Malta
Postal address – Germany: K.-H. Oedekoven. Turmblick 7, D-52222 Stolberg, Germany

The Traditional Maltese ftira is a living part of Maltese culture

After the island ratified the UNESCO convention on intangible cultural heritage back in 2017, Malta can now submit anything we feel needs to be globally recognised as cool.



The *ftira* is just one of a list of seven items that the National Board for Intangible Cultural Heritage came up with.

The list includes Maltese lace, folklore singing (*l-għana*), the art of embroidery using gold thread, falconry, the traditionally baked dough used in religious feasts known as *l-għażziela*, and the Gozitan game of skitters (*brilli*).

The Maltese *Ftira* is something that the Maltese hold dearly as part of their history and culture. A disc-shaped semi-flat bread made with flour, water and salt is reminiscent of a ciabatta in both texture and taste, but is uniquely different at the same time. The Maltese *ftira* makes for a simple, fast and delicious snack, especially when filled with the right fresh ingredients. If you're thinking of booking flights to Malta and want to experience the island like a local then a *ftira* sandwich is a must-try!

Ftira, like most simple bread foods around the world, takes its origins from the working people hundreds of years ago who made the most of the resources they had. Most towns and villages in Malta had a communal oven at the time where everyone from the area would bake their breads. The communal ovens may have been lost through the ages but the delectable *ftira* bread that was made there certainly hasn't.

The process involved in making a *ftira* sandwich can be quite time-consuming, especially if you want to make it from scratch. Luckily though, every bakery you come across on the island will sell it. All you need to do is fill it with traditional Maltese fillings, and like most things in life, it's what's on the inside that counts. In Malta, the most typical *ftira* sandwich is that of *ħobz biż-żejt*, which literally translates to "bread with oil" but it is so much more than just that.

To make *ħobz biż-żejt*:

- First, take the *ftira*, slice it in half and dip the slices in olive oil until they are covered in a generous coating of oil. Maltese olive oil is some of the best in the world so don't be tempted to eat it as is!
- Next, you'll need fresh tomatoes. Slice the tomatoes in half and rub the cut side over the bread until it's red.
- Sprinkle to taste with sea salt and pepper
- After this you can add anything that tickles your fancy. Typically, ingredients such as pickled capers, ripe olives, tuna, and pickled onion are added.
- An abundance of other ingredients such as sundried tomatoes and lettuce can also be added.

Every locality has its own preferences so be creative and come up with something that appeals to you. And there you have it: an easy, delicious snack that you can enjoy wherever you are – perfect for a day at the beach!

Congratulations on your 260th edition of the Maltese Journal. Thank you for all the interesting articles, I enjoyed reading the one on Traditional Maltese Street Games, it took me back to my childhood, playing with my friends in our street and remembering the happy times playing till sunset. I try to read the articles, written in Maltese but I struggle to understand it all.

I love to keep in touch with the happenings of my birth place, and having two siblings and their families still living there I still feel very much a part of our tradition and culture, even though I left those shores 57 years ago. Dolores Muscat - Adelaide



Join the Skolasajf Journey!

The Foundation for Educational Services wishes to inform the general public that applications for children to attend Skolasajf 2019 are now open.

Skolasajf start date: 15th July 2019
 Skolasajf end date: 6th September 2019
Kinder students will start on the 16th July 2019.

Applications may be submitted online on <https://services.fes.gov.mt/> or at any Maltapost branch or at the Edu servizz.gov, Floriana starting from 27th March 2019.

Closing date: 12th May 2019



FOUNDATION FOR
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES



Tel: 2258 6810
 Email: fes@gov.mt
 Web: <https://services.fes.gov.mt>



*The Journal of the
Maltese Diaspora*

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Building Bridges between us



A Journal for the Whole Family

Science in the Citadel – Third edition at the Citadel



This year will be the third edition of Science in the Citadel, which had its official launch few days ago by Minister for Gozo Dr Justyne Caruana.

This free festival will have something for the whole family to enjoy, and is taking place in all areas of the Citadel, on Saturday, the 27th of April, between 10am and 6pm.

Dr Caruana said that all activities during this festival will be aimed at those who want to participate and learn about the various sectors of science and voluntarily pass on their knowledge to others.

