



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

Editor: Frank Scicluna OAM MQR



H.E. Mario
Farrugia Borg
High
Commissioner
of Malta
in
Australia
and
New Zealand



MALTA
UNSC CANDIDATE
2023-2024

The Great Siege 1565



MEET
AGNES
MUDEMBO
FROM
BIRZEBBUGIA
MALTA

IL-PRESIDENT TA' MALTA IZUR IL-POST FEJN INQATLET DAPHNE CARUANA GALIZIA

L-Uffiċċju tal-President jinforma li, iktar kmieni llum, l-E.T. l-President George Vella, flimkien mas-Sinjura Miriam Vella u membri tal-familja tas-Sinjura [#DaphneCaruanaGalizia](#), żar il-



post fejn seħħ l-assassinju tas-Sinjura Caruana Galizia fil-Bidnija. Dan sar wara numru ta' kuntatti, u qbil, bejn l-Uffiċċju tal-President u l-familja tas-Sinjura Caruana Galizia mit-3 ta' Settembru lil hawn. Hemmhekk, il-President Vella poġġa kuruna ta' fjuri bħala turija ta' soġħba u kundanna għall-att oxxen li temm il-ħajja tas-Sinjura Caruana

Galizia nhar is-16 ta' Ottubru 2017, u fit-twettiq tar-Rakkomandazzjonijiet tal-Inkjestta Pubblika li 'l-Istat jirrekonċilja mal-familja tal-ġurnalista assassinata, biex b'hekk jagħti bidu għall-fejqaq tal-ġerħa gravi u trawmatika li minnha għadda u għadu qed jgħaddi l-pajjiż'.

PRESIDENT VISITS SITE WHERE DAPHNE CARUANA GALIZIA WAS MURDERED

President George Vella has visited and laid a wreath at the site where Daphne Caruana Galizia was killed by a car bomb - the first by a head of state since her 2017 murder.

President Vella was accompanied by his wife Miriam and the members of the Caruana Galizia family during the visit to Bidnija on Monday morning.

It comes after a public inquiry found that the state should shoulder responsibility for the assassination. President said Vella laid flowers as a sign of condolence and to show condemnation of the murder. The visit was in line with a recommendation in the inquiry report that the state reconcile with the family as part of a national healing after the trauma the country as a whole had suffered.

The Caruana Galizia Foundation, which represents the family, welcomed the visit.

"In view of the published findings of the public inquiry into the circumstances of Daphne's assassination, we welcome the President's gesture as the Maltese state's recognition of Daphne's memory and sacrifice and its acknowledgement that it must bear responsibility for her assassination and for its failure to prevent real and immediate risks to her life," the foundation said.

"We share the President's hope that the implementation of the public inquiry's recommendations will begin to heal the national trauma of Daphne's murder, and we hope that this will lead to the restoration of the rule of law in Malta, effective protection for journalists, and an end to impunity."

H.E. Mr. Mario Farrugia Borg presents his Credentials to the



Governor General of New Zealand, H.E. the Rt. Hon. Dame Patsy Reddy GNZM, QSO

The Malta High Commission in Australia has the pleasure to announce that H.E. Mr. Mario Farrugia Borg, High Commissioner of Malta to Australia has presented the Letters of Credence, accrediting him as non-resident High Commissioner of Malta to New Zealand, to the Her Excellency the Rt. Honourable Dame Patsy Reddy GNZM, QSO, Governor General of New Zealand, during a virtual Presentation of Credentials Ceremony on Tuesday, 7 September 2021. The High Commissioner delivered a speech highlighting the close relations and cooperation between Malta and New Zealand. The Governor General reciprocated with a speech echoing the High Commissioner's sentiments.

The High Commissioner was later joined in the Ceremony by partner, Ms. Joanne Grima and children, Adam, Mariam and Grace, and Deputy High Commissioner, Ms. Denise Demicoli, whom he introduced before an exchange of pleasantries with the Governor General and spouse, Sir David Gascoigne KNZM, CBE. Honorary Consul of Malta in New Zealand, Prof. Carmen Dalli was also present to witness the proceedings.

The High Commissioner took the opportunity to thank the Governor General for New Zealand's cooperation and assistance in the repatriation of Maltese nationals from New Zealand during the initial outbreak of COVID 19 in 2020



PRESENTATION TO THE PRESIDENT

His Excellency Dr George Vella, President of Malta, was presented the book 'Speciosa Città Rohan' by the Għaqda Każin Banda San Filep (Omm Il-Baned Maltin): a collection of articles about Żebbuġ relating to its history, architecture, social and religious life, culture and entertainment, and some prominent people who contributed to the town.

President Dr Philip Sciortino, together with the editorial board, explained how this publication was meant as a diversification of scope of the band club whilst at the same time providing the community with knowledge that otherwise would be lost



Malta

© Times of Malta

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was

established on December 14, 1950 by the United Nations General Assembly to help Europeans displaced by the World War II conflict.

From only 34 staff members when UNHCR was founded, it now has 6,650 national and international members of staff. The agency works in 118 countries, with staff based in 108 main locations such as regional and branch offices and 151 often remote sub-offices and field offices. UNHCR is now dealing with 34.4 million people who fled their country of origin because of persecution and war. UNHCR is the recipient of the 1954 Nobel Peace Prize for its work in helping the refugees of Europe.

MALTA

The Republic of Malta is an archipelago situated in the centre of the Mediterranean, 80 km south of Sicily and 284 km east of Tunisia. It is a member of the European Union and the Eurozone.

Malta is a signatory to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol since 1971. It officially lifted its geographical reservation on 13 December 2001.

Malta is a signatory to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, since December 2019. Malta is not yet a signatory to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

UNHCR MALTA

The UNHCR Malta office opened in 2005. The office's first challenge in Malta was to address the increasing sea arrivals from the Libyan coast heading for the European mainland.

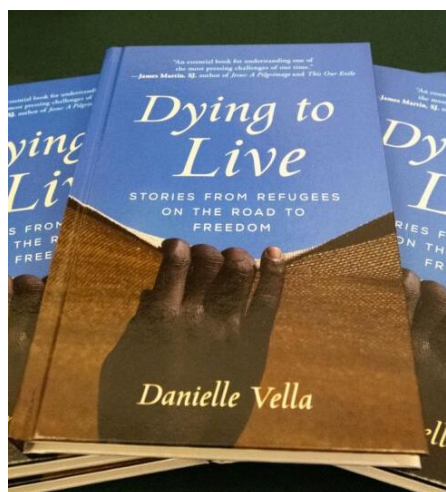
UNHCR works closely with the Maltese government, stakeholders and a number of local organisations and NGOs not only to find durable solutions for refugees and beneficiaries of international protection in Malta, but also to advocate and work towards improved access to protection and conditions of asylum in Malta; an increased protection-sensitive asylum system and related policies; to strengthen the capacities of government and partner agencies; and to increase general awareness about asylum issues in the country.

The UNHCR office in Malta is headed by the UNHCR Representative to Malta. The UNHCR team is divided into four different units; the Protection Unit, the Durable Solutions Unit, the Public Information/Communications Unit and the Admin/Finance Unit.

UNHCR representative to Malta

The UNHCR Representative to Malta is Samar Mazloun (from January 2020).

Previously the UNHCR representatives to Malta were Kahin Ismail (2017 – 2020), Beat Schuler (2016 – 2017) and Jon Hoisaeter (2009 – 2016).



Book launch: 'Dying to Live – Stories From Refugees on the Road to Freedom'

A book launch organised by Justice & Peace Commission, JRS and Migrants Commission – July 2021

"We don't look for a better life... just life." These were the poignant words quoted by author Danielle Vella at the launch of her new book 'Dying to Live', at the Archbishop's Curia in Floriana, which captures the collective experiences of men, women and children from around the world who have had no other option but to leave their country in order to survive.

Also present on the panel was Daniel Jude Okoeguale, who shared his story, his journey and search for safety which was to take three weeks but eventually took three years of travel, loss, imprisonment, perseverance, three push-backs and endless detention. During his journey he also discovered his talent for art, which at one point provided him with an opportunity to be saved from further ill-treatment. "If

someone offers you an opportunity which you don't know how to fulfil, go home and figure out how," he said, when talking of a moment when a prison guard saw his drawing on a cell wall and asked for his portrait to be painted.

His Grace Archbishop Charles Scicluna shared a few words, asking "Are we happy with what we are doing?" with regards to the rescue and reception of asylum seekers in our waters. "On the European level we are frustrated with the lack of support for Malta, but that gives us no right to ignore the plight of those at sea." "Is this right? Is this the right policy? Is this the right way to treat human beings?" he asked.

Katrine Camilleri, director of the Jesuit Refugee Service Malta, said that detention on arrival following a traumatic journey "continues to cause untold suffering for innumerable men and women."

We can still find hope in these experiences when they finally find people who treat them as equals, and relate to them as friends, brothers and sisters.

"A refugee, for better or for worse, depends on the treatment they receive on their journey and at their destination. Every kind gesture counts." If only we could hear these words more often: "Before I was surviving. Now I truly live."

