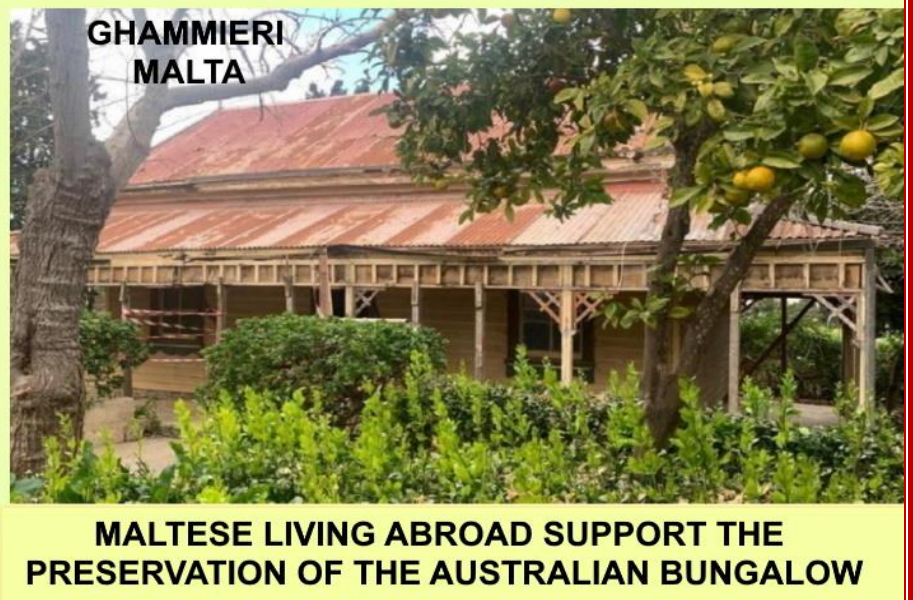
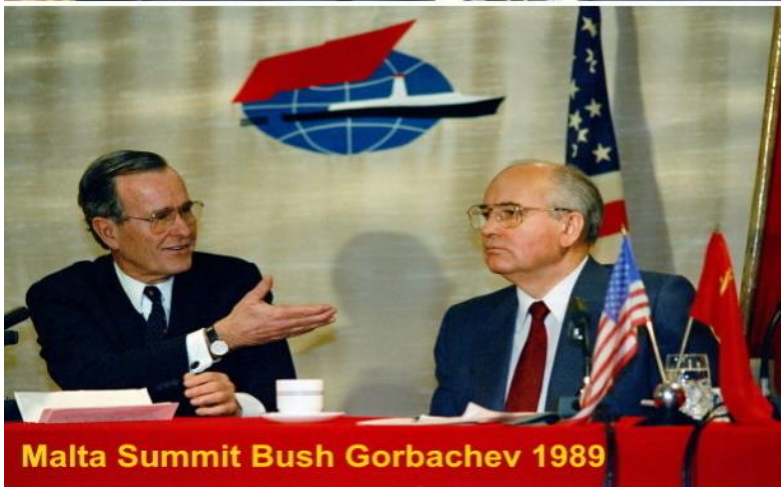
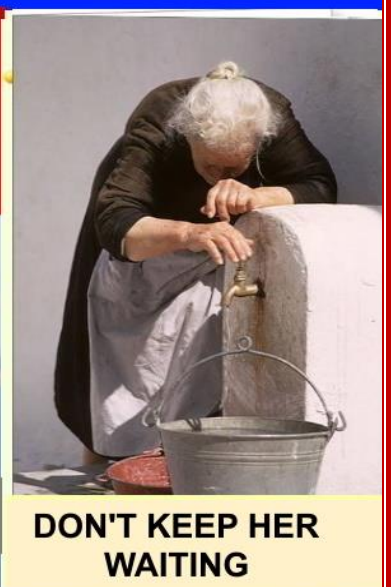


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Pope's visit official programme

Pope Francis will spend two packed days in Malta on April 2 and 3, as evidenced by the official programme released by the Vatican on Friday. The pope will be having meetings with the President, the Prime Minister, the authorities and the diplomatic corps on his first day in Malta.

