

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER 410

February 2022



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

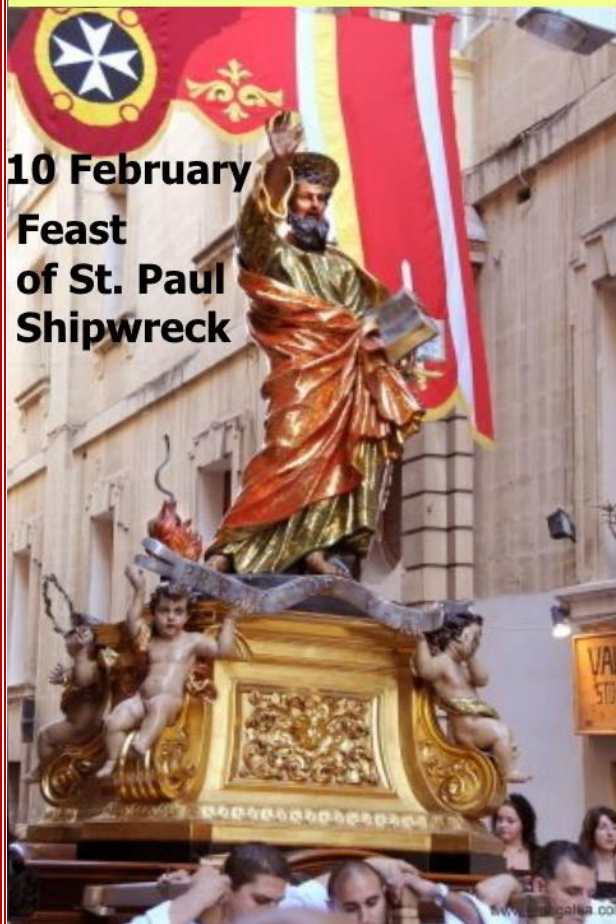
Editor: Frank L Scicluna OAM MQR

THE ONLY DIGITAL
AND PRINTED
JOURNAL FOR
THE MALTESE
DIASPORA



AUSTRALIAN MALTESE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Dr. George Vella
Holocaust Memorial
Commemoration



10 February
Feast
of St. Paul
Shipwreck



LADY
DIANA

THE PEOPLE'S
PRINCESS



Sister Janet Mead



To mark the 25th anniversary of her passing

Documentary focusing on the life of Princess Diana

A Princess Diana documentary produced in the UK was officially selected for the opening of the Sundance Film Festival which happened earlier last week. The film, with a working title of *Diana*, will paint a portrait of the "People's Princess" after working through hundreds of hours of news reports, interviews, and never-before-seen audiovisual materials.



"Though we are telling a story, which has been told and retold many times, my aim is to reframe it for a modern audience and make it feel as fresh and relevant as it ever has," said Ed Perkins, who will lead the project.

The film will join a busy field of Princess Diana media projects, with a Netflix musical coming in 2021, a new drama starring Kristen Stewart in the early stages of production, and *The Crown* season 4 introducing her story.

DANIEL LAPIRA is the co-editor of this film, born and bred in Malta and currently based in the UK where he's been working on a number of exciting productions.

Daniel is a London based editor who enjoys crafting stories which have their own distinct language and form, whilst collaborating closely with the filmmaking team. His work is versatile, spanning documentaries, features, shorts and TV drama in various genres and styles. He began his career as an assistant editor in the cutting rooms of the various studio and independent film productions which filmed in his home island of Malta; including Steven Spielberg's 'Munich' and Kevin Reynolds's 'Risen'. After editing several short films, amongst them 'Dual' (official selection 55th BFI London Film Festival), he landed his first feature as editor on the multi-award winning 'Simshar', which was also Malta's first ever submission for Best Foreign Language Film at the Academy Awards.

Grateful to the generous and talented established editors and directors he collaborated with over the years, who influenced the editor he is today, he looks forward to all the exciting stories the future has in store.

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER 410

February 2022



The Australian Maltese Chamber of Commerce is a national body that seeks to connect its members commercially and culturally. Established in 1994 the chamber consists of a network of Maltese Australians business owners and business professionals from across Australia.

Members of the AMCC meet bi-monthly to network and gain insights on business related topics from invited guest speakers. The AMCC also organises various activities for members, their partners and guests including network and social events and an annual Christmas function. From time to time, we host VIP visitors from Malta and special functions are organised to provide an exclusive members forum. Visitors have included the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition of Malta and more recently the President of Malta.

Members enjoy informal meetings as well as lunch or dinner with the visiting dignitaries. The AMCC provides a comprehensive service to members currently doing or wishing to do business with Malta. In doing so, the AMCC works closely with the office of the Maltese High Commissioner in Canberra and his consular network throughout Australia.

The AMCC also circulates trade enquiries and business opportunities amongst its members. For

NATIONAL COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE



Chev Sydney JP Borg | National President B Bus, FAICD OSJ KGCSM KC

Sydney Borg is a successful entrepreneurial business professional with extensive industry experience across IT, Global Distribution and Hospitality through a portfolio of companies he owns and manages. His success has seen one of his companies PCS Australian being named in the CRN Fast 50 IT companies for four years straight and is today's oldest operating IT company in Australia celebrating 50 years in 2021. In 2021 he received the Global CEO Excellence Award for Best IT Services CEO Oceania. Sydney holds a Bachelor of Business and is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He holds several directorships including PCS

Australia Pty Ltd, Mobile Entertainment Systems Pty Ltd, PCS New Zealand Ltd, PCS investments Pty Ltd, Hooters Australia Pty Ltd, The Distillery Woodfire Pty Ltd, Infinity Wholesale Worldwide Pte Ltd. Sydney is also the Lieutenant Grand Master and Australasian Grand Prior of The Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights of Malta, a Knight Grand Cross in the Order of Teutonic Knights of Lichtenberg, a member of the World Supreme Council of the Knights of Malta and on the Council for the EABC European Australian Business Council. Sydney has two daughters – Lauren and Chanel who actively work in the family businesses.

those members who are not in a position to take advantage of export or import opportunities, the AMCC actively promotes business between members

locally. To this end the AMCC encourages members to host members' meetings at their business premises.

With Malta being a member of the European Union, the AMCC is also in a position to assist its members wishing to use Malta as a stepping stone into Europe or alternatively to use Malta's unique position as an ally of Libya and other North African countries to help gain access to their fast-growing markets. The AMCC hosted two trade missions to Australia – one organised by our sister Chamber, the Maltese Australian Chamber of Commerce (MACC) and another initiated by METCO (Malta External Trade Organisation). The AMCC has also led successful trade missions to Malta. These trade missions will continue to be a feature of AMCC activities in the future.

AMCC Vision The AMCC will be the National Maltese Australian organisation who will provide a supportive environment for its members in the area of Commerce, Culture and Heritage.

AMCC Mission The AMCC is the National Maltese Australian organisation connecting its members commercially and culturally.

AMCC Values We will not compromise on the disciplines and heritage of our Maltese forefathers.



**Neville Zammit | National Vice President
MBA(AGSM) B.Com, Grad Dip CSP, FCPA, FGIA, FCG, MAICD, JP**

Neville Zammit has over 20 years senior management experience gained in lead finance and corporate governance roles. He is currently the Chief Financial Officer of a large Not For Profit Aged Care and Community Services provider. He is a director of FRG Ministry Australia Limited and FRG Ministry International, Inc and also serves on the Order of Capuchin Friars Finance and Investment Committee and his parish Finance Committee. Neville was born in Malta and raised in Hamrun before emigrating with his family to Australia in 1983. He is married with 4 children.



Michael Zammit | National Treasurer B. Bus, CPA, Reg Tax Agent, JP

Michael Zammit has over 35 years senior finance management experience across a number of industries. He is currently the Finance Director and Company Secretary for Yaffa Media – one of Australia's largest independent media companies. He also serves as a Finance director on a number of the group subsidiaries including Two de Force (an events management company) and Yaffa Syndicate (a property management company). Michael is a CPA and holds a Bachelor of Business (Major in Accounting, Sub Major in Business Law) from the University of Western Sydney. Michael is also a registered Tax Agent with the Australian Government's Tax Practitioners Board and is a Director of his tax consulting company M.Zammit & Co Pty Ltd. His is a NSW Justice of the Peace and a Knight of Malta. Michael was born in Hamrun, Malta and completed his high school education at St Joseph in Paola, Malta. He emigrated to Australia in May 1974 and resides in Sydney. He is married with 3 daughters and 3 grandchildren.



