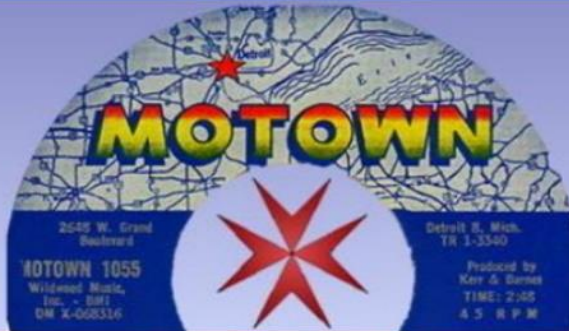




# MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

Editor: Frank L Scicluna OAM MQR



## From Malta to Motown

*Gathering place for Maltese who migrated from Malta/Gozo to Detroit*

Get reacquainted with your Maltese community, post your vintage pictures, help each other identify people and revisit an era in Detroit that was loved and is now gone. May God bless us to help each other

**A journal for the young and for the not so young**



**TAL-PITROLJU  
EXTINCT STREET VENDORS OF MALTA**



### A TASTE OF MALTA

Zeppi's Bajtra Liqueur is made from Opuntia ficus-indica, a member of the Cactus family, commonly known as the prickly pear "Bajtar tax-xewk"

**400 thanks**

✧ for ✧

**400 issues**



**FEDERATION**

**FEDERATION OF MALTESE  
LANGUAGE SCHOOLS INC**

FEDERAZZJONI TA' L-ISKEJJEL TAL- MALTI  
<http://federationofmalteselanguageschoolsnewswales.com/>

**OF MALTESE LANGUAGE SCHOOLS  
INCORPORATED**

**Executive Committee: President – Edwidge Borg (VIC).  
Secretary Patricia Grech (Qld), Treasurer - Alfred Flask**

**(ACT). Vice President Miriam Friggieri (NSW),** All Correspondence to be addressed to: The Secretary, FMLS INC.

Email: [patgrech@bigpond.com](mailto:patgrech@bigpond.com) and cc to: The President: [edwidgeborg@hotmail.com](mailto:edwidgeborg@hotmail.com)

**UNIVERSITY OF MALTA – ONLINE MALTESE FOR FOREIGNERS LANGUAGE CLASSES** The University of Malta is offering 2 study units to those wish to Study the Maltese Language and need to communicate Maltese in their study and prospective work environment.

The study-unit **EPE2013 - It-Taħdit u l-Kitba bil-Malti bħala Lingwa Barranija 1** - Speaking and Writing in Maltese as a Foreign Language 1 Elementary Level A1 costs €45 (10 lessons equiv. €4.5 per lesson) and **EPE2015 - It-Taħdit u l-Kitba bil-Malti bħala Lingwa Barranija 2** - Speaking and Writing in Maltese as a Foreign Language 2 Pre-Intermediate Level A2- costs €90 (14 lessons equiv. €6.4 per lesson). The classes will be held on Friday evenings around 7.00 pm (AEDT- Australian Eastern Daylight Time)

Students who join in February for EPE 2013, if they wish to further their studies can enrol for EPE 2015 later in May. FMLS will also encourage teachers and aides to enrol in at least for one of the courses. If an applicant follows and successfully completes a fee-paying visiting study-unit, s/he will be issued a detailed transcript free of charge. The transcript is an official academic record which would be printed on University headed paper, and which would also be signed in pen by the University's Assistant/Registrar. The Zoom online lectures will be recorded so that students may revise and practise. **Unless otherwise indicated, the online application facility may remain open up to 31 January 2022.**

Course descriptions can be found: <https://www.um.edu.mt/educ/study/visitingstudents>

Apply using this link as a **New User**:

[https://esims.um.edu.mt/esims/sits.urd/run/siw\\_ipp\\_lgn.login?process=siw\\_ipp\\_app&code2=0007&code1=VISEDU](https://esims.um.edu.mt/esims/sits.urd/run/siw_ipp_lgn.login?process=siw_ipp_app&code2=0007&code1=VISEDU)

**MALTA GRANT** We are pleased to announce that the FMLS has been given a grant of €10,220 by the Maltese Education Department. This grant was long awaited as the last grant we received from the Maltese Government was in 2015. It has replenished our depleting funds which have been used every year mainly to subsidise schools costs and incentive scholarships to HSC/VCE students. This grant of €10,220.00 was obtained to be used as a subsidy for purchasing of teaching resources from Malta, Teacher stipend, website development, room hire, printing, stationery, and public liability, heating/cooling and other overheads to maintain and improve class attendance. A special mention of thanks goes to H.E. the Maltese High Commissioner for Malta in Australia, Mr Mario Farrugia Borg who has supported and assisted the FMLS and expedited the granting and receipt of this grant.

**TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP SUBSIDY GRANT**

It is intended to give a Scholarship subsidy grant to teachers who enrol and attend the online Maltese for Foreigners classes being offered by the University of Malta. A detailed application form will be made available shortly. It is proposed that these grants will be offered only to FMLS financial affiliated schools and limited in numbers to not more than 3 teachers from major schools and 1 teacher from small schools.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** The FMLS held its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 17 November 2021. Present at the meeting were various representatives from the FMLS affiliated schools. The topics listed in this newsletter were discussed. No elections were due this year. Schools tabled their reports and it is heartening to see that the class attendances are increasing in the junior and adult levels. However attendance in years 7-12 are decreasing dramatically.

SBS Radio are undertaking a survey of its Radio programs schedule. The Maltese program experienced drastic cuts to the schedule on the last survey. A campaign to publicise the survey to the Maltese Community was initiated. Discussions with various representatives of the Maltese Community are taking place and plans are in motion to meet with SBS management in late November.

**MARIA DE CARLO** Maria has retired as teacher and co-ordinator of the Maltese Language School of NSW. Her interest in Maltese language teaching is still strong. She has been supporting the current administration and teachers quietly in the background the best way throughout this year. Maria has been teaching and co-ordinating the class for over 20 years and her active professional involvement in both the Maltese Language School of NSW and the support to the FMLS will be sorely missed.

**CHARLES GALEA** At the end of this scholastic year, we say farewell to Charles Galea who is officially retiring from teaching. Charles has not only been an active committee member of Akkademja Maltija ta' New South Wales Inc. but held the office of President of Akkademja Maltija ta' NSW Inc., from 2007 - 2019. Charles has been an invaluable mentor and inspiration to many teachers, students, and families, ensuring their success and encouraging their full potential. Teaching Maltese for over 20 years with the Saturday School of Community Languages is

testament to his steadfastness. We wish Charles all the best in the next chapter of his life. Charles was also a founding member of the FMLS. In 2008 together with various representatives of Maltese Language Schools the Federation was formed with the assistance of H.E. the High Commissioner for Malta Mr Francis Tabone who hosted the formation of the Federation. Charles contributed a lot to the Federation and is supports the work we do.

**Edwidge Borg – President – Federation of Maltese Schools Inc (Australia)**

## **Planning Authority approves plans to turn old naval hospital in Mtarfa into international school**

By Jurgen Balzan

The old naval hospital in Mtarfa is set to become an international school after the Planning Authority approved an application to restore and rehabilitate the building.



The Grade 2 building in Mtarfa which forms part of the former Royal Navy Hospital and which for a time served as a school and a temporary basis for various government offices will now be restored and rehabilitated back into a school with modern-day facilities, the Planning Authority (PA) said in a statement on Friday.

This comes after parliament approved a 40-year concession agreement in 2019 to transfer the property to Haileybury Malta Ltd, which is expected to set up and run an international school. After being approved by the Planning Board in recent days, the PA said the project will re-adapt the three-storey building into a new educational space without disrupting the overall architectural integrity of this significant landmark.

“The school will have a kindergarten, junior, senior and sixth form classrooms, music rooms, a library, a media centre, performing arts studio and administrative offices.”

An assembly hall, underground canteen with kitchen and dining area will be included as part of an extension to the building. Built between 1915-1920, the hospital had a significant role in Malta's

naval and military history. During this period, the hospital started to cater for the patients coming from various military hospitals on the Island which were being closed down.

During WWII, the hospital was restructured and extended to accommodate a maximum of 1200 beds; an underground area was excavated to be included with the hospital. This building along with the adjacent barracks became to be known as the 90th General Hospital. In the 1950s the 90th General Hospital was dismantled, and the building was kept as a hospital and was renamed Sir David Bruce Hospital – this was closed down in 1978.

The building is highly symmetrical with a slightly protruding central piece which contains the main doorway, which leads into three overlying loggias. The ground floor loggia is rendered massive with rusticated stonework.

The project will also cover the restoration of the Grade 1 St Oswald's Chapel which is also sited within the grounds of the former Royal Navy Hospital. Constructed in 1929 to serve the garrison at Mtarfa, the Chapel stands as a fine example of British colonial-style architecture, complimenting the monumental classicism of the Hospital in its vicinity.

The chapel was designed and built by the Royal Engineers, with the assistance of Maltese master-masons. The chapel is characterised by a prominent domed campanile of distinct design having triple bell-cotes on each side. The tower overlies an entrance porch with doorways on either side, having a Celtic cross centred in between. This symbol commemorates Oswald (604-642), the Anglo-Saxon martyr-king of Northumbria, acclaimed with having introduced Celtic Christian missionaries to England. Elegant colonnades flank half the north and south facades whilst the transept, high altar and sacristy spaces complete the cruciform plan of the building.