“With today’s technological advancements, we need to be prepared and festivals like these bring us close to the technological and scientific world, and now more than ever, science is becoming a necessary topic for our livelihood, said the Minister for Gozo.

She added that, “this science related festival is very important, because it introduces children to the world of science from an early age.”

Justyne Caruana also praised the fact that this initiative has brought together the voluntary sector, education and businesses to explore what science has to offer, while also exposing Gozo’s potential.

Festival organiser Collenn Bower, provided details of some of the exhibits that will be available on the day, including agricultural and marine sciences, artificial intelligence and digital games.

She thanked the Ministry for Gozo for the “substantial support” provided in organising this educational festival. Find out more information on [Facebook](#)

PADRE ZÉ (DUN GUZEPP AGIUS) CITTADIN ONORARJU TAL-PARANÁ - BRAZIL

Sa minn meta wasal fil-Brazil f'Dicembru tal-1961 bhala seminarista tat-teologija u kien ghad ghandu biss 20 sena,



Padre Zé (Dun Guzepp Agius) kellu l-ewwel kuntatti mal – belt ta' Rolândia ghax l-Isqof ta' dak iz-zmien, Dom Geraldo Fernandes, baghtu f' din il-belt fejn diga kienu joqghodu s-Sorijiet Frangiskani Maltin halli jitghallem il-portugiz qabel imur ghat-teologija fil-belt ta' Curitiba, kapitali tal-Istat tal-Paraná. U wara li ordna sacerdote fl-lulju tal- 1965, l-istess Isqof hatru kappillan ta' rhula mxerdin qalb l-ghelieqi tal-faffé u tar-ross fl-istess Municipju ta' Rolândia. Meta l-Isqof Fernandes intebah bil-kwalitajiet pastorali tieghu u t-thabrik tieghu biex ifassal il-hidma kollha skond it-tigdid tal-Koncilju Vatikan 2 li kien ghadu kemm intemm, L-Isqof stiednu biex imur iwettaq l-istess tigdid fil-belt imdaqsa ta' Rolândia f' Gunju tal-1969. U l-belt kibret mieghu fl-oqsma kollha tal-hajja, speċjalment fir-religjon.

Inxtehet b' ruhu u gismu ghat-tigdid tal-liturgija, tal-katekezi, tal-kultura lokali, tal-progetti socjali fil-periferiji foqra, bini ta' knejjes u kappelli, centri socjali u sptar bil-ghajnuna tal-parruccani, li minnhom hafna kienu emigranti mil-Germanja, Italja, Portugal, Spanja, Libanu u Gappun. Sar wiehed minnhom, minghajr qatt ma nesa' l-Malta, art twelidu.

Ghaddew 50 sena bhala kappillan f' Rolândia. Gie mahtur “Cittadin Onorarju ta' Rolândia” fl-1985 u Monsinjur “Prelat tal-Qdusija Tieghu il-Papa” fl-1986. Ghalekk, il-poplu xtaq jurih kemm hu stmat b' quddiesa sollenni fil-knisja ta' San Guzepp, nhar is-sibt 23 ta' Marzu, immexxiha mil-Arcisqof tal-Arcidjocesi ta' Londrina, Dom Geremias Steinemetz u kkonbelebrata mal- 4 kappillani tal-parrocci li Padre Zé bena u holoq fil-belt ta' Rolândia matul dawn il- 50 sena.

U dritt fi tmiem il-quddiesa, d-Deputat Statali, Devanil Reginaldo da Silva, f' isem l-Assembleia Legislativa tal-Istat tal-Paraná, newwillu l-parcmina tal-hatra tieghu bhala “Cittadin Onorarju tal-Istat tal Paraná”. Mument kommoventi, quddiem knisja ffullata, l-istess Gvernatur tal-Istat, Carlos Massa Ratinho Junior, baghat tele-messagg, fejn stqarr li “Padre Zé hu wiehed mil-akbar leaders religjuzi tal-Istat”. Inqraw ukoll messaggi sbieh hafna tal-Kardinal Dom Geraldo Majella Agnelo, Arcisqof Eméritu ta' Salvador, ta' Dom Orlando Brandes, Arcisqof tas- Santwarju Nazzjonali ta' Aparecida u ta' Dom Mário Grech, Isqof ta' Ghawdex.