He will also hold a prayer meeting at Ta' Pinu in Gozo. On April 3, he will hold a private meeting with members of the Society of Jesus at the Apostolic Nunciature before visiting St Paul's Grotto in Rabat. The visit will be followed by Mass on the Granaries. In the afternoon, Pope Francis will meet migrants at the Peace Lab in Hal Far prior to a farewell ceremony at Malta International Airport, from where he will leave for Rome. His programme in full may be seen below.

HOLY SEE PRESS OFFICE
OFICINA DE PRENSA DE LA SANTA SEDE



BUREAU DE PRESSE DU SAINT-SIÈGE
PRESSEAMT DES HEILIGEN STUHL

Saturday 2 April 2022

ROME - MALTA

08:30	Departure by airplane from Rome/Fiumicino International Airport to Malta	
10:00	Arrival at Malta International Airport	
10:00	WELCOME CEREMONY at Malta International Airport	
10:50	COURTESY VISIT TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC in the "Ambassadors' Chamber" of the Grand Master's Palace in Valletta	
11:35	MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER in the "Pages' Chamber" of the Grand Master's Palace in Valletta	
11:50	MEETING WITH THE AUTHORITIES AND THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS in the "Grand Council Chamber" of the Grand Master's Palace in Valletta	<i>Address of the Holy Father</i>
15:50	Departure by catamaran from Valletta Grand Harbour to Gozo	
17:00	Arrival at Mgarr Harbour	
17:30	PRAYER MEETING at the National Shrine of "Ta' Pinu" in Gozo	<i>Homily of the Holy Father</i>
18:45	Departure by ferry from Mgarr Harbour to Malta	
19:30	Arrival at Cirkewwa Harbour and transfer to the Apostolic Nunciature	

Sunday 3 April 2022

MALTA - ROME

07:45	PRIVATE MEETING WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY OF JESUS at the Apostolic Nunciature in Rabat	
08:30	VISIT TO THE GROTTO OF ST PAUL at the Basilica of St Paul in Rabat	<i>Prayer of the Holy Father</i>
10:15	HOLY MASS at the Granaries in Floriana	<i>Homily of the Holy Father</i>
		<i>Angelus</i>
16:45	MEETING WITH MIGRANTS at the "John XXIII Peace Lab" Centre for Migrants in Hal Far	<i>Address of the Holy Father</i>
17:50	FAREWELL CEREMONY at Malta International Airport	
18:15	Departure by airplane for Rome	
19:40	Arrival at Rome/Fiumicino International Airport	



**Dr Raymond and Marlene Xerri and their children
Armando and Felicity**

Was born in Manhattan, New York City in the USA on the 2nd of February 1969. Both his parents also came from Qala, Gozo. As a growing child he commenced his studies at the St. Joseph Primary School in New York in 1973. Then in May 1976 he continued his primary education at Qala Primary School. Then on 12/6/1986 he migrated to his birthplace to continue his education at the Jesuit Brothers Manhattan College.

Dr Raymond Xerri joined the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Malta in 1994 after following a Master of Arts in Diplomatic Studies; previously a Diploma in Diplomatic Studies in 1993 and Certificate in Diplomatic Studies in 1991 at the Mediterranean Academy for Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC) at the University of Malta. He focused on European Union environment legislation with respect to the Mediterranean Region.

A son of a Gozitan migrant family in the United States where he was born, Dr Xerri continued his post-secondary education at the Jesuit Brothers' Manhattan College (1986-1990). In 1989, Raymond was awarded the European

FAREWELL TO DR. RAYMOND XERRI CONSUL-GENERAL FOR THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA IN CANADA

Community Scholarship to study European Community Law at the Institute for European Studies at the Albert-Ludwigs University, Freiburg-im-Breisgau, in then West Germany. In 1990, he graduated with honours and was awarded the Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and International Relations. In 1991, Raymond returned to Malta where he obtained dual citizenship – American and Maltese citizenships.