3224, Dundas St. West  
Toronto  
Ontario, M6P 2A3  
Canada

### *St. Paul the Apostle*

*Maltese-Canadian Parish*

*under the pastoral care of the Missionary Society of St. Paul*

### **FR. KARM BORG MSSP RIP**

Wednesday, November 24, 2021

Dear Friends,

Many of you are by now aware of the demise of Fr Karm Borg, former pastor

of our parish. He was admitted to hospital on Monday afternoon, and passed away around 5:30 am Malta-time yesterday morning. Fr Karm was born on April 8, 1951, and was ordained priest within the Missionary Society of St Paul on July 9, 1978.

For 15 years he was Pastor of our parish, between 2001 and 2015. We, the priests at St Paul's, have been deeply moved by the many messages received or posted on social media. In his own quiet way Fr Karm has touched the lives of many. For this, we are thankful.

Fr Karm's funeral will be held at the Basilica of St Paul, Rabat, Malta, tomorrow Thursday at 4:00pm (10:00am Toronto-time). This is going to be live-streamed on the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TcL4ByZZrKk> On Tuesday, November 30, one week after his death, we are having a Memorial Mass for Fr Karm here at St Paul's, at 7:00pm.

As we continue to pray for the repose of his soul, we also pray for each other as we continue on our journey here on earth. Wishing you God's abundant blessings. Fr Mario Micallef mssp



**The Pastor Fr. Karm Borg MSSP.**  
Toronto: Charles Bray took this picture of the Pastor Fr. Karm Borg MSSP and associates walking in front of the band heading for the Church to celebrate a Mass of thanksgiving for the Elevation of St. George Preca.

**The Editor and readers of the Maltese Journal convey  
their condolences to Fr. Karm's family  
and to Missionary Society of Saint Paul  
May he rest in peace**



**1****2****3****4****5****6****7****8**

During the visit in New South Wales the High Commissioner of Malta in Canberra H.E.  
Mario Farrugia Borg , accompanied by his family  
and the Consul General Lawrence Buhagiar visited

1. The Hamrun Club Sydney.
2. met with Father Leonard Testa who has been in Australia for the past 70 years
3. The St. Nicholas Festa Committee
4. The Saint Dominic Elderly Home run by Maltese Sisters
5. the La Valette Social Centre Blacktown NSW.
6. The Community Council of NSW
7. Members of the Preca Society in Sydney (M.U.S.E.U.M.)
8. The George Cross Falcons Community Centre, in Illawarra.



Following a nearly 17-month intermission, after curtains closed around the world, Cirque du Soleil rises up to continue its mission to cultivate creativity and share the hope and joy that live entertainment brings.

Cirque du Soleil is thrilled to announce that Malta — a destination of choice in Europe— will be the first European country to host a new Cirque du Soleil show post lockdown. Back for a second year after performing in Malta for the first time in 2019, the Company is thrilled to present a new creation to local fans and guests.

The new show, which will feature the same signature style acrobatics and visual artistry that fans worldwide have come to expect and appreciate, will be tailored exclusively for Malta, celebrating the country's singular cultural diversity and history.

FIERI by Cirque du Soleil is an uplifting journey inspired by the cultural roots of Malta. A rallying tale of resilience from the heart of the Mediterranean, the show is a modern take on the unifying spirit of the Maltese archipelago. The show weaves a

**Ends on 19 December 2021 Show Times Vary**

**Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta, Malta**  
shining, contemporary mosaic inspired by the jewel of the sea.

Please note the Following:

Please note that doors always open 1.5 hours before curtain up. Your printed ticket has all the details you need to know to ensure that you are in your seats without any hassles i.e. the time at which doors will open and the time when the show will be starting.

Since singular seats cannot be left unsold, the ticketing system will automatically select the best available seats for your preferred ticket category. These tickets will remain available for you for a limited amount of time.

This show is not suitable for children aged 5 or under.

Flashing light effects might be used during this performance. Patrons that may suffer from epilepsy & other visual light stimulation effects are advised to contact the ticketing helpline prior to booking.

Please also note that Boxes 8 and 7, are Wheelchair accessible.

This event is being organized following the COVID-19 protocols currently in place by the Health Authorities. The maximum safety of the musicians, the performers, and the audience remains a top priority throughout. The temperature will be checked upon entrance & and an approved COVID-19 vaccine certificate needs to be presented together with an Identification Document. Individuals who are 12 years and over need to have a valid COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate.



#### **RAYMONG GRIMA – ADELAIDE – MALTA**

Congratulations on reaching this milestone of your Journal. I don't know how you do it, but your passion to continue preaching the Maltese language and culture is second to none. There is something for everyone and always surprises and inspires me with something new and to never lose my love of Malta and my Maltese heritage.

Thank you Frank and may God bless you and give you good health to continue producing this wonderful journal. Kind regards

#### **EM. CAMILLERI – CANADA**

I was amazed to see in how many countries this journal is read – Albania, Australia, Italy, Spain, New Zealand, UK, USA, Canada, Brussels, South Africa, South America, Tanzania, and naturally Malta and Gozo. It's a gem and a link, full of interesting and useful information for us, the Maltese living away from our homeland. Please, keep on publishing this newsletter because I cannot live with it. I am too addicted.



**GEORGE BRIMMER – MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA**

Hello Frank I am writing to congratulate you for this special 400th edition of your E-Newsletter. I have just finished reading it and as usual it is full of very interesting articles and useful information. Well done and keep up the very good work. Regards to you and all your family from all the Brimmer family here in Melbourne Australia. Proset tassew. Stay safe. Sahha t-tajba lil kullhadd.

**NANCY SERG NEE BORG OAM**

**CONGRATULATIONS on this very important milestone of the 400<sup>th</sup> Special Edition of the Journal of and for The Maltese Living Abroad)** delivered from South Australia. It has been an immense tantalising tool of educational value which I send to my families in Australia and overseas. This has been of great value for school projects and for our descendants to become interested in our Maltese background and culture, with all its varied historical and other very interesting articles published. My Congratulations Frank, may you continue for many years to come and reach many people all over the world. Nancy Serg nee Borg OAM

**FR. BERNARD MALLIA, SJ, ARUSHA, TANZANIA.**

Dear Mr. Scicluna, I don't know how to thank you for your loving unstinting work at the Maltese Journal since 2013 non-stop. It's just a wonder. You have done, are doing and will go on doing so much in uniting people in their diversity, in their past and their present. It is a truly ever more humanizing way as we are called to be together in appreciating our diversity and our common humanity in all its richness. Your work is really up-building in a world that is all too often divisive and destructive. Keep it up and thank the good Lord for granting you such a wonderful gift and task. God bless! In my language here, in Swahili, I tell you, Mungu akubariki! Fr. Bernard Mallia, Sj, Arusha, Tanzania.

**MARIA CATANIA**

CONGRATULATIONS on your great effort to reach such a wonderful achievement of producing 400 Editions of the Journals for the Maltese Living Abroad. Together with all the readers of this amazing E-Newsletter, I THANK YOU most sincerely for the GENEROSITY OF YOUR TIME AND ABILITY TO MAKE THIS Project such a great success. May good health together with your talents help you to continue producing such publications. I take this opportunity to wish you a Happy Christmas and a New Year filled with Peace, Love and Joy.

**FREDDIE TOONA - MALTA**

Dear Frank, I prefer to continue writing in Maltese.

Prosit u grazzi ghal din l-edizzjoni kommemorattiva fl-okkazjoni tal-400 harga tal-Maltese E-Newsletter.

Ieghed taghmel bicca xoghol tajba hafna li sservi ta pont, izzomm rabtiet u tippromwovi l-kulturi u t-tradizzjonijiet bejn il-gzira zghira taghna ma tant hutna Maltin imxerdin madwar id-dinja.

Mill-gdid prosit. Il-Mulej u l-ewwel qaddis Malti u wiehed mill-Patrni u Protetturi ta' Malta, San Publu jghinuk u jkomplu mieghek f'hidmietek.

**RITA ZAMMIT**

Thank you Frank Scicluna and Congratulations on your Special Edition 400 I like reading your Maltese Journal its very interesting and informative and look forward for your email I read things that I never heard before about Malta and Gozo and wherever the Maltese are. well done Rita Zammit.

**ROBERT DAMATO – ADELAIDE – AUSTRALIA**

Congratulations on the 400th edition of the Maltese E-Newsletter - a truly remarkable achievement! I really enjoyed reading some of the warm wishes sent from Maltese individuals spread all over the world. Keep up the good work! Regards,



I Congratulate Mr Frank Scicluna OAM for reaching a very important milestone - 400th Edition of the Maltese E-Newletter, an online journal bringing the Maltese together from all around the world. Thank you [Frank Scicluna](#) for your work with the Maltese Community and for professionally capturing and reporting the official visit to NSW by His Excellency [Mario Farrugia Borg](#), High Commissioner of Malta in Australia who was accompanied by myself as Consul-General of Malta in Sydney with jurisdiction in New South Wales, Australia - LAWRENCE BUHAGIAR

**SAM CALLEJA USA**

Dear Frank – Thank you for your efforts to produce such an important journal that is keeping us, Maltese Living Abroad, together. And I admire you for including everyone in this historic venture. No wonder it is the best journal on the net. I share it with all my family, relatives and friends.



## Dak in-naqa Facebook... examiners shocked at bastardised Maltese

**Examiners blame Facebook for essays in which students use English words and informal, colloquial language**

by James Debono

**Debono**

A report on candidates' performance in their Maltese O' level blames frequent grammatical and

orthographical mistakes on the tendency of students "to write as they feel" without any consideration for rules. The examiners attributed these grammatical shortcomings on the "influence of haphazard writing on Facebook" and the lack of reading and communication in Maltese.

This year's annual examiners report on candidates' performance in their Maltese O' level denounced the "exaggerated and incorrect" use of the word '*naqa*', a colloquial, somewhat endearing term used instead of '*naqra*' (little) or '*ftit*' (a few).