- Patri Rodrigo Vieira, Agostinjan, kiteb hekk: “ Illum, 23 ta' Marzu, kelli l-unur li niehu sehem fil-quddiesa ta' radd il-hajr l' Alla tal-50 sena ta' Mons. José Agius bhala kappillaan fil-belt ta' Rolândia. Kienet celebrazzjoni sabiha u perfetta, izda qasira meta tqis il-kobor ta' kull ma wettaq fostna l-ghaziz Padre Zé, kif insejhulu. Jisthoqlu jiem shah ta' festa u ta' tifhir ghax verament tá hajtu ghal Rolândia u min xogholu hargu l-4 parrocci l-ohra tal-belt, hargu wkoll movimenti pastoralu u religjuzi. Hargu wkoll progetti socjali konkreti, li llum jigbru madwar 800 tfal u adolexxenti gejjin min familji tal-periferija fqira u ta' riskju. Matul dawn l-4 snin li ilni nahdem bhala qassis f' din il-belt, nista nghid li l-istima u r-rispett tieghi lejn il-Monsinjur zdieđu u kibru. Illum, ninghaqad man nies kollha ta' Rolândia biex nirriongrazzjah tal-prezenza tieghu fostna”

- Nilson Giraldo, Kunsill Municipali tal-Izvilupp, kiteb: “Wisq qabel ma Padre Zé rcieva dan it-titlu ta' Cittadin Onorarju tal-Paraná, hu diga kien ic-cittadin fil-qlob kollha tan-nies, ghonja u fqar, ta' Rolândia. Ghax ahna kbirna taht it-tmexxija tieghu; il-bicca l-kbira tal-mexxejja tal-belgew iffurmati minnu, b' tali mod li hu diffiċili nimmaginaw il-progress ta' Rolândia MINGHAJRU”.

(N.B. maqlub ghal-Malti minn artikli li deheru fuq gazzetti lokali) Joseph Agius



4TH PRESIDENT OF MALTA CENSU TABONE

Vincent "Ċensu" Tabone (30 March 1913 – 14 March 2012) was the fourth President of Malta and a former Minister and Nationalist MP.

Early years

Vincent Tabone was the son of Niccolò and Elisa Tabone, the youngest of ten children. His paternal grandmother, Giuseppina De Gaetani, had settled in Valletta in the mid-19th century from Riposto, Sicily. His father, Niccolò, was one of the first Maltese doctors to read pathology and surgery in the United Kingdom, and served as a District Medical Officer in various parts of Gozo. Life on Gozo for the Tabone family was relatively quiet and pastoral.

They lived in Victoria and spent their summers in Marsalforn.

Tabone's childhood was deeply affected by the sudden death of his father in 1922 at the age of 59. Two years later, at the age of 11, he was shipped off to Malta, where he became a boarder at St. Aloysius College, a Jesuit school. He entered the University of Malta in 1930, where he graduated as a pharmacist in 1933 and as a Doctor of Medicine in 1937.

Military service and medical career

During World War II, he served as a Regimental Medical Officer and general duty officer with the Royal Malta Artillery, and later as trainee ophthalmic specialist stationed at the Military Hospital, Mtarfa. In the early days of the War, he narrowly escaped with his life when a bomb fell at Fort Saint Elmo, demolishing a substantial part of the army barracks to which he had been posted. In 1946, he obtained a diploma in Ophthalmology from the University of Oxford, followed by a diploma in Ophthalmic Medicine and Surgery from the Royal College of Surgeons of England. He was a clinical assistant at Moorfields Eye Hospital in London.

In 1948, Tabone was entrusted with the supervision of a campaign to treat trachoma using sulfonamide tablets and drops.[1] Through his efforts, the disease was virtually eliminated from the Island of Gozo. He helped launch similar campaigns in Taiwan, Indonesia and Iraq under the auspices of the World Health Organization, and subsequently served as a member and consultant of the WHO's International Panel of Trachoma Experts.

He served on the Council of the University of Malta, and between 1957 and 1960 he was a faculty member of the Board of Medicine, and a lecturer in Clinical Ophthalmology in the Department of Surgery. He helped found the Medical Association of Malta in 1954 and is at present its Honorary President. For many years, even as he served as a Member of Parliament, he maintained his medical practice in Sliema.

