



Maltese e-Newsletter

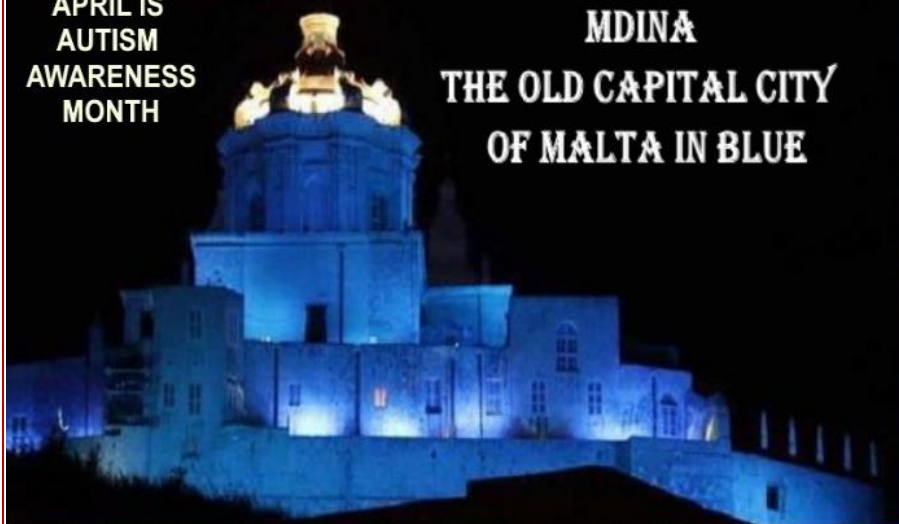
The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora



Editor: Frank L Scicluna OAM MQR JP

Email: maltesejournal@gmail.com

APRIL IS
AUTISM
AWARENESS
MONTH

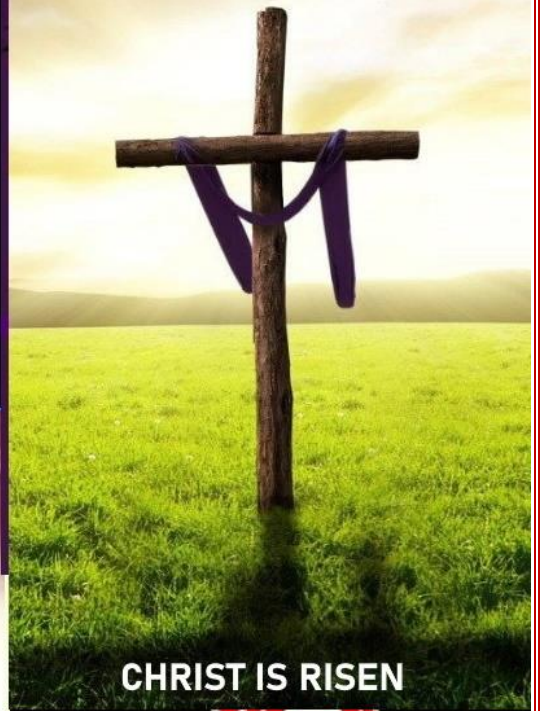


MDINA
THE OLD CAPITAL CITY
OF MALTA IN BLUE



Order of Malta

WE WISH ALL
OUR READERS
A HAPPY AND HOLY
EASTER



CHRIST IS RISEN

CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

A time of disruption in the life of our world: a disruption that has brought grief to some, financial difficulties to many, and enormous changes to the daily lives of us all.



Easter Week in Malta 2020

WE ARE ALL UNITED



AND YOU WILL NEVER BE ALONE

March 2020 – the month which changed our lives and tested our health services

Report: Ruth Castillo



On 31 March we ended the month which turned out lives upside down, with the greatest test being on our health services. The health authorities had been preparing for COVID-19 since the cases began increasing outside of Malta. From the very first case, over the last 25 days ago, a number of measures were introduced with the aim of slowing down the spread of the virus in our country.

The first case was confirmed on 7 March: an Italian girl, 12 years old, who lives in Malta. On that day the helpline 111 was activated for the public to phone for information about the Coronavirus. During March the authorities also began implementing a number of measures – which were always part of a contingency plan in preparation for any pandemic which may break out.

Every space possible at Mater Dei – from the library to lecture halls – have been changed into wards for Covid-19 patients. The health authorities have even planned for 700 more beds, with more than 100 of them at the ITU. And from one emergency ward, there are now two – with one of them dedicated entirely to Coronavirus patients.

Three swab centres: Hal Farruġ, Luxol Grounds and Pembroke were opened as well as one at the helipad terminal in Xewkija, Gozo. The swabs are also being taken at Mater Dei and at health centres. To date the number of tests has reached almost 7000 (6,934).

Mater Dei is operating the second laboratory for Covid-19 tests. Non-urgent operations and outpatients appointments have been cancelled so that all human resources can be dedicated to this emergency. At Gozo General Hospital there will be 123 beds for Covid-19 patients, 13 of which will be at the ITU.

The visits to the elderly who live in residential home (whether state, church or privately-owned) have been stopped. There are no visits allowed to the residential homes of people with a disability either.

This month health restrictions were also introduced for Mater Dei visitors, with shorter visiting hours of just one hour between 5pm – 6pm.

For Covid-19 patients, Mater Dei, Boffa hospital, Gozo General hospital and the private hospital St Thomas, are being used.

Right now an evaluation is being carried out of the tender bids for a prefabricated hospital, which will include an ITU and which is being planned to be built within the complex of Mater Dei.



**THE JOURNAL THAT IS CONNECTING MALTESE
IN MALTA, GOZO AND THE REST OF THE WORLD**

**2013 - 2020 - SEVEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITIES
BUILDING BRIDGES**

maltesjournal@gmail.com





Uffiċċju Komunikazzjoni

1 ta' April 2020
38/2020**XANDRIET TAČ-ĊELEBRAZZJONIJIET LITURĠIČI MMEXXIJA MILL-ARČISQOF
FIL-ĠIMGĦA MQADDSA**

Il-Ħadd 5 ta' April, fid-9:30 a.m., l-Arċisqof Charles J. Scicluna jmexxi ċ-ċelebrazzjoni ta' Ħadd il-Palm, bit-tberik tal-friegħi taż-żebbuġ u l-palm, u wara jkompli bil-Passjoni tal-Mulej fil-Kappella tal-Madonna ta' Manresa, fil-Kurja tal-Arċisqof, il-Furjana.

It-Tnejn 6 ta' April, fil-5:30 p.m., Monsinjur Arċisqof jiċċelebra Quddiesa u wara jmexxi t-talba tar-Rużarju.

It-Tlieta 7 ta' April, fil-5:30 p.m., Monsinjur Arċisqof jiċċelebra Quddiesa u wara jmexxi t-talba tar-Rużarju.

Il-Ħamis 9 ta' April, Ħamis ix-Xirka, fid-9:30 a.m., Monsinjur Arċisqof imexxi l-Uffiċċju tal-Qari u t-Tifhir ta' Sbiħ il-Jum. Fil-5:30 p.m., l-Arċisqof imexxi Quddiesa l-Ikla tal-Mulej u wara ħin ta' Adorazzjoni quddiem l-artal tar-ripożizzjoni. Fit-8:30 p.m., l-Arċisqof imexxi mument ta' talb u riflessjoni bit-tema 'Seba' waqfiet ma' Ġesù'.