The report documents the incorrect use of the word, which is often used during online or everyday conversations. One candidate even managed to use '*naqa*' three times in the same sentence: "*Immur ngħin naqa lil missieri niżbarazzaw naqa affarijiet u nsuq naqa l-mutur tiegħu.*" (I went to help my father a bit to clear some things and drive his motorcycle for some time).

As denounced in previous reports, various students either resorted to English words or created bilingual hybrids in their essay writing. These hybrids included '*avijabbli*' (available), '*jispredjaw*' (they spread), '*nirrikwestja*' (we request), '*witnessi*' (witnesses), '*qomt fis-sitta o'clock*' (I woke up at six o'clock) and '*fil-pinikal tal-Covid*', (at the peak of the pandemic).

Other students resorted directly to English words like bottle '*bottle tax-xampanja*' (champagne bottle), '*ommi haditha easy*' (my mother took her time), '*sirna best friends*' (we became best friends), and even direct translation of English idioms '*qabditi għajni*' (caught my eye), '*logħba futbol li ħadet post*' (took place), '*tieħu f'kunsidra*' (take into consideration), and '*ma tafx il-futur xi jzomm*' (what the future holds). In various cases, examiners also denounced poor expression and wrong use of plurals like '*xmari*' instead of '*xmajjar*' (rivers), '*flus folza*' instead of '*flus foloz*' (counterfeit money).

"It is clear that some candidates find it difficult to write and express themselves in Maltese... some candidates lack lucidity in their thinking and often one finds no connection between different paragraphs while others fail to make a distinction between written and colloquial Maltese." The examiners found "a lack of imagination" and poor ideas and a lot of repetition. In some instances some of those writing an essay on '*L-imxija tal-pandemija*' (the spread of the pandemic) wrote about a walk (*mixja*). Some even failed to write in paragraphs, writing their essay in one big chunk.

But they also found a number of good essays which included a refined use of the Maltese language with a number of candidates also referring to the negative psychological impacts of the pandemic due to its impact on socialisation.

Nearly two-thirds of those sitting for the exam managed to obtain a pass-mark but only 3% obtained a Grade 1 mark. Nearly 40% of candidates obtained a Grade 4 or Grade 5 mark.



**MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER**

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**IF YOU ARE  
MALTESE  
LIVING  
ABROAD THIS  
IS YOUR  
JOURNAL**



## WW1 MALTESE ANZAC - CHARLES EMANUEL BONAVIA.



Charles Bonavia was born in Sliema. He migrated to in Australia as a bachelor at the age of 24 years. He was the son of Emanuel and Giorgina Bonavia of 331 Strada St Paolo, Valletta, Charles was a draughtsman by

profession and enlisted with the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps in the Australian Imperial Force on 9 September 1914 as a Private (aged 27). He was a tall man with a dark complexion and was allocated to the 11th Battalion of 'B' Company. Together with his unit, he left for overseas duty from Fremantle, Western Australia, on the Transport ship A11 *Ascanius* on 2 November 1914, and served in Egypt and Gallipoli.

A few months later, his father received a letter from the Army advising him that his son was

missing in action somewhere in Gallipoli, Turkey. It was a great shock for the Bonavia family, all hoping and praying their son would be found alive and well. As was the procedure when a soldier is missing in action, a Court of Inquiry was held in this case at Fletre, France, which concluded that it would be reasonable to assume that he was dead. Eventually came the official statement that Private Charles Emanuel Bonavia had been killed in action. As his body never found, there is no known grave for him.

It was a traumatic experience for his family, when they received the second letter confirming the bad news. Bonavia was one of the first soldiers to be killed in action on Anzac Day, 25 April 1915 and posthumously awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. His burial place is at Lone Pine Cemetery, Anzac Gallipoli Canakkale, Turkey. Plot: Final resting place unknown.



**Josephine Zammit Cordina**

**The Editor and the readers of the Journal of the Maltese Living Abroad wish a happy 86th Birthday and a speedy recovery to a special and graceful woman, a wife, a mother, a friend a champion of the Maltese Diaspora especially the Maltese communities in Australia and New Zealand.**

## IN MEMORY OF MANWEL CASSAR

I thought your readers might be interested in viewing my late father's website which was recently launched.

Manwel passed away in November 2019 (2 years ago)

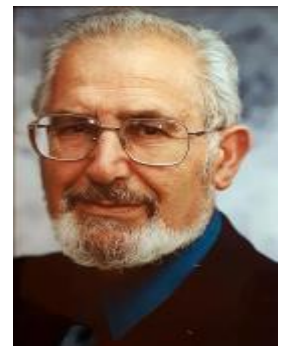
Manwel was well known within the Maltese community, and a quick google of his name will give you lots of information on his background.

I have spent the past 18 months photographing and cataloguing Manwel's paintings, and there are three galleries of his work showcasing over 1000 images, as well, visitors to the site may download (free of cost) over 90 pages of Manwel's poems (although this only represents the tip of the iceberg of his written work)

If you do publish the web address, please let me know, and please credit me as the creator of the website: Here is the link to the website (below)

<https://manwelcassar.wordpress.com/>

Kind regards, Chris Cassar



## Did you know that Czechoslovakians might have saved the Mosta Dome?

*Antoine Borg Micallef*



On April 9, 1942, during one of the many Luftwaffe WWII air raids, two bombs descended on the Mosta Rotunda in the centre of Malta. The smaller bomb (at 50 Kg), bounced off the church, but the much larger SC500 Kg bomb pierced the dome and crashed into a congregation of over 300 people. The bomb did not explode, sparing everyone inside, and the Maltese hailed this as a miracle. However, this 'miracle' might actually be the result of Czechoslovakian workers defying the Germans by producing a bogus bomb.

The ceiling of the Mosta Dome is a spectacular architectural accomplishment at an internal diameter of 37.2 metres. One can notice the repaired areas where the SC500 Kg bomb penetrated the ceiling in the top left side. (Photo credit: K B)

Like many European countries, Czechoslovakia was occupied under Nazi leadership, which sought to eradicate the Czech nationality through the atrocities we now read in history books. Those individuals that were not 'Germanized', deported or exterminated in concentration camps were recruited as labourers in the German empire to sustain its military campaign.

At the time, Malta was part of the British empire and was engaged in the Siege of Malta, in which the Axis Powers flew over 3,000 air raids spanning a two year period in the hopes of weakening RAF powers in the central Mediterranean. This earned Malta the unsavoury record of being one of the most bombed countries in WWII.

Mosta is a central village in the main island of Malta, which was generally not a main target by war planes given its considerable distance from ports and airports. This tiny village, is home to the impressive Mosta Dome (or Rotunda), which has the third largest church dome in Europe and the ninth largest in the world at an internal diameter of 37.2 metres.

*A replica of the bomb is still present in the church's sacristy today. (Photo credit: GibMetal77)*

Legend stands that Skoda workers in Pilsen in Bohemia created the SC500 Kg bomb that fell on Mosta Dome, but instead of filling it with explosives, they filled the metal shell with sand and a note which probably waved the middle finger at Hitler and his Nazi regime.

The act that the bomb did not explode will unfortunately go down in historical myth, as British troops took the unexploded bomb and detonated it. As such, there is no recorded evidence to support this claim. The Maltese population thanked the Virgin Mary for saving their lives (the Mosta Dome is dedicated to the Assumption of Our Lady) and have since hailed this as a miracle, while Czechoslovakians have quietly lauded the efforts of



Skoda labourers in Pilsen (which is now part of the Czech Republic following the peaceful dissolution of

Czechoslovakia into the former and Slovakia). While I am one to understand and accept that the battered Maltese population of 1942 would naturally see this as a miracle, and more importantly as a sign of hope, I would like the Skoda version to be true as well. It evokes an important sense of quite defiance in the face of dictators such as Adolf Hitler, the likes of which still unfortunately exist in the 21st Century.

Be it the Virgin Mary or Czechoslovakian workers in Pilsen, Malta was spared from a horrific wartime incidents that faithful Thursday morning.



## HOW TO APPLY FOR A CERTIFICATE FROM MALTA ONLINE

### BIRTH, MARRIAGE, CIVIL UNION, FREE STATUS AND DEATH

[www.certifikati.gov.mt](http://www.certifikati.gov.mt)



The Public Registry was founded in 1889, and its records date back to 1863. Records kept at the Public Registry include Acts of Birth, Marriage, Civil Union, Cohabitation, Death and Adoption Registrations.

certifikati.gov.mt provides all relative information to obtain an existing Public Registry civil status certificate, including **Birth**, **Free Status**, **Marriage**, **Civil Union**, **Cohabitation** and **Death** certificates. Certificates can be ordered online, and you can have them delivered to an address of your choice, both locally and abroad. Alternatively, you can collect your certificates from the Public Registry Office in Marsa or Victoria, Gozo. The Public Registry Office normally processes an order within six (6) working days.

Public documents issued under EU Regulation 2016/1191 of the European Parliament and the Council, such as birth, marriage, civil union, free status, and death certificates no longer need an apostille authentication and are now accepted by public authorities of another Member State. Citizens can request to attach a multilingual standard form to the public documents. For further information please contact the Public Registry Office on +356 2590 4200 or email [pubreg.civilstatus@gov.mt](mailto:pubreg.civilstatus@gov.mt)

certifikati.gov.mt allows for secure transactions to take place over the internet. Although it is highly recommended to login using your e-ID account, this is not compulsory. If you do not have an active e-ID account, you can still use this application by manually filling in all the required details.

The Public Registry will only charge your bank account once your order is processed, and the certificate is issued. If there are no records found, no fee will be deducted from your bank account.

