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Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promótion of the Republic of Malta Minister Carmelo Abela thanked President of Malta, H.E. George Vella for finding the time to meet with the members of the Council of Maltese Living Abroad What do Maltese migrants in Canada want from Malta?





Editor Frank Scicluna



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Dominican Sisters of Malta 171 Walters Road. Blacktown, NSW, 2148



A MOST SIGNIFICANT AND IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ST.DOMINIC'S HOME FOR THE ELDERLY - BLACKTOWN

Dear Mr Scicluna, Given the close and long term relationship that we have enjoyed with you, we wanted to communicate a most significant and important announcement with you and your readership, knowing that you will treat this information with sensitivity and the respect that it calls for.

It is with a very deep heart that we write to inform you of a decision that has been taken by our Congregation. After some 32 years of providing Care to the elderly citizens at St Dominic's Home for the Elderly, we need to embark on a journey of finding a new owner of the facility. As you can well imagine, The Congregation has considered many alternatives and looked to explore other solutions. However, like so many other religious Orders all over the world, our Congregation is reducing in size each year with the passing of aged and frail Sisters' and the absence of any new vocations being taken up by younger personnel. Sadly we have come to the realisation that in order to safeguard the care of the very vulnerable members of our community, that a process to identify and hopefully transfer this most important responsibility be commenced now.

Our single most desire in this process is to hopefully locate a similar Order or organisation who is able to share both our Spiritual beliefs and mission to serve the elderly. Under no circumstances will we allow the ownership to change hands to see the facility closed and the land used for some other purpose. We have some very experienced consultants appointed to aid us with this task and we are confident that our goal will be achieved. In a sign of respect for the residents in our care and the dedicated staff who assist us with our mission, we have informed them (our residents and staff) together with their families that we have begun this process. We have also undertaken to keep them advised and informed of any developments.

Heartbreaking as the news is, we have been lifted by the support given to us by our residents, their families and our staff, who are primarily concerned with our well being.

If you would like to share this information amongst your readership, we give our Blessing for you to proceed. We are also willing to update you in the future of any news relating to our matter.

Yours sincerely,

Darryn Borg on behalf of the Congregation of the Dominican Sisters of Malta in NSW Co-Administrator

THE MALTESE DOMINICAN SISTERS HAVE BEEN GOD'S BLESSING FOR THE MALTESE-AUSTRALIAN COMMUNTY AND ON BEHALF OF ALL OUR READERS I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THEM FOR THEIR SPLENDID WORK AT THE ST. DOMINIC'S HOME FOR THE ELDERLY. Frank Scicluna

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BANK OF VALLETTA'S DECISION TO REVERSE DIRECTIVE

Report from Prof Stephen Gatt of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad, Sliema, Malta.

The BOV has partially but significantly reversed its directive directed at members of the Maltese community in Australia, and, indeed, across the Maltese diaspora, regarding the closure of overseas accounts previously held with the Bank of Valletta. Mr. Joseph M. Camilleri BOV Chief Officer in the Business Restructuring Unit announced that BOV will not be closing any accounts of Maltese-born account holders once documentation is complete. These customers will be viewed as having sufficient connection with Malta to warrant non-closure of the accounts. This decision was reached by the Board of BOV on September 27.

Anybody born in Malta whose account has already been closed and would like to reopen it can do so on reapplication provided all documentation is complete. All other customers will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis but, provided due process is achieved, there is an expectation that the bank, while being as stringent as possible and fully compliant with the revised standards, will be more lenient with its low risk clients.

The BOV's Chief Officer conveyed the decision to the CMLA in the presence of the Chairman of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad, The Hon Carmelo Abela, in Palazzo Parisio, Valletta.

Mr. Camilleri gave formal permission for this statement to be issued to the press in Canada, USA, UK and Australia.

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Consul-on-the-Move

The Consul-on-the-Move Program was launched on 5 May 2016, in accordance with the Passports Office within Identity Malta Agency, and conforms with the Government's vision to have Governmental services closer to the citizens. It provides a number of Consular services (that are normally available at Maltese Embassies and Consulates) in different locations.



The need for this Program was seen after the introduction of biometric passports, that led Maltese applicants living abroad to go physically to the nearest Maltese Embassy or Consulate in order to capture biometric data. This was resulting to an inconvenience, especially due to additional expenses including costs for travel and accommodation. This Programme is currently focusing on Australia, Canada, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, and New Zealand. All Consular services currently available at the Maltese Embassies and Consulates continue to remain available.

For certain services provided, an additional administrative fee applies. In accordance with Legal Notice 221 of 2016, the administrative charge for passport applications is €100 for each application, whilst that for citizenship applications is €50 for each application, over and above other related fees.

The following is the updated list of scheduled visits for 2019 and early 2020:

Manchester UK -	8 November 2019
Auklanmd, Wellington New Zealand	November 2019
San Francisco USA	6-8 February 2020
Michiganm USA	20-22 February 2020

It is worth noting that the service is available by appointment only. For further information, one may wish to contact the respective location focal point as follows:

Location	Email address	Contact number
Australia/New Zealand	<u>consul.canberra@gov.mt</u>	+61 (02) 6290 1724
Canada	<u>consul.toronto@gov.mt</u>	+1 (416) 207 0922/0989
USA	<u>consul.washington@gov.mt</u>	+1 (202) 4623611/2
UK	<u>consul.london@gov.mt</u>	+44 (0) 207 292 4800

It is highly recommended that closer to the scheduled date/s of the visits, one consults the relevant Mission/s coordinating the visits to ensure that there are no changes in dates and venues.

The next Consul-on-the-Move visit will be held in New Zealand in November 2019.

The deadline for appointments will be on **Wednesday 23 October 2019**, so we encourage those interested to get in touch with the High Commission in Canberra.

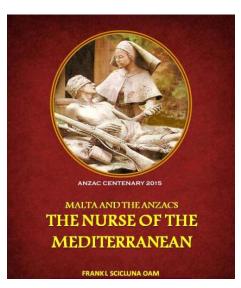
If you, your family and friends are in New Zealand and are interested in applying for a Maltese passport, citizenship or require other consular services, get in touch with the #MaltaHighCommission in Canberra on: +61 (0) 2 6290 1724 +61 (0) 2 6290 1426during office hours (Mon-Fri 9am to 5pm Canberra local time AEST) or send us an email on: highcommission.canberra@gov.mt.