Il-Ġimgħa 10 ta' April, il-Ġimgħa l-Kbira, fid-9:30 a.m., Monsinjur Arċisqof imexxi l-Uffiċċju tal-Qari u t-Tifhir ta' Sbiħ il-Jum. Fit-3:00 p.m., l-Arċisqof imexxi l-Azzjoni Liturgika tal-Passjoni u l-Mewt tal-Mulej. Fis-6:30 p.m., l-Arċisqof jitlob il-Via Crucis.

Is-Sibt 11 ta' April, Sibt il-Għid, fid-9:30 a.m., Monsinjur Arċisqof imexxi l-Uffiċċju tal-Qari u t-Tifhir ta' Sbiħ il-Jum. Fit-8:30 p.m., l-Arċisqof imexxi l-liturgija tal-Vgħili tal-Għid.

Il-Ħadd 12 ta' April, fid-9:30 a.m., Monsinjur Arċisqof jiċċelebra l-Quddiesa tal-Għid il-Kbir tal-Mulej.

Dawn iċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet liturġiċi ser jixxandru fuq TVM jew TVM2, il-website tal-Arċidjoċesi ta' Malta Knisja.mt u n-newsportal Newsbook.com.mt.

Min jixtieq ixandar dawn iċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet għandu jikkuntattja l-Uffiċċju Komunikazzjoni tal-Arċidjoċesi ta' Malta fuq media@maltadiocese.org.

COVID-19: How Malta is marking Holy Week and Easter locked up indoors

Easter lives on in 'virtual' spaces

Sarah Carabott

timesofmalta.com



Easter will go on: These two posters occupy the benches villagers used to occupy before being told to self-isolate. Photo: Jonathan Borg

In Żebbuġ's main square, a portrait of Jesus and another one of the Lady of Sorrows sit on benches that have been vacated by elderly men after the health authorities warned about the spread of COVID-19.

In Qormi, quarantined children are colouring in an outline drawing of a crucified Jesus, which a local band club will then upload on its Facebook page

alongside Holy Week prayers.

These are among the attempts to make up for the years-old traditions that thousands of people look forward to every Easter – Christianity's most important feast – but that will not be experienced this year.

Among those traditions are the Lady of Sorrows procession, Palm Sunday re-enactments, Maundy Thursday's seven churches visits, the Good Friday procession, the blessing of the figolli and Easter Sunday celebrations.

This year, people will instead have to make do with their set of miniature statues at home and be content with homemade potpourri that reminds them of the smell wafting across churches during Holy Week. Some enthusiasts have shared the potpourri recipe in Facebook groups

dedicated to Lent and Easter events.

'Prayer meetings' have also gone virtual while the Church will be beaming the liturgical celebrations into people's homes via television and the internet.

Photo: Chris Sant Fournier

Among those broadcasts will be Masses said today to mark Our Lady of Sorrows devotion, by Bishop Joseph Galea-Curmi at 9.30am and Archbishop Charles Scicluna at 5.30pm, followed by the rosary beneath the miraculous crucifix of Ta' Ġiezu in Valletta.

There will be similar broadcasts on Psalm

Sunday and throughout the week, while on Maundy Thursday, people can follow Mass presided by the Archbishop at 5.30pm, followed by worship in front of the Altar of Repose. At 8.30pm, he will lead prayer themed Seven reflections with Jesus.

At 3pm on Good Friday, he will lead the liturgy of the Passion and Death of the Lord, followed by the Via Crucis at 6.30pm.

Easter Vigil liturgy will be held the following day at 8.30pm and Easter Sunday Mass will be said on April 12 at 9.30am.



[Ava Gutowski](#) ~ **MUST READ ~ SO BEAUTIFUL!!**

You made the whole world
stop spinning for awhile,
You silenced the noise that we
all have created
You made us bend our knees
again and ask for a miracle.
You closed Your churches so
we will realize how dark our
world without You in it.

You humble the proud
and powerful.
The economy is crashing,
businesses are closing.
We were very proud,
we thought that everything
we have, everything we
possess was the result of
our hard work.

We have forgotten that it was
always Your grace and mercy
that made us who we are.

We're like running in circles
looking for some cure to this
disease
but in fact it takes humility
to ask for Your wisdom.

We've been living our lives like
we will be here on earth forever,
like there's no heaven.
Maybe these trials are Your
mercy in disguise.
Maybe this virus is actually
Your way of purifying us,
cleansing our soul, bringing
us back to YOU.

**Consulate General of the Republic of Malta to Canada****MALTESE MTCA CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWS****Difficulties with mail to arrive to Malta**

The Consulate General of Malta to Canada has been receiving calls from Maltese-Canadians (we are closed but working from home) that mail sent to Malta have been returned back to sender by Canada Post.

The Consulate General of Malta to Canada has contacted Canada Post about this problem and according to their website mail services are in operation, but the official spoken to stated that countries which do not have a direct flight to Canada will have disruption in service and far longer delays.

A Canada Post sticker is being affixed on each envelope stating 'Service Suspended'. The Office of the Consulate General suggests that for now no mail is sent to Malta until the situation is clarified further. If possible scan and send what you need or alternatively express mail companies are delivering to Malta.

The Consulate General of Malta to Canada will continue to monitor the situation and post updates on the Consulate General of the Republic of Malta website and on this journal.



THE MALTESE JOURNAL
OUR AIM IS TO KEEP THE MALTESE DIASPORA UNITED AND
TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNICATION,
COOPERATION AND COORDINATION BETWEEN COMMUNITIES
IN MALTA AND ABROAD





The much-forgotten inner world: book in Maltese is given as a gift to children for free

A fictional rendition of current circumstances Kristina Abela

When two young Maltese children, Melanie and Karl, are told by their parents they cannot go to school due to the COVID-19 lockdown, lethargy sets in.

Unable to meet their friends, the two potter around the house, until Melanie picks up a book and her younger brother, out of boredom, badgers her to share the story.

Ġorġ Mallia has written a fictional rendition of current circumstances. Photo: Ġorġ Mallia

In a fictional rendition of current circumstances, communications professor Ġorġ Mallia has written a story about the much-forgotten inner world that can be tapped into with some quiet time and a book.

In **L-Aventura Msaħħra** ta' Melanie u Karl, the siblings both get sucked into another dimension where they are confronted by ecological destruction caused by greed.

They are also led to discover truths about themselves and their past that instil in them a responsibility for the environment in their own world.

The book, in Maltese, is published in PDF format, and is available to children for free.

It is the first in a series which is targeted at 8-12-year-old readers.

Mallia, who wrote the story in a week, said he hopes the book will encourage other authors to follow suit. "Everybody's in an unprecedented situation," Mallia said.

"Various publishers were offering discounts, others were letting audio books go for free, but I thought there's no real book that explores the situation that the children are in right now so why not write one."

By the end of the book, Karl, who was never quite into books, is left excited about the number of adventures suddenly made possible to him through reading.

Asked how children should be encouraged to read, Mallia said that parents should make an effort to expose their children to books by having them around and through activities like bedtime reading. The one thing not to do, he points out, is to force children to read.