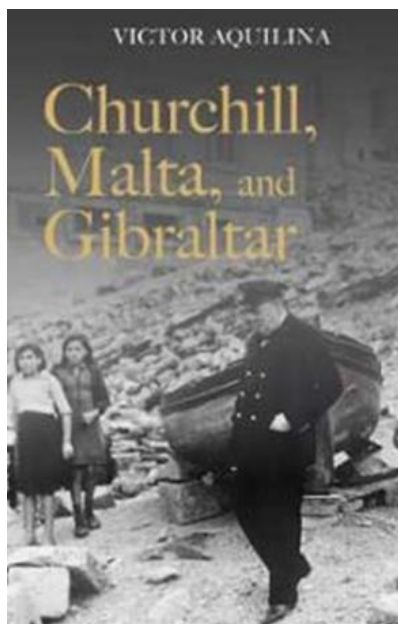
Ċertifikati.gov.mt provides all relative information to obtain an existing Public Registry civil status certificate, including **Birth**, **Marriage**, **Civil Union**, **Death** and **Free Status** certificates. Certificates can be ordered online from the image shown on the website. The certifikati.gov.mt portal provides the ability for "secure" transactions to take place over the internet. Please note that online certificates request/s may take up to 6 working days to be completed by the department.



# Churchill, Malta, and Gibraltar

Foreword to the book by Joseph Galea Debono President, George Cross Island Association, 2021

Author: Victor Aquilina Publisher: Kite Group, 2021 Pages: 380pp



Malta has the lives of many thousands of German and Italian soldiers on its conscience', Field Marshal Erwin Rommel wrote in late 1942 when it dawned on him that he had taken the wrong decision in insisting on the cancellation of the planned invasion of Malta in July of that year.

Yet could the decision-makers in London have foreseen that outcome in the dark days of May-June 1940 when France was on its knees and desperately looking for a way out of a dreaded total occupation by Hitler's hordes?

With the prevailing revisionist trend in history where writers seek to question decade-old views and interpretations of long-past and more recent events, substituting their own - all too often dictated by personal prejudice and agendas - it was not surprising that some would jump on the bandwagon to call out the decisions or deliberations of the war cabinet and in particular Churchill's part in these momentous days.

A few Maltese authors also took up the cudgels to argue that the new prime minister was even prepared to sell out Malta and Gibraltar in a desperate effort to reach a peace settlement with Nazi Germany and to prevent Mussolini from joining Hitler and declare war on the democracies.

Victor Aquilina, a seasoned journalist and author, was spurred to look closely at these revisionist interpretations, particularly as they affected the two British outposts of Malta and Gibraltar in the Mediterranean and how a decision of that nature could have a bearing on their very survival.

The issue arose when the French government tried to assuage Mussolini and prevent him from stabbing the country in the back by encouraging Britain to join it in offering certain territorial concessions, including Tunisia, Malta, and Gibraltar. The proposal, made French Prime Minister Paul Reynaud, was supported and vigorously pushed forward in the war cabinet by Foreign Secretary Lord Halifax, who was himself very much in favour of stemming the flood by stopping the total capitulation of France and reaching a peaceful solution with both Fascist leaders.

Before analyzing the war cabinet's discussions, the author gives a detailed background of the constitutional and political history of the two crown colonies, their economic and social development, demographic composition, and religious inter-relationships with each other. The aspirations and fears of the Maltese and Gibraltarians are also given their due consideration and all this provides a comparative in-depth study of both colonies in the inexorable process that led up to the Second World War.

In the second part of the book Aquilina argues that at no point was Churchill's stance in the war cabinet's talks, spread over three days, tantamount to an acceptance of the French proposal. He gives a detailed account of the talks, based on the minutes, as the protagonists dissected the arguments for and against making an approach to Mussolini in a bid to keep Italy out of the war and mediate for a settlement with Hitler.

With the benefit of hindsight, the way things evolved after the rejection of the French proposal were not very rosy initially and for two-and-a-half years Britain faced a series of tragic military defeats when it decided to plough on alone after the fall of France.

Churchill could be held responsible for a number of questionable decisions which affected Malta very adversely. One was ordering General Archibald Wavell to halt the North African campaign in its tracks in January 1941 to reinforce Greece initially in its defence against the Italians when the Commonwealth forces were in the process of taking over the entire Libyan territory. Another was the endorsement of the RAF's fruitless strategy of squandering great numbers of Spitfires and their pilots in useless sorties over occupied France in 1941 when Malta was begging for Spitfires and not getting any.

Yet, there does not seem to have been a time when Churchill would even consider giving up Malta, the unsinkable aircraft carrier. This is borne out by the efforts made by the Royal Navy - at his insistence - to keep Malta resupplied at the expense of enormous and very costly convoy losses.

When Malta was finally reinforced with Spitfires and torpedocarrying aircraft in the spring of 1942, its aircraft and submarines started taking a grievous toll of the Axis seaborne transport of men, munitions, petrol, and supplies to the Afrika Korps, crippling Rommel's advances towards the Suez Canal.

As the tide of war operations changed Churchill visited Malta twice, in late 1944 and early 1945, and toured the island where he was greeted by cheering Maltese who never doubted his unflinching resolve to defend them from the Axis tyranny.



By then Malta's very important role in the Second World War had been fulfilled. It had not only withstood a three-year-long aerial assault of the first magnitude but also crippled Rommel's chances of reaching the golden prize of the Nile delta and beyond.

The island also served as the Allied headquarters for Operation Husky, the invasion of Sicily in July 1943, and subsequently provided logistical support and repair facilities for the Allied navies in the course of the protracted battle for Italy in the last two years of the conflict.

No wonder Rommel rued his great blunder when, on taking Tobruk in June 1942, his over-confidence in trying to make a dash for the Suez Canal led him to argue in favour of cancelling the then imminent invasion of Malta. Was this the result of the ways of fortune or of far-sighted intuition on the part of Winston Churchill?

Available from The Book Festival or [www.kitegroup.com.mt](http://www.kitegroup.com.mt)

## Website brings Malta's recent history to people's computers

Memorja website features audio recordings, pictures and video



The National Archives have activated *Memorja*, a website featuring videos, voice recordings and pictures of Malta through the ages in what should be a field day for history buffs. The inauguration was made by Culture Minister Jose' Herrera, who said this project is a showcase of Malta and the Maltese.

Charles Farrugia, the CEO of the National Archives, said the Memorja project continues to establish the National Archives as the central depository of audio-visual documentation of the history of the country.

He thanked all those who have been contributing to the project and looked forward to the next big step for the archives, which will be the construction of a purpose-built structure at Ta'Qali.

See the new website here [www.memorja.com](http://www.memorja.com)

*During the latter period he monitored a number of projects all over the Islands, conducted a number of archaeological digs and compiled a number of archaeological methodology statements and reports. David Cardona has been appointed as curator of Heritage Malta's Phoenician, Roman and Medieval sites in August 2007 and has been managing the 11 sites that fall under the remit of this section ever since. Among the most important works currently underway in some of the sites are ERDF projects at the St Paul's Catacombs, Ghajn Tuffieħa Roman Baths, Ta' Bistra Catacombs and St Augustine's Catacombs, with excavations being planned or currently undergoing in all the mentioned sites.*

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## **“Noħlom li xi darba”.... book of ten short stories to inform Maltese youths of opportunities offered by the EU**

Posted On November 16, 2021 - Updated 16 November, 2021 7:21pm  
Report: Massimo Axisa

A new book of ten short stories titled 'Noħlom li xi darba' ('I dream that one day'), is aimed at bringing citizens closer to the European Union and all that it represents.

The stories written by Clare Azzopardi are aimed at youngsters aged between 14 and 15 and have been published in conjunction by the Aġenzija għas-Servizzi Ewropej in Malta and feature a group of friends.

Clare said the stories are intended to portray the values of the EU and existing opportunities for further learning and employment.

The Executive Head of Aġenzija għas-Servizzi Ewropej f'Malta, Mandy Falzon, said such an initiative brings the EU closer to citizens. She said such a publication portrays EU values even though there are geographical differences between the Member Countries, yet the values unite them with citizens.

Mandy Falzon said that work on the book began at the start of the year for it to be distributed to students. The Minister at the OPM, Carmelo Abela, said that over and above this project, the citizen deserve to be informed of what the EU offers, including individual funding.

He said that the Servizzi Ewropej f'Malta is an agency that falls under his Ministry and helps NGOs to make use of EU Funds but one also has to look beyond this including employment opportunities offered by EU Agencies. Dr Carmelo Abela said it is important to aspire for a career in the EU because this benefits not only for the individual but also for the country.

As a background to a current conference regarding The Future of the EU, Minister Abela said that projects like this are very important to continue bolstering the EU and bringing it nearer



**RODERICK  
(RIGU)  
BOVINGTON**  
**MALTI LI GHAMEL ISEM  
SABIH GHAL MALTA FL-  
AWSTRALJA**

Rigu twieled fil-qilla tal-bumbardamenti fuq Malta fit-28 ta' Settembru 1942. Minn dik l-istragi u herba ta' umanità bla rażan għal fuq umanità mansweta ma jiftakar xejn!

Madankollu trabba H'Attard - ir-raħal li sar iħobb b'passjoni – izda tal-età ta' sena biss, il-familja ntbagħtet lejn l-Ingilterra, pajjiż missieru, peress li hu kien Inġliż ingaġġat fid-Dejma Brittanika, evakwati mill-ibbumbardjar aħrax li kienet tinsab taħtu Malta dak iż-żmien. Marru jgħixu man-nannu Bovington f'Yorkshire, fit- Tramuntana tal-Ingilterra. Ftit taż-żmien wara garrew lejn post jismu Water End, viċin ix-xmara Ouse. Il-familja damet toqgħod l-Ingilterra kważi ħames snin."