Political career

Tabone was elected to the Executive Committee of the Nationalist Party in 1961. He later served as the party's Secretary General (1962–1972) and as Deputy Leader (1972–1977). Tabone was first elected to Parliament in 1966 and subsequently served as a Member of Parliament for the Sliema, St. Julian's, Msida, and Gzira areas for 23 years. During this time, he also served as the Minister of Labour, Employment and Welfare (1966–1971) and Minister for Foreign Affairs (1987–1989). In 1968, Tabone brought a motion before the United Nations calling for an action plan in regard to the world's aging population. In 1988, he brought another motion before the UN, calling for the world's climate to be declared the common heritage of mankind.

Death

On 14 March 2012, Tabone died at his home in St. Julian's, Malta at age 98. He died 16 days shy of his 99th birthday. On 23 November 1941, Tabone married Maria Wirth (9 February 1920 – 19 July 2018). He was survived by his wife, eight children, 19 grandchildren and 24 great-grand children. Ċensu and Maria Tabone had celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary not long before his death.

Recalls the moment he saw aircraft crash limits of Safi

Report: Brandon Pisani TVM NEWS



In Malta's aviation history, the year 1969 was by far from being a good year. In a span of three months 50 years ago there were two flight tragedies involving military aircraft. Their stories are two among almost 1,000 aviation incidents that are covered in the book *Broken Wings*, a historical research written by Colonel Mark Said.

Over a number of years Canberra aircraft were stationed in Malta, their task being to photograph strategic places in the Mediterranean. Colonel Said said that one of them

was involved in an incident that happened tomorrow, 50 years ago.

He said the aircraft was returning from Cyprus and while about to land at Hal Far it crashed in the limits of Safi. The crew of two died in the crash and these were Flt Lt Anthony Rogers Thomas and Flying Officer Robert George Newton who was the navigator.

Tarcisio Barbara was then aged 13 and he has never forgotten the scene he witnessed. Barbara said the aircraft suddenly began to lose height and began to spin around and at the same time he heard faint crackling sounds. He said later he discovered this was glass from the cockpit top and instead of ejecting the two-man crew, it pushed them downwards. One of them finished on a horse stable, smashed the roof, killed the horse and himself died. The other crew member died on the corner and the aircraft fell and exploded, causing a blazing inferno.

Rogers Thomas and Robert George Newton are buried at the Mtarfa Military Cemetery. At the same cemetery there are also buried Flt Lt Anthony Prowsse and Peter John Greenaway who lost their lives three months before on 7th January, 1969 when their Canberra crashed near the Addolorata Cemetery while on a training flight.

Colonel Said said it crashed in the same manner, upside down, ejecting the crew and both died. To date there is still no explanation for the crashes although some say it was a problem with flight controls and others maintain it was pilot errors.

L-Ghaqda Dilettanti Gimgha l-Kbira Ghawdex sejra torganizza ghat-tielet darba manifestazzjoni ta' tfal bl-isem "Hallu t-Tfal Jigu Ghandi". Din sejra tinzamm fil-11 ta' April 2019 fis-6.00pm. Din l-attivita' tikkonsisti f' manifestazzjoni (purcissjoni) bil-vari tal-Gimgha l-Kbira, liema vari gew mahduma f' minjatura sabiex is-sehem kollu jkun tat-tfal.

Il-manifestazzjoni tibda minn quddiem l-Iskola Primarja Sir Arturo Mercieca tar-Rabat, Ghawdex u tghaddi minn got-toroq tipici u pittoreski tal-parti qadima tar-Rabat, Ghawdex sakemm tispicca fi Pjazza San Gorg.

Din l-attivita' qed issir bil-kollaborazzjoni ta' l-Iskola Primarja Sir Arturo Mercieca tar-Rabat Ghawdex, Ministeru ghal Ghawdex u Visit Gozo.

Maltese e-Newsletter



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Malta Migration Museum - Valletta
Maltese-Canadian Archives - Toronto, Canada
Gozo National Library - website - www.ozmalta.com



The Ghosts of Valletta

A ghost tour of Malta's capital city, Valletta, was held last week.