Keep updated on Consul-on-the-Move visits on: <u>https://foreignaffairs.gov.mt/.../Pag.../Consul-on-the-Move.aspx</u>

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Last post ceremony to commemorate Charles Bonavia and Waldemar Beck



A joint last post ceremony for Private Waldemar Beck and Private Charles

Bonavia will take place on the 28 December 2019 at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. Private Beck and Bonavia were two of the three Maltese Anzacs in my book 'Three Anzacs from Malta, a true story of friendship, love, and loss.' Anyone who wishes to attend need to contact Ms Caterina Agostinetto directly (lastpostceremony@awm.gov.au, 02 62434550).

Mrs Lea Harding, Charles Bonavia's niece and Mrs Barbara Barter, the niece of Waldemar's fiancée, plan to attend. The ceremony will be live-streamed on the Australian War Memorial website. Dr. Gioconda Schembri

The Last Post Ceremony scheduled for 28 December 2019 the Australian War Memorial will commemorate the service of Private Waldemar Beck and Private Charles Emanuel Bonavia. The Last Post Ceremony is held 364 days per year in the Commemorative Area of the Memorial. Each ceremony tells the story behind just one of the names on the Roll of Honour. The format of the ceremony is as follows:

A Memorial MC commences the ceremony with a brief introduction. The National Anthem is played. A piper plays a lament during which visitors lay wreaths at the base of the Pool of Reflection. A uniformed Defence member volunteer reads the personal story

The Defence member reads the Ode. A bugler sounds the Last Post. The ceremony concludes

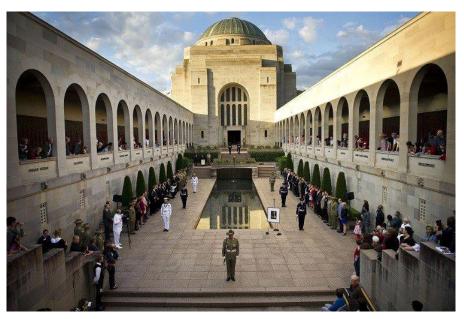
Should you and your family wish to lay a wreath during the ceremony, you may arrange to bring your own wreath or floral tribute; or you are welcome to use one of the Memorial's ornamental wreaths. Cards will be provided to write your own personal tribute to attach to the wreath – the next day, these cards are collected and then archived in the collection in perpetuity.

If you wish to lay a wreath, please confirm via <u>lastpostceremony@awm.gov.au</u> and include the approximate number of attendees if known and then present to the Front Desk in the Orientation Gallery no later than 4:20 on the afternoon of the ceremony. The Visitor Services staff will ensure that you and your family are briefed.

Upon arrival, if wheelchair access is needed, please use the lift entrance that is situated to left of the front steps – this will bring you straight into the Commemorative Area.

Please be aware that the Commemorative Area is open to the elements. It is suggested that the weather report is consulted on the day of your attendance. To ensure your comfort and safety, please dress appropriately for the weather and bring an umbrella in the event of rain.

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Where an image is available, it will be displayed beside the Pool of Reflection. Families and groups often like to take photographs of their group in front of the image and the Pool of Reflection. It would be best if this is done between 4.00pm and 4.20pm. Once the ceremony concludes at 5.15pm, the museum will close and visitors will be asked to exit through the Front Gates.

The ceremony is broadcast live each afternoon at approximately 4:55pm via the Memorial's website (<u>https://www.awm.gov.au/live</u>). In addition to this, visitors are more than welcome to appoint a family member

to film or photograph the ceremony.

If you have any further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact me on the phone number listed in the signature below. Kindest regards, Caterina Agostinetto

www.tvm.com.mt What do Maltese migrants in Canada want from Malta?

Report: Reno Bugeja from Canada



Malta's membership of the European Union and the agreement between the European Union and Canada, known as CETA, have opened up opportunities for employment and trade which are being exploited by both Maltese-Canadians and by Maltese. The Consul General for Malta in Canada, Dr Raymond C Xerri, told TVM that there has been an increase of traditional

Maltese products on the Canadian market, and these are much sought after by Maltese migrants, as well as applications for Maltese citizenship and a bigger movement by Maltese seeking opportunities in Canada.

Dr Raymond C Xerri pointed that he has only been Maltese Consul General in Canada for three months, although this is not his first experience in migration as he was born in the United States and has served both in Australia and in the UK, as well as on the Council for Maltese living overseas. In an interview with

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TVM, Dr Xerri expressed his satisfaction at working among the second largest Maltese community living abroad, adding that although they have retained their identity with the Maltese language and with festa traditions, they have integrated well in Canada.

"There are 38,000 Maltese living in Toronto, but there is also a substantial number in other parts of the country. They are industrious, well educated, and occupy important posts even in administration."

With a good number of Maltese migrants, many with the Maltese flag on their lapels and others carrying the flags of both countries, attending a social activity, Dr Xerri stated that second, third and fourth generation Maltese in Canada feel themselves Canadians so much that they hardly used to bother to apply for Maltese citizenship, to which they are entitled. Dr Xerri added that it is only recently, and after membership of the European Union, that applications for Maltese citizenship have increased.

"The choice of second, third and fourth generation Maltese to apply for a Maltese passport stems from our country's heritage, their roots, but also from the great opportunities offered by a Maltese passport to those who are entitled to it."

According to Dr Xerri, the CETA agreement between Canada and the European Union which has been ratified by Malta has led to an increase in the number of Maltese products in Canada, and to a bigger movement of Maltese seeking opportunities is Canada.

"Part of this arrangement provides for European citizens to be able to come and work in Canada. This is helping to ensure the Maltese population in Canada does not continue to drop. Maltese products being exported to Canada have also increased. I cannot obviously mention particular products, but these are continuing to increase."

Despite the fact that many Maltese have made Canada their country, their roots were and still are strongly Maltese, not only for the great majority who still speak the language, but they also follow events in Malta and even frequent the Maltese church and celebrate Maltese feasts with a Canadian touch.



XFactor winner will represent Malta in Eurovision Song Contest

Posted On October 11, 2019

PBS has once again confirmed its participation in the Eurovision Song Contest, an annual television show with a competition for the best song between television stations members of the European Broadcasting Union, EBU.