Ommu kienet Maltija, izda missieru kien minn Yorkshire. Madankollu, hu dejjem wera heġġa li jsir sew il-Malti u minkejja li fl-Awstralja qajla seta' jiġi b'żonnu, stinka sa ma kiseb il-B. Educ u l-B.A. Hons. Minn dak il-waqt ħadem fost il-Maltin tal-Awstralja biex jagħti xhieda li minkejja li gżiritna hi pajjiż żgħir, hi mogħnija bi l-sien u letteratura tagħha, li tagħmilha unika fid-dinja.

RIGU BOVINGTON, li ili nafu zmien twil, minn dejjem kellu għidha u jħobb minn qiegħ qalbu pajjiż twelidu, Malta, kif ukoll l-isien Malti għalkemm bin nisel Inġliż.

Huwa jgħix mal-familja gewwa New South Wales l-Awstralja u ħabib kbir ta' dan il-gurnal.

Wara l-ewwel suċċess fil-kant professjonali, ħabibu Joe Galea xtaq imur għal rasu bħala kantant u hu spiċċa mar għal rasu wkoll. Minn hemm, it-tnejn li kienu bnew repertorju ta' kanzunetti Maltin li f'it li xejn tismagħhom Malta.

Bis-saħħa ta' dik l-inizjattiva rnexxielhom jizirgħu fost ħutna l-Maltin fl-Awstralja sens qawwi ta' identità etnika għall-Maltin, fost il-150 grupp etniku li hemm f'dik l-art. Dan kollu kien ta' sodisfazzjon personali għalihom it-tnejn għax qabel dan l-avveniment, ma kontx tis ma' diska waħda Maltija fuq ir-radju Awstraljan. Kienet għadha ma bdiex il-fernezi ja tad-diski Maltin moderni, lanqas f'Malta stess. U minn dik l-okkażjoni mbagħad in-ħolqu gruppi popolari ta' mużiċisti Maltin b'repertorju twil ta' diski Maltin, il-koll prodotti originati fl-Awstra ja. B'xorti għalihom inze ta li l-Gvern Federali nieda l-Ethnic Radio, li snin wara sar li Special Broadcasting Services u allura għall-ewwel darba kellihom il-pro grammi regolari komunitarji Maltin, li bis-saħħa tagħhom ippopolarizzaw il-kant Malti maħluq kollu fl-Awstralja. Diparti tiegħu, il-lirika dejjem kien jiktibha Rigu, anke l-melodija. Eċċezzjonijiet huma l-unika Ave Maria





## THE PEOPLE OF MALTA

[www.facebook.com/thepeopleofmalta](http://www.facebook.com/thepeopleofmalta)

**“LAMPUKA** (common dolphinfish) is the traditional Maltese fish, it's cheap and delicious. The best recipe is to cover it in flour then fry it in oil and then serve it with tomatoes and capers.

Our customers also ask for the “cipulazza” (large scaled scorpion fish) and even the “pesce di San Pietro” (John Dory). Those are the favourites amongst locals and tourists. Pasta is another

favourite with the locals. Local cuisine is evolving in Malta and there's greater fusion, that is, food now includes more ingredients from foreign cuisines, including Asian cuisine. Local dishes are more popular with tourists than with locals. It's a WOW factor. I think that if you had to ask tourists what local delicacies they'll look for in Malta, they'd say that in summer they'll look for Kinnie, Twistees and lampuki whereas in winter, they'll ask for pastizzi.” - Chris



## RMJ HORSE RESCUE

"I have been fond of animals and especially horses from a very young age. But I never dreamt I would set up an association that saves the lives of horses and at present is curing and taking care of 87 horses with the numbers increasing daily.

I never thought that this association would grow so much. I started out looking for just one horse and from a stable in Salina we ended up with a number of horses here in Siggiewi. My aim was to save the life of a

horse that was to be slaughtered. The first horse I rescued was in fact called RMJ, after whom this voluntary organization is called. A large number of racehorses are imported to Malta. Their racing lifespan is short. As soon as they are no longer fit for racing, the owners have no use for them and many are those who have no idea that these are then slaughtered. This year we would have seen over a 100 horses here. We try and find an alternative home for these horses, but here in Malta it is somewhat difficult because very few choose to keep a horse as a pet. That is why we work with other associations in England who adopt horses. We not only care for horses that would have been slaughtered but also horses that have been confiscated due to neglect. The people who work here all do so voluntarily. We have become family. The costs are considerable. We require around 15,000 euros a month to keep all these horses. And this is apart from the rent of the premises and the costs of sending them to England. We are always in need of more volunteers and financial help. Most of the team members did not join just out of the love of horses. Some of them started loving horses at a later stage.

I do not give up easily. My day starts at 4:30am. I come to feed them and return after work. The commitment is huge but my love for horses is way more." - Korin, [RMJ's Horse Rescue](#)

**This journal is loved by our second and third generations Maltese**



## **Malta Gastronomy**

*Looking to tantalise your tastebuds?*

Being home to an abundance of outstanding produce, a sea brimming with delicious seafood, and recipes dating back centuries, food and drink are the very essence of Maltese Culture. Hence, it's hardly surprising that the Islands have some of the most spectacular cuisine in the World. Whatever type of dining experience you're craving, be it a quick snack, a culinary extravaganza at a Michelin-starred restaurant, or a hearty dig into some awesome local cuisine, there's always something to sink

your teeth into in Malta.

We're just going to come out and say it: Maltese food and drink are probably the best in the World. It's true! What better way to sink your teeth into the local culture than through its mouth-watering cuisine? Maltese cuisine is a treat to the palate, and it can easily be described as a delightful celebration of Mediterranean flavours with a tasty chunk of history thrown in.

Maltese cuisine is heavily influenced by Italy, particularly Sicily, but with a dash of Arab/North Africa and a hefty pinch of Malta's own. Starters tend to be soups, pasta, risotto, antipasti or dips with bread or biscuits, while mains include pasta and potato bakes at home, but eating out is generally meat or fish.

Steeped in tradition and bursting with taste, the secrets to its crusty bread, glistening oil, awesome cheeses, and sensationally sweet honey date back centuries, and are far too vast to be devoured in just one sitting! So, loosen up your belt and prepare to taste your way around Malta's great food! Try something different...every day!

### **Boiled Chestnuts**



**in dark chocolate**

## **IMBULJUTA**

**200g qastan niexef**

**120g zokkor**

**30g trab tač-čikulata skura**

**litru ilma**

**qoxra ta mandolina u laringa**

**imsimer tal qronfil**

**bastun tal kanella**

**nočimuskata friska**

**vanilla**

**U ghidli x'qed tiekol !!!!**





## James Vella-Bardon

I was born and raised in Malta, an island nation steeped in the millennia of history. As a boy I often caught a rickety old bus to the Maltese capital, Valletta, where I'd hang around bookshops like a bad smell while I agonised over which book I'd blow all of my pocket money on.

I was quite a bookworm growing up, with my standout subject at school being English composition. It was the only subject in which I could apply some creativity. I also won a couple of national essay competitions which were organised by the British High Commission.

After qualifying as a lawyer and emigrating to Sydney in 2007, I decided to turn my hand to novel writing. In 2018 I achieved a lifelong dream when my debut novel 'The Sheriff's Catch' was published in the UK. 'Sheriff' is a tense, grim thriller set in 16th century Europe, and climbed to #3 on the bestseller list in my native Malta. My debut was also the recipient of a few international literary awards and nominations. These days I live in Sydney, Australia with my young family and a maniacal cavoodle. When not writing, I enjoy reading gritty thrillers filled with moral dilemmas and a real sense of danger.

As part of this community I'll keep you up to date with all the latest about my work and other exciting updates. If you'd like more regular updates, you can also follow me on Facebook and on Instagram. **The**

### **Sheriff's Catch, Part 1 of the Sassana Stone Pentalogy**

*Winner of the 'best novel' and 'best historical fiction' categories at the international Royal Dragonfly Book Awards 2019.*

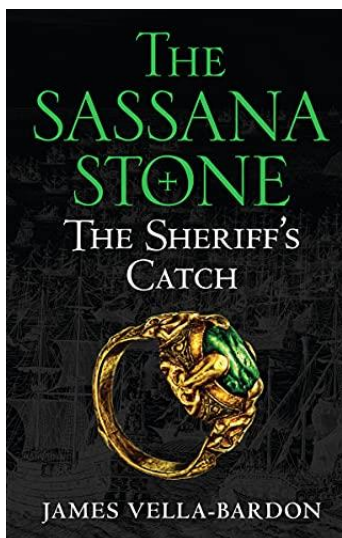
Abel de Santiago is a man on the run. Once a famous sniper, Abel finds himself a survivor of the Spanish Armada shipwrecks in 16th C Ireland. Following his capture by a brutal sheriff, Abel flees torture and death with a priceless emerald ring. Dozens of English troopers hunt the Spaniard across the Irish wilds, beating every last bush in a desperate attempt to find him.

Muireann is a revered Irish poetess enjoying the hospitality of a neighbouring tribe. Tragedy strikes when the sheriff's men kill her husband during a violent night raid, with her life barely saved by the fugitive Abel. Newly widowed and shocked by her loss, Muireann must somehow reach the distant lands of her tribe, where she can be reunited with her only son.

Both runaways form an unlikely bond as they flee across a strange and stunning land, pushed to the edge of their wits and endurance. Yet unknown to Muireann, the ring Abel carries bears far-reaching consequences beyond Irish shores. Can

the unlikely, desperate pair escape a ruthless sheriff who will never give up the chase?