'Dying to Live' is published by Rowman and Littlefield and is available from major online retailers such as Amazon and Book Depository. Copies of the book are also available at the Archbishop's Curia in Floriana.



Meet AGNES MUDEMBO

Nursing student at the
University of Malta
Outreach Officer
in the field of migration

Mother, wife, student: meet Agnes Mudembo whose dream to be a nurse is about to become true

Agnes was granted refugee status in 2019. After having a tedious time of it, she was accepted in 2020 by the University of Malta, where she is studying to become a nurse her dream job.

Who is Agnes Mudembo?

First of all, thank you for coming to my house. My name is Agnes Mudembo, I come from Zimbabwe, in the south of Africa. I was granted refugee status by Malta in October 2019. I'm married and I have three kids, two girls and one boy who are still in Africa. I'm waiting for my application for family reunification to be approved so they can join me. Only my husband is here with me.

What do you do for a living?

I am studying nursing at the University of Malta on a full time basis. I am In my first year, and I am enjoying it so much. Nursing has been my dream job ever since I was young. It's about saving lives, being there for those who need you most. Right now, I have started my placement. So being in the world and giving my best is what I love most. I work with my colleagues as a team. Everywhere I go I meet people who appreciate me for who I am, they do not label me as a refugee. That inspires me a lot. On top of that, I also work as an outreach officer with an NGO. Usually my day starts at 5am. I go to school first, then onto work, or vice versa, and most of the time I arrive home late.

How do you feel about your life in Birżebbuġa?

It is a pity that I can't say a lot about this locality because of my tight schedule. But also because I miss my kids so much. Actually only half my body is here, so I do not feel like having fun without them. But there are nice beaches here. I could take them to Pretty Bay if they were here with me. I would love to take them along the sea. I could take them to the port because we don't have a port in Zimbabwe. I am sure they would love it so much. I would even take them to learn how to swim because they don't know how, even I don't know how to swim but my husband would be a nice

trainer for us. There are so many beautiful parks around here, I could take them to play. We would have fun here together. I love Birżebbuġa and I would not want to live elsewhere in Malta.

What has Malta brought to you in terms of opportunities?

Work and Studies. Compared to Zimbabwe where it is difficult to find an occupation, here I can easily get a job if I want to work. Many people find it hard, but it's all about personal efforts and hard work. I have integrated into the Maltese culture and I speak to anyone. Every time I meet someone, I speak about work, and that's why I could easily get something to do, especially before I started my studies. It's all about fighting for yourself, knowing what you want and where you come from, knowing the life you want to live. I want to change my life and give the best to my kids. It's all about speaking to people and knowing your worth. I love Malta because of all these opportunities and my relationship with the Maltese is really good. I'm not here to complain about them. I try to avoid those people who perhaps don't appreciate me, so I don't argue or fight. That is what my faith and conscience directs me to do. I have a lot of Maltese friends and thanks to them I'm studying at the University. If you want good things, do good things to others and the rest will follow.



George Stagno Navarra is the president of A.L.P.S. Council of Administration Association of Lyceum Past Students

He was born at Balzan and lives at Sliema. He grew up in a quaint village and continues to carry the childhood memories of a serene village life that has always given to him great satisfaction in his life journey. He started his education in a Government primary school at Lija and then passed an entrance examination to start his secondary higher education at the Lyceum in Hamrun. From late fifties to early sixties, George has studied at the Liceo until he obtained his GCE "O" Level passes in 1962. At a later stage he also studied and passed accountancy examinations which helped him in no small way during his working career. Please visit the website of **The Association of**

Lyceum Past Students www.alpsmalta.com. Here are some of his comments about our journal *Another Newsletter 390, packed with so many interesting articles that bring back memories from a past that is so well preserved in our hearts and minds. In this issue, I am so pleased to read page twenty-two about Oreste Aquilina and his book. This illustrious man has done his best to put into a 500 page book, many episodes from the Maltese way of living. He goes on to write about the many activities and associations that he had formed part of. It included*

***The Association of Lyceum Past Students (ALPS)** which happens to be under my chairmanship. Many a time Oreste participates in virtual council meetings and with much sacrifice he wakes up around 4 o'clock in the morning (Australia time) to participate in ALPS meetings held in Malta say around 18.00 hrs local time. Well done Oreste and thank for being so loyal to Maltese society in general. Another article that has really struck my attention was the writing "**what happened to the ANTIPORTA**" "The Maltese houses of old were ever so proud to have their main entrance door kept wide open and the Antiporta gave light and privacy to the ground floor rooms and at the same time some form of security so that people could not just walk in...unannounced. This brings me to a poem I had written some years back which I had entitled ...**IL-BIEB TA BARRA**...In it, I described the importance of this*

**If you have a story
to tell share it with
others and be part of
history - Send it to us**

maltesejournal@gmail.com



Maltese eNewsletter

door, its courage and its loyalty to all house owners, who keep entrusting their belongings as well as their safety from intruders.

Little do we talk about the BIEB TA BARRA how he looks after our property when we leave the house AND it provides care and shelter and safety for us all when we are sleeping in our beds and keeping away thieves from entering into our private homes....One day perhaps I may find it and send it to you for publication in the Maltese E- Newsletter.. Best regards dear friend – George Stagno Navarra

Malta's Historical Australia Hall building must be restored Who cares – we do



Malta's Australia Hall is unique. There is no other building in the world like it. There is considerable concern within the Maltese-Australian community in Australia regarding the future of the historic building of Australia Hall located in Pembroke, Malta.

This building was constructed to provide a place for entertainment and refreshments for the thousands of ANZACs who were wounded in Gallipoli and taken to Malta for medical treatment and convalescence.

Australia Hall was built by the Royal Engineers and took two months to complete. It was officially opened on 22 January 1916 by the Governor Field Marshal Lord Methuen. The Australian Red Cross contributed £2,000 towards its construction cost. Some 58,000 soldiers had been nursed in various hospitals and nearby tented hospitals specially erected to deal with the large influx of wounded soldiers arriving on the island.

Australia Hall building in a derelict state When the British military facilities in St Andrew's Barracks were closed down in 1978, Australia Hall

became the property of the Maltese government. In 1979 it was granted to the Labour Party on a long lease as compensation for the compulsory acquisition of land that the party owned in Marsa for use by Malta Shipbuilding Corporation.

Unfortunately, in December 1998 Australia Hall suffered severe damage when its ceiling of metal trusses and sheeting was gutted by fire. However, its sturdy four external walls still remained standing. Today the building with no roof is in a derelict state, open to the elements and damage by vandalism.

In 2010 the Labour Party was taken to court for failure to keep Australia Hall in good condition, as was required under the 1979 contract. These charges were dropped in October 2013, after the Labour Party was returned to government.

On 1 September 2014, the Labour Party sold Australia Hall and some surrounding land to a private company for €582,343, an amount considered grossly below its market value. It was reported that no money changed hands on this deal, and instead, the Labour Party's pending debts with the company were paid off. While it is not known what the new owners of Australia Hall have in mind for the site, since 1996 the building has been classified by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA) as a Grade 2 building of historic, architectural and contextual value (as it forms part of a larger protected military complex). Thus, development in the area is so far restricted.

We have started this campaign years ago and we are still square one.

I can never thank you enough, for the wonderful manner that you present so many articles. Plenty of colored pictures of Maltese history and customs. Some are remaining in use to the present day. Centuries have passed but traditions survived many generations who all have participated at some stage in their life, with the Maltese festas and way of life in the islands of Malta & Gozo. I simply love reading about historical events from a Maltese past that stays alive to the benefit of us who have survived to this present day. Brings back many nostalgic thoughts of a childhood that is imprinted in my mind. Thanks again Frank for sharing such a wonderful newsletter. Sincerely GTN



AN AMAZING STORY

A Nigerian Refugee Who Set Foot in Malta, Pregnant, alone and 17

By

Nicky was 17 and pregnant when she travelled to Malta in 1998 as one of the first refugees to enter the island – and her incredible story has been released in a new interview to mark World Refugee Day.

Speaking to The People of Malta, Nicky recounted the fateful voyage from Nigeria through Libya to Malta, where she lost her partner before even setting foot on the island alone. Her story shows in detail what it's like to travel to another continent in the hopes of starting a safer life.

Nicky described how everything was new to her; she was never told the risks of the journey, nor was it her

choice to come to Malta specifically. All she knew was that she wanted to leave her country “to start a new life.”

Upon her arrival she was placed in Ħal-Far and watched several other migrants get repatriated.

She was one of the few who stayed on and she believes that this was thanks to her pregnancy, “I was 17, pregnant, and on my own. Where could I possibly travel to?”

Nicky spent months locked in Ħal-Far, not knowing what was going to happen to her. As she described it, “you become frustrated when you don’t know what’s going to happen to you. It’s not easy.”

Eventually, she was placed in a shelter where she was clothed, fed, and cared for. She lived off of donations to the shelter but faced legal problems that affected her mental health and that of those around her. Nonetheless, she was able to acquire the necessary support and protection from humanitarian organisations that kept her on her feet.

And after years on the island, she was finally given refugee status with the appropriate rights and conditions.