"I work very hard to get parents not to pressure children into reading. The whole point is if they are enjoying something they will do it," he said. It can be downloaded from the site

www.gorgmallia.com

An English version of the book will also be available to children at a later date.



Maltese artist dies to Coronavirus in Canada

John Grima GCOSJ

26 Feb. 1933 - 29 March 2020

Chev. John Grima passed away in his 88th year, in the City of Toronto, where he spent almost 70 years, where he met his wife, had his children, and helped raise his large extended family. John has lost his fight against coronavirus in Canada. Grima emigrated

to Canada 70 years ago and resided in Toronto throughout all these years and where he also met his wife.

His ambition was always to make films and he succeeded in this and produced a number of theatre and radio plays as well as television series.

Born in Rabat, Malta, John immigrated to Canada in 1951. He fell in love with a Canadian girl, and so enamored with her, decided to forget his Hollywood dreams, and marry her. He never left his acting dreams behind though. He was cast as a leading man in many professional stage productions, radio plays, as well as television, working in the early days of the CBC and in several American productions. In 1958 he debuted on the silver screen in film, working with many great actors of the day. He was honoured with Knighthood, in the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, otherwise known as the Knights of Malta. The Dame in his life was Edith (nee Porteous), of 67 years, of whom he devoted his life and heart to. Together, they were blessed with four children.

As a result of this Pandemic, only ten of his family will be able to attend the private graveside for him, at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery. In the meantime, please keep Edith, Georgina, Marie-Rose and Victor in your prayers as they go through mandatory isolation without being able to see him laid to rest. Our most sincere sympathies to the family and friends of John.



Queen's message – coronavirus pandemic

The Queen says she hopes the coronavirus crisis will prove "this generation is as strong as any" in a rare special address to the Commonwealth.

She urged Britons and all Commonwealth members to value self-discipline and resolve during the crisis.

The monarch also used the address — only the fifth of its type — to personally thank frontline health workers and others carrying out essential works during the crisis.

"I am speaking to you at what I know is an increasingly challenging time," she said from partial isolation in Windsor Castle. "A time of disruption in the life of our country; a disruption that has brought grief to some, financial difficulties to many, and enormous changes to the daily lives of us all."

PRAYER TO DELIVER US FROM CORONA VIRUS-19

Holy Father, Blessed Jesus, Holy Mary, St Joseph,
All Saints in Heaven,
We your faithful people on Earth,
gathered in Lockdown praying alone at home,
Humbly pray to you in Heaven above, to bless, protect
and keep us safe from CoVid-19 which is killing
thousands on earth.

This Virus is also threatening , endangering our health,
animals, our food supply,
and placing Australia and the whole world
in immense danger for the future.

Dear God, We ask you to spare our families,
relatives, friends, and our aged.

Protect our Religious, Health and Social Workers and Governments.

Bestow them wisdom, strength and health for their daily work.

Dear Holy Mary, Mother of God, Our Mother,
Cover us with your mantle of gentleness and protection.
Give us Peace, bestow our families and children comfort
and hope for the future.

We pray that You intercept on our behalf to God Almighty,
Our Creator, that He will heal those already affected,
comfort the moribund, and bless our beloved elderly
in the forefront of this cruel modern scourge.

All Angels and Saints in Heaven, we look up
to you to also intercede on our behalf.

Almighty God we are in your hands.

More than ever we need you.

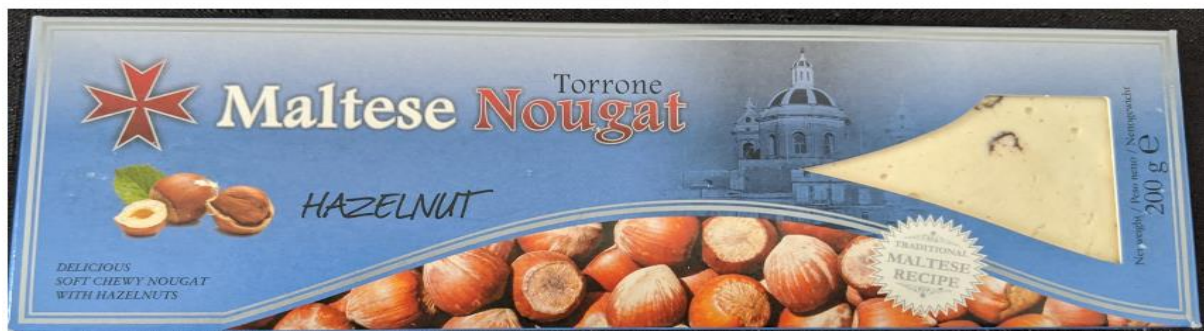
We LOVE, PRAY and PRAISE YOU,
to learn from this to make
and keep our Earth a better, safer,
healthier place...Amen

Nancy Serg nee Borg OAM

Written on 6th March 2020

Sydney Australia





We read, we love, we respect and we share
The Journal of the Maltese Living Abroad

Coronavirus: Hospital department directors buying PPE 'from Bunnings'

www.dailytelegraph.com.au



**DR. STEPHEN
PARNIS**

An emergency doctor has said a lack of personal protective equipment (PPE) has led to senior doctors resorting to sourcing supplies from hardware store Bunnings.

Dr Stephen Parnis called the lack of PPE the “number one concern” for Australian healthcare workers, who are desperately trying to source the items, on Q&A on Monday night. Dr Parnis, an emergency doctor and former Vice President of the Australian Medical Association said he’s aware of “department directors” going to the hardware chain to try and buy PPE for their staff, and said others are trying to source the vital equipment from their overseas contacts.

“It’s probably the number one concern for health workers around the country at the moment,” Dr Parnis said.

Shocked host Hamish MacDonald asked Dr Parnis to

clarify the claims.

“Can I clarify? Department heads are going to Bunnings to try and find personal protective equipment,” MacDonald asked. “I’ve seen examples of that. Yes,” Dr Parnis said. General practitioner Dr Vyom Sharma said the lack of PPE was “affecting the nature and care” being given to patients.

“It’s correct what Steven said, we’re very worried about the lack of personal protective equipment and it’s been affecting the care we’ve been offering patients throughout,” Dr Sharma said. “When the criteria for COVID-19 had been changing gradually through February and March, a huge percentage of my (patients) were overseas students and travellers and tourists. “And you’re rationing masks even then. And there are people coughing and sneezing one day who come from South Korea or Italy and a few day later the criteria changes and it says these people are high risk and you wonder should I have used a mask on them and I would have if I had enough.”

Dr Sharma said in his own practice there is rationing of PPE taking place, and the number of masks has dwindled to about ten.

“We are trying to save them for when we really need them.”

Hospital workers have resorted to buying their own PPE from Bunnings. Picture: Paul Kane/Getty

Dr Parnis said dealing with the pandemic has caused many doctors to have difficulty sleeping.

“It’s a stressful time for us all ... because we’re making enormous numbers of changes in our hospitals, but also we’ve seen what’s happened overseas,” he said.

“And that’s the sort of scenario that really worries us, the risk of being overwhelmed.”

Dr Lucy Morgan, a Respiratory Physician from Nepean Hospital said her and her colleagues are also having trouble sleeping.

She said it’s been difficult for Australian doctors watching their international colleagues “dealing with nightmare scenarios of clinical days and nights”.