Clive Desira | National Secretary

Clive Desira is an experienced sales and account management professional with over 15 years experience. He is currently a Territory Manager for Drager – an international leader in the fields of medical and safety technology. Clive holds a Diploma in Management and a Cert IV in Property Services Real Estate. Clive was born in Malta but migrated to Australia at a young age.

Commissioner of Malta in India visits Maltese Missionaries for New Year



Reference Number: , Press Release Issue
Date: Jan 10, 2022

In the period 30 December 2021 and 2 January 2022, the High Commissioner of the Republic of Malta in New Delhi, India, Mr Reuben Gauci visited the Maltese Missionaries in the cities of Dumka, Jharkhand and Kolkata (Calcutta) West Bengal. This is the second time that High Commissioner Gauci has visited these Maltese Missionaries in North East India during his tenure as High Commissioner to India. In Dumka, Jharkhand, the Maltese High Commissioner met Fr Paul Aquilina SJ and Fr Joseph Gauci Sacco SJ members of the Jesuit

Society and Sister Emanuel Borg member of Sisters of Charity, whilst in Kolkata (Calcutta) West Bengal, he met with Bro Karmenu Duca of the Congregation of Saint Mother Teresa (Missionaries of Charity). The visit was covered by the Maltese Media as per link, which also included an online interview with High Commissioner Gauci <https://newsbook.com.mt/en/the-last-two-maltese-jesuits-in-india/>

The High Commission of Malta in India wishes to thank the Honorary Consul of Malta in Kolkata, West Bengal, Mr Ashok Kumar Jhunjunwala for his logistical support



Local Filmmaker Laments The Destruction Of The Maltese Islands In Poignant Short Film www.sidestreetmalta.com

A Gozitan filmmaker is using the artistic medium of film to warn the Maltese people that Gozo will soon

succumb to the same fate of its sister island if nobody stands up to the 'monstrous proposals' which are destroying its natural environment.

Chelsea Muscat was inspired to create the short film after finding out that a permit had been issued to build 71 apartments, 74 garages and a communal pool in her hometown of Nadur.

"My conscience would not let me sleep unless I acted upon the issue." she told SideStreet *"It was obvious I had to make a film."*

Muscat's video shows the beauty of the Gozitan island juxtaposed against footage of heavy machinery and the high rise buildings which are slowly eating away at the natural arable land, evoking a sense of deep concern among viewers.

"People need to realize sun, nature and the sea are a privilege and soon enough if gozo gets overrun by taller high rises you won't be able to see it anymore. I thank gozo everyday for giving me light, love, sun and sea" the aspiring filmmaker continued.

Asked what she hoped to achieve with her video Chelsea said: *"I hope it inspires people to speak, to come together, to just start being vocal, then it becomes a snowball effect. One person speaks and we normalize the conversation so others begin talking about it."*

Chelsea Muscat is urging people to write to the Planning Authority and object to the development. She also urged people in positions of power who can make a difference to *"build wisely, with true purpose, with safety, with proper wages, with proper investigation on how it will affect the environment, the locals and the farmer"*

www.sidestreetmalta.com/post/interview-local-filmmaker-laments-the-destruction-of-the-maltese-islands-in-poignant-short-film

Chelsea Muscat is a Writer, Director, & Cinematographer born and raised on the island of Gozo until she was nine. She studied at the SUNY Purchase Film BFA in New York her biggest focus being directing and cinematography. Her work has screened with GIF (Girls in Film), at Tribeca's My City Our Story, & Spazzju Kreativ and her senior film received the Sol Turrell award for outstanding film. Her photography series, Mommy Nervosa, exploring her mother's mental health has been published in Feature Shoot Magazine and LINDA magazine. She recently relocated back to Gozo for now and often explores themes of love, abandonment, and isolation in fiction, documentary and experimental film as well as in her photography. Her keen eye lends to her stunning and emotional visuals that enhance the storytelling. She is an artist that finds the beauty in simplicity and everyday life and always tries to follow her heart.



You may have your profile in this journal. Send it to us with your photo.

**VILLAGE FESTAS COULD BE CELEBRATED
NEXT APRIL - BAND CLUBS ASSOCIATION**

Photo:
Mark
Micallef
Perconte



National Band Clubs Association says external and festive religious activities 'can be celebrated responsibly' if COVID numbers are controlled. The National Band Clubs Association has announced village feasts could return to normal, should the COVID-19 numbers be kept under control.

The announcement, via Facebook, came after a meeting with Prime Minister Robert Abela,

Health Minister Chris Fearne and public health chief Charmaine Gauci. .

"Should COVID cases in the community remain under control, as from April 2022, ," the announcement read. "This means the Good Friday procession could be the first to be celebrated, in line with protocols."

It said if COVID numbers remain under control, summer feasts can be celebrated as normal. Any feast related activities which will be celebrated in the months of February and March can be organized in line with existing protocols.

Village feasts are traditionally about a week-long, with crowded and boisterous celebrations culminating over the weekend. Summer is a busy time for *festi*, drawing both locals and tourists in large numbers.

In a post on Facebook, Prime Minister Robert Abela said feast enthusiasts can look ahead to spring and summer with enthusiasm.

The nun who had international success with rock rendition of The Lord's Prayer, has died (1938 – 2022)



Sister Janet Mead



Mead's 1974 rock version of the Our Father went on to sell nearly three million copies worldwide By **Alex Gallagher**

Sister Janet Mead, the South Australian nun who had an international hit in the '70s with her rock'n'roll version of The Lord's Prayer, has died at the age of 84. The Catholic Archdiocese confirmed the news earlier this week.

Born in Adelaide in 1938, Sister Mead was interested in music at a young age. She studied piano at the Adelaide Conservatorium before joining the Sisters of Mercy order and beginning to teach music at St Aloysius College in Adelaide. In 1974, Mead released a swinging, rock-oriented rendition of the Our Father on Festival Records. It reached number three on the Australian charts, and went on to become an international hit.

Mead became the first Australian artist to sell one million US copies of a record produced in Australia, and it would go on to sell nearly three million copies worldwide. It was nominated for a Grammy for Best Inspirational Performance, losing out to [Elvis Presley](#)'s 'How Great Thou Art'. Watch the video for Mead's version of 'The Lord's Prayer' below:

Despite the huge success of 'The Lord's Prayer', Mead largely remained focused on charitable endeavours, donating her entire share of royalties for the song. She rejected the spotlight and offers to tour the United States, and continued to teach junior students music at St Aloysius College.

However, she didn't abandon music entirely. Her debut studio album, 'With You I Am', was released in 1974. The following year, she released 'A Rock Mass', a recording of one of the youth-oriented "rock masses" she ran at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral in Adelaide.

In 2004, Mead was named South Australian of the Year, for decades of work with the homeless.



Clock at the Palace, Valletta

The ornamental clock on top the turret of the smaller courtyard of the Magistral palace in Valletta was created for Grand Master Fra' Manoel Pinto de Fonseca (1741-1773). The clock has four dials; the main one in the centre shows the hours and minutes; above it a smaller one registers the phases of the moon. To the left a small dial shows the month while another on the right shows the date. On top of the

turret are four bronzes representing Moorish slaves holding hammers which they swing to strike the gongs. The central two figures are larger than those at the sides, as is the gong they strike with their hammers. On either side of the large central gong are two smaller ones. The Moorish slaves on the sides strike every fifteen minutes, once each, twice each and three times each, until the hour is complete. Then they strike four times in rotation before the two larger figures take their turn striking the central gong, once, twice, etc according to the hour up to twelve. The turret is flanked by pilasters and volutes and surmounted by a broken pediment. The weights that wind the clock hang within the turret. The clock first started to work on Tuesday 22 June, 1745 and has done so ever since.

The position of the clock was chosen carefully, from its high position on the turret it's chimes could be heard across the city.

Heritage Malta presents President with his personal coat of arms



From the chequered sail representing the surname 'Vella' to the Zejtun crest and a silver helm with a gold visor signalling his position as head of state, George Vella gets his personal coat of arms by **Karl Azzopardi**

President George Vella has been presented with his personal coat of arms by the heritage agency.