*"a feverishly-paced historical adventure populated with memorable characters. A finalist and highly recommended"* The Wishing Shelf Book Awards 2019



## Valletta's Sculptures and Statues



### The Knot

Erected in late 2015, The Knot is one of Valletta's newest sculptures. Designed by Maltese artist Vince Briffa, the predominantly Italian marble and steel structure has caused some controversy across the island for both it not being to everyone's taste and its overall cost of €277,152. Based in [Castille Square](#), in front of the prime minister's office, there have been many rejected requests to have the piece moved to a more central area of Valletta. The monument symbolises the geographical link between Malta, Europe and Africa. Knot | © a.gavardovsky/Flickr

### The Sleeping

The Sleeping Lady is Museum of Archaeology. remarkable condition in the [Saflieni Hypogeum](#), Paola, dates back to the Neolithic

could have been created as early as 4000 BC. Lying in a very position, it is common belief that she symbolises death due burial chamber.

The Sleeping Lady | ©



### Lady

securely housed at the Originally discovered in Oracle room of the [Hal-](#) this small clay figurine period and astonishingly natural sleeping to being discovered in a [Shadowgate/Flickr](#)

## Triton Fountain



Recently restored in time for Valletta becoming European Capital of Culture 2018, the [Triton Fountain](#) is the main attraction at the Gate of [Valletta](#). Originally designed by collaboration with Victor Anastasi, it was sculpted in 1959 by sculptor [Vincent Apap](#). The fountain displays three Tritons lifting a huge bronze platter above their heads to represent Malta's links with the sea. Previously suffering a lot of wear and tear, and extensive damage during the 1980s, a pillar decorated with seagulls was added to keep the structure more steadfast. The fountain is now restored at a cost of approximately €4 million, presented immaculately, minus the added pillar, and becomes a show-stopping illuminated landmark during the night.

## Queen Victoria

Located in the main square outside Malta's national library in Valletta is a statue of Queen Victoria. The statue and pedestal, which are made of white marble, stand on grey stone steps and the two coats of arms displayed are cast in bronze. The grand statue is the work of Sicilian sculptor Giuseppe Valenti and was erected back in 1891. With the costs of the piece paid for by public subscription, it commemorates Queen Victoria's 50th Jubilee. Incorporated into the statue is a Maltese lace shawl draped over the lap. Suffering both damage from the weather and flocks of pigeons that congregate in the square over the years, the statue underwent a full restoration process in 2011 by [Heritage ResCo](#) and was carried out by restorers with [Heritage Malta](#).

Queen Victoria | © ro431997/Flickr



### Enea

Positioned prominently in the Lower Barrakka Gardens and looking out over the Grand Harbour is a bronze statue representing mythological Greek and Latin culture, in the form of Enea. The statue is positioned to welcome all those who visit Malta by sea. It was presented to Malta in 2003 by Italian painter and sculptor [Ugo Attardi](#) through his connections with The Dante Alighieri Society, whose sole purpose is to promote both the Italian language and culture around the world. Sadly, Attardi passed away in 2006 aged 83. The sculpture remains in living memory of the talented [artist](#).





## ZAMMITELLO CASTLE

Set in lush gardens and surrounded by country scenes, it is thought that this uniquely authentic castle was built in imitation of the Tower of London. Castello Zamittello is a fortified castle found in



**Castello Zamittello**

**Mgarr - Malta**

Triq is-Santi on the way to Ġnejna Bay, on the outskirts of the country village of Mgarr, Malta.

Also known as Zamittello Palace, the castle is surrounded by mystery and has an interesting legend attached to it. Added to this, it was also the scene of the brutal murder of its last resident, a murder surrounded by mystery that lingers on to this day. And if that wasn't enough, not even the exact date of its construction is known for certain.

### AN ARCHITECTURAL FOLLY

Although the building

resembles a fortification, it is "entirely useless from a defensive point of view", according to military architecture expert Stephen C. Spiteri.

**17TH OR 19TH CENTURY?** While it would seem likely that Castello Zamittello was built in the 19th century by Sir Giuseppe Nicolo Zamitt, other sources suggest it could date much farther back in time than that, precisely to 1675, when it was constructed with the intent of guarding against sudden pirate raids. It would seem that the four unusual guard turrets adorning its corners had this specific defensive intention.

**FIGURING OUT ITS ORIGINS** Dr. Richard Cachia Caruana - a prominent office holder in the five Nationalist Party governments in Malta between 1987 and 2013, and also chief of staff to Prime Minister Eddie Fenech Adami and adviser to Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi - gave Kappa Vision the following additional details on the possible date of construction of Castello Zamittello:

"It was built in the (early) 19th century as a country house. The 'cross' at the top is a representation of Judge Sir Giuseppe Nicolo Zamitt's personal coat of arms: four clasped hands. He was known as 'Zamittello' and used this name for the house he built, Castello Zamittello in Mgarr in 1818."

**CONFLICTING INFORMATION** However, Kappa Vision's other sources rebut this, saying we still have no documentation to date to confirm that Giuseppe Zamitt actually built Castello Zamittello, as he could have acquired it and named it.

**PALAZZO ZAMITTELLO IN VALLETTA** The Palazzo Zamittello in Valletta could date back to earlier than 1633. Back then it was called Casa Pensa. It was also used by the Langue D'Italie to house some of its Knights. Sir Giuseppe Zamitt took possession of the Valletta palazzo in around 1805 during the British rule in exchange for lands elsewhere.

**THE ZAMITT FAMILY** Sir Giuseppe Nicolo Zamitt owned both Castello Zamittello in Mgarr and Palazzo Zamittello in Valletta, now known as Domus Zamittello. Giuseppe Zamitt died in 1823 when in his 50s. His descendant, Count Alfred Manduca, now owns both buildings through inheritance.

The property was once loaned for a few years to the unfortunate Count Sant Cassia, a cousin of the present owner's father. Count Sant Cassia was murdered at Castello Zamittello in the late 1980s. More on this below...

Castello Zamittello was also used as a honeymoon place by the family, as can be still seen today by the initials engraved next to the front door.

### **A LEGEND ABOUT THE CASTLE**

A legend about Castello Zamittello goes that the only daughter of the owner, who the legend narrates was a certain Count Bernardo Zammit, was supposed to marry an old Count from Sicily. Lucia, wanting to become a nun, disappeared on her wedding day. After a year the bells of the church rang and in front of the altar a vision of Lucia dressed as a nun appeared to the villagers. She told them that on the wedding day she escaped to stop the marriage to the Count, took her vows as a nun and spent the last year taking care of the wounded, before being killed by an arrow.

### **A BRUTAL MURDER - THIS TIME FOR REAL**

Count Francis Sant Cassia, 68, a cousin of the owner, was the last resident of Castello Zamittello. He was murdered in cold blood outside the premises on the 27th October 1988. Count Sant Cassia died as a result of a single gunshot to his head. To date the case has not been solved.

### **ARCHITECTURE**

The names given to the building are a misnomer as it is closely comparable to a country house villa. Its outline is a square-shaped residence designed with some typical Victorian architecture that was added at a later date.

It prominently features one roof-level turret and four guerites. The latter have a unique design and were never desirable nor used in Maltese military context. Above the turret sits the coat of arms of Sir Giuseppe Nicolo Zamitt, four clasped hands in the shape of a cross.

### **PRESENT DAY USE**

Nowadays, the castle is used for wedding receptions.

Check the following link to view another photo of Castello Zamittello by Kappa Vision:

<https://www.facebook.com/Wphoto?fbid=440449977436817&set=a.31600053654842>

9 P



### **MALTESE GUILD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

Members and friends meet every Tuesday  
at the Maltese Cultural Centre  
6 Jeanes Street, Beverley SA 5009  
for lunch, bingo, billiards, cards  
and social gathering  
from 10am till 3pm



### **MALTESE SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION**

Members and friends meet every Friday  
at the Council Hall  
49 LeHunte Street, Kilburn SA 5084  
from 9.30am till 3.30pm  
Lunch, billiards, bingo and other entertainment

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ASSOCIATIONS  
TO ADVERTISE  
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THEIR EVENTS  
FREE OF  
CHARGE**



***We are proud of our Maltese Achievers***

Promoting the Maltese culture, history and heritage





## Eħlisna mill-pandemija, o Vergni Mbierka Marija!

Kav. Joe M. Attard

Il-Belt Victoria, Għawdex, 2021

Mill-bogħod jaslu l-emigranti,  
u ma' dawn salt barranin,  
u quddiemek dawn jinxteħtu –  
wara ġmielek imsahħrin.

Fil-maqdes imzejjen sewwa  
tigi n-nies minn kullimkien  
lilek titlob b'herqa kbira –  
inti ssaltan fuq iż-żmien.

Mhux se jkollna dawk it-tlielaq  
u t-tqassim tal-palijiet,  
lanqas mhu se ddoqq il-banda  
u nimxu mal-marcijiet.

Il-grupp illi tan-Nar għandna  
xi ħarqa mhux se jtellfuna,  
bħalma jagħmlu ta' kull sena  
bl-ispettaklu jpaxxuna!

Ta' quddiem il-knisja l-misraħ  
bl-Armar ifur waħda sew;  
bandalori, statwi, bnadar,  
pedistalli u trofew.

Gewwa l-Qala, gewwa Bormla,  
in-nies tiffolla biex tarak,  
mill-iżgħar sal-ikbar wiehed  
bla dubju kulhadd jistmak!

Mill-qalb ilqa' dawn il-versi  
ghan-nom tagħna l-Għawdxin,  
żommna għall-kenn tal-mantell tiegħek  
u taħt ħarstek magħqudin.

Mal-irħieb, patrijiet twajba,  
hu ħsieb din il-gżira tiegħek,  
thallihix minnek titbiegħed  
u fit-tajn tal-ġhelt titmiegħek.