In March 1994, Raymond was appointed as First Secretary and Consul General in the Diplomatic Corps of Malta and served his country at the Malta High Commission in Canberra, Australia (July 1995-1998), also accredited to New Zealand and The Philippines. In 1998, he became the first Policy Coordinator and E.U. Office Coordinator at the Ministry of Gozo till 2001. Between 2001-2005 he served Malta as Counsellor and Consul General at the Malta High Commission in London, in the United Kingdom where he co-founded the Malta-Day UK event still celebrated today.

In 2002, Raymond Xerri was admitted to the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy at Victoria University, Melbourne, Australia becoming the first student from Malta ever to graduate in Diaspora Studies from any university in the world and the first student of Maltese extract to graduate at doctoral level at the same university. From 2006 to 2012, Dr Xerri headed the International Office and the Office for Local and Regional Education as part of the Education Department within the Ministry for Gozo and for five years was elected and served as il-Qala's Deputy Mayor.

From December 2012 to April 2019, he served as the first Director of the newly established Directorate for Maltese Living Abroad in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion, in Valletta. In 2015, Dr Xerri was responsible for organising the IV Convention for Maltese Living Abroad. Between July 2013 and February 2016, he represented the Council

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for Maltese Living Abroad (CMLA) as one of the vice-presidents on the Governing Board, Assembly and the European Diaspora Policy Working Group of *The European Throughout The World* (E.T.T.W.) in Brussels, Belgium and in February 2016 became the eight president of ETTW – Europe's largest non-government

organisation represented over 350 million European world-wide. Dr Xerri served as president ETTW until 30th June 2019. He was appointed Consul General of the Republic of Malta to the Commonwealth of Canada based in Toronto 2019 till 2022.

Farewell Wishes

FR. MARIO PARNIS MSSP

PASTOR – ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE MALTESE-CANADIAN PARISH

For many, the news that Dr Raymond Xerri was ending his term as Consul General of Malta to Canada came as a shock. In less than three years Dr Xerri has touched the lives and hearts of many. With great love and passion, he gave to the Maltese-Canadian community much more than his job-description would have required him to do.

As pastor to the Maltese-Canadian community in Toronto I've seen Dr Xerri present in almost every function that celebrated anything Maltese. With pride he held high the values that are traditionally linked to our Maltese psyche and culture – not least those inspired by the Christian faith which Dr Xerri openly professes. As Consul General, Dr Xerri went out of his way to assist anyone who needed his help. As Maltese (or, rather Gozitan), he untiringly did his utmost to promote the Maltese, language, history and culture in every way possible.

As he leaves Toronto to return to Malta, Dr Xerri will be accompanied by our good wishes and prayers. While we will surely miss him, we are glad that he will now have time to be with his family and loved ones. Family values are highly cherished by Dr Xerri, and we know that his being in Canada made him sacrifice that which he loves with all his heart.

While thanking him for his presence and service to our community in Canada, we wish him well for whatever the future holds for him, and assure him that his memory will be cherished amongst us for a long time.

KT. CDR. RICHARD S. CUMBO,

CURATOR, MALTESE-CANADIAN MUSEUM-TORONTO-CANADA



Since 1971 Toronto has had many Maltese Trade Commissioners, Honorary Consuls and Consul Generals, all unique in their approach to the community in which they reside and serve. Representing the Government of Malta abroad is a great honour, and it is usually done in a diplomatic and discreet fashion. It seems that Raymond went far beyond what was expected of him, immersing himself into the Maltese community, the same way he did in other communities he had served. I'm certain that many in the Australian Maltese communities remember Dr. Raymond Xerri.

Dr. Xerri's many and varied donations to various organizations were well appreciated, he was the biggest benefactor in promoting the language and culture of the Maltese Islands. His photos with many Maltese-Canadian businesses, Maltese celebrities, and Maltese-Canadian organizations helped to promote these groups. A prolific writer and researcher he chronicled many exploits during his term of office as Consul General of the Republic of Malta to Canada. The community will miss him, however I'm certain that his wife Marlene and children Felicity and Armando will be very happy to have him back home again. Best of luck and good health

JOANNE CAMILLERI –ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND PERFORMER CANADA



I would greatly appreciate it if you could kindly publish this letter in your publication. On behalf of the Artistic team of INANNA on Stage and myself, we would like to thank Dr. Raymond Xerri for his contribution and years in office as the Consulate General of Malta in Canada, you will be truly missed. Dr. Raymond Xerri's decision to leave his Office to take care of his health first and foremost exemplifies true leadership qualities.