Dr Morgan said she feels hopeful the doctors in NSW are prepared.

“We’re hoping for things to go in the best way possible. But we are prepared for things to get worse.”



What will be shown instead of Eurovision?

The Coronavirus has led to various activities around the world being cancelled. From sports to musical events, everything has been affected by this pandemic. Even the Eurovision has been cancelled

However music lovers and especially Eurovision fans will not be left with nothing to watch. The EBU, NPO, NOS and Avrotros have announced that they will be transmitting a production with the theme

EUROVISION

EUROPE SHINE A LIGHT

'Eurovision: Europe Shine A Light'. This production will be shown on Saturday 16 May.

Eurovision: Europe Shine A Light will be honouring this year's 41 songs without them competing against one another. This evening will include a number of surprises for Eurovision fans. Well-known Eurovision singers and musicians will also be participating. The evening will be presented by Chantal Janzen, Edsilia Rombley and Jan Smit.

This special two hour programme will also be streamed live on YouTube.



ANZAC DAWN SERVICE driveway campaign push

www.msn.com

© Getty / VM_Studio Australian Army slouch hat with red poppy resting on an auscam background.

A grassroots campaign for Australians to commemorate Anzac Day at dawn in their driveways is gathering momentum across the

country.

With traditional services and marches cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic, RSL leaders are encouraging people to honour servicemen and women at dawn on April 25 by standing beside their letterboxes or on balconies.

Radio stations across the country are signing on to live-stream services, while a Queensland school teacher is calling on musicians everywhere to play the Last Post and Reveille for neighbours.

Brisbane teacher Alastair Tomkins has started the Music for Mateship initiative to show support for service personnel after Anzac Day services were called off earlier this month.

"We may be mandated to have isolation but we can still bring our community together one street at a time by playing the Last Post, observing a minute's silence and playing Rouse," he says.

"I'm calling on all the brass players to step up and bring their community together."

Mr Tomkins has launched a Facebook page as well as musicformates.org where he asks anyone interested to download music sheets, start practising and notify their neighbourhood via a letterbox drop.

ABC Local Radio and some commercial networks have agreed to broadcast dawn services from 6am. West of the NSW Blue Mountains, at Bathurst, local stations 2BS and B-Rock are inviting residents to hold a candle while standing at their letterboxes during a seven-minute broadcast

Community station 2MCE at the town's Charles Sturt University campus will stream the service to 100 other stations across the country.

Meanwhile, people on Twitter and other platforms are encouraging Australians to dress their windows and mailboxes with poppies on the 25th and for kids to make poppy wreaths from egg cartons to hang on the front door.

State RSL branches have urged everyone to safely commemorate Anzac Day in driveways and on balconies.

"Traditional dawn services and marches are just not possible this year," NSW acting president Ray James said last week.

"But during these difficult and uncertain times, it is vital that we stay true to our values of mateship and camaraderie (and) that we honour our service personnel and show our Anzac spirit."



No pleasure or leisure travel between Malta and Gozo

The Minister for Gozo, Clint Camilleri, has maintained this is not a time for 'weekend breaks', neither in Malta nor in Gozo.

During a media conference Minister Camilleri said that every person boarding a

Gozo Channel ferry is being medically screened.

He added that as recommended that part of the screening is now mandatory.

In a Legal Notice travel between Malta and Gozo is now limited to work purposes, medical reasons, for visiting hospitalised relatives recovering in hospital or the transport of merchandise or otherwise to return to one's home. It was made clear that crossings for pleasure and leisure will not be allowed.

The Minister appealed to the public to be disciplined to stop the spread of the pandemic.



"Stay positive", prime minister's wife Lydia Abela, says in Facebook message

Make the best of added time with children she tells parents

The prime minister's wife in a Facebook message on Monday expressed solidarity with all those ordered to stay at home because of the spread of COVID-19 coronavirus.

Lydia Abela also urged parents to make the best of their added time with their children.

[Like the archbishop earlier](#), Abela encouraged children to phone their grandparents and to study while at home. Abela said these were challenging times which defined the Maltese people's values of solidarity, love and the family.

"This is a challenging time but if everyone does his part, including by not going out needlessly, I am sure this challenge will not last long," she said, while urging everyone to stay positive. She also thanked all those on the front line in the fight against coronavirus.



“I would go through hell for my children” – Maltese couple stranded in India with two adopted children

Report: Glen Falzon

About 20 Maltese couples are waiting for the pandemic to come to a close to enable them to finalise their adoption processes

and to be able to meet their adopted children from India.

Meanwhile, currently a Maltese couple with two adopted children have remained in India and cannot return to Malta after being trapped in the national lockdown there. The CEO of the Authority for Standards and Social Safeguarding, Matthew Vella, said that had not the couple decided to remain in India and they decided to return to Malta, their second adopted child would have remained there and returned to the orphanage.

The trip to India was for them to become parents for a second time but the trip turned into a nightmare for Nicolette and Johann Borg. They are caught in the lockdown and still need to process adoption documentation, including a passport for the small girl but all offices are closed. According to the couple they are feeling trapped in a cage, confined to their hotel room in New Delhi with Nicolette insisting she could not abandon the girl because of this emergency situation. Nicolette said she is prepared to go through hell in the interests of her children and is prepared to do everything for them. The couple left Malta a month ago and are extremely anxious to return to Malta. Their thoughts are that of safely being in their own home, the children playing with their soft toys and having all their need around them.

The Borg Vassallo couple are the only couple caught out of Malta during an adoption process. The couple are finding comfort through Agenzija Tama and the Authority for Standards and Social Safeguarding with Authority CEO Matthew Vella saying the couple are a prime example of genuine and dedicated adoptive parents.

Vella said that about 20 adoptive couples have been affected by global measures because all the adoptions are from India which is under lockdown. So far adoptions are still ongoing from Portugal, India, Slovakia and Bulgaria and the Authority is working to enable further adoptions from Vietnam and Cambodia.





**SAVING LIVES.
TOUCHING LIVES.
CHANGING LIVES.**



Order of Malta



The Order of Malta, serving the poor and sick and defending the faith for over 900 years.

The Order of Malta runs medical, social and humanitarian projects in 120 countries. A sovereign subject of international law and a lay religious order of the Catholic Church, it has bilateral diplomatic relations with over 100 States, permanent observer status at the United Nations, the European Union and numerous international organisations.

The Order of Malta is especially involved in helping victims of armed conflicts and natural disasters by providing medical assistance, caring for refugees, and distributing medicines and basic equipment for survival. The Order's 13,500 members, 80,000 volunteers and over 25,000 medical personnel are dedicated to the care of all those who suffer, regardless of race or religion. The Order of Malta is neutral, impartial and apolitical. It is active in 120 countries, with a Grand Master, 12 Grand Priorities and Sub-Priorities and 47 national Associations, as well as numerous hospitals, medical centres, day-care centres, first-aid corps and specialist foundations.

Founded in Jerusalem 960 years ago, its full name is Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta. Since 1834 the Order of Malta's Government has been located in Rome, where it is guaranteed extraterritorial rights.