The arms were presented at San Anton Palace by the Chief Herald of Arms of Malta, Dr Charles A. Gauci, whose office within Heritage Malta's remit regulates all heraldic emblems on the Maltese Islands.

The President's personal arms feature the chequered sail traditionally linked to the surname 'Vella'. Heritage Malta said that in the President's case, it was thought apt that

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER 410

February 2022

this feature should be incorporated into a ship in full sail so as to underline the fact that Vella, metaphorically speaking, sails the ship of state.

"The wind is depicted as being strong and the sea rough, since sailing the ship of state is not always an easy task," it said.

Each supporter of the arms holds an object alluding to the president's personal life. The one on the left holds an old map, referring to the President's almost lifelong career in foreign affairs, while the one on the right holds the staff of Aesculapius, alluding to the president's medical profession. Some of the honours bestowed upon the president throughout his life are also depicted in the various insignia around the shield.

George Vella's hometown, Zejtun, is reflected in the crest.

"Vella's unique position as Head of State is displayed in the helmet, which is full facing, silver with gold visor bars. Only presidents and former presidents are granted such a helm," Heritage Malta said.

President George Vella expressed his gratitude towards Heritage Malta for the coat of arms and commended Dr Charles A. Gauci for the precision and detail entailed in his work.

Heritage Malta's representatives and the President discussed the importance of Maltese heraldry as part of Malta's "intangible cultural heritage, as well as the rich heraldry adorning our churches, palaces and other tangible heritage".



During the Holocaust Memorial Commemoration at San Anton Palace His Excellency Dr George Vella, the President of Malta, said that one reason to commemorate the Holocaust is to guard against the possible use of today's means of communication to help achieve a quicker and more widespread insemination of hate speech, racial discrimination, or theories of racial superiority.

Diane Portelli

Dancer / Resident Choreographer



Director of Moveo Dance Company, Diane started her training at the age of three at Tanya Bayona Princess Poutiatine Academy of Ballet where for many years she trained classical ballet, modern, contemporary and flamenco. Following this, she furthered her training at The Dance Workshop, where she is currently a part time teacher and Choreographer. She was awarded the Luisello award for Spanish Dance and the Duke of Ellington award for Modern Dance. She then furthered her training in Pavia for a year.

Diane has attended various courses both locally and abroad, last international workshops were with renowned dance companies; *Random Dance Company, Ultima Vez and Hofesh Shechter Company* amongst others. She participated in the World Championships for Performing Arts in Hollywood, together with two other dancers, where they won two gold medals under the direction of Janet Vella. She has performed in various international festivals including Portugal, Hong Kong, Tunisia, Washington and Brussels. She is one of the choreographers in the creation of Kirana that has been touring internationally for the past 2 years.

Diane obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Commerce at University of Malta as well as her DDE qualifications in modern theatre. In 2013 she started working with *Moveo Dance Company* as a dancer, choreographer and now director, and has performed in numerous productions with the company, both in Malta as well as overseas. In 2017 she held the lead role for Moveo's contemporary rendition of Carmen. In 2018, together with Dorian Mallia, she was awarded the "Artist of the Year" award in the first ever Premju Ghal-Arti Awards in Malta. This year her work, *From Malta with Love*, was selected by Valletta 2018 to premier at the Malta International Arts Festival.



Kappella bil-laqam Ta' Bir Miftuh Knisja ddedikata lill-Assunzjoni

Ricerka ta Greg Caruana

bini tal-Knisja ta Bir Miftuh, u anki emmnu, u xerrdu li l-Konti Ruggieru kien li ghamel din il-Knisja parrocca. Hemm leggenda ohra aktar gwappa. Fil-qedem hafna eremiti kienu jghaddu minn Malta u gejjin mill-Afrika ta Fuq jew sejr in 1-hemm. Rafna drabi xi eremiti kienu jiddeciedu li jibqghu hawn, isibu ghar hdejn nixxiegha u jghixu fih. Wiehed mill-eremiti ghazel ghar li kien vicin hafna fejn illum hemm din il-knisja.

Fi zmien l-eremita, madwar l-ghar, ma kien hemm xejn hlief għelieqi kkultivati. L-eremita induna li ma setax jghix jekk ma jigix mghejjun bl-ikel. Hawn gietu l-idea li jibda jesperimenta bil-fjuri li kien hemm madwaru bl-abbundanza. Innexxielu johloq fwieha li mliet il-madwar kollu. M'ghaddiex zmien wisq li l-eremita ma sabx ruhu mdawwar b'hafna nies li bdew jixtru din il-fwieha. Minn hawn il-quddiem l-ikel ma naqas qatt. Sakemm miet qatt ma raqad bil-guh.

Meta ra hekk beda jzid fil-produzzjoni tal-fwieha, u n-nies bdew gejjin minn kullimkien. In-nies taw isem lil din il-lokalita - Bir Ilma Tfuh. Maz-zmien sar Bir Ma Tfuh. Illum wasal għandna bhala Bir Miftuh.

Peress li Bir Miftuh hu lokalita qadima hafna, ghaldagstant rna jistax jonqos li rnhix mimlija leggend i mill-passat. L-immaginazzjoni ta dawn in-nies twajba griet bihom u sahansitra nsibu li deffsu lill-istess San Pawl. Wahda mil-leggendi msawra fuq San Pawl tghid li kien minn hemm li pprietka s-salvazzjoni lill-Maltin. Leggenda ohra tghid li l-ewwel quddiesa li San Pawl iccelebra f'Malta, kienet mill-Knisja ta Bir Miftuh. Jghidu wkoll li hawn gie amministrat l-ewwel sacrament tal-magħmudija. Kwazi elf sena wara, gie l-Konti Ruggieru hawn Malta, u wara li kecca lill-Gharab, beda jahdem biex it-twemmin nistrani li l-Maltin kienu tilfu, jergghu jiksuh.

Din hi hrafa li giet minfuha bla ebda proporzjon. Imma n-nies ta Bir Miftuh semghu b'dan l-ghijdut u pperswadewh li jkun hu li jpoggi l-ewwel gebra tal-

POPE TO VISIT MALTA IN APRIL, LOCAL NEWSPAPERS SAY

Pope Francis is expected to visit Malta in April, a trip that was originally to have taken place in May



2020 but was postponed because of the COVID pandemic, the Times of Malta reported on Tuesday. The newspaper, citing local sources, said the trip to the Mediterranean island nation would take place April 2-3. There was no immediate confirmation from the Vatican. Pope Francis is expected to visit Malta in April, a trip that was originally to have taken place in May 2020 but was postponed because of the COVID pandemic, the Times of Malta reported on Tuesday. The newspaper, citing local sources, said the trip to the Mediterranean island nation would take place April 2-3.

There was no immediate confirmation from the Vatican.

Migration is expected to be a main theme of the trip because of the many migrants who have died in the Mediterranean trying to reach Europe from North Africa.

It was a central topic in the pope's trip last month to Cyprus and Greece, also Mediterranean countries hit by the migrant crisis.

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER 410

February 2022



MALTA : TRIBUTES BY UK AND USA : 1945

In London you'll find tributes to brave Malta from both **King George VI** and from **Franklin D Roosevelt**.

Near the Tower of London stands the oldest church in the city – 'All Hallows Barking-By-The-Tower. And next to this church stands a memorial to the bravery of the people of Malta in World War II. It's a huge granite block, from Gozo in Malta. It was placed by the George Cross Island Association on 15th August 2005, the year of the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II.

The memorial stands some three metres high and on each of its four sides is a plaque setting out part of the story of the sacrifice of some 7,000 Maltese men and women and Commonwealth and Allied servicemen and women who lost their lives in the defence of Malta during the siege of 1940 to 1943. It bears tributes from **King George VI** and from **Franklin D Roosevelt**. For their bravery, King George VI awarded the George Cross to the people of Malta.

{On the east face:}

{Below the royal crest and a George Cross:}

The Governor, Malta.

To honour her brave people I award the George Cross to the island fortress of Malta to bear witness to a heroism and devotion that will long be famous in history.