Consulate General Dr. Raymond Xerri's leadership, guidance and support to the Artistic team of INANNA on Stage and to the Maltese and Maltese – Canadians have made a mark of nothing less than the highest standards as the Consulate General of Malta for Canada and for the next Council General who will take his place. Kind Regards, Joanne L. Camilleri Artistic Director & Performer

CARL AZZOPARDI – CANADA

I wanted to take the time to recognize the efforts you have put forth over the last 3 years to unite the Maltese community of Canada. The number of appearances you made and the care you put into making sure every Maltese Canadian felt important will not be forgotten. I hope that your successor will take note and continue on with the foundational blocks you have put in place. On behalf of the Maltese Canucks and the Melita Soccer Team we want to thank you for always attending our games and even having your son [Armando Xerri](#) join the team. Unfortunately, Covid got in the way of some of the plans I'm sure everyone had, but we will always persevere. Thank you and please keep in touch!

DAN BROCK – EDITOR – THE MALTESE PRESENCE IN NORTH AMERICA

No representative of the Republic of Malta to Canada has shown more dedication to the interests of the Maltese community in Canada than the present Consul General Dr. Raymond Xerri. No one has been a stronger promoter of the e-newsletter *The Maltese Presence in North America* than Dr Xerri. It has been an honour have earned his friendship and confidence.



FRANK SCICLUNA – EDITOR

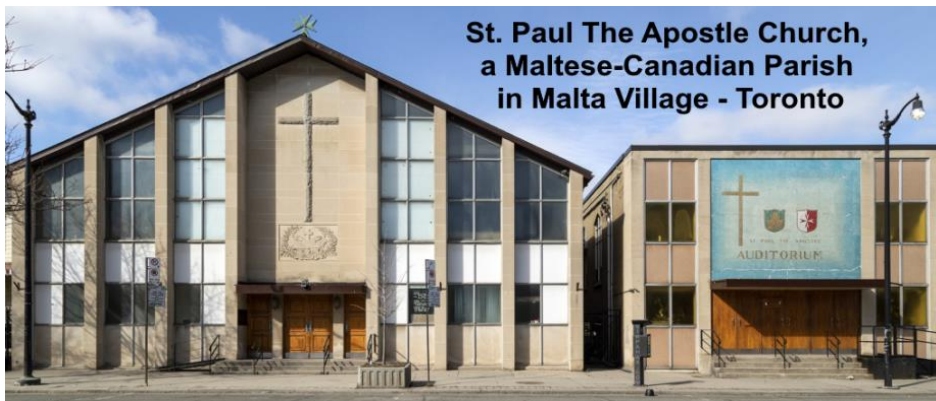
I would like to join the many Maltese-Canadians to farewell Dr. Ray Xerri whose term of office as Consul-General for Malta in Canada comes to an end. Ray is not only a good friend but also a great supporter of the Maltese eNewsletter. He used to print the journal and distribute it to the members of the Maltese community in Toronto. I thank him also for including the Maltese

Journal on his Facebook page. I have always admired his dedication and enthusiasm when dealing with individuals and members of Maltese communities and businesses. His love for Malta and Gozo is unmeasurable, and this demonstrated in the several books he wrote and published. Ray donated hundreds of Maltese books to the clubs to preserve the language and culture of Malta and Gozo. I have always received immense support not only as editor but also when I was a delegate of the Council of Maltese Living Abroad and during my 17 years as the honorary consul for Malta in South Australia. He was also very well loved and respected by the Maltese-Australian community when he was at the Malta High Commission in Canberra, Australia. I thank him for his friendship. He is going to be missed by all. We wish him health and success in his future ventures.