30/03/20 Wheelchairs delivered to remote villages in North East Thailand

For further info: <https://www.orderofmalta.org.au/>



Ooompa-Loompa Angelo Muscat

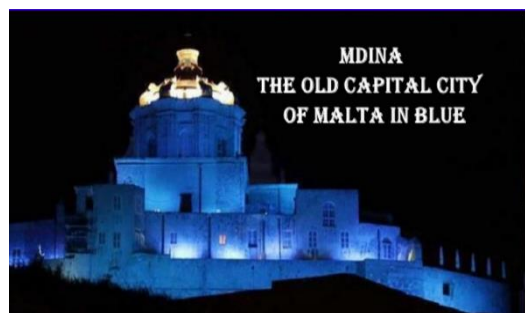
Angelo Muscat (24 September 1930 – 10 October 1977) was a Maltese English film and television character actor. He is primarily recalled for his role as the mute butler in the 1967 TV series *The Prisoner*.

Muscat was born in Malta to a policeman father. He was distinctly diminutive at only 4 ft 3 in (1.3 m), although both his parents and his three brothers were over 6 ft in height. Muscat initially found work as a kitchen porter and then as a stoker at an RAF base in Malta. After the death of his parents and finding himself largely alone, he moved to England where he worked in a zip-fastener factory. In 1961 Muscat joined a production of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* that was to tour the United Kingdom. Moving into television, he played a Chumbley in the *Doctor Who* serial *Galaxy 4* (1965), played the part of a clown in the ITV series *Emergency – Ward 10* and appeared as the Queen's Servant in the BBC television adaptation of *Alice in Wonderland* (1966).

Muscat appeared in the television series *The Prisoner* (1967-1968) with Patrick McGeehan, appearing in 14 of the 17 episodes as the mute butler. He played an Oompa-Loompa in *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory* (uncredited, 1971). He also appeared in the Beatles' *Magical Mystery Tour* (1967).

During his later years, Muscat lived alone and virtually penniless in a basement flat in North London. He found it difficult to find acting work, and to supplement his income he made ornate birdcages by hand. Muscat died on 10 October 1977, aged 47 at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London.

Legacy Each year, on 10 October a small group of enthusiasts dubbed the "Friends of Angelo Muscat" (FOAM) celebrate his life.



Omar Camilleri, DOI

Mdina is being lit blue on Wednesday evening as Malta, through the Marigold Foundation, joins the rest of the international autism community in marking World Autism Month.

This year's "lighting up" event has an even deeper meaning since apart from raising awareness on autism, it also expresses solidarity for the additional challenges that families on the spectrum have to endure while coping with social distancing and self-isolation, which are necessary to contain Covid-19. For a lot of autistic people, having to stay within confined spaces for a prolonged period is a bigger

Mdina lit blue to mark World Autism Month

Mdina in challenge than for most others as it leads to blue in additional anxiety and stress.

April Working hand in hand with the Autism Parents Association, the Marigold Foundation expressed solidarity with families going through this challenging period and called on society to be more supportive and understanding especially during this time.

Photo: Although the annual symbolic gathering at Mdina Gate has this year been cancelled, the foundation is committed to continue to raise awareness and help NGOs working in the field of autism throughout the year. The foundation said it also dedicated the blue light to the ongoing work of all healthcare professionals, doctors and nurses, security forces and all the people at the Public Cleansing Department for making Malta a safer place.

MALTESE CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWS

Lehen Malti's sterling work

Sam Borg [St. Paul The Apostle Parish Mission Group - Toronto](#)

Many thanks to our Maltese community television program



Lehen Malti
Maltese Voice



for their constant support towards the initiatives of

St. Paul the Apostle Mission Group

The production team at Lehen Malti has been instrumental in assisting St. Paul the Apostle Mission Group by publicizing activities for our upcoming mission trip to Huanacane, Peru. This morning, Lehen Malti aired the first of a two part interview which will provide the community with more details regarding our latest objective. **Lehen Malti** can be seen five times per week as follows : Saturday at 8:30AM , Monday at 3:30AM , Tuesday at 11:30AM , Wednesday at 11:00PM and Thursday at 8:30AM. Many thanks for your continued support!

Marthese Fenech from Canada

Thank you!



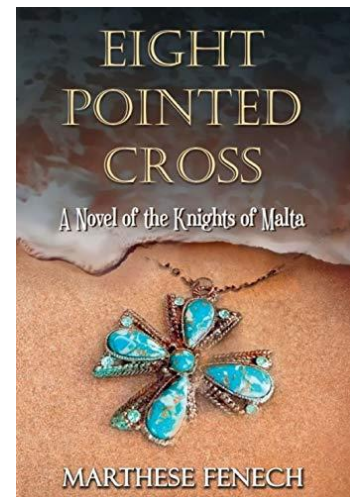
Dear friends,
My heart is filled

with gratitude for each of you--thank you for helping me reach the **Top 5 Amazon Bestseller List** by purchasing a copy of the Kindle version of *Eight Pointed Cross* for **99¢**. Your support has catapulted my title into a realm I never imagined possible. The depth of my gratitude defies description.

Initially, I had lowered the price of the e-book across all Amazon marketplaces as a thank-you to those doing their part to flatten the curve. My hope was simply to provide some inexpensive and much-needed escapism to those staying home. Then, I noticed the jump in my book's ranking from somewhere around 4,000 on the Amazon Bestseller List to 52. To say I was overjoyed would be a gross understatement. A few hours later, my book had reached number **five** on the list! I cry-laughed and spun in circles. I'm spinning still. Thank you from the , stay safe. Stay healthy. Stay happy. In gratitude, Marthese Fenech - Canada

bottom of my heart to all of you who have helped gain the top five on a platform of millions. Now that I'm this close, nothing would be more thrilling than to crack that much-coveted top spot. I came this far to come this far ...and four steps further. If you haven't grabbed a **99¢** copy, [available here](#), I humbly implore you to do so--reaching number one is a time-sensitive venture. It would mean more to me than I can say to claim the title of Bestselling Author in my category. Don't have a Kindle? No problem! Amazon offers a free download of the software to any device! [Download free Kindle app](#)

Thank you so much for your continued support. When at last we defeat this pandemic, I will throw the biggest party to which you are all invited! In the meantime





Paramedic's plea as coronavirus keeps her from seeing her son: 'We are not okay'

Maddison Leach

Hannah Cassford works as a paramedic for the NHS in London. A paramedic has begged people to stay at home so she can see her son, as she serves on the frontlines of the [coronavirus pandemic](#).

Hannah Cassford works as an NHS paramedic in London, UK, and has been left exhausted after weeks of stress, fear and rising COVID-19 case numbers in the UK.

At the end of the day, all she wants to do is go home to her family and hold them tight – but she can't.

Because of her close work with pandemic doctors and patients, Cassford has been self-isolating from her loved ones for two weeks, including her young son Ashton.

The two-year-old is currently in the care of Cassford's parents, his mum staying away to protect the people she loves most.

And though she knows keeping her distance will keep her family safe, Cassford is only human, and shared a desperate plea to the public amid the coronavirus outbreak.

Posting a photo of herself in her ambulance, head resting against the steering wheel out of sheer exhaustion, Cassford begged people to stay at home so she can finally see her little boy again.

© Facebook/Hannah Cassford A stranger captured this shot of Cassford catching a moment of rest in her ambulance. "Please stay at home," she began the emotional post.

"A member of the public took this photo before knocking on my window to ask if I was okay. We are not okay!"