The Maltese participant in the 65th edition

of the Eurovision Song Contest, being held in Rotterdam, Holland between 12 and 16 May of next year, will be the winner of XFactor Malta.

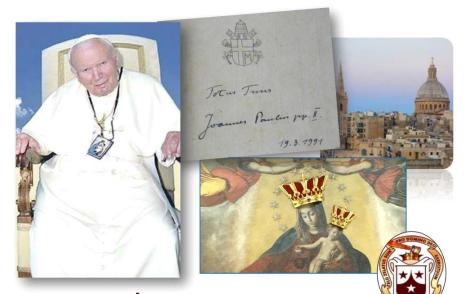
The finalists, who have to make it through various phases of the programme, will compete in January in a number of shows which will be broadcast *live* on TVM every Sunday.

The final session to determine the winner will be held on Saturday 8 February.

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JP2 FOUNDATION POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II FOUNDATION

100th birth anniversary 18 May 1920 - 2020



GURNATA mal-PAPA

fil-Bażilika tal-Madonna tal-Karmnu il-Belt Valletta II-Ħadd 13 t'Ottubru 2019



fil-10.00am Quddiesa mill-E.T. Mons George Bugeja Isqof ta' Tripoli fil-Libja

Organizzata mill-Fondazzjoni Papa Ġwanni Pawlu II fl-okkażjoni tas-sena preparattiva għall-100 sena mit-twelidu (1920-2020) 30 sena miż-żjara pastorali Tiegħu fil-Gżejjer Malten (1990 - 2020)



JP2 FOUNDATION

The fourth edition of "A DAY WITH POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II", being organised by the JP2 Foundation, will take place at the Basilica of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Valletta. This is a special occasion as the day chosen to hold this event is SUNDAY 13th OCTOBER 2019 which falls to be the last apparition of Our Lady in Fatima whom according to the three children, She was seen wearing the scapular.

Karol Wojtyla was also a devotee of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and always carried on him the Scapular.

As the other three events, this commemoration is taking place during this preparative year to celebrate the first centenary in 2020 of the birth of Karol Wojtyla and the 30th anniversary of the first pastoral visit made by Pope John Paul II to the Maltese Islands.

The event will host His Excellency Mgr George Bugeja OFM Vicar Apostolic of Tripoli, Titular Bishop of San Leone and Apostolic Administrator of Benghazi Libya. He will be celebrating mass at 10.00am. The devotees are invited to attend.

Mgr. BUGEJA, was born in Xagħra Gozo, Malta on 1st July 1962; He

entered the Noviziate of the Friars Minor on the 2nd October 1978 and his Solemn Profession was on the 28th August 1983. He was ordained priest in Gozo, on 5th July 1986; was nominated Coadjutor Bishop on 10th July 2015. He was consecrated in the National Sanctuary of Our Lady of Ta' Pinu, Gozo, Malta, on 4th September 2015. Began his ministry in Tripoli on the 23rd October 2015 as Coadjutor Bishop and Vicar General.

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I had to tell the relatives about the loss of their loved ones!

By Ron Borg - Adelaide

Although on the me about the Libja 10th October it is incident, but the 51 years since the Colonel filled me tragedy of the in disaster of the plane saying that there

crash at El-Adem in Libya where 17 were killed, in the Hastings aircraft, 15 of which were Maltese servicemen, the occasion is still commemorated annually at Pembroke Military Cemetery in Malta.



Vince Zammit (photo) who lives in Adelaide, recollects how his father, Carmelo from Birżebbuġa relives this painful memory as told in the "Orriżżont" tabloid of the 10th

October 1990. On that day 15 Maltese Sappers, (Engineers with the 5001 British Squadron), died as their aircraft broke in half and burst into flame as it was taking off from El Adem Libya on flight to Malta. In those days Carmelo Zammit was the Regimental Sargent that lost 16 soldiers in that tragedy. Carmelo, now a pensioner who lived with his wife in Birzebbuga was one of the first to be informed of the news from El Adem. "Soldier engineers from my company often went to work in Libja, but on that day I had remained in Malta to look after the barracks at San Gorg, It was about 3am, when Lance Corporal Cilia knocked on my door to inform me that Colonel Daniels wanted to speak to me". "Hurriedly I got dressed and along the way the Corporal briefly told

completely, were some fatalities and also



some injured". "I was very worried about my mates, and that some had died, and it also dawned on me that my own brother France was there."

"At daybreak, I got into my uniform and went to the Colonel's house where I found the Officers and their wives in pandemonium. The Colonel handed Zammit me the list of victims, twelve of my mates were dead, other soldiers were seriously injured, and even at high risk of dying. "Along with the Colonel and his wife, I now found myself facing the hardest task of my life, we had to go to the victims' families to inform them about their loss. How can you face any one and tell them that their husband or son is dead? I can leave it to your imagination the sorrowful scenarios we had to face, I can vividly recall a widow at Gzira after she was told that her son was one of the fatalities. She opened her arms, and as she faced the heavens, she wept and shouted, My Lord, what have you done to me...... I had a husband and you took him away from me in the war, and now you even took my beloved son!'

> "After spending the day carrying this gut-wrenching ordeal, I could no longer stand it when we had the last victim's family in Hamrun, I had suffered enough, I could not make it!"

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COUNCIL OF MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

Living Abroad announced for October 2020. The lives outside the Maltese Islands; the subtitles Ministry announced that in October 2020 a Maltese productions; matters relating to Maltese convention for the Maltese living abroad will be identity, ways how to better engage with Maltese held in Malta. The chosen theme is 'Keeping Connected' and it will be largely devoted to workshops composed of Maltese who live abroad with the aim to discuss and submit new ideas and suggestions to better protect the interests of the Maltese diaspora abroad. This was announced by Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion Carmelo Abela during a press conference at the closure of the 10th annual meeting of the Council of Maltese living abroad, who for the last two met for their annual meeting at the the building of the Ministry in Valletta.

Minister Abela also made reference to an increase in the registration of Maltese living abroad with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, which is done through the submission of Form D, a form which is available on the Ministry's website. This is a service offered by the consular directorate where through this information, the directorate can assist better these individuals in case of need.

Minister Abela remarked that the teaching of the Maltese language will soon be available online through the creation of an online digital platform, a project which is being carried out through the

LET'S WORK TOGETHER

Ministry for Education and Employment which has now passed into the tender preparation phase.