Valletta, was built by the Knights of St John more than 400 years ago. It is a historic city, but also a living, working one, the administrative and commercial heart of Malta. In the mornings the city is visited by thousands of people, Maltese and tourists alike, some on their way to work, others to shop or to learn

more about its history. But what happens at night, when the shops and offices close?

This city has throughout the centuries witnessed death, murders, executions, plots and who knows what else. So it is perhaps not surprising that there are so many ghost stories told about Valletta, as it seems that there could still be some earthbound spirits attached to these historic places, still looking for eternal peace or vengeance.

Those attending the Ghost Tour heard a selection of these stories as they take a walk through the dark and deserted streets of Valletta by night.

The event is both a tour of Valletta, impressive during the night, and a tour through its most spectral and mysterious side – learning about the ghosts that inhabit it.

Participants visited the streets of Malta's capital, going back in time, passing by buildings and corners while getting to know some of the stories that have laid the foundation of the city – almost as much as the Knights of St John and the British occupation. Some stories recall the haunted house in St Ursula Street, about the St John's Co-Cathedral ghost and the spirit of the priest in Republic Street.



Brother Louis of De La Salle

Bro. Louis, who died aged 87 in 2011, dedicated his life to Christian education as a De La Salle brother. He hailed from a humble working-class family in Zurrieq and was the second of 11 children.

He dedicated his early teaching career to the dockyard apprentices, who attended De La Salle College in Cottonera, before taking on leadership roles at De La Salle College, Stella Maris College, Gżira, including St Benild's School, Sliema, and the Brothers' novitiate in Mellieħa.

Bro. Louis is known by generations of teachers, parents and students, who came in contact with him and were influenced by him on both the academic and spiritual

levels. He initiated the Signum Fidei fraternity in Malta in 1981, and was loved and respected by all members of the fraternity for his great spirit of faith and zeal, his piety and his readiness to help all in whatever manner. Signum Fidei is an association of lay people who live by the spirit of the founder of the Lasallian community, St John Baptist de La Salle, and continues to meet regularly around the island.

The Cause of Bro. Louis's Beatification is being led by Bro. Rodolfo Meoli, Postulator General of the Congregation of the Brothers of Christian Schools, assisted by Vice-Postulator, Bro. Saviour Gatt. This is the first step which is conducted at Diocesan level. The next and further steps of the Cause will be taken up, once that of the Malta Diocese is eventually concluded, by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, in Rome.

Why wait until someone has passed away before we honour them. I believe we should overcome our embarrassment and say it while they are with us.

Maltese Cultural Movement – London - United Kingdom



Pre - Easter Celebration

Maltese Fair and Get-together

Saturday, 13th April 2019

Come
Join
Us!

Maltese Fair • Get-together

Maltese Fair will open at 12.00 with all your favourite food and drink, including Pastizzi, Ravioli, Figolli (Maltese traditional Easter Cake), Kinnie, Cisk lager, and much more. Alongside the fair we will be running a Maltese kitchen serving some traditional Maltese dishes from the menu and a licensed bar. There will also be a Bouncy Castle for the children (weather permitting). - So come and join us celebrate; bring your family and friends, meet other Maltese people, relax, chat and see what Maltese hospitality and culture is all about.
Entrance is free. Everyone is welcome!



Maltese Culture Movement
P.O Box 2964
London N19 4NS

Cisk Lager

Ravioli

Kinnie

and much more...

The Sacred Heart of Jesus & St Peter the Apostle
(Church Hall)
356 London Road, Waterlooville
Hampshire PO7 7SR
Time: 12:00 to 16:00

Licensed Bar






Maltese Kitchen

L-Għaqda Filantropika Talent Mosti

bi pjaċir tistiednek

għall-21 edizzjoni tal-**WIRJA TAL-ĠIMGĦA MQADDSA** Imqassma fuq tliet taqsimiet Fiċ-ċentru ta' kultura nazzjonali Ir-Razzett tal-Markiż Mallia Tabone - Triq Wied il-Għasel, il-Mosta

Bejn is 6 u l-21 ta' April 2019

Esebjizzjoni kollettiva ta' pittura u skultura flimkien ma' Forum oħra ta' arti u kollezzjonijiet ta' opri sagri marbuta mar-Randan Imqaddes u l-Ġimgħa l-Kbira. Wieħed se jkun jista' japprezza l-arti pprezentata, fis-Sala Ewlenija, taħt it-Tinda u fil-kamra ta' bejn iż-żewġ btiehi.