"I don't think I realised quite how exhausted I was until seeing it from a different side. Yet we keep going! I miss my son and family so much! We stay here for you, so please stay home for us!"

The photo, captured by a stranger, has since gone viral as other paramedics and frontline health workers, as well as thousands of members of the general public voice their support for Cassford.

© Facebook/Hannah Cassford Cassford wants nothing more than to be reunited with her son. UK locals recently cheered on NHS workers like her with a nation-wide 'Clap for Carers' initiative, which saw the likes of Boris Johnson, members of the royal family, and celebrities clap for the medical staff working night and day to contain the pandemic and treat those infected.

A touching gesture, the 'Clap for Carers' sparked more discussion about how to help healthcare workers in the UK and abroad, with the resounding answer being "Stay at home".

Britain has stopped to applaud the NHS workers who have been working on the front line during the coronavirus outbreak. Here in Australia, nurses, doctors and other health workers are urging Aussies to practice social distancing and self-isolation to slow the spread of COVID-19 and flatten the curve.



Il-Blata Tagħna, Immanuel Mifsud's ode to a Malta subdued by the force of a pandemic

by Karl Azzopardi maltatoday.com.mt

Multi award-winning novelist Immanuel Mifsud, in self-isolation due to the coronavirus pandemic, reads his ode to the silence Malta has fallen into as the pandemic shuts down our normal lives

MaltaToday's collaboration with Immanuel Mifsud, *Il-Blata Tagħna*, is an ode to a Malta subdued by the force of a pandemic. With footage by MaltaToday photographer James Bianchi, under the production of Karl Azzopardi and music from indie band Stalko's 2016 album *'A Long Wave Goodbye'*, watch the video, and read its words, here.

Din hija l-blata, mixhuta kwazi bl-addoċċ f'nofs baħar li jsaħħar lil kulhadd;

li l-poeti tagħna qalulna li ma jixjieh qatt.

Dil-blata hija tagħna, wilditna eluf ta' snin ilu, għamlitna dak li aħna, għaġnitna fid-dawl ta' qmura qodma, bis-shana ta' xemx antika.

Tellajna l-haġar b'qima kbira, u bdejna nibnu storja bil-kuluri, b'hafna lwien: fl-imqades u l-imsieraħ, fit-toroq li wassluna lejn il-bliet.

Illum vojta, aktarx qed jistennewna ħa nkomplu b'dar-rakkont li bdewh missirijietna u ommijietna.

Dan skiet mill-aktar stramb, miksuri biss mir-riħ u mill-għasafar.

Skiet li, ejja ngħiduha, konna nsejnieh u llum nistgħu ngħidu li kienet hasra.

Dat-toroq qed jgħidulna li qegħdin jistennew li għada jew pitgħada nerġgħu lura.

U la nerġgħu ninzlu f'dat-toroq, f'dawn l-imsieraħ, f'dawn il-pjazez,

se ninzlu nkomplu dak li nbeda qabel.

Se ninzlu bil-kwiet u bir-rispett, lejn ta' qabilna, lejn din il-blata, lejn din il-blata tagħna.

This is the rock, thrown almost at random into a sea that has marvelled everybody; that our poets told us would never grow old. This rock is our home, it created us thousands of years ago, making us who we are, rendered us by the light of past moons, in the scorch of an ancient sun. We erected our stones with worship, and built a history in all colours, with many shades: in the temples and our squares, in the streets that take us to our towns, today empty, waiting for us to continue the stories our fathers and mothers told before us.

This is indeed a strange silence, broken only by the wind and birds. A silence which, let us say it, we had forgotten about and all the more pity for that. These streets are telling us they are waiting for us tomorrow or the day after. And when we will be back on the streets, these squares, we will continue what we had started before. We will come back out in silence, and with respect, to what came before us, to this rock, our rock.

Remember that moment when you lie on the couch hugging each other and nothing else matters? That's what I am looking for. I hope we can be that moment. It would be great if we can find out soon.

COVID-19: 'I hope that this hatred will be healed one day'



Erasmus student speaks of growing racism

Claudia Callejail

Boonrana Vivatananukul is concerned that the coronavirus has fuelled racism towards Asian people.

A Thai student who lives in Malta has spoken of the growing racism she is facing from people who assume she is Chinese and steer away from her on grounds she could be carrying the novel coronavirus.

Boonrana Vivatananukul, 25, is worried that this fear-fuelled stereotyping and racism could end up shattering the lives of people just because of their Asian looks.

"When I walk past someone and they notice I'm Asian, I can sense their panic. I can see them leave extra space between us... I don't blame them for being cautious, but there are some cases that are too much," the woman from Bangkok says as she goes on to give a recent example.

"The other day I was walking down the street in Msida and there was an old man walking towards me," she said.

"Once he realised I was Asian, he jumped back so quickly that he fell off the sidewalk and crashed onto a parked car. I would have liked to give him a hand, but from his face, I didn't think he wanted to touch me."

As you all are staying at home to protect yourselves from the virus, I have to stay home to protect myself from the spreading racism

Boonrana came to Malta last year as an Erasmus student to study for her Master's degree for four months. She returned to Malta in January for the last semester of her studies and will go back home once domestic flights reopen.

Even before the outbreak of COVID-19 – that started in the Chinese city Wuhan – she experienced racist comments.

On one occasion, a man walked past her and started mimicking the Chinese language with meaningless sounds – he then laughed and walked away.

"Another time I went to collect a student transportation card from an officer. I gave him my passport, but he didn't check it. He looked at my face, searched for my card in the pile, and gave me a card of a Korean girl without thinking," she said.

"He just assumed I was her because I am a generic Asian."

The situation became much worse when the virus broke out in Europe and people became fearful of Asian-looking people.

Initially, she thought it was all in her mind, but other Thai friends in Malta and other countries faced the same attitude.

"On one occasion, I was in Gozo. There were two men walking close to me.

"They stared at me and pretended to cough loudly. Then, as always, they laughed and ran away," she said.

Boonrana knows the situation will become worse once people start to lose their jobs or potentially see their loved ones succumb to the virus.

Asian people may not be welcome in European countries for the foreseeable future.

"So, as you all are staying at home to protect yourselves from the virus, I have to stay home to protect myself from the spreading racism, hoping that this hatred will be healed one day," she said.

The mouthpiece of all Maltese living abroad



MATER DOLOROSA

Joe Zammit Ciantar writes about the figure of the sorrowful Virgin Mary with the lifeless body of Jesus on her lap – as inspired and sculpted by Michelangelo in his Pietà. While not so popular in Malta, similar effigies are very common in France, especially in Toulouse, as the author found out.

A mother's sorrow and grief...

Deposition (1965) by Angelo Capoccia is a copy of Michelangelo's Pietà with the addition of Nicodemus and Joseph from Arimathea. It forms part of the Good Friday processional sets of Żejtun and Qormi. Photo: www.goodfridaymalta.com/zejtun-it-tieni-parti

Although the Gospels do not say that Christ's lifeless body was ever given to his mother Mary to grieve upon before the eventual

burial, many artists have been inspired by, and depicted and sculpted, such a sorrowful moment for Christians to contemplate and reflect upon.

One distinguished artist who immortalised this moment of profound desolation was the Italian poet, architect, painter and sculptor of the High Renaissance, Michelangelo (1475-1564), in the Pietà (1498-99).