Minister Abela also made reference to the other achievements attained in the interest of Maltese living abroad through the work of the council. These includes English subtitles for some of the production by the Public Broadcasting Services, the completion of Code of Ethics for members of the Council of Maltese Living Abroad, and the launch of Regional Committees.

Minister Abela made reference to the several issues that have been discussed in recent days. These included the review of Act XX of 2011 to regulate the Council; changing culture programs; 'Keeping Connected' - A convention for Maltese registration of property which the Maltese have Diaspora: the establishment of Regional Committees.

> As the Minister remarked, the Maltese Council for Maltese that live abroad can also be considered as the official vehicle carrying ideas that promote the rights and interests outside Malta, with a view that, where possible, to be implemented by the Central Government.

> Minister Abela spoke about the idea of a global Malta in a globalised world, as the way to look at the Maltese diaspora in the coming years. "There is no us and them, our interests and theirs, but a common interest to boost Malta's uniqueness", said Minister Abela.

> Minister Abela acknowledged the valuable work being done by the Council and the Directorate responsible for Maltese Living Abroad, which from this year has been amalgamated within a Directorate which also includes the Consular Services.

> The Council of the Maltese living abroad is composed of 15 members, coming from various countries worldwide

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MALTESE-ELDERLY THANKSGIVING DAY CELEBRAION 2019 WENTWORTHVILLE NSW



By our reporter

On a beautiful day of Wednesday 2nd October 2019, the Maltese Elderly Thanksgiving Day Committee welcomed the Maltese Elderly and people with special needs at the Redgum Function Centre in Wentworthville for the 26th Anniversary Luncheon, since the foundation of this event.

The seniors together with their carers or family and friends arrived early looking forward to the program which every year they

enjoy together with the scrumptious food prepared by the Mandavilla Catering Service. Many of them travelled from Nursing Care Facilities, Hostels, Respite Day Care, Active Seniors Groups, or from their own home. The Hall was decorated in red and white the traditional colours of Malta. The main stage was arranged to resemble a place of worship adorned with flowers, candles and the Australian and Maltese flags.

The committee members welcomed those attending and served the them morning coffee and pastizzi. The function commenced with the National Anthems of Australia and Malta in respect for both countries. Mrs Maria Cilia a member committee welcomed the guests with her welcoming speech. This celebration was founded in 1993 during the Year of the Family by the founding committee, together with Sr Mary Ann Grima FMM as team leader. By demand this event has been organized for past twenty six years, which is estimated to have welcomed more than eight and half thousand patrons during this time.

The hardworking committee raised funds throughout the years through fundraising activities, and with the assistance of some sponsorships from Maltese Businesses and others, in aid of support, and managed to provide a day of celebration for the many elderly and others with special needs. Mrs Maria De Carlo an active Maltese within the community, was the MC at this event. After her own introduction about the event she invited Dr George Boffa SMOM for the opening speech of the celebration. Dr George Boffa SMOM is a well known retired Medical Doctor and an active Knight of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta.

Rev Fr Tarcisio Micallef MSSP, Chaplain for the Maltese Community in the Archdiocese of Sydney, celebrated the Mass assisted by Acolyte Mr Lawence Falzon. Members of the METD Committee and other seniors were invited to participate in the Liturgy during the Mass. Rev Fr Tarcisio Micallef prepared an interesting homily which was well received by all.

As a custom, every year the eldest person was invited to cut the celebration cake while being congratulated by the cheering guests. The oldest persons were Mr Emmanuel Micallef, Ms Joan Born and Mr George Cassar. The traditional song of 'Tini Jdejk' meaning 'Give me a hand', was sung amongst cheer of joy by all inattendance as it was adopted like a theme song since the first event.

The Consul General for Malta Mr Lawrence Buhagiar and Mrs Rosianne Buhagiar with their daughter Amy were guests of honor. Mr Lawrence Buhagiar was invited to speak to the seniors. He praised the organisers

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and congratulated the Seniors in attendance, and others for their contribution and achievements throughout the years and encouraged them to be active.

The scrumptious lunch, filled the Red Gum Hall with the lovely aroma as the food was served in a presentable manner and well prepared by the Mandavilla Catering Service. The Head Chef Martin is well known for his well prepared meals and this has given the something special to look forward to annually. The committee would like to thank all those who supported this celebration throughout the years with their support and continued to believe in this Maltese Thanksgiving Elderly Day.

The MEDT Committee would like to thank the sponsors, the Chaplain, the entertainers, the caterers, the carers, the seniors for their courage to attend, and all those who were generous throughout the years of this wonderful journey to honour our pioneers and those who came before us who raised good families that are part of this great Australian Nation with good family values of Maltese-Australian traditions.

It was time to present the entertainer who was the first one, to accept our invitation to participate at the function. Ever since, Mr Joe Apap has never failed from his generosity to entertain those in attendance with his joyous music and wonderful lyrics. Joe is well known as "il-KANGAROO" or 'The kangaroo' for his composition of a song about the Kangaroo so much loved by the Maltese. Two other entertainers Mr Joe Xuereb and Mr Charlie Muscat entertained the audience where many joined in dancing while enjoying the provided music by Joe and Charlie. They both had their share of entertainment as they have always done throughout many other years. There was excitement amongst those in attendance, as the announcement for the raffle tickets was heard and everyone was anxious to be he winner of some very well presented gifts.

If any Nursing Care Facility, Hostels, Seniors Groups, Respite Day Care Centres, or Active Seniors together with other entities, where they have Maltese Seniors who would like to attend next year they are kindly asked to contact the Chair Person: Mrs Lina Magro email: <u>metd@live.com.au</u> METD PO Box 93 Kellyville NSW 2155 NSW.

The committee wish to thank the Media and those who by any means supported this event of celebrations. On behalf of all the METD Committee and all those who were present at the function, we wish Joe Apap a very HAPPY BIRTHDAY and many thanks for his entertainment service throughout the 26 years. Ad Multos Annos Joe Apap.



President discusses migration during Greece visit

Calls for solidarity with countries affected by refugee crisis

President George Vella stressed the importance of solidarity with countries affected by migration and the refugee crisis in the Mediterranean as he addressed his first Arraiolos meeting in Athens, Greece, on Friday.