Aħsbilna għal futur hieni  
wara din il-pandemija,  
sabiex nibqgħu miexja hienja  
fil-paċi u fl-armonija.

**E**vvisa l-Immakulata  
illum ngħajtu ferħanin  
għaliex nahseb qrib ninsabu  
mill-imxija meħlusin!

Ma jistax ikun mod ieħor  
għaliex inti l-Omm setgħana  
li kif aħna lejtk induru  
inti tisma' l-karba tagħna!

Fis-smewwiet int dejjem lesta  
biex bil-ferħ tidhol għalina,  
u kif jista' jkun mod ieħor,  
Vergni mbierka u ħanina!

Lil dal-poplu int fl-imġhoddi  
lilu ħlist mill-pesta u mard,  
għax f'idejk il-grazzji kollha,  
Regina tas-sema u l-art!

Din is-sena b'qalb muġugħa  
mhux se ddur mat-toroq tagħna  
minħabba ċ-ċirkustanzi  
li dal-virus kiber magħna.

Izda għalkemm magħluqa tibqa',  
sew mirfuda taħt ix-xorok,  
gewwa ħdanek sejra tiġbor  
lil niesna minn gewwa t-toroq.

Biex għad-dell ta' dak mantarek  
ilkoll jingabru ferħanin,  
iċapċpulek, ikantawlek,  
innijiet, bid-dmuġħ, henjin!

## WW1 – MILITARY HOSPITALS – NURSE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN



Situated in the Mediterranean Sea, the Maltese islands of Malta, Gozo and Comino have a land area equal to twice the size of Dublin. The population of the islands in 1914 was approximately 217,000, nearly a third of which were concentrated in the capital Valletta. Due to its central position in the central Mediterranean and its role as a naval base, Malta has been strategically important since Roman times.

### Military hospitals

RNA Seaplane base, Malta, 1917-1918 [AIR 1/629/17/118/5](#)

Malta's most significant contribution to the war was its role as a military hospital base. Following the first landings in Gallipoli in April 1915, a total of 4,000 wounded servicemen were treated in hospitals in Malta. By June over 6,000 beds were made available and the end of September 13,000 men were under treatment in hospitals, camps and schools. At its height, the number of wounded reached 20,000, with dysentery and typhoid accounting for the same number of casualties as gunshot wounds ([MH 106/433](#)).

As a result of the Gallipoli campaign alone, approximately 2,500 officers and 55,400 other ranks received treatment in Malta. To deal with the casualties, the size of the Royal Army Medical Corps increased to 334 medical officers, 913 nurses and 2,032 other ranks. In July 1915, Sir H R Whitehead was appointed Surgeon-General. He was succeeded in March 1916 by Surgeon-General Sir Thomas Yarr. Women assisted the injured via the Voluntary Aid Detachment, the Red

Cross and the Church Army. Private subscriptions to the British Red Cross and St. John Ambulance amounted to £18,562. Due to its role in tending the war-wounded Malta became known as the nurse of the Mediterranean ([WO 95/5448](#)).

### Home Front

When war was declared, the garrison on Malta totalled 6,000 servicemen of all ranks. These forces came under the command of the governor, General Sir Leslie Rundle, who was replaced in 1915 by Field Marshal Lord Methuen. Many Maltese who fought in the war joined the armed forces of Canada and Australia as well as the British Army.

In January 1917, 95 Maltese officers served outside of Malta with a further 13 serving as surgeons on British hospital ships. Locally raised units included the King's Own Malta Regiment of Militia with a strength of 3,393, the Royal Malta Artillery with a strength of 1,032 and the Royal Engineer Militia which a contingent of 136 men. None of these units served at the front but by taking part in garrison duty they allowed British troops to be deployed overseas ([WO 33/3279](#)).

The total number of Maltese from Malta who served in the army in any capacity during the war is estimated at 15,000, with the Maltese Labour Corp accounting for 7,000. One battalion unloaded ships at Gallipoli with a further two battalions serving at Salonika. A further 1,500 Maltese were employed in the motor transport work of the Army Service Corps. The number of men killed and injured in the Labour Corps totalled 300. Maltese also served at various Royal Naval establishments with 10,000 employed at the Dockyard Naval Ordnance Depot, 2,400 in coaling, 1,300 on sea-going service and 200 in mine sweeping. A number of Maltese also served aboard British ships at Jutland with 778 employed by the Royal Air Force ([ADM 137/4672](#)).





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NSW PROGRAM  
FOR THE MALTESE**



SUNDAYS AT 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
AN HOUR FILLED WITH NEWS AND INFORMATION

**It-Tifla tal-Kampanja**

Jien tifla tal-kampanja  
l-iskola ma mmur qatt.  
Id-dar nilgħab ma' huti,  
jew fl-għalqa naghzaq l-art.  
*Do re mi fa fa fa*  
*Do re mi fa fa fa*  
*Do re mi fa so la si do.*

Bl-imghazqa fuq spallejja,  
b'xi bičča ħobż f'idejja,  
maktur marbut ma' rasi,  
biex nilqa' x-xemx għaddejja.  
*Do re mi fa fa fa*  
*Do re mi fa fa fa*  
*Do re mi fa so la si do.*

Kemm nixtieq li kont reġina,  
Biex inkun inkurunata.  
Iżda jiena tifla fqira,  
fl-għalqa niżra' l-patata.  
*Do re mi fa fa fa*  
*Do re mi fa fa fa*  
*Do re mi fa so la si do.*



## Christmas comes to Valletta with festive lights

*Times of Malta*

Republic Street in Valletta. Photo Jason Micallef/Facebook

Christmas has kicked off in Valletta, where the festive lights were switched on last Monday evening.

The Valletta Cultural Agency, which was responsible for the colourful decorations, has also kicked off its Christmas in the City entertainment programme which



will continue until the new year.

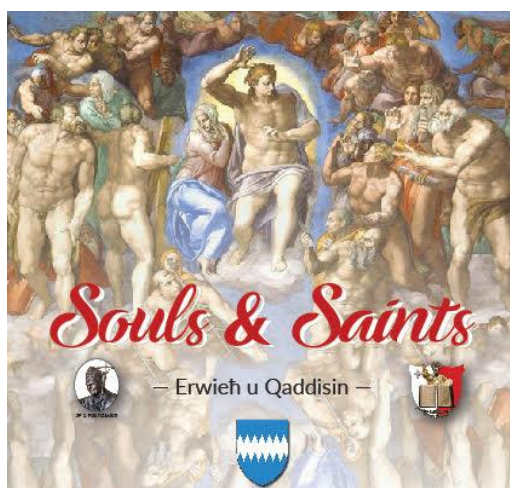
The lights were switched on by Culture Minister Jose' Herrera with agency CEO Jason Micallef. A large Christmas Tree has been set up just inside the city's gate, opposite parliament, while a crib has been built in St John Square.

**SOULS & SAINTS**

**A commemoration to all those that passed away  
because of the Corona Virus.**

It's custom that during the last Sunday of the Month of November a commemorative evening will take place to remember all those that passed away during the past year. As last year's edition did not take place because of the pandemic, this year's edition is dedicated to all those that passed away because of the Corona virus.

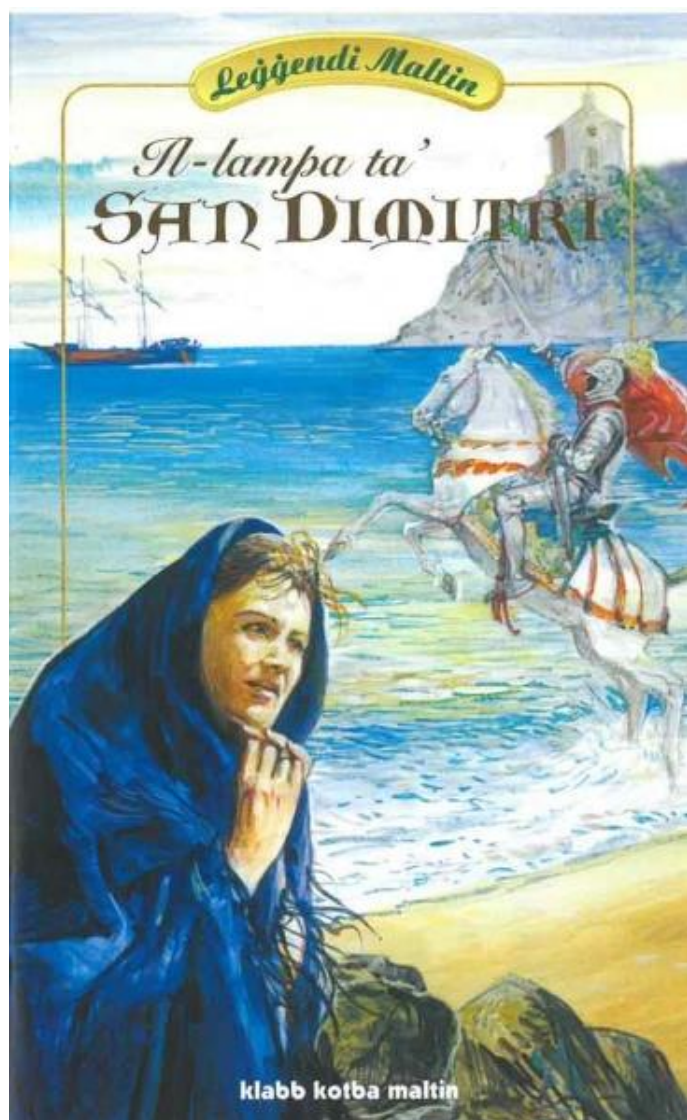
The Munxar Local Council in full collaboration with the JP2 Foundation and the Munxar Parish are holding a vocal and harp recital by Soprano Rosabelle Bianchi and Harpist Dr. Lydia Buttigieg. They will be performing Chaconne, Verdi, Satie, Tost, Frisina, Bach' Gounod, Tiersen and others.