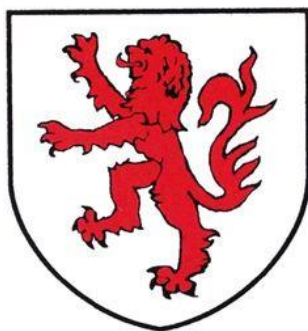
Nicky continued to say that from the moment that she landed in Malta, she wanted to focus on her life. And that she did. She worked hard, faced challenges but remained determined to study, get a job, survive, and feed her son. “Hard work pays off.”

She is now a Maltese citizen who can speak Maltese and runs her very own hair salon.

Nicky also touched on her approach to dealing with racism in Malta. She explained that although she experiences it, she doesn’t consider it as her problem, “how can a person not like me, if they don’t know me?”

The heart-warming post concluded with her assuring that she’s in a good place. “Here I have a family and a lot of friends who I consider family. They know me, the good and the bad. I received a lot of love and help and I can say that most of my wishes in life have come true.”

Nicky’s strength is truly inspiring and her story serves as a demonstration of the possibility of integration. Even as a young and pregnant Nigerian refugee in 1998, Nicky learned Maltese, opened her own business, and essentially created a whole life for herself and her son.



FLORIANA – A NEW PUBLICATION About the 300 years of Floriana

A pre-booking offer is launched - Freddie Tonna

May 9 marks the foundation of the suburban town of Floriana. The 300th birthday of this locality will be celebrated in 2024.

For this historical landmark the local gazette 'IL-FURJANA' will be publishing a book about Floriana. It is anticipated that this publication will be of interest not only to the Florianites but also to *Melitensia* collectors.

The 300 years Floriana project was officially launched on February 7. The production team is being led by Dr Joan Abela who is the Editor of the publication.

Renowned academics and writers are participating in this venture. Among others the list of contributors includes:

Dr Joan Abela, Eddie Attard, l-Imħallef Emeritu Giovanni Bonello, Dr Andre P. DeBattista, Dr Sandro Debono, Rev. Dr. Nicholas Doublet, Prof. Henry Frendo, Dr Albert Ganado, Joseph Schirò, Prof. Raymond Mangion, Rev. Dr. Martin Micallef, Prof. Charles Savona Ventura, Dr Giannantonio Scaglione, Dr Stephen C. Spiteri, Prof. Conrad Thake, Rev. Dr. David Torpiano, Dr. Theresa Vella, Prof. William Zammit, Dr Julian Zarb, Tony Terribile, Mario Xuereb, Noel d'Anastas, Mario Calleja, Paul P. Agius, Nigel Holland, Kenneth Cauchi, Publio Agius, Jesmond Moore, Stephen Tonna, and Martin Camilleri.

This book will have 400 pages, replete with hundreds of historical photos many of which have rarely been published before. It also



includes specialised historical articles about various aspects of Floriana.

Pre-publication special offer

A pre-publication booking order for the book will entitle you to acquire it at reduced price of €60 instead of the post publication price of €75, saving €15.

Those who do not want to pay the €60 in a lump sum, a scheme of payment spanning over 4 years was launched - €20 paid with the pre booking form this year; €10 next year (2022), and €10 the following year (2023). The last €20 will be paid when the book is picked up in 2024. If payments are to be affected by cheque, they should be made payable to 'IL-FURJANA' and addressed thus:

'IL-FURJANA', 44, Capuchins Street, Floriana FRN 1053

For further information please call 79339649 or send a message by email at sanpublju@gmail.com.

**TELL US ABOUT THE
BEAUTIFUL PLACE WHERE
YOU ARE LIVING**

STONE CROSSES AROUND THEMALTA

Melisande Aquilina



The

symbol of the cross has a very special and characteristic meaning in Malta. The George Cross, which bears witness to the heroism and devotion of the Maltese, is to be found on the national flag as of 1942. Moreover, the cross is the symbol of the Christian faith, which is the official religion of the islands of Malta, and in fact most of the Maltese population are Roman Catholic. One can therefore find crosses everywhere, starting from ornaments in houses and streets, to pieces of jewellery worn by many individuals.

The cross is also predominantly present in most of the baroque and medieval architecture found around the islands of Malta and Gozo. This is mainly because the Order of the Knights of Saint John, which was the one inherently responsible for most of Malta's cultural heritage, was itself a Roman Catholic military order, whose allegiance was to the Papacy.

It was during the time of the Knights of the Order that stone crosses supported by tall columns started to be built in prominent positions in towns, streets, and squares. Usually, there is also a flight of circular steps or a platform at the column's base. There are many of these stone crosses interspersed around Malta and Gozo, and not all seem to have had the same function or origin. Many of them were built to mark the demarcation of parish boundaries. Perhaps the most famous parish boundary cross is that of Marsa, which now stands some metres away from the original cross site. This is considered to be a landmark and known as 'Croce Marsa' or 'Is-Salib tal-Marsa', that is, the Marsa Cross. This cross marks the split of the Valletta parish from the mother parish of Qormi. It also marks the boundaries between Valletta, Qormi and Tarxien. Another important landmark is the 'Salib tal-Imrieħel', the Mrieħel Cross, which stands on the spot where the parishes of Attard, Balzan and Birkirkara meet.

Many crosses are also believed to be linked to a number of traditions or events which took place annually at the particular parish, while others still

are thought to have been built to commemorate a particularly important figure or historical happening. A very famous stone cross is that found in Howard Gardens just inside the Mdina bastions. It is located on the spot where the church of Saint Mark the Evangelist once stood. This church had to be demolished as its location threatened the security of the Mdina bastions. In medieval times, the magistrate of the then capital city of Mdina used to hear petitions and pass judgements at this spot. Moreover, it was customary on Palm Sunday to hold a procession starting from the Mdina Cathedral and ending at the foot of the stone cross. For this occasion, the cross used to be decorated with a palm branch and an olive branch.

At Qormi, there is another such stone cross to be found in the square in front of Our Lady of the Victories Church. This cross serves a reminder of a number of churches which were deconsecrated and demolished on the order of Bishop Balaguer Camarasa, who served as Bishop of Malta from 1635-1663. Another similar cross was erected at Ħal Millieri in the limits of Żurrieq, next to Saint John the Evangelist's chapel. In the vicinity of this chapel, there is a second one dedicated to the Annunciation. In former days, a third chapel also existed in this area, and the stone cross is a reminder of this chapel. This is also the case for the stone cross located between the two churches of Saint Rocque and the Annunciation found in Balzan, whereby the cross marks the past existence of a third church, which today exists no more.

Tarxien boasts an unusual cross known as 'is-Salib tad-Dejma', that is, the Dejma Cross, which according to legend was erected to mark the battle between the Turks, Knights and the Maltese forces on the eve of the Great Siege of 1566. When the cross was erected, it became a landmark for the Dejma soldiers to meet there when they were on duty. This cross was rebuilt several times, however today the original is still to be found inside the village's cemetery.

There are many other stone crosses around Malta and Gozo, like the one found in Kirkop next to the Annunciation Chapel, the one found in Mqabba next to the Parish Church, the one near the Żebbug Parish church, and the one next to the Parish Church of Luqa, to name but a few.



Eagerness !
Regards Jim Borg NSW

SPRING IN AUSTRALIA

A Message To All Maltese Australians ! Best Therapy I Found During The Sydney Lockdown Is Lose Myself To Find Myself In My Garden Sounds Silly, But It Works ! Admiring Nature Is Immensely Soothing, Please Do Try It ! Happy Springtime To All In Aussie Land ! Once Again Frank Well Done And Thank You For Your Great Service To The Maltese Community All Over The Globe Especially Your Support To Community Groups And Associations ! I Always Wait For The Issue Of Your Journal With

10 monuments and buildings across Malta are to be restored

Close to €500,000 being invested in scheme this year

Saint Publius statue in Floriana, the Round Water Tower in Hamrun and the Statue of our Lady in Balzan are among the statues and monuments to be restored. Photos: Wikimedia



Ten monuments and buildings across Malta will undergo works after being selected as part of a restoration scheme run by the National Heritage Ministry.

Those to be restored in the €500,000 scheme are:

[Lion's Column](#), Valletta; Round Water Tower, Hamrun; Rabat Church Parvis; Chapel of the Birth of Mary, Lija; Saint Publius Statue, Floriana; Dejma Cross Qormi; Statue of Our Lady, Balzan; Msida's Ghajn tal-Fasselin; Chapel of Our Lady of Divine Grace, Marsa; and Oratory of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Mosta

National Heritage Minister Jose Herrera said the scheme opened to local government in October last year and while 15 local councils were shortlisted, only 10 were selected.

In the last five years, 29 buildings and monuments have been restored as part of the wider project, he said.

Herrera said the preservation of heritage was particularly important because of its economic value and he hoped to extend resources in the future to be able to fund more works of this kind.