George RI April 15th 1942

The citation from King George VI to the Governor of Malta

{Below an icon showing a shield with the Stars and Stripes and the Union Jack:}

"In the name of people of the United States of America I salute the island of Malta, its people and defenders, who, in the cause of freedom and justice and decency throughout the world, have rendered valourous service far and above the call of duty. Under repeated fire from the skies, Malta stood alone but unafraid in the center of the sea, one tiny, bright flame in the darkness - - a beacon of hope for the clearer days which have come.

Malta's bright story of human fortitude and courage will be read by posterity with wonder and gratitude through all the ages. What was done in this island maintains the highest traditions of gallant men and women who from the beginning of time have lived and died to preserve civilization for all mankind."

Franklin D. Roosevelt 7th December 1943

The tribute read by President Roosevelt when he visited Malta.



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER 410

February 2022

{The north face carries a detailed time-line of the siege which we have put in our record for that event.} The solid block of stone for the memorial came from Gozo, one of the three inhabited islands that make up Malta. This stone was easily available in Britain after the war since it was used as ballast in the returning supply ships. The inscriptions are carried on slate panels.

We love the contrast between the oh-so-British citation from King George VI and the Hollywoodesque tribute from President Roosevelt. Roosevelt's tribute has two words with the American spelling, which is fine, but isn't it odd that the date on the American tribute is in the British format and the date on the British citation is in the American format?

Site: Malta Siege (1 memorial)

EC3, Byward Street, All Hallows by the Tower

The church in the background is All Hallows by the Tower and the memorial is apparently within the grounds of the church but we cannot find the connection with Malta. Why is the memorial here rather than anywhere else in London? The [church's website](#) doesn't even mention Malta.

Call for Collaborations Update: You're Still In Time To Send In Your Ideas To Lovin Malta

[Greta Grech](#)



The response has been incredible! Just last week, we kicked off 2022 with a special Lovin Malta [call for collaborations](#) aimed at creators, filmmakers, business-minded innovators and just about anyone with a great idea, and we are overjoyed with the number of requests received.

We are currently in the process of reviewing your individual plans, proposal and projects and will be in touch with you in the coming weeks.

With such an overwhelming response, rest assured will be getting back to everyone so don't worry if you have not received an update just yet.

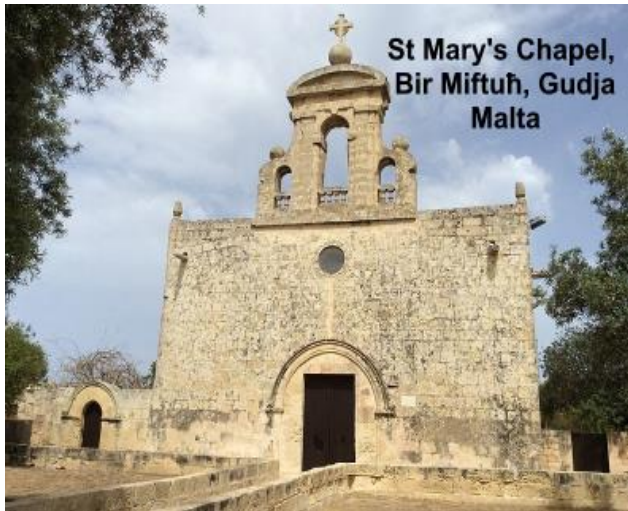
If you still haven't hit 'send' on that e-mail, fret not – we still want to hear from you! Send over any ideas you have to david@lovinmalta.com at the earliest

From your wildest ideas to the most daring dreams for Malta and Gozo, we want to hear from you and make your vision a reality.

Send in your proposals and stay tuned for future updates. Lovinmalta.com



DON'T MISS A THING – SUBSCRIBE TODAY – maltesejournal@gmail.com



A medieval gem: Bir Miftuh Chapel

Despite the ravages of time and war, Bir Miftuh is immaculately preserved today

The Chapel of Santa Maria ta' Bir Miftuh is an outstanding example of medieval architecture. Built almost 600 years ago, it saw the arrival of the Knights, was desecrated by the Turks during the Great Siege of 1565 and suffered bomb damage in the Second World War. Located in Gudja, it is one of the best preserved examples of a parish church of the 15th century. It was declared a parish in 1436 by Bishop Senatore de Mello and served as such until 1676 when the Parish Church of Gudja was built. It was never in the centre of a village but was had parish church status and served several villages.

The chapel is free standing and shows a growing confidence in the handling of stone structures. It is simple and austere in design, with fine pointed stone arches on which rest the long stone roof slabs. It has a plain rectangular plan and measures about 11 by 14 metres.

The chapel was originally larger and built in the shape of a cross. In the 16th century the rear end of the chapel was demolished and the stones were used in the construction of the present parish church of Gudja. An imposing belfry, a 16th century addition, perches proudly over the main doorway. No bells are in place. Legend has it that these bells were hastily buried in the soil during the Great Siege of 1565. They are still waiting to be discovered.

The altar was brought from another chapel and dates from the 16th century. The altar painting is on wood and probably belongs to the second half of the same century and depicts the figure of God holding a Crucifix surrounded by angels at the top of the panel. The lower part shows a hilly

landscape with the Virgin and Child on clouds flanked by St Peter and St Paul.

Over the centuries the chapel suffered from neglect and lack of use. It was close to total collapse until the Ecclesiastical Authorities gave the chapel to Din I-Art Helwa in Trust in 1970. Restoration started in 1973 and was generously sponsored by Malta International Airport, which continues to support it to this day.

During restoration, the remains of a fresco covering the wall facing the altar were discovered under thick layers of lime. The fresco depicts the Last Judgment and is divided into three tiers of figures. The upper tier shows the Apostles and Mary with the figure of Christ in the centre. The figures below this tier represent Mary, a hand holding a sword representing St Paul, St James and St Andrew, St Lawrence, St Benedict holding a church model, Peter the Martyr, and possibly St Catherine holding the palm of martyrdom. The figures above this tier show a kneeling saint representing St John the Baptist, four unknown female saints, St Ursula holding a pike-staff and St Barbara holding a model of a round tower.

The second tier shows the damned being led away to the fiery pits of hell by demons with horns, tails and webbed feet. On the left side one can make out the wing of an angel and the back of one of the faithful being drawn towards God and the Virgin Mary.

The lower tier probably depicts the expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden. On the north wall, in the first bay, there is a picture of a woman, in a costume fashionable in the 16th century, holding a lily in one hand and pointing to the main altar painting with the other.

The frescoes were expertly restored and regular inspections are carried out. Further restoration involved the repair of all walls and a leaking roof. The floor laid in 1942 was replaced with globigerina limestone flagstones, and the exterior areas adjacent to the walls were paved. In 2004, restoration of the churchyard at the back of the chapel was completed.

The Chapel is an ideal setting for the Bir Miftuh International Music Festival held regularly in the Summer by Din I-Art Helwa since 1997.

THE MOSTA BRIDE

Posted by [Melisande Aquilina](#)



Located at the corner of Triq it-Torri Cumbo and Triq Durumblat in Mosta lies Cumbo Tower, or Torri Cumbo. This historic medieval stronghold surrounded by extensive gardens today hosts a water reservoir which receives water through an underground channel, however it is primarily known because of the role it played in one of Malta's most famous legends – that of the Mosta Bride.

The Mosta Bride, or I-Gharusa tal-Mosta in Maltese, is a very old ballad and local legend, one which every Maltese child learns about at primary school. The legend tells the story of an abduction, while being a love story and one which highlights Maltese valour. No wonder it was, and continues to be so popular!

Although there are different versions to the folktale, the most well-known tells the story of Marianna Cumbo, a maiden from the Cumbo family who lived at the tower. The family had a Turkish servant who was very enamoured of Marianna, however she thought nothing of him, being in fact in love with Toni Manduca, the son of a neighbour. When the Turkish servant heard of her intention to wed her lover, he escaped from the family house and left the island on a ship bound to Turkey. Some months later, Marianna's wedding was finally taking place. The bride, resplendent in her white dress of Maltese lace and bedecked in all her finery, was preparing herself for the ceremony. Suddenly, a pirate ship from Turkey arrived on our shores, and the pirates targeted Mosta, taking a number of slaves. The Cumbo's disgruntled servant was among these pirates, and he made it a point to storm through Cumbo Tower, seize Marianna and take her on the ship as a slave.