The theme set for the 15th Arraiolos meeting was the the European Union as well as promoting the Union's further

fundamental principle of solidarity to strengthen the European Union as well as promoting the Union's further integration.

The Presidents of Malta, Greece, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Poland, Portugal, and Slovenia focused on the EU's economic challenges as well as those of migration and security affecting the EU.

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Dr Vella said the affected countries, such as Greece, Italy, and Malta, should not be left alone addressing the issue and resolving every case on an ad hoc basis.

In his reaction, Greek President Prokopis Pavlopoulos described Malta's role in the migration issue as exemplary, whille several other presidents referred to the Malta Declaration on Migration as the first step towards successfully addressing the issue, the president's office said in a statement.

Dr Vella emphasized that the EU's values, particularly those of tolerance, equality, and fundamental rights, should continue to underpin the work carried out by a new European Commission. This was also stated in the context of the challenges that the European Union is undergoing due to Brexit.

Turning to security in the Mediterranean and the region's political and geo-strategic issues, Dr Vella emphasised the need for stronger international controls on the trafficking and sales of weapons and ammunition as this was crucial to reduce the chances of conflict.

He said he hoped that the discussions during the Arraiolos meeting will translate in more permanent solutions, both for the Mediterranean and the European Union.

At the end of the meeting, the presidents agreed on the Athens Declaration, in which they stated that Europe needs to continue with a political debate on the best way forward, with an aim to propagate more diverse opinions and innovative ideas. In this declaration, the presidents expressed their wish for future meetings to be focused on the deepening, widening and enrichment of this debate.



Eddie Micallef

Eddie Micallef is currently the Chairperson of Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV), the peak policy and advocacy body representing diverse multicultural communities in Victoria.

Prior to serving as Chair of ECCV, Mr Micallef served for two years as the Chairperson of ECCV's Drugs Task Force and Convenor of the ECCV's

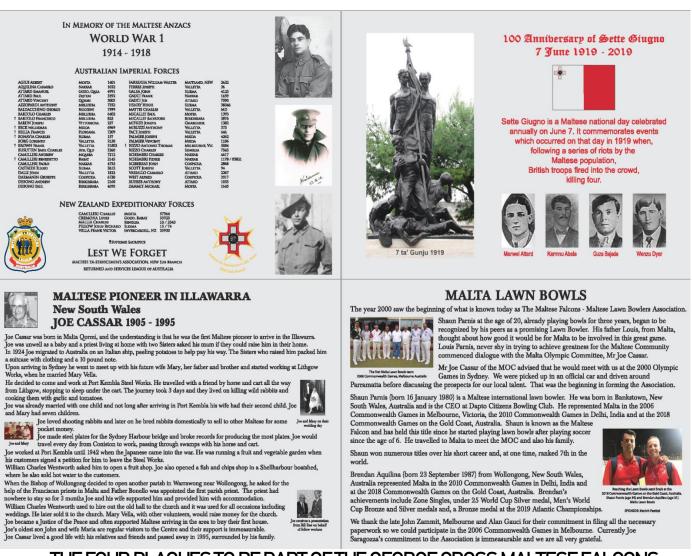
Health Policy Sub-committee.

He served in the Victorian Parliament from March 1983 to September 1999, during which time he held numerous responsibilities covering Health, Industrial Relations, Work Cover and Multicultural Affairs.

Mr Micallef has a background in Occupational Health, with more than 30 years' experience in Community Health, where he supported policy and programs enabling culturally diverse communities to respond to the drug and alcohol challenge. He is currently a Director at Inner South Community Health Service.



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THE FOUR PLAQUES TO BE PART OF THE GEORGE CROSS MALTESE FALCONS COMMUNITY CENTRE - GRINGILA - N.S.W.

It is with great pride and pleasure to introduce to you the four plaques that will make up the monument to be erected at the George Cross Maltese Falcons Club of Cringila, Wollongong, New South Wales, Australia. This monument will be a monument to the Maltese-Anzacs of W.W.1 as well as to the Sette Gugnio heroes, to a local Maltese Pioneer of Illawarra – Joe Cassar and to the Malta Lawn Bowls Association. The Maltese Sub-Branch of the R.S.L. & the Sutherland St. George Maltese Social Group as well as The Maltese Cultural Association of N.S.W. have all contributed toward the cost of this magnificent Monument. We are looking forward to the unveiling of this magnificent monument which will be held towards the end of this year at the George Cross Maltese Community Centre- Gringila. We will keep our readers updated regarding the date and time of the unveiling. The editor of this journal has also assisted the President of the club, Mr. Louis Parnis, in designing two of the plaques. Congratulations to the committee and members of this vibrant Maltese association of the Wollongong region and we are proud of them all.

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New visa scheme for parents of migrant workers to settle in New Zealand

Parents of migrant workers wanting to come to New Zealand will have their case moved forward as the Government announces it is re-opening and re-setting their visa programme.

The Government is reopening an immigration scheme that was shelved under National in the hopes of attracting and retaining skilled workers. Minister in charge, Iain Lees Galloway says the "Parent

Category" visa programme will make it easier for the parents of skilled migrants living in New Zealand for at least three years to join them here.

The current scheme will be closed from today and the new Parent Category option will be opened with new criteria in February 2020 with a cap of 1,000 people. Immigration Minister Iain Lees-Galloway announced the move today saying skilled migrants and their parents needed more certainty.

"Skilled migrants and their parents have been in limbo since the previous National Government decided almost three years ago to effectively close the Parent Category by placing a moratorium on it. This created unnecessary and unfair uncertainty for people," says Mr Lees-Galloway.

He said the move will provide more support to skilled migrants by providing a pathway for their parents to join them.



"This Coalition Government is committed to attracting and retaining highly-skilled migrants by providing a pathway for their parents to join them in New Zealand, while ensuring they will be supported by their children when they get here.

"The ability for a parent to gain residence through having a guaranteed lifetime income or settlement funds will be removed under the new settings. Parents will still be required to meet health and character requirements as part of the application process," Mr Lees-Galloway says.

He also said the move will help New Zealand businesses find the skilled labour they need which will further strengthen the economy.