"Resources are stretched since there is a great demand for this work which is important not only to ensure the population

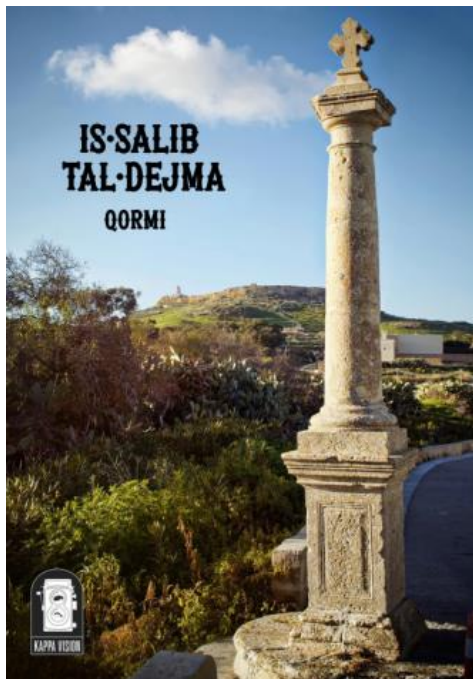
**Together we
work to
build a better
future**





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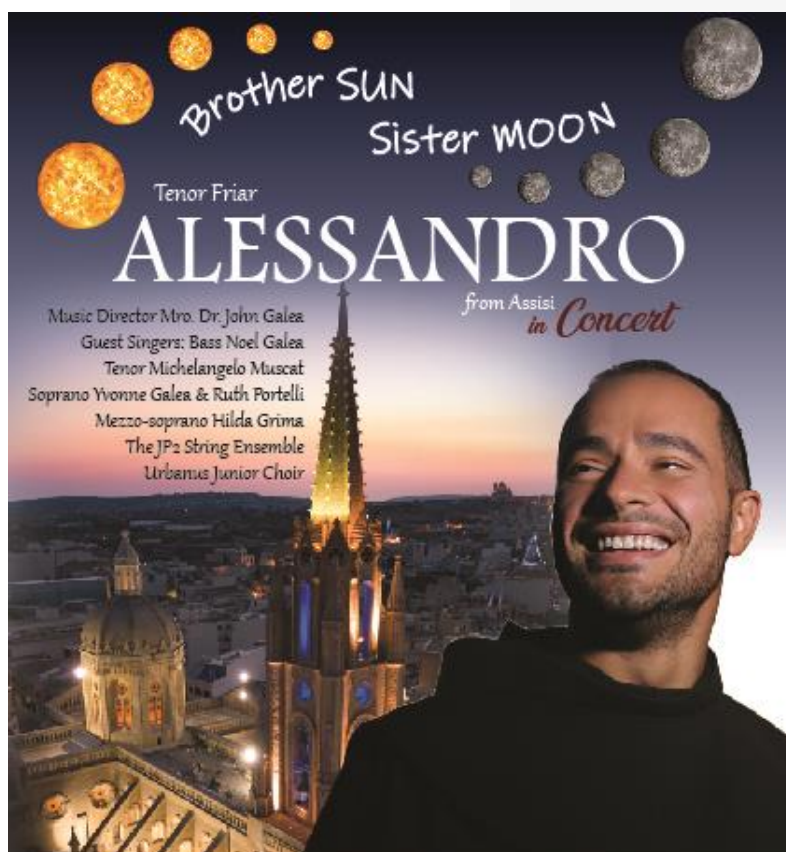


One of the Maltese crosses

Malta is the island of crosses. These structures are an integral part of many local village and town centres. This is referred to as the 'salib tad-dejma' and played an important role in the defense of these islands in the Middle Ages. As attacks by Ottoman pirates climaxed in those days, the locals decided to set up their own militia. A group of local militia would stand guard in coastal towers. Whenever an enemy galleon was spotted, they would raise alarm and send signals by means of fire (at night) and smoke (by day) to town and village centres. The dejma would then meet by their respective cross ready to intercept the enemy.

Do you know how to make a Maltese cross?

Photo: [Kappa Vision](#)



International tenor Friar Alessandro in Gozo concert – Brother Son, Sister Moon

PRESS RELEASE

Friar ALESSANDRO and an International Tenor exclusive record label contract. He will be performing a concert in Gozo 2021 at Our Lady of Loreto Parish Church G 20.30 hrs. The JP2 String Ensemble under the music direction of Mro Dr. John Galea will be accompanying Friar Alessandro and a number of other guest singers; Sopranos Yvonne Galea and Ruth Portelli, young tenor Michelangelo Muscat, and the Urbanus Junior Choir. The event is under the patronage of the MINISTER FO Clint Camilleri. And is being sponsored by the Culture Section within the Ministry for Gozo and the G Entrance is free and the public is invited to attend. For those that would like to book a Free seat, send an SMS on 99622620 By visiting this Youtube

Sunday, 19th September 2021 at 20.30hrs
Our Lady of Loreto Parish Church, Ghajnsielem

The Public is invited to attend
You can book your FREE seat by sending an sms on 9962 2620
Those who will be attending must present their valid vaccination certificate

This concert is under the patronage of the
Hon. Clint Camilleri, Minister for Gozo

Sponsored by:

The organisers of this event are responsible of adhering to the health and safety directives and regulations, relevant during that period, issued by the Health Authority.



Channel one will learn more about the Friar.



The English sweet shop that sells Maltese goodies - UK

Salvina's Traditional English Sweet Shop has a corner reserved for Maltese products... for a very special reason.

[Coryse Borg](#)

[Newsbook.com](#)

[Salvina's Traditional English Sweet Shop | Facebook](#)

It was on the 21st October 2014 that Salvina's Traditional English Sweet Shop opened its doors in Lowestoft, UK, under the ownership of Lawrence Stafrace. The shop was named after Lawrence's mother who, like his father, was Maltese. She passed away in December 2012.



"I remember that first day very well," Lawrence told [Newsbook.com.mt](#), "A lady was standing outside the shop, looking at the 'Salvina's Traditional English Sweet Shop' sign. She looked at me and said, 'This is my name. I'm Salvina! I'm Italian but I have family in Malta'. I told her that I said I was born in England, but my parents are Maltese and she gave me a big hug. It was quite overwhelming knowing that this lady had same name as my mother... what are the odds of this happening on the East coast of England?"

[Salvina's Traditional English Sweet Shop | Facebook](#)

Salvina went on to suggest to Laurence that, apart from

English sweets, he should also sell Maltese goodies.

"Maybe this was my mother saying this to me through her, as this shop is in memory of her," says Laurence, "I thought about it for a while. I must say that I wasn't really sure about it, but as time went on, I ordered Kinnie, Twistees and *ħelwa tat-Tork*."

[Salvina's Traditional English Sweet Shop | Facebook](#)

Today, just over six years later, Lawrence is also selling other Maltese products, such as biscuits, *galletti*, nougat, *ravjul*, Maltese sausages, *pastizzi*, *ġbejniet* and more.

"I was selling lots of them after the lockdown in April this year," Lawrence states, "It's been overwhelming! Maltese and English people coming from Norfolk and Suffolk... it's



the customers who keep us going. I would like to say thank you to everyone who has supported us through this difficult time. Without their support, we wouldn't be here." [Salvina's Traditional English Sweet Shop | Facebook](#)

You may find out more about Salvina's Traditional English Sweet Shop on their **Facebook page**.



CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

Our journal is preserved for future generations at the

Maltese Migration Museum - Valletta
Maltese Canadian Museum - Toronto
Website: ozmalta.com and FACEBOOK
Schools, Libraries, Aged Care Homes, Clubs and
Maltese Communities in Australia Canada, USA and United Kingdom



ORDER OF MALTA NEWS

Afghanistan, the Order of Malta calls on all parties to respect humanitarian law¹

The Order of Malta is following with utmost attention and concern the dramatic events unfolding in

Afghanistan and the critical humanitarian and human rights situation in the country.

On 24 August, the Order of Malta Permanent observer mission to the United Nations in Geneva intervened at the 31st Special Session of the Human Right Council on the situation in Afghanistan. In its statement, the Permanent observer mission supported the Human Right Council draft resolution, in particular its emphasis on the need for “efforts towards an inclusive peace and reconciliation process” that in turn will lead to an inclusive durable political settlement.

The Order of Malta “calls on all parties to respect humanitarian and human rights law, including the rights to life, freedom of religion and health. Of particular concern is the protection of the most vulnerable, such as women, children, and religious minorities. In this spirit, we align ourselves with the Australian/Spanish joint statement on women’s and girl’s human rights”.

“Malteser International, our worldwide relief agency, – as reminded by Jean-François Kammer, Deputy Permanent Observer, intervening at the session on behalf of the Order of Malta – is mobilising its operational structures to assist those in need and is ready to provide urgent humanitarian aid to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in and around Kabul and to refugees through its teams in Pakistan, as urged in the draft resolution. At the same time, we are also trying to secure the evacuation of current and former members of humanitarian partners currently in Afghanistan, who have requested our assistance. Protected persons must be able to leave the country without let or hinderance”.



Supporting National Services Day 2021

Saturday 04th September
Recognising all Full Time
and Volunteer Services
Personnel throughout
Ireland.

We Salute you!



PRISON AT THE INQUISITOR'S PALACE

Situated in the heart of Birgu, the **Inquisitor's Palace** is one of the very few surviving buildings of its kind which in the early modern period could be found all over Europe and South America. Many of these palaces simply succumbed to the ravages of time or were victims of the anti-reactionary power which was unleashed by the French Revolution.