Marianna's bridegroom was broken hearted, as were her mother and the rest of her family. They tried to discover her whereabouts in order to perhaps be able to pay a ransom and so to save her, but could not find where she was. It is then that true love distinguished itself. Toni disguised himself as a wool merchant, sailed on a ship to Turkey and vowed he'd find Marianna and save her. After weeks and months of strenuous search, he realised that

his bride was being held in the Sultan's harem. One day, while looking up at the Palace walls, Toni heard a sweet voice singing a traditional Maltese folk song, known as 'ghana'. Thoughtlessly, Toni sang together with the female voice, and this was how he realised that he had indeed found Marianna. Meanwhile, the poor girl had befriended the Sultan's daughter who, hearing that help was near at hand, pledged her aid in smuggling Marianna out of the Palace. They garbed the girl in the robes of a eunuch, and she escaped through the gardens and reunited with her beloved Toni. Together, they raced towards the docks and found a Venetian ship heading towards Malta, where they were finally reunited with their families and got married.

While this legend of love and abduction has no actual historical basis, it is documented that during the middle of the 16th century, around 400 prisoners were abducted from Mosta and taken by Turkish corsairs. A woman dressed as a bride, it is documented, was one of the taken.

The oldest written version of the ballad of the Mosta Bride was first printed in 1895 and written by Annibale Preca. Different versions of the tale change some of the points in the story. Some say that the Turks offered the Cumbo family Marianna's life for ransom, but that the family refused as it was too high. Others maintain there was no servant in love with Marianna determined to steal her, and that she was simply part of the number of slaves taken against their will. Still another version recounts that Marianna had been greatly weakened by her enslavement and captivity, and not being able to withstand the voyage back to Malta, died on the ship. Mad with anger and grief, Toni spent his life fighting the Turks and died in battle. Today, Cumbo Tower belongs to the Contessa Preziosi, the daughter of the late Barone della Quleja.



TIFKIRIET

MINN FOMM IL-POPLU

Tifkiriet ta' 20 sena miġbura fi ktieb

Iosita Testa

-Ritratt: Gordon Caruana Facebook

TIFKIRIET (minn fomm il-poplu) hija pubblikazzjoni ġdida bbażata fuq intervisti li l-awtur Gordon Caruana għamel ma' Maltin dwar Haggja, Hidma, Rikreazzjoni, Gwerra u temi oħra interessanti fuq il-ħajja soċjali tal-Maltin tal-aħħar 70 sena.

Din il-kitba għet imnebbha mis-semmiegħa tal-programm radjufoniku Tifkiriet, li din is-sena jfakkar l-

20 sena tiegħu.

Imqassma f'sitt kapitli, b'24 rakkont ta' esperjenzi mill-imġhod, u bil-partecipazzjoni ta' madwar 80 persuna oħra, dawn il-memorji orali jeħduna lura fiż-żmien meta l-ħajja kienet aktar sempliċi u ta' tbatija. Mit-tfulija ta' presidenti emeriti, l-iskola u l-ewwel tqarbina, għall-ħidma tal-bejjiegħa tal-ħalib u tal-pitrolju. Mis-sengħa tat-taħħan u l-ġabbar tal-melħ għall-iskultura fl-għamara. Mill-bżulija tat-tarznari u s-seher tat-talkies, għall-esperjenzi ta' sid il-ħanut tat-te, tal-messaggier u x-xogħol ta' suldat fil-gwerra. Din hija nisġa ta' tifkiriet minn fomm il-poplu li mhux biss għandha għan nostalgiku, imma turina minn x'hiex għaddew ta' qabilna biex ksibna dak li qed ingawdu llum. Il-pubblikazzjoni ta' Gordon Caruana għet stampata minn Outlook Coop – 2021.

Il-prezz tal-ktieb huwa ta' €25 u minn hu interessat jista' jikkuntatja lil Gordon Caruana fuq 7949 6965 jew tifkiriet@gmail.com.



Kappelli u Knejjes bil-laqam - Ricerka ta' Greg Caruana (NSW)

IL-KURCIFISS TA' GIEZU GEWWA IL-BELT VALLETTA.

Rigward il-Kurcifiss Mirakuluz li jinsab fil-Knisja ta' Giezu l-Belt, insibu din il-leggenda li tghid hekk. F'din il-leggenda kien hemm

wiehed patri li kellu c-cella tiegħu fil-Knisja ta' Giezu gewwa l-Belt, u dan il-patri qatta hajtu jimmedita dwar kif sehhet il-Passjoni ta' Sidna Gesu Kristu. Bhala passatemp dan il-patri, li ma nafux x'kien jismu, kien jiehu pjacir jagħmel il-Kurcifissi, u jum fost l-oħrajn, waqt li kien qiegħed jagħmel Kurcifiss, qabditu nagħsa li kellu jieqaf milli kien qiegħed jagħmel biex imur jistrieħ. Kull ma kien jonqsu dan il-Kurcifiss kienet rasu. Hekk kif sebah, il-patri mar biex ikompli jlesti l-Kurcifiss. Dan baqa skantat hekk kif sab li l-Kurcifiss kien lest għal kollox, minkejja li fil-jum ta' qabel, kien għadu ma lestiehx. Skont din il-leggenda, li kien gara kien, li matul il-lejl, kienu nizlu xi Angli u komplew ix-xogħol fuqu. Il-Kurcifiss ta' Giezu huwa wiehed mill-aktar Kurcifissi Sagri u Mirakoluzi li hemm go Malta.

CRIME IN MALTA - THE GRIMA MURDER

Posted by [Denise Formosa](#)



Tony and his wife Anna were very hardworking farmers, who lived off their land in [Dingli](#). On a very cold afternoon, Tony was returning from a very rewarding meeting, as he had sold all his vegetables and had a large sum of money to take home.

Peppi Muscat who also happened to be Tony's neighbour, saw his fellow farmer walking in the vicinity of his farm, and called him: "Why are you running so quickly, Tony... ? Have you seen a ghost?" Tony stopped and told him all about his successful venture at the market, and that he had a large sum of money to hide and take home. That was obviously the largest mistake of his life – trusting Peppi, who was well known for his crafty schemes.

As soon as Tony was greeted by his wife Anna, he hid his money in their bedroom and talked and ate with his wife after a long day's work. When he told his wife that he had stopped and talked for more than an hour with Peppi, she was concerned, as she knew that her husband thought that everybody was as reliable and as genuine as her husband. "Peppi was not to be trusted," she told her husband, but what could she do now? What's done is done!

The following day, Peppi called for a meeting with his fellow robbers, and together they conjured up a plan and decided to rob the Grima family and to divide the spoils into 5. At first, everybody agreed, but one of the robbers decided that he did not want to rob with his friends, however he started to treath them that if

they did not give him his share, he would go and tell the local police inspector.

Therefore, the 4 robbers decided to give him what he wanted. On the following morrow, they went to Tony's farm with a rifle and a knife and all had their faces covered in sacks, so as not to be recognized...

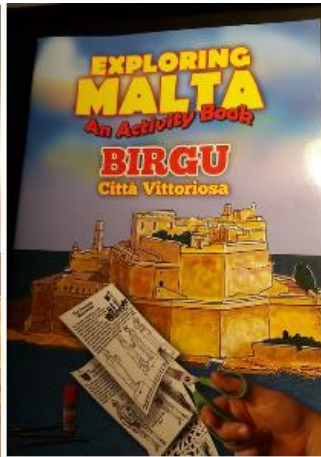
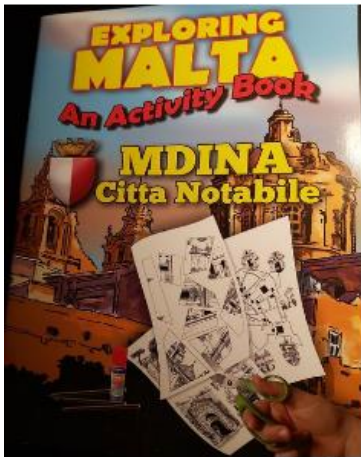
As soon as Anne saw the 4 figures coming to their fields, she realized that they were going to come and rob them and started to shout for her husband to come out of the sty. Unfortunately, 2 men surrounded her and tried to strangle her. Peppi went to attack Tony, however the latter managed to uncover the former's face, and it was then that his wife heard 2 rifle shots, and pretended to have died with the men's force.