October 2019

Memories... lest we forget - www.timesofmalta.com



Each year, Fondazzjoni Nanniet Malta, a foundation set up to give a voice and

recognition to grandparents for their sterling contribution to Maltese society, attends its annual 'Grandparents' Parliament' in the chamber of the House of Representatives.

In addition to drawing attention to the important role played by grandparents, especially where child-care was concerned, it also was an opportunity to lament the inexplicable way some grandparents were abandoned by relatives and not allowed to see their grandchildren when they could no longer offer such support.

But the highlight of the discussion with parliamentarians was a proposal made by Ray Mangion, the head of the Legal History and Methodology Department at the University of Malta, that a new law should be introduced under which the memories of elderly people could be documented to produce an oral history.

He said that parts of Malta's history risked remaining undiscovered because there was at present no legal structure to cater for the collection of memories and documents from elderly people. He called for the introduction of a Collective Memory Act that would provide a legal framework to collect these memories, recounting how some years ago he had been carrying out research in an old people's home when he talked to an elderly man who gave him a vivid account of the introduction of electricity to Malta.

Oral history is first-hand evidence that offers a substantial record of the past. The role of oral history is to fill gaps in evidence and secure history that may be at risk. It brings new perspectives and challenges our views of the past, giving voice to those people who may have

been excluded from traditional records. It documents traditions and stories passed down from generation to generation, recording the changing and enduring culture of a place or community.

Fondazzjoni Nanniet Malta

Primitive societies, like the Aborigines in Australia or the Innuit in Canada, have long relied on oral tradition to preserve a record of the past in the absence of written histories. In western society, the use of oral material goes back to the early Greek historians.

Oral histories have been described as "the first kind of history", gathering the study of historical information about individuals, families, important events or everyday life using audiotapes, videotapes or transcriptions of planned interviews. These interviews are conducted with people who participated in or observed past events and whose memories and perceptions of them are to be preserved as an aural record for future generations. For example, following the Holocaust, there has emerged a rich tradition of oral history, particularly of Jewish survivors.

As Malta's rapid rate of change and transformation accelerates, the concept of introducing oral history archives in Malta is one well worth pursuing. It is technically relatively easy, and not expensive, to introduce.

Where should responsibility for running it reside? There are strong arguments for academe to lead on this project and that would point to the University of Malta to take responsibility and leadership of it. Alternatively, there may be a good case to link the project to one of the museums or, more aptly, the National Archives. Unless a specific organisation takes ownership and is given the relatively modest manpower and other resources to run it, this excellent idea will not get off the ground.

https://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/memories-lestwe-forget.740526

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Where has Majsi, the Lamplighter, gone?

We were captivated. Wroclaw's Cathedral Island was being transformed into a magical place and lit up, bit by bit, by the lamplighter.

He silently held a long rod, like a fairy's wand, and touched the lamps, which steadily breathed life. The shadows in the streets danced by the flickering lamplight.

Needless to say, we had purposely booked this tour, like others, to watch this elegant gentleman illuminate the city's street lamps in the most romantic setting.

This, coupled with the island's fine architecture and honoured history, make this place unforgettable not only for the art lovers but also to the faithful who constantly frequent the sacred grounds away from the bustle of Main Market Square, which offers yet another vibrant experience.

Pondering upon this tradition, which has survived the ravages of time, Anton Buttigieg's poignant words in his poem II-kebbies tal-fanali (the lantern lighter) come to mind : "Kull fl-għaxija kif mal-għabex tnin u tmut saħħet il-jum, jiġi

Majsi bis-sellum, u jixgħelli taħt it-tieqa fanal ċkejken li tal-lejl itaffi d-diqa" (loosely translated: every night, as the day starts fading away at dusk, there comes Majsi with his ladder and he lights up a small lantern right below my window, easing the sadness of the night).

NOSTALGIA



. Spiritiera tal-pompa –

Meta beda jintuza l-pitrolju f'Malta fil-bidu tas-seklu ghoxrin, in-nies bdew juzawh ghad-dawl u bdew jabbandunaw il-fuklar, il-kenur u lhatab biex isajru fuq il-kuciniera tal-ftejjel u l-ispiritiera tal-pompa, ittnejn jahdmu bil-pitrolju.



Read this popular journal on www.ozmalta.com

October 2019

Fortifications

BASTIONS IN MALTA

Due to Malta's strategic position in the heart of the Mediterranean, it has made it vulnerable to attacks in the past.

Whether your approach is from air or sea, the first thing that strikes you is the island's impregnable appearance. Its historically

strategic role as an outpost protecting Christian Europe from the Ottoman Empire has bequeathed Malta with an iron-clad defence system of fortifications which today, although militarily unnecessary, are an indispensable part of the Maltese landscape.

Mostly concentrated around the Grand Harbour area, fortifications were built primarily during the reign of the Knights of St John. Using some of Europe's best military engineers and architects, the fortifications were continuously improved and upgraded into what is today considered one of the finest examples of military defence architecture in the world.

Apart from protection against the advances of the Ottoman Empire, the Grand Harbour's importance as a trans-shipment hub also necessitated strong defences, and the lucrative nature of shipping provided further funds to strengthen these defences. The Grand Harbour's bastions and ramparts stretch over 25 km, and while visitors can examine the architectural details during the day, it's at night that these magnificent structures come to life, providing a most romantic frame to the beautiful city architecture of Valletta, and the three cities.

Further inland, the walled city of Mdina dominates the surrounding land. Perched high-up on a hill, this medieval



town with its labyrinthine streets and Norman architecture is well protected thanks to the ramparts rising high around the town's buildings. Mdina's Gozitan counterpart, Citadella, also stands proudly above its surrounding landscape. The walled city dates back to the Bronze Age (around 1500 BC) and was continuously fortified up to and during the reign of the Knights of St John.

Dotting the landscape around the islands are a number of smaller watchtowers known as the De Redin Towers, many of which are open to the public. These small towers were placed strategically around Malta, Comino, and Gozo. From each tower, soldiers could communicate with neighbouring towers, providing for a system of communication and early warning against invading corsairs. Most of the towers are relatively well preserved with a number having been restored recently.

The Victoria Lines – a complex walled defence system built by the British – are amongst the few examples of military defence that was not constructed by the Knights. The British built these defensive lines, which cut across the Island separating North from South, to protect the Grand Harbour – a vital asset for British naval superiority in the Mediterranean

October 2019



Maltese Islands celebrate a long history dependence entwined with modernisation.