FINIJIET: Kuljum mis-6.00pm sat 8.30pm Ħamis ix-Xirka mis-6.00pm sal 10.00pm

Ġimgħa l-Kbira mill- 10.00 am sa nofsinhar Ħdud filgħodu 10.00 am sa nofsinhar

DHUL BLAS HLAS – EJJEW OQOGĦDU... TITILFUHIEX...!!!

MALTESE EMIGRATION TO BRAZIL

Almir da Silveira (Brazil)

Beyond the line of grey cargo ships and the terrible heat, the SS. Province reached the port city of Santos. After a month on board, Father Charbon and seventy three people Maltese had finally arrived in Brazil, their new homeland. In the same month of April, another ship left Malta bringing another 106 migrants to work in the coffee plantations. Though they would also come to work in the plantations, their final destination would not be the same.

The year was 1912 and the opening of the twentieth century, which found Malta with an increasing population, a high rate of unemployment and the absence of a developing industrial sector. With the detraction of Malta's naval importance, the problem became even worse, and a great number of Maltese started to leave Malta.



Most of the Maltese emigrants arrived in Brazil holding a British passport and were, therefore, considered by the Brazilian authorities to be British citizens, and not Maltese. When one browses in the scores of Brazilian telephone directories one will find many "Maltese" surnames: Aquilina, Attard, Balzan, Bonello, Bonici, Calleja, Caruana, Cassar, Falzon, Fenech, Friggieri, Galea, Grech, Grima, Mallia, Meli, Muscat, Pirotta, Pisani, Said, Saliba, Sammut, Schembri, Spiteri, Tabone, Vassallo, Vella, Zahra, Zammit and others. Add to it the fact that some of the emigrants had their surnames changed to have an anglicized touch in them. Despite the lack of trustworthy statistics, as Dr Bonnici from Maringa State University explains in his article, we can divide the Maltese emigration to Brazil into three different periods with distinct purposes.



Maltese priests and sisters with Mr. Dominic Colier
(hird from the left) - Brazil 1920

The first group of emigrants arrived in the first decade of the twentieth century to work in the coffee plantations. By that time Brazil's economy was heavily based on the coffee monoculture, and coffee was the most valued asset of the nation. There was a demand for people to work in the plantations, and a great number of European emigrants came to Brazil. The first group of Maltese headed to the plantations in Sao Paulo, while the second group was sent to rural activities in Fortaleza, in Northern Brazil. From these two groups that arrived in Brazil, many of

the families returned to Malta.

The second group of emigrants arrived by the end of the 20's to work for the British enterprise of building and maintenance of Brazilian railroads. The few miles of Brazilian railroads were an impediment to the flow of the Brazilian production proceeding from other regions. It was in the twenties that the railway expansion boomed and President Washington Luis summarized its importance in his well known motto: "Governing is a railway building." Almost all the Maltese that came to Brazil at that time met Mr Dominic

Collier from Floriana, who held an administrative position in the Sao Paulo-Parana railway company.

The third and last Maltese immigration to Brazil in the 50's and 60's differed totally from the previous two and had a religious purpose. During the fifties the State of Parana experienced an economical development and the spiritual need of the population were increasing. The Franciscan Order of Malta had been required to send some sisters to help with the growing diocese of Jacarezinho. Throughout the fifties and sixties a great number of priests proceeding from the islands of Malta and Gozo arrived to Brazil. Priests coming from Zebbug, Naxxar, Birkirkara, Floriana and many other Maltese and Gozi

tan cities were sent to a great number of dioceses, not only to the State of Parana but also to the States of Sao Paulo and Pernambuco. In 1977 father Walter Ebejer was consecrated bishop of the diocese of Vitoria do Sul. Father Ebejer is author Francis Ebejer's brother.