We are proud of our Maltese Achievers

It is our policy to highlight and promote the great achievements of Maltese living abroad



**ST. PAUL THE
APOSTLE
CHURCH
MALTESE
CANADIAN
PARISH
TORONTO
CANADA**

Toronto Feature: Little Malta

Malta may be one of the world's smallest countries, but at one time Toronto was home to two different Maltese neighbourhoods: one in the Junction, and one downtown, near Dundas and McCaul.

When Maltese immigrants arrived in Toronto in the early 20th century, fleeing over-population and unemployment, many of them were unable to speak English. Although they were able to get by, they found themselves unable to take part in every aspect of their Catholic faith, as there were no Maltese-speaking priests who could hear their confessions. Several Maltese priests visited Toronto in the years between the world wars, and found themselves listening to several years' worth of confessions! These priests soon started the ball rolling towards establishing a Maltese church in Toronto.

St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church was established for the Maltese Catholic community in 1930, starting as a simple basement church. By the 1940s, the Junction had become the centre of Toronto's Maltese community and as immigration increased after the Second World War a larger church was needed. In 1956, a new building was erected, and a rectory and an auditorium added four years later.

In recent years, the stretch of Dundas between Runnymede and Clendenan has been recognized on street signs as "Little Malta," and is one of the few Maltese neighbourhoods outside of Europe.



Fr. Mario Micallef

Fr. Mario Micallef MSSP - Pastor

Born in Malta in 1960, Fr Mario joined the Missionary Society of St Paul in 1978. During his formation years in Malta, he studied philosophy at the Faculty of Theology in Rabat, and completed his B.Ed.(hons) course at the University of Malta. In 1986 he had the opportunity to have a few months of missionary experience with the MSSP missionaries in Peru.

In the beginning of 1987 he went to Australia and completed his theological studies at Catholic Theological College in Melbourne. Fr Mario was ordained to the priesthood on November 30, 1990.

Following his ordination, Fr Mario continued to minister in Australia, mostly at St Bernadette's Parish in Nth Sunshine, and at St Paul's Spirituality Center at Wantirna Sth, which was under the care of the MSSP. From

this place the Paulist fathers also reached out as chaplains to the Maltese community of the south-eastern suburbs of Melbourne.

During the MSSP General Chapter of the year 2000 Fr Mario was elected as one of the Councillors to assist the Superior General in the running of the Missionary Society of St Paul. He, therefore, moved to Rome, Italy, where for 18 years he held various responsibilities within the MSSP General Council.

In the beginning of 2019 Fr Mario came to Toronto, where on the 25th of January he began his ministry as Pastor of St Paul's. His years of ministry with the Maltese community in Australia, as well as his wider experience whilst in the General Administration of the MSSP in Rome, Fr. Mario performs his role as the Parish priest with diligent and he is well-loved and respected by the all the parishioners and also by the Maltese-Canadian community of Toronto.



Fr. Ivan Burdian

FR. IVANO BURDIAN MSSP ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Fr Ivano was born in Australia, of Italian parents, in 1962. He started his novitiate within the Missionary Society of St Paul in 1989. Prior to his theological studies for the priesthood Fr Ivano obtained a Bachelor of Science degree from La Trobe University in Melbourne

After being ordained priest within the MSSP in 1995, Fr Ivano spent his first three years of ministry as Assistant Pastor at St Bernadette's Parish in Melbourne, which is under the pastoral care of the MSSP. In 1999 he went to the Philippines, thus being one of the two founding members of the MSSP mission in that country. In 2003 he went back to Australia, where he exercised a number of different ministries. Bck at St Bernadette's in 2004, Fr Ivano was served first as Associate Pastor ane then as Pastor of the parish from 2005 to 2013. During the last six and a half years prior to being assigned to Toronto, Fr Ivano was the Vicar Superior of the MSSP in Australia.

Through his diverse his ministries in Australia, Fr Ivano has been very close to migrant communities in that country, particularly Italian and Maltese. This experience, together with the fact that he himself is a son of European migrants, will be a great asset for his ministry in our parish.