Over the past

half century, this little Mediterranean island, freshly selfdetermining after a long history of colonisation and dependence, achieved a great deal in the way of modernisation. Much of the progress was achieved at break-neck speed, including an advanced infrastructure, well-developed industries like financial services, IT, and others. While much of this may come as a surprise to first time visitors, this transformation has not eliminated the core elements of Malta's cultural identity - its customs and traditions.

Largely rooted in rural folklore and religion, Maltese customs are still clearly visible in everyday life, most notably, the village festa. This celebration of the local village's patron saint started over five centuries ago, during the reign of the Knights of St. John, and till today, brings with it a colourful cacophony of Mediterranean boisterousness. Possibly the most well known is the Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul, or Mnarja. This highlight of the cultural calendar is celebrated in the wooded area of Buskett, and features animal and agricultural displays, traditionally cooked rabbit, and ghana – a traditional type of Maltese music.

Customs and traditions in Malta

With its roots Traditional life starts early on in Malta. The vast majority firmly in folklore of babies are still baptised into the Roman Catholic faith, and religion, the and this celebration usually involves a not so intimate gathering with family, friends, and of course, food. Shortly after, usually on a child's first birthday, the of Maltese practise a little-known tradition called the ilquċċija, which involves the child crawling towards a collection of objects while family and friends encourage the child to pick something. The tradition dictates that the selected object is representative of the child's future career. Objects typically include rosary beads, indicating an ecclesiastical calling, a hardboiled egg, symbolising prosperity, as well as more modern inclusions such as a calculator symbolising a career in finance.

> Other religious sacraments are celebrated with the same gusto, including the First Holy Communion, which sees the child dressed in flamboyant, angel-like attire and is always followed by a party in the child's honour. This celebration is closely followed the sacrament of Confirmation, which has a similar celebratory style.

> Weddings are a big affair in Malta. In fact, the Island has recently started including wedding tourism as part of its offering to visitors. However, the traditional Maltese wedding is still alive and kicking. Although there have been some modifications throughout the years, the core concepts are still practised: ceremonies are almost always held in a church while celebrations are held afterwards, usually in wedding halls or one of the Islands' many gardens. The bride and groom distribute small trinkets or presents as a sign of thanks and as a small memento for their guests. Food is a major part of the celebrations, and in particular, sweets. Maltese weddings almost always feature perlini - a candy coated almond sweet of Sicilian origin.

WE INVITE INDIVIDUALS AND ASSOCIATIONS TO ADVERTISE THEIR ACTIVITIES WITHOUT ANY CHARGE. WE KNOW THAT MANY MALTESE. ESPECIALLY IN MALTA, ARE ANXIOUS TO KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD. OUR JOURNAL ARE 100% FREE AND NON-POLITICAL.

October 2019

FORMER BOXING CHAMPION JEFF FENECH FIGHTING FOR HIS LIFE

Australian former triple world-boxing champion Jeff Fenech, who is of Maltese descent, is battling for his life, in a Thailand hospital after his health deteriorated during a training camp.

Fenech, 55, who was in Thailand for a training camp with a group of young boxers, was rushed to hospital suffering from pneumonia and is in intensive care. Doctors are now preparing for the possibility of emergency heart surgery.

Fenech, also known as the 'Marrickville Mauler', is one of Australia's most high-profile fighters.

Fenech was told by doctors he came close to dying with reports said he was "coughing up blood".

Sydney newspaper The Daily Telegraph has been in touch with Fenech inside the hospital, with the former champion saying "my lungs are gone. I'm in all this pain".

Fenech's eldest daughter Jessica is set to get married next Saturday with the family hopeful Jeff will be in good enough health to fly home for the wedding.

He represented Australia at the 1984 Summer Olympics in the United States as boxing captain – the same year he started in the sport.

Fenech was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 2002.



Fenech trained Mike Tyson when the world heavyweight champion decided to come out of retirement.

A father, before he died, said to his son: "This is the watch your grandfather gave me and this is more than 200 years old. Before I give it to you go to the watch shop on the first street, and tell him I want to sell it, and ask how much they offer".

The son went and after several minutes, he came back to his father and said, "The watchmaker offers to pay \$5 because it's old and has a lot of scratches." He then asked him to go to the coffee shop.

The son went and after an hour or so, he came back and said: "The coffee shop owner offers \$5, father."

"Go to the museum and show that watch". He went ahead and then came back happily. "They offered me a million dollars for this piece."

The father said: "I wanted to let you know that the right place values your value in a way right, don't put yourself in the wrong place and get angry if you get treated like trash. Those who knows your value are the ones who appreciates you, don't ever stay in a place that doesn't suit you."

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October 2019

MALTA SUMMIT FOR MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES TO BOOST THEIR TECHNOLOGY



: Fiorella Pace

Together with six other southern EU Member Countries, Malta has extended its commitment to work together in the spheres of Distributed Ledger Technology and Blockchain. This resulted during a summit held at Kastilja for representative Technology Ministers from these countries. Malta, France, Spain, Cyprus. Greece, Italy and Portugal agreed to extend the resolution made

some months ago to collaborate in technological fields.

The Parliamentary Secretary for Financial Services, the Digital Economy and Innovation, Silvio Schembri, said the declaration between the seven countries will continue to enable more collaboration between them. He said these countries are conscious of these new industries and collaboration is therefore necessary.

He said a declaration has now been signed and a technical committee established to begin implementing projects that were initiated in Malta on a European level and this provides satisfaction because it means Malta will begin exporting its products. He said unfortunately a lot is mentioned about products made in China or software from the United States but any European manufacture is hardly ever mentioned. Therefore the meeting began to identify and start responding to making challenges to US and Chinese dominance in the field and products will not only be labeled 'Made in Malta' but also 'Made in Europe'.

Schembri said that during Thursday's Delta Summit a national strategy will be launched covering Artificial Intelligence aimed at placing Malta among the top ten countries in the world with a holistic strategy for Artificial Intelligence.

The Greek Deputy Minister for Digital Governance, Zarifopoulos Grigoris, said technology is continually developing and thus he maintained that for countries to keep abreast of developments collaboration is necessary as is being done by the EU's southern countries.