Presently, many families of Maltese background can be found in several Brazilian cities; quite a few remained from the first and second immigration groups and most of the others are priests in the clerical work. Among them we can find the Busuttills, the Zammit's and many other Maltese descendants; and if we take a look at the telephone directory we will find many other Maltese surnames, such as Azzopardi, Balzan, Cutajar, and so many others which sound familiar to any Maltese. Among the priests, Father Xavier from Luqa is well know to all those who got married in the beautiful parish of Osasco



**Antique Wood Engraving Published 1857, London for
"The Illustrated London News" Text to verso.**

I Enjoy Painting Malta Since I've Visited It

By [Ekaterina Mango](#)

Summer will start this Friday! Are you ready?

So this time I'd like to show you a very sunny country – Malta.

I love painting Maltese landscapes and doors with watercolor

– they are very unusual and inspiring. To tell the truth, for me

the whole country is inspiring: fantastic Mediterranean sea

with its clean water, houses built of sandstone, so different and unique doors with door handles, balconies, silent and narrow streets – you want to paint everything!

The distances between cities in Malta are very small, cities smoothly flow one into another. You can travel from one city to another by feet. For example, the length of Valletta, the capital of Malta, is about 1,5 km, and its width – about 800 m. I enjoy walking along its streets and feel this unique atmosphere!

Here are several paintings, sketches and postcards dedicated to Malta :)



VIBE CONCERT: MATER DOLOROSA

is happening at Teatru Manoel on April 11, 2019.

VIBE (Valletta International Baroque Ensemble) is the resident ensemble of the Valletta International Baroque Festival. It was born out of a cultural need for Malta to have its own ensemble specifically focused on the study and performances of baroque music, including a rich repertoire of Maltese baroque works.

The ensemble consists of predominantly Maltese musicians, guided by foreign baroque specialists. VIBE seeks to perform music from the Renaissance and Baroque periods in an historically informed way on original instruments. The

formation of the ensemble is an important legacy of the festival which has grown from strength to strength since its inauguration in 2012. For tickets and more information, please visit

<https://www.teatrumanoel.com.mt/?m=shows&id=817>



GENSNA NATION'S MUSIC



The Tenors

Ġensna, the musical which speaks, or rather sings, some 8,000 years of Maltese history, is back this weekend with input from a number of local big names and an international presence.



For TheTenors, the multi-platinum selling international trio, a vocal group made up of Victor Micallef, Fraser Walters and Clifton Murray, will also be performing live. Micallef's family is of Maltese origin. During his childhood, Ġensna was, and still is, one of his favourite musical masterpieces which eventually propelled him to a fantastic and successful musical career. The award-winning selling band has achieved international success, performing over 1,000 live shows and hundreds of TV appearances on five continents.

The Canadian vocal group has performed for the last four Presidents of the US and world leaders at the #G20 Summit, apart from sharing the stage with some of the biggest names in the music industry. Now they will share the stage with some of Malta's big names, including Pamela Bezzina, Destiny, Roger Tirazona, Hooligan, Georgina Abela, William Mangion, Mary Rose Mallia, Joe Cutajar, Lawrence Gray, Mark Tonna, Olivia Lewis, Catherine Vigar and Mary Spiteri.

Ġensna's executive producer, David Borg, said it is being produced for the last time by its original composer Ray Abela, while his son Ryan Paul has taken on the responsibility to orchestrate some of the memorable tunes.



Mary Rose Mallia


"It was a difficult task to fill in my father's shoes. I'm looking forward to that initial silence before all the music starts... so we can all appreciate the greatness of Ġensna!," said Ryan Paul.

This year's production will pay a fitting tribute to Bayzo who passed away just over a year ago. Bayzo had been one of the original cast members and took part in all of the 60-plus productions of Malta's best-known musical.

Extracts synonymous with Bayzo, and portraying him from the 2009 edition, will be screened this year.

Ġensna, which is also the first Maltese work to have been recorded multi-track, will include a 26-strong live orchestra on both nights.

Ġensna, produced by Grapevine Music, is taking place tonight and tomorrow at the Malta Fairs and Conventions Centre in Ta' Qali. Shows start at 8pm. Tickets from showshappening.com.



Andrea Bocelli

Andrea Bocelli, born in 1958, is a great Italian tenor from Tuscany. Born with a blind eye, he became blind in both of his eyes after a football accident at age 12. Bocelli has stated many times that his mother's decision to give birth to him and not listen to the doctors who thought she should get an abortion is the reason he's against it. Many Italians are very glad she made that choice.