The commemoration will take place on **Sunday 28th November 2021** starting at 5pm as soon as the church service will end. The venue hosting this event is **Saint Paul's Shipwreck Parish Church, Il-Munxar, Gozo.** For more information please email us on [jp2events@gmail.com](mailto:jp2events@gmail.com)

The public is invited to attend, especially those Maltese and Gozitan relatives of the victims who died because of the pandemic. Health protocol will be observed during this commemoration





## LEGEND – MALTESE CULTURE – SAN DIMITRI

This chapel full of myth and legend is built on a promontory just outside the village of [Għarb](#), close to a cliff called Ras San Mitri (The Cape of St. Demetrius). Approached by a country road from Għarb, the chapel stands in a delightful spot and is Gozo's westernmost chapel.

An early fifteenth century chapel was rebuilt in 1736 to create the building we see today. The altarpiece above the stone altar shows St. Demetrius on horseback with an old woman praying and a young man in chains. This relates to one of several legends about the chapel.

This legend – a favourite of historians and poets alike – tells how an old woman called Natalizja Cauchi, nicknamed Żgugina, was at home one night with her son Mathew when Barbary corsairs swooped on the island, broke into Żgugina's house, knocked her down and made away with her son. The unfortunate woman ran weeping to St. Demetrius' chapel and poured out her heart in passionate prayer, saying: "San Dimitri, bring me back my son, and I'll light your lamp with a measure of oil."

St. Demetrius heard her supplication. She saw him moving in the painting, whence he rode out in pursuit of the Turkish galley. Soon he was back holding the boy in his arms. He re-entered the picture, but a mark from his horse's hoof remained imprinted on the rock. The grateful Żgugina kept a lamp lit to the saint day and night.

A coda to this legend has it that

during an earthquake the rock on which this first chapel was built, broke off and fell into the sea but the chapel did not break up. Sailors and fishermen have often reported seeing light in the depths of the sea – Żgugina's lamp still burning under the water!

Another version of this tale tells of a ship that dropped anchor close by. The anchor stuck and could not be recovered so a sailor dived overboard to try to pry it loose. When he did not resurface, another sailor went to look for him. After a while both sailors surfaced and recounted to the awed crew how on the sea floor they had seen the chapel with the lamp in front of the painting still alight

The chapel's mosaic pavement was laid in 1935, and the walls were coated with mosaic in 1950. Other paintings in the chapel represent St. Paul, St. Aristarchus (one of Paul's companions in Malta), the Assumption and the Holy Face of Christ. The chapel has a small sacristy and a pleasant zuntier (front terrace). The feast in honour of St. Demetrius is celebrated on the Sunday following the 9th October. The church is well looked after by the Għarb parish with the Archpriest of Għarb also being the chapel's rector.



**The journal is a highlight of my week,  
It's free, friendly and non-political**





## Maltese Folkloric Music



**Ghana** is a term given to a type of traditional Maltese folk music.

Originally used to pass the time during hours of recreation or whilst completing household tasks, *Għana* was in the past mostly practiced by women singing on rooftops by conversing with each other using rhyming song. It was a way of gossiping while they were doing household work and to pass time.

A typical Maltese quatrain features a four-line poem or stanza with each verse entailing mostly eight syllables.

Most *Għana* verses are something between a Sicilian ballad and a rhythmic Arabic tune. It is still one of the main sources of popular folk entertainment. It takes however, years of practice before someone can effectively combine lines and melody. Covering a wide range of poems, *għana* is sung accompanied by guitarists. Since then, *Għana* has also been used as a form of argument. Whether serious or humorous, it can still be used as an expression of clarity nonetheless.

Since then, a new generation of folk singers and guitarists have added a touch of modernity to this art form and raised the standard of *Għana* performances. *The Maltese Calypso* is a perfect example of Maltese folk music. This song is composed of several verses and is often played in bars accompanied by guitar. A popular example of a modern local folk group is the band *Etnika*. Using a number of traditional instruments.

### 49 PERSUNA JIGGRADWAW MILL-ISTITUT TA' FORMAZZJONI PASTORALI

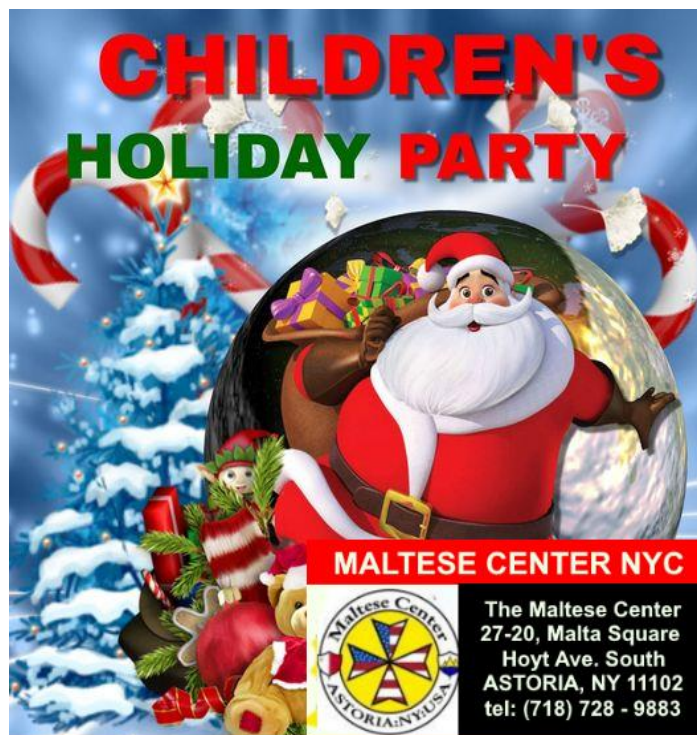
49 persuna temmew b'suċċess wieħed mis-sitt korsijiet li ġew offruti matul l-aħħar sena akkademika mill-Istitut ta' Formazzjoni Pastorali flimkien ma' entitajiet oħra tal-Arċidjoċesi ta' Malta. L-ċerimonja annwali tal-gradwazzjoni saret ilbieraħ, it-Tnejn 22 ta' Novembru 2021, fil-Katidral ta' San Pawl, l-Imdina, u tmexxiet mill-Arċisqof Charles Jude Scicluna.

L-ċerimonja bdiet b'quddiesa ta' ringrazzjament u wara saret il-preżentazzjoni taċ-ċertifikati. Il-korsijiet li temmew il-partiċipanti kienu: fl-oqasma tal-familja, it-teoloġija, l-ekumeniżmu, il-kura pastorali fl-iskejjel, l-istudji fl-ispiritwalità Injazjana, u l-iskopertà tal-fidi permezz tal-arti. Il-korsijiet jaqgħu taħt il-ħames u s-sitt livell tal-Malta Qualifications Framework (MQF) u tal-European Qualifications Framework (EQF). L-Istitut ta' Formazzjoni Pastorali din is-sena beda s-16-il sena ta' ħidma, u din kienet l-14-il ċerimonja ta' gradwazzjoni. L-Istitut twaqqaf fl-2005 biex iwieġeb għas-sejha li ħarġet mis-Sinodu Djoċesan li joffri formazzjoni lill-Insara li jixtiequ jinżlu aktar fil-fond fl-għarfien tal-fidi u jagħtu kontribut aħjar fil-Knisja u fis-soċjetà.



© Archdiocese of Malta

Fis-sena akkademika preżenti, l-Istitut ta' Formazzjoni Pastorali u diversi entitajiet formattivi oħra fil-Knisja qed joffru tmien korsijiet differenti. Fost dawn hemm il-kors 'Il-Kura Pastorali fl-Iskejjel' li se jibda fit-8 ta' Jannar, 'Il-Ministeru Pastorali tal-Familja' li se jibda fil-11 ta' Jannar, 'L-Iżvilupp tar-Responsabbiltà Ambjentali' li se jibda fil-25 ta' Jannar, 'Il-Fidi u l-Arti' li se jibda fl-1 ta' Frar u l-kors dwar 'L-Esperjenza Umana ta' Alla fit-Talb' li se jibda fil-5 ta' Frar 2022. Għal iktar informazzjoni dwar il-korsijiet żur [pfi.edu.mt](http://pfi.edu.mt)



## MALTESE CENTER NYC



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tel: (718) 728 - 9883

**SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 4th  
at 5.00 pm**

Children drop off you letters for Santa and his elves at our North Pole mailbox, eat cookies, drink milk, and have a photo with Santa. Christmas carols and tree lighting ceremony to follow.

[GPH50-5]

More info at EVENTS on [www.themaltesecenter.com](http://www.themaltesecenter.com)



**SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021**

Good Shepherd Parish  
130-136 Hyatts Road, Plumpton NSW  
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For more information call: -  
President: Emmanuel Vella on - 0405 677 064 or  
Public Relations Officer: Stella Vella on: - 0414 188 226

Come along and bring your family & Friends with You

**S  
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**Melita Soccer Club Inc.**

## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

**11th December 2021**

**\$25**

**Menu: Veal, Rice, Potatoes, Veggies, Cake**

Please call Mary Ann at 647 290 4856  
**BEFORE December 8 to reserve your ticket**

Melita Soccer Club is a Maltese Canadian culture club located at 3336 Dundas Street West (just east of Runnymede Road) in Toronto, Ontario. 416 763 5317.



Friday 31 December 2021 - Doors open 7.30pm

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