As soon as the men discovered the place where the money lay hidden, they escaped from the incriminating spot. Anne quickly rushed to see what had happened, and she had the shock of her life, when she saw her husband dead in a pool of blood. This unfortunate event happened on a cold February day of 1890.

The police inspector had issued a proclamation that whoever came forward and revealed the occurrences of the crime, he would be pardoned and would also be given a sum of money. This was customary during the 19th century. One of the robbers in fact, came forward and revealed everybody and Peppi was to be hung.

On the 13th April 1893 the other robbers were at first sentenced to be hung, however their fate chose to liberate them from this course. We never get to know what punishment they were given, but if you visit the whereabouts between Dingli and Siggiewi and look for the farmhouse known as "Il-Barumbara ta' Żuta" you can see a cross and an inscription to commemorate the murder of poor Tony Grima

WE ARE PROUD OF ALL THE MALTESE ACHIEVERS



Consulate General of the Republic of Malta to Canada.

Dr. Raymond Xerri

MALTESE CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWS

✳ More learning Maltese Language educational materials available at three libraries, soon at four locations in the GTA and beyond

The Consulate General of Malta to Canada recently compiled over 200 educational materials from various institutions around the Maltese Islands, and has donated copies of each to the Libraries of the Melita S.C., the Malta Band Club and Consulate General itself.

In the near future, copies of the same publications will be provided to the Library of the Malta United Society of Windsor and of Runnymede Long-Term Care Facility Library.

After being contacted by a number of

Maltese Canadian parents and students, it has been decided to inform all of the educational materials donated in accordance to category.

The educational and touristic materials are about the Islands of Malta and Gozo. If you are members of any of these clubs you can request to make use of them.

A little castle on the hill -Castello dei Baroni

by Liz Ayling



Locals may have come across Castello dei Baroni at a wedding. It's a popular venue for couples tying the knot who fancy a more secluded reception with some great backdrops for those all-important wedding photos. But it's now attracting different couples – those who walk, cycle and fancy a sightseeing pit stop. On the Friday morning I visited recently, several chance passers-by,

tourists on two legs or two wheels, popped in curious to see what this little crenelated Castello had to offer.

For starters, if you've built up a sweat pounding up hill to Wardija from Burmarrad on the main road, you'll be delighted to find refreshment at its garden cafe (with free Wi-Fi!). You can just pause there enjoying the seclusion and country views

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER 410

February 2022

in this unspoilt part of Malta. But that would be shame as there's more to it than a snack.

More than a wedding venue; a gem for walkers, heritage lovers & cyclists too

The Castello, as it's affectionately known, opened its doors in early 2010 as a bijou but interesting heritage attraction. It was built in 1783 as a baronial hunting lodge during the reign of Grandmaster Emanuel de Rohan. Today, Castello Dei Baroni is used as the headquarters for the Knights Hospitalliers of the Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem and the Ecumenical Order (more on that in a bit!). It's actually owned and run though by Chevalier Baron Adrian Busietta and Dame Marie Angelique Caruana, who've gone about renovating it, for those weddings first, and now as a mini-museum and info point on the history of the Order.

In fact, this little castle is devoted to giving a unique insight into the Order.

A 23-minute film takes you past where others stop – with the Knights leaving Malta in 1798 – right up to the present day. You then tour various rooms that recreate the atmosphere of the lodge in the 18th century: the 'Grandmaster's bedroom' and 'Hunting room' for instance, as well as seeing the 'Supreme Council Chamber' and a library containing ancient books on doctrine and law. My son loved the regalia of the Knights in a corridor room which documents the various orders – eight in fact, hence the eight-point Maltese cross

SARRIA CHURCH AT FLORIANA



**SARRIA CHURCH
FLORIANA**



Sarria Church dates far back to the beginning of the Order of St John's presence in Malta when, in 1585 a knight from Navarra, Martino de Sarria, built a small chapel named Cappella Sarria. In 1680 the Order of St John decided to rebuild the chapel as thanksgiving for the end of the pestilence of 1675-76 that killed about 8000 Maltese.

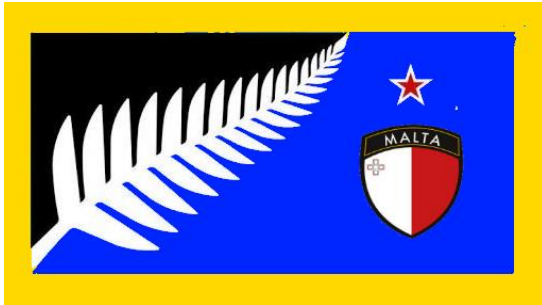
A new and bigger church was built on Mattia Preti's designs, and is the only known architectural work by this great artist.

Grand Master Nicolas Cottoner also commissioned the paintings for the church from Mattia Preti and this resulted in a complete scheme entirely by Preti, including The Immaculate Conception altarpiece, St. Sebastian, St. Roque, St. Rosalia, St. Nicholas of Bari, and two lunettes depicting The Apotheosis of the Order, and St. Michael Victorious over Lucifer.

Between 2010 and 2022, Din I-Art Helwa, undertook the restoration of all seven paintings, thanks to the generosity of the sponsors including Shireburn Software Ltd., Malta International Airport, Middlesea Insurance Ltd., Sparkasse Bank Malta Ltd. and the Rotary Clubs of Palermo and Malta.

MALTA AND NEW ZEALAND

Political, Cultural and Trade Relations



New Zealand and Malta share a common history of having both been members of the British Empire, and both countries are members of the British Empire's offspring, The Commonwealth of Nations.

Many Maltese emigrated to New Zealand and Australia from the beginning of the 20th century onward, and there are thriving expatriate communities in Australasia. An

increasing number of New Zealanders choose Malta as a holiday destination in Europe as we have the English language and a love of maritime pastimes in common. What Malta offers the New Zealand visitor by way of historical marvels, good food and the stunning blue of the Mediterranean, New Zealand offers the Maltese visitor mountains, lakes, fjords, extensive sandy beaches, lush sub-tropical forests, adventure tourism and modern cities.

New Zealand's current political and commercial relations with Malta are summarised on the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) website.

New Zealand and Malta also have a strong common bond stemming from their involvement in both World War I and World War II, with many New Zealand and Australian military personnel having been either stationed in Malta or evacuated from active battle to convalesce in Malta. There is a noteworthy account of New Zealand airmen's involvement in the WWII siege of Malta in *The Official History of New Zealand in the Second World War (1935-1945)*. The story of the Australia and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) (1914-1918) connection to Malta is aptly related on the websites of the Australian High Commission in Malta and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC).



Anzac Day is commemorated annually on 25 April in New Zealand, Australia and Malta (and many other countries where Anzac personnel were stationed), and has become a commemoration of all wars where New Zealand, Australian and Maltese military personnel have served. If you are interested in touring the ANZAC sites of Malta, click on the ANZAC *experience* link under the *Information for NZers* tab above.

New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (NZTE) advises and assists New Zealand and Maltese companies wishing to do business in either country, through its office based in Milan, Italy.

TradeMalta and Malta Enterprise offer similar services.

A little bit of New Zealand in Gozo!

The 'Grog Shop' in St Francis Square in Victoria catered for Kiwi soldiers stationed in Gozo during the First World War

MALTESE IN NEW ZEALAND

The first recorded Maltese migrant to [New Zealand](#) was Angelo Parigi, who is listed at St Patrick's Church in Auckland as having married 16-year-old RoseAnne McMullen on 4 July 1849. He was described as "a boatman born in Malta". Others followed including a James Cassar for whom some letters remained unclaimed at the Auckland Post Office in 1864. In 1883, Francesco Saverio de Cesare, who was tasked by the Government in Malta to assess the "suitability of the British Colonies in Australia as a field for Maltese Migration", reported that: "At Auckland I met three Maltese, there settled for several years, and at Tauranga another one, employed as a cook; they are doing well; and have no idea of returning to Malta. They told me there are some other Maltese, whom they know, settled in Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin." The Maltese Association of Wellington was founded in 1989, with [Carmen Dalli](#) as president. The latest census puts the number of Maltese residents in New Zealand at 222.

End to End Innovative Turnkey Solutions, using Advanced Composite Materials, for Energy, Resources, Water Infrastructure & Defence Sectors



A NOVAFAST HOLDINGS COMPANY

Over the last eight months, the Basetec team have provided FRP Equipment Supply, Engineering, Testing and Site Construction support for the Smelter Campaign Maintenance 2021 project based at Olympic Dam.