CALLUS

COAT OF ARMS

The silver chapel with a red dome displayed on the **CALLUS** family coat of arms makes it one of the most distinguishable heraldic bearings in Malta. It is interesting to note the use of the patriarchal cross above the chapel, a symbol not very common in Maltese family heraldry. Another version of this shield belonging to a particular branch of the Callus family displays a gold chapel with the same silver cross. Another branch of this family displays a rooster - a punning reference to the latin term for this bird, *Gallus*, due to the similarity in the name.



araldikamalta.org

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Ancient Origins

In Malta, the Callus surname is pronounced Cal-oos, whereas in the UK, it is sounded Cal-us. The spelling of the name has remained remarkably consistent since the 1400s. This suggests that the families bearing this name were literate from a very early period as surnames generally tended to be spelled with many variations, i.e. phonetically, until mass literacy was achieved with the introduction of universal education in the nineteenth century.

The name is believed to originate from Byzantine Greek. Some historians have suggested that families with Byzantine Greek sounding names in Malta might have first arrived with the Knights of St John after their expulsion from the island of Rhodes by the Turks in 1530. In 1472, the Holy Roman Empire of Byzantium fell to Mehmed II, also known as Mehmed the Conqueror. Christian families fled across the Mediterranean. The Ottomans then also attempted to capture the island of Rhodes, then the home of the Knights of St John or Knights Hospitallers. They failed on this attempt but in 1522 they attacked again and this time succeeded. The Knights were expelled and went first to Crete (then under Venetian control), then Sicily. In 1530, Emperor Charles V granted them the islands of Malta and Gozo and the city of Tripoli in Libya.

However, the oldest records for the Callus name in Malta come from a militia roll of 1419 and an 'Angara roster' from the 1480s, held in the archives of Mdina cathedral (Wettinger, 1968)¹, proving that the Callus line predates the coming of the Knights. The Angara roster is thought to be a roster for work on the bastions of Mdina or some other unpaid public work. Participation in the militia and Angara rosters was compulsory for all able-bodied men on the island regardless of class excepting the clergy. The rolls therefore give a good indication of the distribution of surnames across the whole island at that time.

In 1419, the militia roll showed that there were two men (or families) named Callus from the parish of Zurrieq (Zurico) and one in Civitas. Civitas was the ancient name for the Citadel of Mdina, which was the capital at that time. The surrounding town was called Rabat.

In the Angara Roster from the 1480s, there were six Callus men from Zurrieq and one from Siggiewi (Siggiewi). In fact, the vast majority of vital and census records for CALLUS across the following centuries, show that this surname remained concentrated in the southern part of Malta, with most coming from Zurrieq and the surrounding villages of Safi, Siggiewi, Qrendi and later Zebbug.



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THE NEOLITHICS TEMPLES OF MALTA

3D analysis points to novel roof reconstruction

Digital Applications in Archaeology and Cultural Heritage, 2019

Madeline G P Robinson Augustine Porter

The Neolithic temples of Malta are among the oldest examples of prehistoric architecture, yet the construction of their roofs remains a mystery.

The absence of any roofs or roofing material at the temple sites has resulted in conjecture regarding the original appearance of these megalithic structures. The most valuable indications of prehistoric Maltese roof architecture are found in the Neolithic burial complex, the Hypogeum of Hal Saflieni.

Two chambers in the Hypogeum are modelled closely after the above-ground temples, with indications of a roof structural system on the ceilings. This paper uses LiDAR and photogrammetry-derived 3D models to provide a partial temple roof reconstruction that has its design entirely based on contemporaneous archaeology.

Photogrammetric reconstruction of the Mnajdra and Tarxien temple complexes allowed for detailed architectural analyses including key structural features and any indications of previous roof construction that would be evident in situ.

A LiDAR model of the carved chambers of the Hypogeum of Hal Saflieni was superimposed onto corresponding positions in the temple models. Merging the LiDAR imagery onto the photogrammetry temple models confirmed structural consistency between the two megalithic complexes; supporting the theory that the carved façades were a deliberate reflection of the original architecture of the Maltese temples.

This evidence points to an entirely new temple roof reconstruction, founded upon the archaeology of Neolithic Malta.

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