Throughout its five centuries of history, the Maltese Inquisitor's Palace, always hosted high-ranking officials representing the main powers on the island, who therefore ensured its survival. The palace also managed to endure through the bombings of the Second World War and the threat of modern development. The inquisition was abolished during the French occupation of Malta in 1798

Mgr Pietro Dusina arrived in Malta in 1574 as the first General Inquisitor and apostolic delegate of the Maltese Islands. The Grand Master offered him the unused palace as an official residence. Almost all successive inquisitors sought to transform the palace into a decent mansion. They all shared the same cultural values of clerical baroque Roman society, and by the mid-18th century they had succeeded to transform the building into a typical Roman palace.

Being the only Inquisitor's Palace which is nowadays accessible to the general public, this architectural gem presents an exclusive experience. Visitors can explore the historic reconstructions of the **domestic kitchen area**, the sophisticated ambience of the **piano nobile**, the **private quarters**, the austere setting of the **Holy Office Tribunal**, the **prison complex** and the **torture chamber**.

The building houses the **National Museum of Ethnography** with permanent displays on Malta's religious traditions as consolidated by the Inquisition.



If you happen to spend a day and night at the prison which is situated in the palace you can feast on toast, **KAWLATA** (vegetable soup with pork) and a roasted pig, which years ago would have first been let loose on the streets with a bell hanging around its neck. This unfortunate **HANŻIRA TAL-ERWIEH** (pig of souls) would have only enjoyed its freedom for a few days, roaming the streets while parishioners fed it, until they cooked it on All Souls Day to feed the poor.

Another traditional Maltese dish, also dubbed **TAL-ERWIEH**, was a large pot of vegetable soup that was prepared around the same day.

Guido Lanfranco. Who recently died, has documented the tradition of helping the poor, through the distribution of food, as a means of offering prayers for the dead.

In the run-up to All Souls' Day, neighbours would fill up a cauldron with vegetables, beans and sometimes pasta. The minestra, or kawlata in some cases, would be distributed among the poor, who turned up with a can or a small pot.

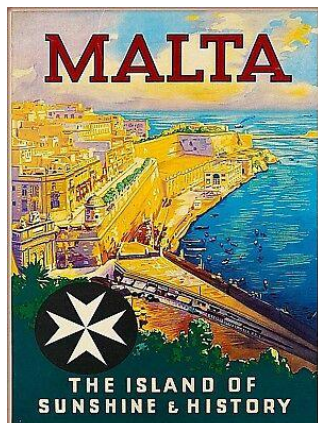


On November 4, these two dishes will be served at the Inquisitor's Palace in Vittoriosa during a Heritage Malta thematic supper topped with a glass of maħluta, the bittersweet drink recalling the ups and downs of life.

For the event, called L-Għid tal-Erwieħ, there will also be **FTIETI TAL-GHAŻA** (toasted bread with garlic and parsley), reminiscent of the days when mourners would feed only on bread and meals prepared by their neighbours. The supper will also include **GHADAM TAL-MEJTIN** – a bone shaped, almond-based sweet.

Hired mourners will set the tone of the meal. Apart from following coffins in funeral processions, the **NEWWIEHA** (weepers commissioned for household mourning) used to go into mourners' houses and break some pottery items or turn pots upside down, because people were not meant to cook following the death of a relative.

BEING THERE. Victor V. Vella from NSW writes



One of the important aspects of the the Catholic Church was how it has through the centuries and through the evolution of its ritual managed to combine the worldly and the spiritual. The present crises has brought to the fore the choice of 'being there' of being the physically present for the ritual or to watch it all or pray the Mass on the Internet while enjoying the comfort of home. Physical presence... has been an important element in the Church's belief and practice Throughout the centuries the emphasis has been to be 'bodily present' at Mass especially to get the benefit , spiritual and physical.

Though we tend to emphasise the former the latter adds to the benefits of the spiritual.

Physical presence is part and parcel of life. And as usual the church has offered throughout the ages a deep psychological outlook on life and ceremony even before Freud dreamt of it. Being present ... being physical present or being there has been one of the essentials of life of belief and of community. This presence leaves the screen, whatever is being produced or show...as flat and cold. You watch but you do not get involved.... you hear and you enjoy what you listen to but.... it all falls flat mentally and spiritually.

Being there makes all the difference. Not only with regards to religious ceremonies but applies to every spectacle we attend or we watch on t..v

Why do people travel for miles and look forward to be there ..in other words rush and fly to stadium to be present to see two teams fighting it out.... or two boxers covered with blood or to watch a superb performance of Mozart's The Magic Flute... .. On the screen everything looks real, colourful , centred and focussed but there is something missing: one can still feel that you are missing something . It feels so artificial because you are not 'physical present'. There are many who can't stand the three hours or so watching a grand performance of The Magic Flute on TV. What a difference it makes when you are physically present at a live performance at the Sydney Opera House or at La Scala.

'Being there', physically present...surrounded by an audience...a or a group of mad spectators at a soccer or rugby match or the gentle music and singing of a baroque choir which adds to the atmosphere wherever you are. Just add the subtle movements and the reaction of spectators and the warmth, I hope, of the occasion make you forget the close-ups of a t.v. representation and the 'wanderings' of the cameras and the whims of choices by the producer.

In my travels I was lucky enough to attendto be physically present at various Catholic rituals, maybe a Mass or a funeral, or a High Mass, which by the way was considered by the Anglican poet TS. Eliot as a highest drama; whether it was in a humble sanctuary at Mellieha or the superb

Gothic Cathedral of Chartres amidst the gleaming light seeping through the superb glazed glass windows which made darkness visible or the basic simplicity of the tropical shed; in a Darwin suburb in Australia with a barefooted priest officiating.

It is the whole atmosphere, the architecture, the congregation, the ritual and the music or at times the cacophony itself which add to aura to the presence. Or if you prefer the solitude which makes you feel so alone; 'in the presence'; but which looks so 'empty', when you see one person in a church or chapel on the screen The simple anecdote of the lass sitting alone in a pew with tears dripping down her face. and asked by a priest . Can I help you...and back came the answer...Thank you...I am being helped. That's what you call presence; written in capital letters.

And you don't have to be a believer to feel this 'presence'; Alain de Bottom, a philosopher expressed this 'presence'; in one of his books. When talking about the Mass he though a non-believer, explains how the building enhances the mystique and the transcendence of the ritual . If you are bodily present, he explains. The building in which it (the Mass) is performed is almost always sumptuous. Though it is technically devoted to celebrating the equality of man, it generally surpasses palaces in its beauty .

The company is also enticing. We develop a desire to be famous and powerful when being like everyone else seems a distressing fate, when the norm is mediocre and depressing. High status then becomes a tool to separate us from a group we resent, and we are scared of. However, as the congregants in a cathedral start to sing Gloria in Excelsis we tend to feel that the crowd is nothing like the one we encountered in the shopping malls or the degraded transport hubs outside. Strangers gaze up at the vaulted, star-studded ceiling, rehearse in unison the words. 'Lord, come, live in your people and strengthen them by your grace.' Sounds rather romantic to the modern mind but no harm in getting that feeling when you are bodily present for an occasion like that which caters for the mundane and the spiritual of which you can get the benefit by 'being there'

MALTESE-AMERICAN – JOE SACCO

Joe Sacco (born October 2, 1960) is a Maltese-American cartoonist and journalist. He is best known for his comics journalism, in particular in the books *Palestine* (1996) and *Footnotes in Gaza* (2009), on Israeli–Palestinian relations; and *Safe Area Goražde* (2000) and *The Fixer* (2003) on the Bosnian War. His latest work is *Paying The Land* (2020) discussing climate change and the indigenous Dene community of Northwest Canada, who were subject to cultural genocide by means of compulsory residential schooling, treaties, and capitalism.



Sacco was born in [Malta](#)^[1] on October 2, 1960.^{[2][3]} His father Leonard was an engineer and his mother Carmen was a teacher.^[4] At the age of one, he moved with his family to Melbourne, Australia,^{[5][1]} where he spent his childhood until 1972, when they moved to Los Angeles.^{[2][1]} He began his journalism career working on the [Sunset High School](#) newspaper in [Beaverton](#), Oregon.^[6] While journalism was his primary focus, this was also the period of time in which he developed his penchant for humor and satire. He graduated from Sunset High in 1978.