The statue was commissioned for the funerary monument of French Cardinal Jean de Bilhères, in St Peter's Basilica, in Rome. The Carrara white marble image, which in the 18th century was moved from the monument to the first chapel on the right as one enters the basilica, is the only piece Michelangelo ever signed.

... in Malta

In Malta and Gozo, we have several statues of Our Lady of Sorrows, but less of Mary holding Christ's lifeless body. Relatively recently, similar statues made of papier-mâché – with other figures and with the cross in the background – have been commissioned to form part of sets of life-size sculptures used in Good Friday processions.

These representations... impress Christians and evoke sadness and dejection for the cruelty of human beings on innocent people

Michelangelo's Carrara white marble sculpture Pietà (1498-99), found at St Peter's Basilica in Rome, shows Mary holding the dead body of her son Jesus before he was placed in the tomb. Photo: www.italianrenaissance.org

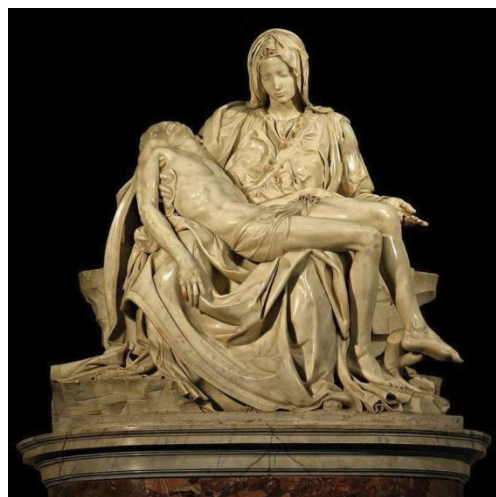
Two such compositions are found in the processional sets of Żejtun and Qormi.

The former, titled Deposition – wherein Mary and the dead Christ are a copy of Michelangelo's Pietà – has the addition

of Nicodemus and Joseph from Arimathea. It was made by Angelo Capoccia from Lecce, Italy, in 1965.

... AND IN FRANCE

While on holiday in Toulouse, Carcassonne and Albi in France, around a year ago, I visited churches and museums containing many religious artistic works. I was impressed by the fact that, at least in the past, images of Mary with Jesus dead on her lap, like Michelangelo's Pietà, enjoyed great and widespread devotion. I saw several paintings, statues and bas-reliefs with the Virgin Mary sitting, holding and looking at the body of her dead son, Jesus, stretched in front of her.



Mary is presented almost always with a youthful woman's face even though when Jesus died, he was about 33 years old, and so his mother should have been around 45 to 48 years of age. Mary looks sad, yes, but never in despair; her sorrow is contained, holy, heavenly.

On the other hand, the body of the lifeless Jesus is never robust or muscled as depicted by Rubens and Rembrandt in their Crucifixion paintings. It is always abnormally thin, emaciated, weak; a body that had suffered anguish, flagellation, beating, the weight of a cross, nailing in both of his hands and feet, sometimes with his ribs bulging out. In one of the works, the wound in Jesus's side caused by a spear in his chest, like in Rubens's various paintings, appears on the left.

These representations of a Mater Dolorosa – Our Lady of Sorrows – impress Christians and evoke sadness and dejection for the cruelty of human beings on innocent people, for injustice, and – for those who believe – for the Passion and death on the cross Jesus had to suffer for the redemption of man.

NOSTALGIA - MALTESE COMMUNITY IN ALEXANDRIA - EGYPT



The 4th Alexandria Maltese Scout Group that visited Malta in August 1939.



In 1940, the Maltese Girl Guide Company and the Scout Group were invited by the Old Sea Scouts in the Royal Navy to an indoor campfire at the Alexandria Fleet Club.



Alexandria Sacred Heart Girl's School, was run by Franciscan Nuns, with a large proportion of Maltese pupils. 1945/46 term.



A happy ride, led by the secretary of the Valletta Club in Alexandria during an excursion the day of Cham el Nessim of 1948.

ANCIENT MALTA AND OLD EGYPT LINKS - TEMPLE BUILDER AND NUBIAN PHARAOHS STATUES

Were ancient Malta and ancient Egypt linked? If science and dating is to be believed then the megalithic building civilisation of Malta and its structures were built thousands of years before Egypt's old kingdoms and Pharaohs. The Temple Builder culture of old Malta seems to have disappeared and the islands of Malta and Gozo were deserted. Did the ancient Maltese Temple Builders race go over to Egypt and impart their building knowledge and customs to them? Did Malta's Temple Builders carry on their great construction projects (like the Pyramids) that we now know and call Egyptian?

Identity Malta changes birth, death, expatriate and visa unit procedures



Agency makes changes across the board to limit customer contact during COVID-19

Photo: Shutterstock

Further changes to the services provided by Identity Malta are being undertaken in view of the latest COVID-19 developments, Parliamentary Secretary for Citizenship Alex Muscat said. The

measures are intended to facilitate the services provided.

The changes are as follows:

BIRTH REGISTRATION

As from Monday, parents can register their newborn's birth by post, without having to visit Identity Malta's offices. In the case of birth registrations, one of the parents, or both in the case of a child born out of wedlock, should notify the birth of that child.

Parents should first contact the Public Registry Unit on pubreg.civilstatus@gov.mt and then send the following documents by registered mail to The Public Registry Office, Local Notifications Section, Evans Building, Merchant Street, Valletta:

- A filled-in declaration for notification of birth form;
- The original birth certificate issued by the hospital and signed by the midwife;
- A copy of the parents' identity cards as applicable;
- A cheque or money order made payable to Identity Malta Agency for €2.60. Payment can also be made via bank transfer on:
 - Bank Account: 40010408403
 - IBAN Number: MT70VALL22013000000040010408403
 - SWIFT Code: VALLMTMT;
- Any other additional documentation as specified by the agency's officials;
- Bank receipt copy or payment confirmation should be sent when payments are made by bank transfers.

Once received, the Public Registry will issue and send the Act of Birth. Parents will confirm the Act by signing it and will then send the document by registered mail to the Public Registry Office.

The Act of Birth will then be registered and the parents will be notified by SMS or email. They will be able to order their newborn's birth certificate on www.certifikati.gov.mt.

This is a temporary measure and Identity Malta Agency is working on the development of a new Public Registry software which would allow for online birth registrations.

DEATH REGISTRATION

As from Monday, the death registration of a deceased person can also be done by post, without the need to visit Identity Malta's office.

The individual registering the death of a deceased person should first contact the Public Registry Unit on pubreg.civilstatus@gov.mt and then send the following documents by registered mail to The Public Registry Office, Local Notifications Section, Evans Building, Merchant's Street, Valletta.

- Filled in declaration for notification of death form;
- DH35 certificate of death and cause thereof issued by the medical doctor certifying the death;
- The deceased persons' identity card;
- A copy of the applicant's identity card; and
- Any other additional documentation as specified by the agency's officials.

The death notification will be complete once the Public Registry Office receives the requested documentation. Once complete, the individual registering the death will be notified by SMS or email that s/he can order the death certificate on www.certifikati.gov.mt.

Expatriates' Hal Far office temporarily closed

The Expatriates' Hal Far will be temporarily closed from Monday until further notice.