The successful completion of this large-scale project is a testament to

the dedication and efforts of our team on site.

Basetec Manager

Paul Figallo says, "Completing this project safely and on time demonstrates our team's capability and our commitment to deliver on our customers' needs."

Basetec would like to thank

BHP, Bechtel and Downer EDI for their continued support throughout the duration of this project. To view more projects

completed by Basetec Services, [click here. www.basetecservices.com.au](http://www.basetecservices.com.au)

South Australia-based Basetec Services, a leading manufacturer of composite pipelines for major projects in Queensland and across the country, is well known amongst the oil & gas, mining, energy and water industries for producing innovative composite materials which have greater corrosion resistance and durability than similar steel pipelines. Basetec has forged a reputation as a leader in composite technologies thanks largely to its commitment to research and development activities, which has resulted in expansion and innovation of its Novafast product range.



David Figallo
Business and
Strategy Manager



Chev. Charles Figallo OSJ OAM
Chief Executive Officer

Charles Figallo

As the company's founder and Managing Director, Charles Figallo of Maltese parents is well acquainted with the industry within which they work. Primarily self-taught in his area of expertise, Mr. Figallo describes his introduction to the business as something of a grasped opportunity: "I got involved in this industry simply because I was working on a project and I overheard some engineers talking about a problem they were facing. I told them even though they were a bit unfamiliar with how to take on the problem, I made it very clear to them that I could fix it for them."

This simple intervention soon led to Mr. Figallo being approached to provide assistance on the project, and subsequently offered a contract for his services. From that moment a business began to grow. This initial contract was followed by approaches from other companies facing similar

problems, and further opportunities for work soon presented themselves. More recently, major projects in affiliation with Olympic Dam and BP in Brisbane, has propelled him into an entirely new sphere of business opportunity.

Mgr. Ivan Camilleri - auxiliary bishop of Toronto

The Maltese-born Fr. Ivan Camilleri, chancellor of the Archdiocese of Toronto, was appointed by Pope Francis as the auxiliary bishop of Toronto on November 28, 2020. Coupled with the elevation of another Maltese cleric, Bishop Mario Grech, to cardinal by the Pope the same day, it was a milestone day for the southern European island nation and its descendants who now call Toronto home.

"While modernism and all that comes with it has reached Malta like all other developed countries, the Maltese are in general still very proud and fond of their Catholic faith," said Micallef, the pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Toronto's west end, who too hails from the nation that today is still more than 80-per-cent Catholic. "One of the principal feasts they celebrate is the commemoration of the day when St. Paul was shipwrecked on the island, as narrated in great detail by St. Luke in his Acts of the Apostles.

"The faith Paul left on the island is deemed and cherished as the biggest gift the people have ever received. No wonder that the news of the new bishop in Toronto hit the news on all local newspapers and Maltese news portals on the net."

In the community of Little Malta located in Toronto's Junction neighbourhood along Dundas Street West, Charlie and Antoinette Buttigieg are still reeling with excitement at the announcement of Camilleri's call. The owners of the mom-and-pop Malta Bake Shop reflected on their memories of the soon-to-be 52-year-old priest who on Jan. 25 will be elevated to auxiliary bishop of Toronto in a small ceremony at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica. They recall a man who would pop into the shop for a pastry and a chat from time to time. Over the years the couple has seen him grow, moving from a career in finance at Bell Canada to attending seminary in 2001 and being called to the priesthood in 2007.

"We were very proud and very happy to see him doing this because we've known him since before he started thinking to be a priest," said Antoinette, who met her husband in Malta in 1977 before immigrating to Canada and starting the business

together in the early 1980s. "He's one of our customers. He would come in to buy our specialty pastizzis, and if we needed (help) with something we would ask for advice, especially my husband Charlie. We wish all God's blessings for his new mission."

"When you know it's someone from Malta, you feel proud," said Charile. "But when you know the person personally, it brings you more joy."

Due to the limited capacity at churches under COVID-19 restrictions in Ontario, the bake shop — just steps away from St. Paul the Apostle Church which was built by the Maltese-Canadian community in the 1930s — has not seen its usual rush of customers stopping by after Mass for some food and socializing. Open for take-out only, the Buttigiegs, who call their customers "family," say the announcement has been a much needed shot in the arm at a time when the community has not been able to connect as it normally does.

"It is God's blessing to have someone be chosen from our community," said Antoinette. "To have (Camilleri) chosen for higher rank in the Church and also our bishop in Malta became a cardinal, we find that we are more blessed. From the time when St. Paul brought the faith to our island, we feel we are very blessed to have the Catholic faith keep going at this difficult time."

With a population of roughly half a million people in Malta, Micallef celebrates the contribution of the small island state's missionaries and priests, who are serving in various capacities across the globe. The community in Toronto has also been aware, not without a good measure of pride, over the years that Camilleri is just one of several priests of Maltese descent serving the archdiocese at different levels. "The appointment of Fr. Ivan is seen as both an acknowledgement of his giftedness and another contribution of the community to the archdiocese," said Micallef.



Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant Christians unite in prayer in Valletta

Jurgen Balzan

As part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity an Ecumenical Service was celebrated with the participation of various Christian Churches in Malta on Friday at the Basilica of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Valletta.

The service was led by Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Galea Curmi, while a biblical reflection was delivered by Pastor Earl Pingston of the Evangelical Baptist Church.

The service was attended by Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant Christians and Catholic religious of communities located in Valletta, including Carmelites, Dominicans and Conventual Franciscans.

A group of young people from the Junior College were also in attendance where they prepared some prayers that were read out during the Ecumenical Service. During the service, donations were collected to help Missio Malta purchase Covid-19 vaccines for their missionary outposts. This year's theme is 'We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship him' (Mt 2:2). This theme and related material has been prepared by the Christian Churches in the Middle East.

During the service, a symbolic gesture was made when representatives of the different Churches affixed star shapes to a blue background that represented the sky. Against this background there was also a large star lit which reminded those present of the star that led the Magi to Jesus in Bethlehem. The week of prayer, comes to an end on Tuesday 25 January.



MALTESE LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Priority Registration for Members children ages 5-12 is now open. Choose either the morning session program

10am -12pm or the afternoon session program 1-3pm. Each session is limited to 8 students. Members must be up to date with their dues.

Each session compromises of 9 classes that will be held on the following Sundays:

Feb 6 & 13 Mar 6 & 20 April 3 & 24 May 15 June 5 & 12

We would like to thank the Hon. Evarist Bartolo for his support in donating much needed Maltese language educational books for the program, thank you to Rita Grech who will be teaching and coordinated the implementation of the program, and the Hon. Jose Herrera for donating additional Maltese language books to add to our learning library. In addition, we would like to thank Consul Giovanni Buttigieg and Ambassador Vanessa Frazier at the Permanent Mission in New York for bridging the connections between the Maltese Center and the Ministers. With this support and dialogue this program was made possible.

*Non-members may register during open enrolment beginning on January 30th subject to availability.



PERSONALITY
OF THE WEEK

**Christina Cefai: An
engineer, athlete and
dancer**

Mark Camenzuli - newsbook.com.mt



Christina Cefai, a biomechanist, was recently awarded the Master of Science in Sport and Clinical Biomechanics with distinction from the Liverpool John Moores University and obtained the Prof. Adrian Lees Award for the Highest Research Project Mark in MSc Sport & Clinical Biomechanics.

Prior to this MSc, she acquired an Undergraduate Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Malta and gained three years of working experience as a Research and Development Engineer.

Apart from her academic achievements, Christina is very passionate about dance and sports. She is a qualified ballet teacher at The Dance Workshop, obtaining her Diploma in Dance Education, and has been dancing since the age of three.

Christina has also completed two consecutive LifeCycle challenges, endurance cycling challenges covering 2000km in 10 days, in aid of renal patients, and is a qualified Level 3 Personal Trainer (Active IQ) with a special interest in pre and postnatal exercise and nutrition as well as corrective exercise.

The one year taught postgraduate programme at the Liverpool John Moores University offered her the perfect opportunity to combine her love for dance, sports and mechanics. The course consisted of three terms over one year.