Sacco earned his [BA](#) in journalism from the [University of Oregon](#) in 1981 in three years. He was greatly frustrated with the journalist work that he found at the time, later saying, "[I couldn't find] a job writing very hard-hitting, interesting pieces that would really make some sort of difference."^[5] After being briefly employed by the journal of the [National Notary Association](#), a job which he found "exceedingly, exceedingly boring,"^[4] and several factories, he returned to Malta, his journalist hopes forgotten. "...I sort of decided to forget it and just go the other route, which was basically take my hobby, which has been cartooning, and see if I could make a living out of that," he later told the [BBC](#).^[7]

He began working for a local publisher writing guidebooks.^[5] Returning to his fondness for comics, he wrote a Maltese [romance comic](#)^[1] named *Imħabba Vera* ("True Love"), one of the first art-comics in the [Maltese language](#). "Because Malta has no history of comics, comics weren't considered something for kids," he told *The Village Voice*. "In one case, for example, the girl got pregnant and she went to Holland for an abortion. Malta is a [Catholic](#) country where, at the time, not even divorce was allowed. It was unusual, but it's not like anyone raised a stink about it, because they had no way of judging whether this was appropriate material for comics or not."^[8]

Eventually returning to the United States, by 1985 Sacco had founded a [satirical, alternative comics](#) magazine called *Portland Permanent Press* in [Portland, Oregon](#).^[1] When the magazine folded fifteen months later, he took a job at *The Comics Journal* as the staff news writer.^[9] This job provided the opportunity for him to create and edit another satire: the comics anthology *Centrifugal Bumble-Puppy*^{[10][1]} (a name he took from an overcomplicated children's toy in [Aldous Huxley's](#) *Brave New World*), published by *The Comics Journal's* parent company [Fantagraphics Books](#).

But Sacco was more interested in traveling. In 1988, he left the U.S. again to travel across Europe, a trip which he chronicled in his autobiographical comic *Yahoo* (also published by Fantagraphics).^[10] The trip led him towards the ongoing [Gulf War](#) (his obsession with which he talks about in *Yahoo* #2), and in 1991

he found himself nearby to research the work he would eventually publish as *Palestine*, a documentary graphic novel, which gather testimonies of survivors of war and trauma.^[11]

The Gulf War segment of *Yahoo* drew Sacco into a study of Middle Eastern politics, and he traveled to Israel and the *Palestinian territories* to research his first long work. *Palestine* was a collection of short and long pieces, some depicting Sacco's travels and encounters with Palestinians (and several Israelis), and some dramatizing the stories he was told. It was serialized as a comic book from 1993 to 1995 and then published in several collections, the first of which won an *American Book Award* in 1996^[1] and sold more than 30,000 copies in the UK.^[12]

Sacco next travelled to *Sarajevo* and *Goražde* near the end of the *Bosnian War*, and produced a series of reports in the same style as *Palestine*: the comics *Safe Area Goražde*, *The Fixer*, and the stories collected in *War's End*; the financing for which was aided by his winning of the *Guggenheim Fellowship* in April 2001.^{[10][13]} *Safe Area Goražde* won the *Eisner Award* for Best Original Graphic Novel in 2001.

He has also contributed short pieces of graphic reportage to a variety of magazines, on subjects ranging from war crimes to *blues*, and was a frequent illustrator of Harvey Pekar's *American Splendor*. In 2005 he wrote and drew two eight-page comics depicting events in Iraq published in *The Guardian*. He also contributed a 16-page piece in April 2007's issue of *Harper's Magazine*, entitled "Down! Up! You're in the Iraqi Army Now". In 2009, his *Footnotes in Gaza* was published, which investigates two forgotten massacres that took place in *Khan Younis* and *Rafah* in November 1956.^[14] In June 2012, a book on *poverty in the United States*, *Days of Destruction, Days of Revolt*, co-written with journalist *Chris Hedges*, was published.^[15] In 2020, Sacco released *Paying the Land*, published by *Henry Holt and Company*. Sacco currently lives in Portland, Oregon.^[10]

In addition to his 1996 *American Book Award*, and 2001 *Guggenheim Fellowship*, Sacco's *Safe Area Goražde* brought him a *Time magazine* "Best Comic of 2000" award,^[16] followed by 2001 *Eisner Award* for Best Original Graphic Novel,^[17] and 2001 *Eagle Award* for Best Original Graphic Novel,^[18] and 2001 *Harvey Award* nomination for Best Writer and Best Graphic Album of Original Work.

His *Footnotes in Gaza* was nominated for the 2009 *Los Angeles Times Book Prize* Graphic Novel award.^[19] Sacco was awarded the 2010 *Ridenhour Book Prize* for *Footnotes in Gaza*.^[20] He was awarded the 2012 Oregon Book Award for *Footnotes in Gaza*^[21] and 2014 Oregon Book Award Finalist for *Journalism*.

TRAVEL TO MALTA from AUSTRALIA UPDATE 16/08/2021

The Australian COVID-19 Digital Certificate as verified through Medicare Express Plus App are recognised for entry into Malta, from 13 August 2021.

From 16 August 2021, all Passenger Locator Forms must be submitted online: <https://app.euplf.eu>



thepopleofmalta.com

ART IS MY PASSION



"From a very early age I was always with a pencil and colours drawing. As I grew up I continued to love drawing. Even though I am best known for painting on textiles, particularly on festive flags, valances and bandalori (ornamental banners / flags, used in religious processions), my painting is not limited to that.

A short while ago I was approached by Hamrun to work on candles made of beeswax. These candles are displayed in Church during certain occasions. I was intrigued

by it and decided to go ahead and do it. This is another set I am working on which shall be placed in the Church of St Mark in Rabat. This is a different drawing technique to the one used on textiles. The work tends to be slightly tedious because it needs a lot of repetition but when it is done and all the candles are set in their place, you can see a unified and complete project. For this set I followed a traditional style, even the colours I chose are toned down.

A lot of patience is needed for this type of work especially when the drawing is very small. There is more prestige when working on candles made from beeswax rather than plastic and I prefer it. Care has to be taken for the paint to dry. As far as I know, there aren't many people who paint on candles. It is an art that goes back many years. I found out that it started when they used to decorate the Paschal candles that are blessed in Easter.

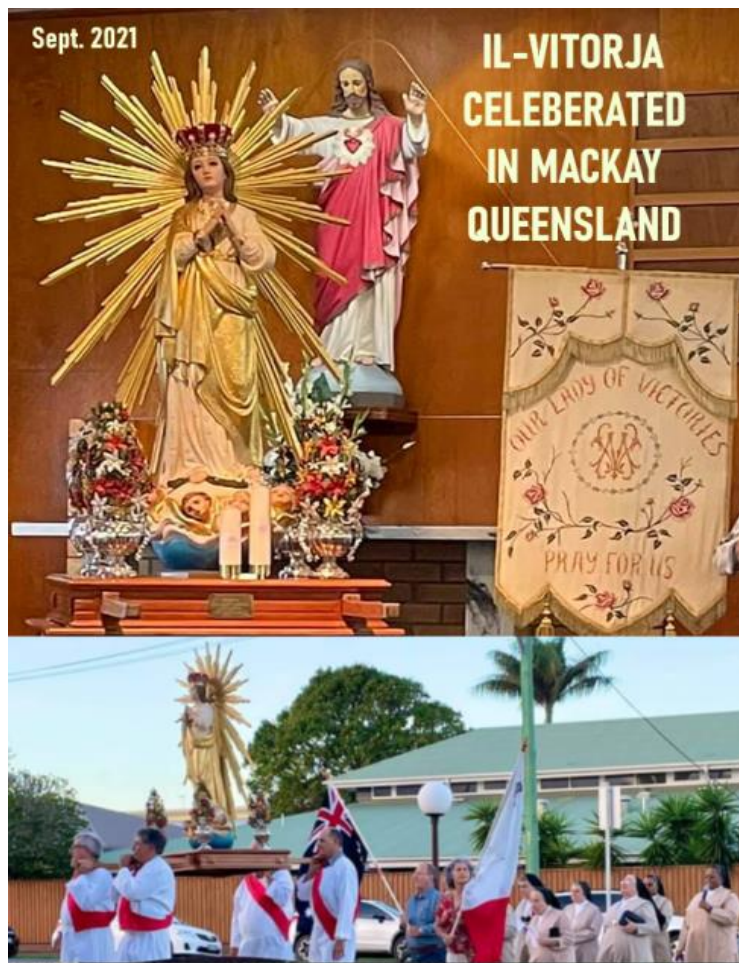
I am fond of anything sacred. I would like to experiment more on the figurative and drawings which are not connected to the sacred. My art was born surrounded by feasts, in the warehouses. That is where I was baptized. I have other projects including church paintings. I try to derive joy from everything I do and do not look for competition. Renzo Gauci taught me to draw from the heart which automatically produces beautiful art. " - Charlon Bonello Minuti — in [Tarxien](#).



The Malta Football Association is organising a Football Festival which seeks to promote the inclusion of refugees through football. Anyone who has a love of football and wants to play is invited to join.

The event will take place on the 18th September from 9:30-1:00 pm. Should you wish to attend please email: xabier.eizaguirre@mfa.com.mt.

It is estimated that there are many more Maltese people living around the world as there are presently in Malta. The United Kingdom, Canada United States and Australia host a huge number of Maltese families between them, with Maltese migrants in the latter country working hard to preserve their Maltese heritage from dying out.



Mackay Maltese Club Inc.

The Festa Dinner organised by the MACKAY MALTESE CLUB was held at The Metropolitan Hotel Mackay. Thank you to all the staff; the meals and service were great. Thank you to Lady Solo who entertained us all night long. Congratulations to Peter & Lyn Zahra for being awarded MMC Life Members. You have always supported the club and have been very generous throughout the years. We are all very grateful to have you both part of the team.