Extension requests for residence permit submitted by beneficiaries of refugee and subsidiary protection, temporary humanitarian protection, 14+ and 18+ will only be accepted by email.

Applicants should send their filled-in form (which can be downloaded from Identity Malta's website) and supporting documents to intl.protection.ima@gov.mt.

Once approved, applicants will receive an email telling them that their permit has been extended for three months, starting from the application's date of approval.

Services related to specific residence authorisation are being suspended temporarily. Any further enquiries about the Hal Far office should be sent to intl.protection.ima@gov.mt.

EXPATRIATES UNIT

In addition to the measures already announced in the past week, the following are also included:

- EU, EEA and Swiss nationals, as well as their family members, who have either been in Malta for three months and have not yet registered their residence or whose residence document has expired, should send an email to eu.ima@gov.mt. Applicants will receive a confirmation email as proof of their registration.
- Family members of third-country nationals and applicants for a temporary residence permit can submit a new or renewal application request to noneu.ima@gov.mt.
- Interviews of couples confirming whether the foreign spouse enjoys freedom of movement rights are temporarily being suspended.
- For the time being, Identity Malta is only accepting new single permit applications for highly skilled workers and workers in the health sector and social care for the elderly and the disabled.

New applications for highly skilled workers and medical professionals, as well as renewals and change in employment, should be sent to <https://singlepermit.gov.mt/>, after the employer sends a registration email to onlinesinglepermit.ima@gov.mt.

CENTRAL VISA UNIT BY APPOINTMENT

As from Monday, the Central Visa Unit will open to the public from 8 to 11am and customers will only be seen by appointment. To book an appointment, please send an email to visa.ima@gov.mt

FOREIGN STUDENTS

Third-country nationals studying English in Malta in an institution recognised by the ELT Council may apply for a national visa, to regulate their stay until the end of their course.

This also applies to third-country national students who are currently in Malta and are studying an online course in MQF levels 1 to 4. Students in higher education and whose residence permit validity is about to expire should send an email to noneu.ima@gov.mt to extend their permit.

Interviews of foreign spouses for Maltese citizenship by marriage suspended

Interviews in relation to applications for Maltese citizenship based on marriage by a foreign spouse of a Maltese citizen are being temporarily suspended.





Maltese couple request Prof Gauci to be allowed to disembark from their cruise off Malta

Report: Keith Demicoli

A Maltese couple on board a Mediterranean cruise has appealed to the Superintendent for Public

Health to reconsider the decision they will not be allowed to disembark in Malta.

Marthese Bonello and Joseph Mercieca wrote a public letter to Professor Charmaine Gauci in which they maintained that if they continue to accompany the cruise to its termination point in England and from there board a repatriation flight to Malta, they will face greater exposure to COVID-19.

Last September Marthese Bonello and Joseph Mercieca booked what they described as their cruise for a lifetime, four weeks on a world cruise stopping at various localities. They boarded the liner 'Columbus' on 25th February in Sydney, Australia but this was subsequently affected by the virus and the cruise management informed the cruise is to end abruptly and the cruise began its return voyage to Tilbury Docks in England.

Currently, the liner is off the Egypt and by Monday will be about 20 miles off Malta where it will stop for fuel. The couple are requesting they be allowed to disembark to return to Malta. The Superintendent did not accede to this request.

The 70-year-old couple suffer from respiratory problems as well as heart problems and if they continue their journey to England they will be placed at greater risks to Covid-19 infection before boarding a repatriation flight.

Mercieca wrote that in such an extraordinary situation their case should be considered on its merits, of their being elderly, their health and that of having to enter a zone where the virus is spreading at an alarming rate.



**One of the most iconic photographs ever taken in 1975
From left - Bob Hope, John Wayne, Ronald Reagan, Dean Martin, and Frank Sinatra**

TAKE HEART

Facing the Covid-19 Pandemic crisis together

Submitted by Fr. Bernard Mallia SJ
Zimbabwe - Africa

Take heart my friend the shadows
Are there but not to stay
It's true it's dark and scary
But then will dawn the day
When heavy clouds get scattered
And glimmers of new light
Will start to shine so brightly
Chasing away the night.

Let not your heart feel gloomy
Cooped up in loneliness
The One who made you loves you
Just feel his warm caress
He's with you and your loved ones
Who're far but in heart near

Dear Frank,

With them drive out all fear
Drying up every tear.

We all know we are in it
A thought let us extend
A prayer for those stricken
For those who give a hand
To succour them not counting
The toil and the expense
Coming to their defence
With loving care intense.

Let's raise heads hearts together
Join hands and stand with all
For wrapped up in ourselves
We only come to fall
Let's bravely smile keep hoping
That in the end all's well
That winter gone we'll smell
The spring that will joy tell.



St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney

1 hr •



Announcement

Channel 7 to broadcast Easter Services from St Mary's Cathedral

We are very pleased to announce that **Channel 7** will broadcast the Lord's Passion on Good Friday (10 April) at 3pm and the Easter Sunday Mass (12 April) at 10:30am live from St Mary's Cathedral. At a time when Catholic churches across Australia are closed during the COVID-19 pandemic, this is a wonderful opportunity for people across all ages and no matter where they live to participate in the Mass at the holiest time in our Church's year. Please share this exciting news with your friends!

- There are 5.11 billion unique mobile users in the world today, up 100 million (2 percent) in the past year.
- There are 4.39 billion internet users in 2019, an increase of 366 million (9 percent)
- There are 3.48 billion social media users in 2019, with the worldwide total growing by 288 million (9 percent) since this time last year.
- 3.26 billion people use social media on mobile devices in January 2019, with growth of 297 million new users representing a year-on-year increase of more than 10 percent

AMAZING FACTS

**LETTERS
FROM OUR
READERS**

We are fine and well, except being locked inside, the only exception is to go the pharmacy and shopping only one of us is allowed to go out. The police are regularly checking to make sure that people are observing the law. What you said is perfectly right, that we have accepted the way we

As a child I remember my grandparents talking about how hard it was during the war in Malta, at least now we can stay inside our homes comfortably, while during the war they had to run to take cover in a shelter without food and comfort. Take care and stay safe

Thank you for your journal that helps us to remain connected in these very difficult times. Let us hope and pray that the actions taken by decent countries across the world will bring this man-made virus under control.

This week I sent him an email with a short story of the life of his nannu, my father. I wrote: By the time I was born in 1949 his nannu had survived two World Wars, the Spanish Flu and the Great Depression. A year after my parents got married the WWII broke out. And even after I was born his life was not easy. It had its ups and downs but my parents always focused on the family, always encouraged us to do well at school. He never earned much money but he never complained And always had a smile and a word of encouragement. So it is important that the senior citizens in Malta remind the younger generation what they went through and that there is always a light at the other end of the tunnel. I hope that this deadly virus would make us re-assess our relations and that it is important for this great country to be self-sufficient in some areas. Regards and thanks for the great work you are doing. Tony Mamo

look forward to            

Theresa Scicluna (NSW Australia)



1.

**Many thanks for putting
together such interesting,
historical and uplifting
articles in your Journal from
South Australia.**

God bless you and yours
Nancy Serg nee Borg OAM

**Please, join our big family
especially if you are Maltese
and living abroad**

Editor