The first term was dedicated to taught content focused on technical and current issues in biomechanics, while the second term focused on the application of biomechanics in a clinical and sports setting. This term included working with an adult with cerebral palsy, as well as muscle-tendon mechanics.

The final term was dedicated to her novel research project, focusing on the mechanics of the foot in ballet allegro (jumps), due to the high prevalence of injury due to these movements.

In order to pursue these studies, Cefai received support from the Malta Sports Scholarship funded by the Government of Malta, a programme that aims to elevate the status of sport in Malta and encourage an increased level of physical activity and well-being.

The scholarship supported Cefai through providing the necessary funds to complete the course. She has now returned to Malta and works at MOVE – The Sports and Exercise Medicine Centre, a multidisciplinary team aimed at building athletes.

Cefai is also a part-time visiting lecturer at the University of Malta and looks forward to continue developing field of sports biomechanics on the island.

Pop, Drama and Carnival in February at the Manoel



As it celebrates its 290th anniversary, Malta's national theatre presents three new and exciting productions

In January, Teatru Manoel commemorated its 290th anniversary. It is celebrating with an exhilarating show celebrating the legendary music of Sweden's most famous pop group ABBA, the Maltese debut of a hit play and a family-friendly *Karnival*-inspired spectacular to make its February line-up unmissable.

GOLD: Celebrating 50 Years of Music by Sweden's Most Famous Pop Group features the timeless songs of ABBA performed live for three shows only, on 10, 11 and 12 February. Produced by Teatru Manoel, Creative Artist Antoine Farrugia and Band Leader

Melchior Busuttil direct a stellar cast of singers including Jasmine Abela, Michela Galea, Martina Borg, Glen Vella, Kevin Borg and Ludwig Galea, supported by dancers choreographed by Celaine Buhagiar.

Between 18-20 February, for the first time in Malta audiences can experience *Ir-Raġel li Hawwad lil Martu ma' Kappell*, a new Maltese language adaptation of Peter Brook's hit play based on the book *The Man Who Mistook His Wife For a Hat* by eminent neurologist Oliver Sacks. Translated into Maltese and directed by Mario Philip Azzopardi, this unique Manoel production explores the bizarre case histories of Sacks' neurological patients via some of Malta's best performers including Mikhail Basmadjian, Ray Calleja, Vince Micallef Pulè and Charles Sammut.

The Manoel completes the month with a sensational carnival spectacle staged on 27 and 28 February and 1 March. *Il-Karnival fil-Manoel... Kuluri u Fantasija* (*Carnival at the Manoel... Colours and Fantasy*) will thrill the whole family with a journey into the vivid world of Malta's *Karnival*, as part of Festivals Malta's official carnival programme. This TOI TOI production, written and directed by Brian Bonnici, features the TOI TOI Collective, with Sarah Amato, Charlotte Formosa and Bertha Farrugia alongside guest artist Jeremy Grech, as they tell the story of *Karnival* through drama, dance, projections, games and singing. Introducing several characters including Grandmaster Manoel de Vilhena and Perlinu, the popular puppet who comes to life, *Il-Karnival fil-Manoel* also features breath-taking costumes from dance and costume carnival competitions from recent years. "February at Teatru Manoel promises another packed programme of unforgettable productions," says Teatru Manoel CEO Massimo Zammit. "From fun and uplifting shows to dramatic debuts, this month the Manoel remains, as Malta's national theatre, the firm and fitting foundation of the island's vibrant and talented arts scene."

You continue to surprise us! This is the most informative e-newsletter. It is a golden variety!! You fill us with nostalgia. We read the newsletter to our elderly residents at St Dominic's (NSW) and they love it! Thank you so much.

Regards Sr Georgina Sultana O.P. Administrator



THE FOUNDATION FOR INCLUSION



The Inspire Foundation draws on many years of experience in educational, therapeutic, social and recreational needs of persons with disabilities. We specialise in aiding those on the autism spectrum, having profound multiple learning difficulties and those with behaviour that challenges.

Mission

Inspire believes that everyone has a right to equality and inclusion. Our mission is to try to help everyone with a disability achieve this. We do this by providing individuals and their families with educational, therapeutic and leisure services. We also advocate for inclusion, educate the general public, raise awareness among peers, and hold the best knowledge base on disability on the island.

History

The Inspire foundation is the result of a merger between Eden Foundation and Razzett Tal-Hbiberija – two leading charities that worked in the field of disability. The two organisations transferred all their resources and employees over to the new foundation, which now provides all the services in a one-stop-shop model avoiding duplication, enhancing service delivery and being more cost effective, leading to long term sustainability and added value.

Today

Today, Inspire helps hundreds of individuals with various disabilities ranging from Autism, Cerebral Palsy and others. We do this through many services and disability programmes that are offered.

Head Office BLB801 Bulebel Zejtun ZTN 3000 Tel: (+356) 2092 8100

Therapy & Leisure Centre Zinzell Street Marsascala MSK 4070

Tel: (+356) 2092 8150

Gozo Office Triq Ramon Perellos, Ghajnsielem, Gozo Tel: (+356) 2156 4149

Email: reception@inspire.org.mt

**IF YOU HAVE AN INTERESTING STORY,
POEM OR AN ESSAY
SHARE IT WITH OTHERS
SEND IT TO US
FOR
PUBLICATION**

maltesejournal@gmail.com

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER 410
February 2022

**AT MY FUNERAL TAKE
THE BOUQUET OFF MY
COFFIN AND THROW IT
INTO THE CROWD TO
SEE WHO IS NEXT**

Back in my day we didn't have GPS.



We had Road Maps.

**WHEN CARS DIDN'T
HAVE SEATBELTS**



**Husband and I
went grocery
shopping with
masks, got home,
took off masks,
brought home
wrong husband!
Stay alert people!**

Nine months past Corona:

Who is
the father?

Don't know;
he wore a
mask!



Good day - heartfelt thanks congratulations for this extraordinary publication, I really look forward to reading it so full of various topics reflecting your commitment hard work and innovative approach well done excellent with deep appreciation and gratitude. Best regards Dr. Tonio Portuguese - Malta

Date Slices - Imqaret recipe

Imqaret is one of the traditional remnants of the Arab world that was left behind in Malta. Cut in fine rectangular shapes, this is a delightful recipe consisting of date filled pastries. The dish name itself is the plural of 'maqrut' which derives from the Arabic word meaning diamond.

If you're lucky enough to have tried this recipe in Malta, you know that you can find it almost everywhere in restaurants, cafés, and even in the kitchens of the Maltese. Street stalls selling imqaret are also a staple of every Maltese festa. These goodies are especially appetizing during the Christmas season, along with a nice cup of tea.

Ingredients

Pastry:

- 320 ml water
- 200 grams butter
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tbsp lightly crushed aniseeds
- 830 grams flour
- Vegetable oil
- Icing sugar

Filling:

- Pitted dates chopped
- 800 grams pitted dates chopped
- 2 lemon, 2 orange, and 2 clementine
- 1 tbsp lightly crushed aniseeds
- 1 tbsp aniseed liqueur
- Juice of 2 oranges and 2 clementine
- 2 tsp vanilla essence
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- 2 tsp cloves

Instruction:

1. Mix the baking powder and the flour to prepare the pastry. Add the aniseeds together. Mix well.
2. Rub in the butter with the flour mixture until it resembles bread crumbs.
3. Add in the water. Mix until the dough starts to form.
4. Leave to rest and start preparing the filling
5. Add in a small pot: pitted dates chopped, oranges, lemons, clementine, crushed and liqueur aniseeds.
6. Add 2 tsp of each: vanilla, cinnamon, and cloves.
7. Cook the mixture on a stove for 20 minutes. Let it cool for around 30 minutes.
8. Cut the pastry into 6 pieces.
9. Roll the pastry into a rectangle shape and spread the filling along half of the pastry. Leave enough space to fold the other half. Fold this other half over and seal the ends.
10. Do this for the other 5 pieces of pastry.
11. Deep fry the imqaret in a pan using vegetable oil, for around 1 minute each side. Fry always in a moderate heat so you do not burn the pastry.
12. If baking the imqaret, preheat the oven to 200°C and with a pastry brush, brush the imqaret with vegetable oil.
13. Place the imqaret into the oven for 18 minutes.
14. Top them with icing sugar.

Serve these pastry diamonds on a tasteful looking plate and serve them on their own or with ice cream.