A big shout out to Maggie Borg for celebrating her 90th Birthday. This evening she was gifted a bouquet of flowers from the Club to show our appreciation of all the different MMC events that Maggie attends. We are very grateful for your dedication to our club. Happy 90th Birthday Maggie! Also a Happy Birthday to Nick Said who also celebrated turning 90. Thank you again to all who joined in this weekend

MALTESE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION (AUSTRALIA)

September Presentation 2021

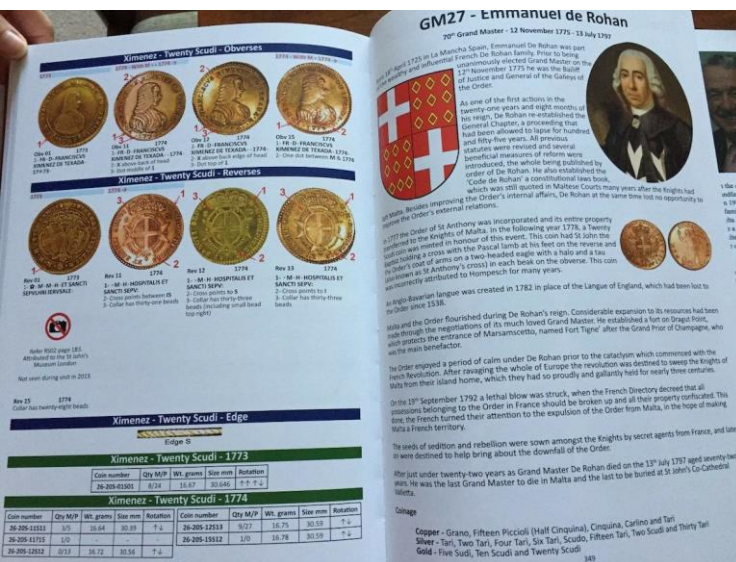
Dear Members & Friends

This month's MHA presentation is by Mr John Gatt. The topic for this month is about Coins Minted by the Sovereign Military Order of Malta during their period in Malta. Please see the attached flyer for full details.

John has been collecting coins from a young age. He has published a book cataloguing the coins of the Knights and he also has his own website: www.coinsofmalta.com.

Due to the current circumstances, the presentation will be held on Zoom on Tuesday 21 September 2021 at 7.30pm. The link for this event is below: <https://zoom.us/j/93487344882>

Meeting ID: 934 8734 4882
Passcode: 908311



This presentation is open to all. Please do not hesitate to forward the links to those who hold an interest in the history and culture of the Maltese Islands. We look forward to seeing you there. Best regards **Mario Bonnici Treasurer**

Dar Tal-Providenza Siggiewi 56th Anniversary



Today we celebrate the 56th anniversary of the first donation - our founding day. Monsignor Michael Azzopardi, Ecclesiastical Assistant General of The Malta Catholic Action had, for some time, nursed a 'dream' that would help improve the quality of life of people with disabilities who for one reason or another could not stay any longer with their parents. On this day, the 12th September, in 1965, he aired his idea during a radio programme – that of opening the first residential home in Malta for persons with disability. A young lady who heard the programme was so moved by his idea that she sought him out and gave him a cheque for Lm100 (around €230) – money she had saved for a holiday abroad. A dream and a vision which took life thanks to the continuous support and love poured towards Malta's favourite 'Home'. www.sabihlitaghti.org

Father Nazzareno Formosa - USA



Nazzareno Formosa (29 March 1901 - 22 July 1937) was an American-Maltese Roman Catholic priest who served as curate of the Parish Church of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary in Manhattan, New York City.

Biography Nazzareno Formosa was born in Gozo, Malta, on 29 March 1901 to Nikola Formosa and Maria Caruana, the first born of 8 children. He studied in Italy and was ordained a priest on August 2, 1925. In 1927 he emigrated to the United States to minister to the growing Maltese population in New York City. He became a naturalized American citizen and was incardinated as a priest of the Archdiocese of New York. He was then assigned to the parish of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary as curate to Monsignor Joseph Congedo. For the next ten years Reverend Formosa ministered to both the parishioners of Sacred Hearts Parish and to the Maltese community in Manhattan and Astoria, Queens. He served as the chaplain to numerous associations formed within the Maltese community in New York.† Nazzareno died in Columbus Hospital on 22 July 1937, at the age of 36, as a result of appendicitis. His funeral was held at the Church of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary which was attended by almost 800 people. He was buried in St John Cemetery in Queens.



From Malta with Love in Dubai

Malta Philharmonic Orchestra

DATE: 15/09/2021 TIME: 8:00 PM till 9:00 PM LOCATION: Coca-Cola Arena, Dubai

presented by the European Foundation for Support of Culture

JOSEPH CALLEJA Tenor **SERGEY SMBATYAN** Conductor

Charles Gounod Ah! Lève-toi, soleil! from *Romeo and Juliet*

Georges Bizet La Fleur que tu m'avais Jetée from *Carmen*

Giacomo Puccini Intermezzo from *Manon Lescaut*

Charles Camilleri Overture and Celebration from *The Knights of Malta Ballet Suite*

Giuseppe Verdi O Fede Negar Potessi ... Quando le Sere al Placido from *Luisa Miller*

Umberto Giordano Amor ti Vieta from *Fedora*

Richard Rodgers (Orch. Annunzio Paolo Mantovani/Aurelio Belli) Edelweiss from *Sound of Music*

Leonard Bernstein Maria from *West Side Story*

Erno Rapee (Orch. Annunzio Paolo Mantovani/Aurelio Belli) Charmaine

Richard Rodgers (Orch. Paul Bateman) You'll Never Walk Alone from *Carousel*

Malta's world-acclaimed tenor Joseph Calleja joins MPO Principal Conductor Sergey Smbatyan and the orchestra in a concert fusing operatic repertoire with semi-classical works. The programme features arias by Verdi, Giordano and Bizet as well as Manon's poignant Intermezzo together with lighter musical theatre numbers. The orchestra also performs two movements from *The Knights of*

Malta Ballet Suite, as the evening tributes one of Malta's leading composers, Charles Camilleri.



**WASHIN
DAY
IN
VALLETTA**

Expats in Russia ask Malta to accept Sputnik certificate



The Maltese in Russia Association want Russia off the dark red list and Sputnik

recognised as valid vaccine certification

by Nicole Meilak

Maltese expats in Russia are calling on health authorities to start accepting the Sputnik vaccination certificate and scrap the quarantine system for Maltese who took the Sputnik jab.

The Maltese in Russia Association (MiRA) is asking the Superintendent of Public Health to accept the Sputnik certificate or allow Maltese from Russia to visit on the basis of a PCR test.

It is further requesting Russia's removal from Malta's list of dark red countries, and to scrap the quarantine system for those vaccinated with Sputnik, while allowing unvaccinated Maltese from Russia to quarantine at home.

According to MiRA, European countries such as Greece and Cyprus are accepting tourists vaccinated with Sputnik, while some EU countries have bilateral deals in place to mutually recognise national vaccination certificates.

In fact, Malta currently recognises digital vaccine certificates from the EU, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, Serbia, Gibraltar, Jersey, Guernsey, Qatar, Albania, Australia, the United States of America, Egypt and Lebanon.

"Malta does not have to recognise the Sputnik vaccine, but Malta can and should recognise the Sputnik vaccination certificate, especially of Maltese nationals in Russia," the association said.

With Russia still on Malta's dark red list of countries, MiRA argue that countries with much higher incidence rates of COVID-19 per capita are not on the dark red list, with Russia's incidence rate on par with that of Malta.

While Malta's incidence rate translates to 610 per million population, the incidence rate in Russia currently stands at 873 per million over last week.

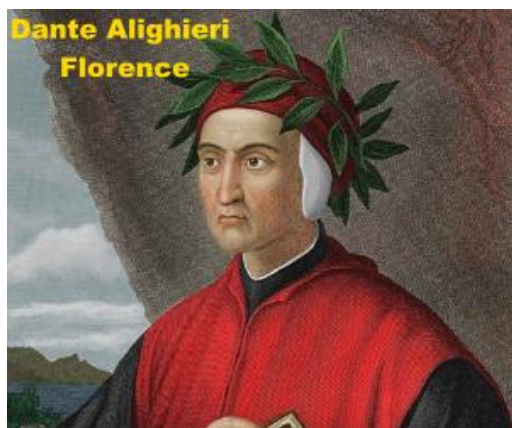
"We are not questioning why countries with such high incidence rates of COVID per capita, more than five times what Russia has, are not themselves on the dark red list. But we believe it is high time that Russia is removed from the dark red list of countries."

MiRA also finds fault with Malta's quarantine system, pointing out that authorities have given several exemptions to people travelling in and out of Russia, including Foreign Minister Evarist Bartolo and Malta's football team.



Maltese Chapel at Vorontsov Palace
St Petersburg, built c.1798 by Giacomo Quarenghi.
Order of Malta - SMOM

“Moreover, the amount of quarantine hotel space is limited, and people are being made to share rooms with total strangers. Such a method defeats the scope of the same quarantine system.”