The Italian Parliamentary Secretary for Economic Development, Mirella Liuzzi, thanked the Malta Government for organizing the summit and maintained it is important for Italy to use spheres such as Blockchain and Artificial Intelligence. She stressed the importance of the summit members being aware of each others' best practice and thus enable the EU to compete with China and the United States.

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October 2019



THE SOUND OF MUSIC" live on stage in Gozo

This November the Don Bosco Oratory Theatre of Victoria will be staging one of the best-loved musicals: "THE SOUND OF MUSIC", music by Richard Rodgers and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II. This musical is being produced jointly by the Don Bosco Oratory and Chorus Urbanus Productions.

"THE SOUND OF MUSIC" is based on the true story about an austrian family at the outbreak of World War II, as written by Maria Augusta Trapp and published in the book "The Trapp Family Singers". The musical "THE SOUND OF MUSIC" had an immediate success as soon as it was premiered in Broadway sixty years ago, and later on, its cinematographic version (issued in 1965) enchanted the hearts of all those who flocked to the cinemas world-wide.

The musical's story is about Maria, a young novice in a convent at Salzburg, Austria, who in 1938 is sent as a governess in the house of a retired and widowed austrian naval officer, with the aim of taking care of his seven

children. After bringing love and music in the family's life, Maria marries this same official Von Trapp, and together with their family finds a way-out from the grips of the nazi regime installed in their homeland.

The stage musical production of "THE SOUND OF MUSIC" has been and is still being played in some of the best theatres in the UK and around the world. Now this year, thanks to the license and the relevant permits from R & H Theatricals of London, as well as with the financial support of the Cultural Events Fund of the Ministry for Gozo, this same musical will be staged live in English on the stage of the Don Bosco Oratory Theatre in Gozo.

"THE SOUND OF MUSIC" is a 2.5 hour production of good music, catchy songs and witty moments. Its best loved popular songs include "My Favourite Things", "The Lonely Goatherd", "So Long, Farewell", "Climb Every Mountain" "Edelwiess", and of course, "Do-Re-Mi", together with lots of other lovely evergreen songs. The best gozitan talent will be show-cased in this musical together with a special guest artist from Malta, Dorothy Bezzina, who will be playing the role of Maria. Other main parts will be played by Noel Galea, Yvonne Galea, Mario Portelli, Ruth Portelli, Maria Cassar and Hilda Grima, together with a 70-strong cast, including musicians, singers and members of the Chorus Urbanus. Mro. Mark Gauci will be conducting the singers and the orchestra under the musical direction of Dr. John Galea. Saviour Cremona is the artistic director of the show, whilst the choreography of the musical is in the hands of Frances Zammit. The stage-set, once again, has been left under the supervision of artist Dennis Mompalao helped with volunteers from the Don Bosco Oratory.

The opening night of "THE SOUND OF MUSIC" will be on Saturday 9th November at 7.30pm, with a repeat performance on Sunday 10th November at 2.30pm (matinee show). Then there will be two other performances, one on Friday 15th November at 7.30pm, and a last performance on Sunday 17th November at 5.30pm. This musical would be surely one of the best musical productions ever to be staged at the Don Bosco Oratory Theatre of Gozo. Booking is now open. Tickets for "THE SOUND OF MUSIC" can be obtained from the Don Bosco Oratory of Gozo every day between 5.00pm and 7.00pm, or else by phoning on 21556616 or 99487751. Online booking is also available through the website donboscog. Our reporter – Kav. Joe M Attard – Victoria - Gozo

19th century 'plague' cemetery portico to be restored



The structure in Lija was close to collapsing

A 19th century portico of a cemetery thought to have been used to bury victims of the plague is being restored.

The porch at tal-Abbati in Lija is undergoing major restoration after architect Edward Said noticed that it was close to collapsing.

The restoration, which should be finalized by the end of the month, is being financed by Lija's parish church.

In a <u>Facebook post</u> the Three Villages Heritage Society said: "There is almost no information or documented evidence available pertaining to this cemetery that is located in the Hal Mann area."

"Unverified accounts state that this early 19th century cemetery was used as a common grave for those who died during the plague."

According to Mr Said, from an architectural point of view "the structure is from the early-mid 19th century", which coincides with the historic plague.

"The cemetery sits on the consecrated land of a medieval church. This was then abandoned, as was Hal Mann [the

town the church was part of, now belonging to Lija] and then made into the cemetery, because people wanted to be buried on sacred land," he said.

The parish plans to start again an old cemetery tradition, where a small ceremony will be held to bless the people who are buried there.

According to Mr Said this tradition is important for the people buried but also for their families "especially after all these years of neglect."

"Some friends and I plan on going to the cemetery and tiding it up once the restoration is completed," he said. This ceremony will happen on November 2.

PLEASE, TELL US WHAT YOU THINK OF THE JOURNAL OF THE MALTESE DIASPORA

October 2019



100 Augustinian nuns celebrate 125 years in Malta

Report: Maria Muscat www.tvm.com.mt

The youngest nun is 26 years old and the oldest 95 and tomorrow Sunday they have a dream of bringing together the present and past student generations and their families. The Augustinian congregation is organising a celebration at Santa Monika School in Birkirkara to celebrate the arrival and founding of the congregation in Malta 125 years ago.

We found the Augustinian nuns totally engaged in

making preparations for the activity when visiting their community at the Santa Monika School to achieve their ambition of bringing together present and past students who attended the congregation's schools. Sister Celsina said she had started in 1955 when she was aged 17, had lots of students and loved them very much. Sister Atanasia said she is almost 80 now but has been a Superior General everywhere.

Those attending will be able to savour the delicious food from their kitchen and also view the nuns in a most positive manner.

Sister Marica said they have continued with Tereza Spinelli's charisma and that of the sisters who opened the first school at Qormi.

Sister Claudia said she has followed a religious life for 12 years with children and youths. Sister Rachel said this is a life of satisfaction, happiness and love.

Before leaving, Sister Rachel together with the other nuns broke into song to prepare for tomorrow's special Holy Mass at the school which will be concelebrated by Archbishop Charles Scicluna.



Happier times at the Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto (M.C.S.T.) in 2000. The large silver plated annual Miss Malta trophy on the right was donated by the son of one of the founders, the late Joseph Vassallo. At the time the club was located at 235 Medland Street and Dundas Street, West, Toronto.

Richard Cumbo From Toronto, Canada

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