Remembering Dante on his seventh century of his death.

Fr. Lonnie Borg mssp

This year marks the seventh century of the death of Dante Alighieri, who wrote his most famous work the Divine Comedy. We cannot ignore this anniversary. Dante knew how to express with poetic beauty the depth of the mystery of God and his love for us. Poetry is one of the highest manifestations of human knowledge, the fruit of a new and deeper inspiration. So important is his death

anniversary that Pope Francis wrote an Apostolic Letter, *Candor Lucis Splendor Aeternae*, Splendour of Light Eternal, for this occasion. Even his two previous popes, made references to Dante during their pontificate. St. John Paul II often spoke of Dante Alighieri. On the 30th May 1983 an exhibition ‘Dante in the Vatican’ was opened. On that day Pope John Paul II made a speech, where he reflected on one particular word from the Comedy, the word “Trasumanere” meaning to pass beyond the human. This was Dante’s final purpose for his writing.



Pope Benedict XVI in his Encyclical Letter *Deus Caritas Est*, begins by reference to Dante’s union of God, “light and love are one and the same.” “O light Eterne, sole in thyself that dwellest Sole knowest thyself, and known unto thyself And knowing, lovest and smallest upon thy self (Par XXX III, 124 – 126)

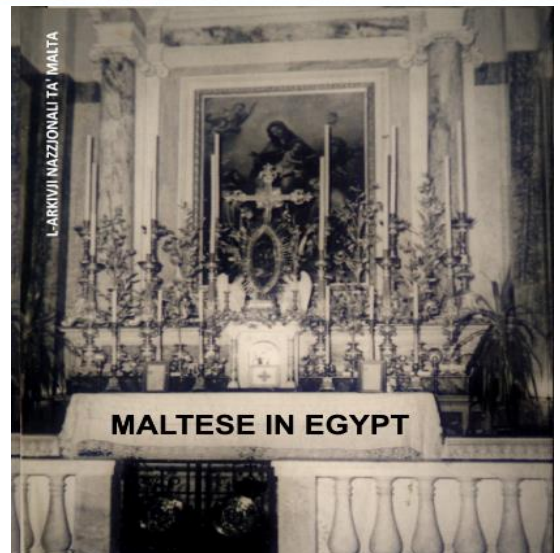
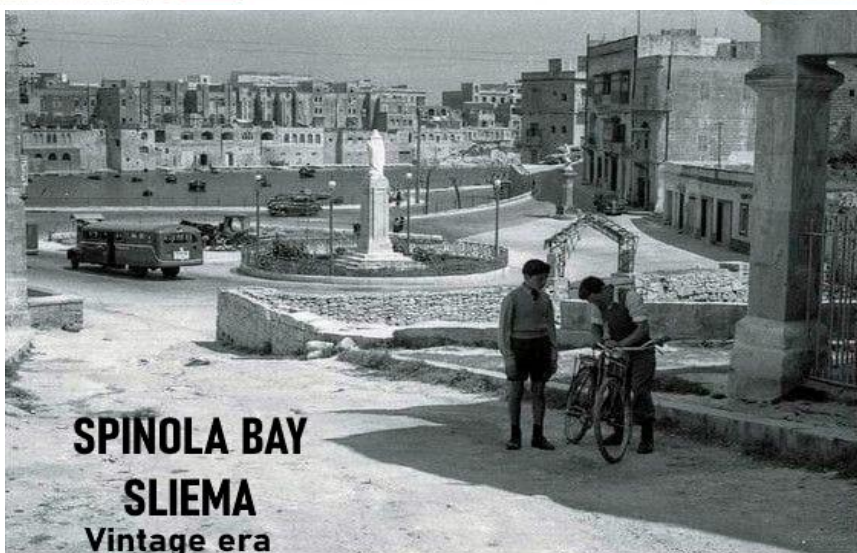
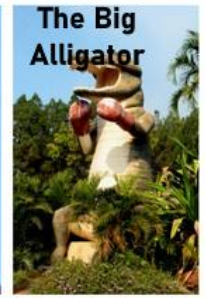
By writing this Apostolic Letter, Pope Francis invites all of us to the life and work of Dante and to explore its relation with our own life experience. The Florentine writers work is an integral part of our culture, leading us to the Christian roots of Europe and the West. So may I invite you to try reading the Divine Comedy. It is a Christian meditation on living in hope, and a revelation on God’s mercy and human freedom. His death anniversary is the time to familiarise and make better known his message in all its fullness.

(Photo above shows Dante’s monument in Floriana, Malta)



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Your Horoscope in Virgo Zodiac

THURSDAY 23RD AUGUST TILL FRIDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER

Full Moon - Tuesday 7th September

New Moon - Monday 20th September www.pauljon13.com



AQUARIUS from 20th January till 18th February

Guidance for the zodiac sign for Aquarius: Home and family life continue to be in sharp focus this month. Especially advances, a creative, playful theme is building.

Your personal or domestic life is busy, mostly pleasant, and rewarding. Strengthening ties with loved ones and learning to do home life differently is satisfying, this can bring you opportunities to upgrade, improve, innovate and motivating force in your personal circle Namaste.



PISCES from 19th January till 20th March

Guidance for the zodiac sign for Pisces: You might work from your home with more enthusiasm, or you're bringing in new ways to enjoy entertainment on the home front and finding creative ways to interact with the people closest to you. It's a fortunate time for friendships, communications, work, health, and group connections. Your ideas, advice, or guidance might stand out as particularly unique and perhaps in demand Namaste.



ARIES from 21st March till 19th April

Guidance for the zodiac sign for Aries :There's a strong focus on your home and family life, as well paying extra attention to your work. You want to take advantage of increased self- motivation to get things done; there can be simmering tension as your personal goals can sometimes clash quite dramatically with your domestic world. Ambition increases in comfortable ways, you need to put ideas into motion or take action to overcome obstacles Namaste.



TAURUS from 20th April till 20th May

Guidance for the zodiac sign for Taurus: is time to shine for you, but not necessarily to act on new ideas. The focus is on you and personality development, but several incubate ideas so that you'll be ready to go forward with them later, money matters from a new and helpful perspective, for motivation to turn over a new leaf regarding finances and expectation scan be strong , it's an excellent period for considering how your approach to attracting and learn how to make improvements Namaste.



GEMINI from 21st May till 20th June

Guidance for the zodiac sign for Gemini: You can benefit from positive energy moving through this zodiac phase. This position accentuates your finer, more attractive qualities for all to appreciate. There is an emphasis on your private life, inner world, and intimate your life, developing that highlights your independence and the innovative side of your personality. You need to stay more focus more on discoveries and a feeling of newness to your life Namaste



CANCER from 21st June till 22nd July

Guidance for the zodiac sign for Cancer: As progresses closes, you become increasingly interested in fulfilling happiness goals and less focused on performance on your deeper relationships, look for opportunities to express yourself from behind the scenes. This is a time for pivotal discoveries of your feelings for someone or particular projects in your life. Namaste



LEO from 23rd July till 22nd August

Guidance for the zodiac sign for Leo: Transits encourage you to bring more of the world into your personal life. You could be joying new interests or thinking about your plans in a big picture way. You are more likely to make happy connections through activities that take you outside of the routine or onto unfamiliar ground. There may be some form of recognition for your accomplishments and incentives, benefits that can figure strongly Namaste.



VIRGO from 23rd August till 22nd September

Guidance for the zodiac sign for Virgo :You are ready and willing to perform, more ambitious than usual, as friends may recognize you as a pioneer, or you're connecting with your initiative and pioneering qualities. You can be drawn to details and excited about finding solutions. Personally, transits and to pull you up and out of yourself, and you can be more willing to take on a challenging your self-belief Namaste.



LIBRA from 23rd September till 22nd October

Guidance for the zodiac sign for Libra: It's a great time to use common sense and improve your daily routines, it's time for launching new self-care programs , work project events and tend to point you in the direction of taking better care of yourself. You might come to realize that you're holding onto behaviours that no longer serve you, it's a good time to motivate you to improve your daily affairs Namaste.



SCORPIO from 23rd October till 21st November

Guidance for the zodiac sign for Scorpio: Hard work pays off, you might learn something new about your work matter that would improve your life contributions. You'll begin to recognize the need to look within for answers but you're also inclined to rely on someone special more often. You can turn unglamorous tasks into creative pursuits Namaste.



SAGITTARIUS from 22nd Nov till 21st Dec

Guidance for the zodiac sign for Sagittarius :Good energy is with you for bringing more excitement, pride, and fun to your interactions. You tend to put forward a solid effort when it comes to relating in positive, rewarding ways, you assert yourself in becoming, healthy ways, and others tend to admire your increasing confidence and verve. It's a great period for getting things done and clearing the path for new beginnings Namaste.



CAPRICORN from 22nd Dec till 19th Jan

Guidance for the zodiac sign for Capricorn: You need to be more focus on your carer but also having a balanced way to your loved ones. You can take an advantage of what opportunism can bring for your self -motivation as you are looking for more growth in coming months. Your ambition would make comfortable ways, but you must remain total focus and don't get disturb by silly situations Namaste