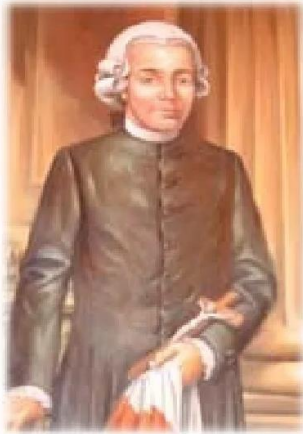


DON'T KEEP HER WAITING

Betty Byrum

The fate of a mother is to wait for her children. You wait for them when you're pregnant. You wait on them when they get out of school. You wait on for them to get home after a night out. You wait on them when they start their own lives. You wait for them when they get home from work to come home to a nice dinner. You wait for them with love, with anxiety and sometimes with anger that passes immediately when you see them and you can hug them.

Make sure your old mom doesn't have to wait any longer. Visit her, love her, hug the one who loved you like no one else ever will. Don't make her wait, she's expecting this from you. Because the membranes get old but the heart of a mother never gets old. Love her as you can. No person will love you like your mother will.



DUN MIKIEL XERRI A MALTESE HERO

DUN MIKIEL XERRI was born in Ғaz-Żebbuġ on the 29th of December 1737, to Bartolomeo Xerri and his wife Anna. The day after he was born he was baptised and given the name

Mikael Archangelus Joseph. He seems to have lived a privileged and comfortable life under the Knights of St. John. He was a very intelligent young man, and his parents did their very best to give him a good education. He eventually left Malta's shores to continue his studies at various European universities. He studied Philosophy and Mathematics and eventually came home to Malta. After being ordained a priest, he gave his house in Żebbuġ up toward the opening of a school for the poorest of the children of his hometown.

When he became a professor at the University of Malta, he moved to Valletta and lived in what we now know as West Street, close to the Auberge d'Aragon.

In 1798 the unthinkable happened and the French, headed by General Napoleon Bonaparte, ousted the Knights of St. John from Malta. At first the Maltese - or some of them - saw this as a chance for change and also an opportunity to get themselves rid of the knights whose rule they found to be oppressive and not particularly advantageous to them. However, as time passed there were things which started to irritate the Maltese about the French and they lost no time in trying to oust the French themselves. Dun Mikiel was part of a plan to overthrow the French who had, by now, retreated into the walled cities around Grand Harbour due to hostilities. The blockade was causing untold suffering among the people of Malta both in the walled cities and those living

outside the cities, and people were on the verge of starvation.

Dun Mikiel was adamant that the plan that the plotters had come up with would go ahead without delay, as he was afraid that he would be banished from Valletta by the French. Those inside the Valletta were to attack the French and open the gates for the men waiting outside the walls of the city. The men outside the walls were under the command of Vincenzo Borg Brared, Emanuele Vitale and also the Maltese priest Francesco Saverio Caruana. Dun Mikiel wrote about the plot, " I am doing this for my country for I fear that for me this will be the last deed as I am attempting more than anybody else who because of fear does not dare to obey my orders. I do not regret it ; if all goes well I die a happy man".

For various reasons, including a series of mistakes on the side of the plotters, the plans of Dun Mikiel and his compatriots became known to the French and Dun Mikiel was among around 49 persons who were arrested in connection with the failed plot.

On the morning of 17th of January, Vincenzo Labini the Bishop of Malta met with Xerri and his companions and prayers were said. Xerri and his companions were taken to Palace Square, where French troops awaited them. Xerri gave his silver pocket watch to one of the officials on duty and asked to be shot through the heart. His cry, before being shot, was "Lord have mercy on us! Viva Malta!" He was 61 when he died. Dun Mikiel Xerri and some of his men were buried in the little cemetery at the side of the Floriana parish church of St Publius. Among those buried at this site were Guliermu Lorenzi, Matthew Pulis, Michele Vella and Dun Miju Zarb. A marble slab at the side of the church still commemorates him and his companions executed on this day in Valletta.

IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ACTION

By Sean Richardson

Presidents Biden and Putin were planning to hold a summit to de-escalate the Ukrainian situation. Unfortunately, the summit was cancelled and the situation has rapidly escalated with Ukraine under attack.

Malta was in the middle of the action at a summit in 1989 to de-escalate tensions following the collapse of the Soviet Union. The talks in Malta would lead to 30 years of peace in Europe, and would become the genesis of the current tensions between Europe, the USA and Russia over NATO security and sovereign interests in Eastern Europe.

In a stormy Marsaxlokk harbour on board the cruise liner, the Maxim Gorky, US President George H.W. Bush and Soviet Chairman Mikhail Gorbachev gathered for their first meeting following Bush's inauguration. Over two days of tough talks between 2-3 December 1989, President Bush and Chairman Gorbachev announced they had set the stage for big reductions in troops and weapons in Europe.

The Malta 1989 summit was credited as having ended the Cold War and were hailed as the most important since 1945. In 1945 the island hosted President Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Churchill to plan the final campaign against the Germans and to prepare for the Yalta Summit with Soviet leader Stalin, which would bring an end to world war two and negotiate the subsequent plans for Europe, in particular Soviet occupied Germany. Only weeks before the Bush and Gorbachev meeting, the Berlin wall had been torn down and early planning had begun for the reunification of Germany. These plans would be a key discussion point at the summit, including a future unified Germany's role in NATO.

As the hosting party, the US plan had been to hold the talks on naval vessels. A US Navy ship was docked in Birżebbuġa for the summit. However, with a storm raging, the talks were moved onto the Soviet cruise liner anchored in Marsaxlokk harbour, still the Summit was nick named the "Seasick Summit" by the international media.

The choice of Malta as a venue was the subject of considerable pre-summit negotiations between the two superpowers. According to Condoleezza Rice, of the US delegation:

"... it took a long time to get it arranged, finding a place that would not be ceremonial, a place where you didn't have to do a lot of other bilaterals."



The choice of Malta was highly symbolic, being strategically located at the geographic centre of the Mediterranean Sea. Malta had declared its neutrality between the two superpowers in 1980, following the closure of British military bases and the NATO Regional Headquarters that had been located on Malta.

As an independent republic, Malta offered a neutral site convenient to the U.S. 6th Fleet, and to Rome, the site of a planned Gorbachev visit before the summit.

During the talks there was a recognition that the Soviet position in Eastern Europe was weakening and Gorbachev had a poor hand in the negotiations. There was an American desire to reunify Germany under NATO auspices. The Summit's key sticking points were how to reunite east and west Germany, and the desire for US support of reforms within the old Soviet Union and balanced with the Soviet's determination for the Americans to end Cold War policies designed to isolate and weaken the USSR. Considering the sensitivities of changing dynamics in Eastern Europe, in return the Americans wanted Soviet forbearance in the face of the changing power structures in Eastern Europe. These negotiations were conducted against a backdrop of contentious arms control talks.

Researchers point to the transcripts of the Summit indicating that by the end of the Summit the leaders were in substantive agreement. Subsequent meetings were held post Malta, to further the discussions however, the Summit set solid foundations for future negotiations.

Gorbachev remarked in 2019, "The Malta Summit in 1989 was so important, that if it had not taken place, the world out there would be unrecognisable to the one we live in today."

Let us all hope that a Biden and Putin summit can be held and save the people of Ukraine being caught in the middle of an escalated deadly war.

THE HAMLET OF IL-BIDNIJA



Bidnija is a rural hamlet between Mosta, St. Paul's Bay and Mgarr. It is located in the northern region of Malta and is home to roughly 308 people per 2008, the second least populated habitable zone on the Maltese islands after Mdina (306 people). It is located between two main valleys; Qannotta Valley and Pwales Valley, extending into other small valleys surrounding the area. It is largely a rural village surrounded by fields mainly belong to the inhabitants, although over the years other Maltese and foreigners have settled in the area generally for its countryside views.

At present, Bidnija is administered by the local councils of Mosta and St. Paul's Bay. It is home to some horse-riding facilities, a clay pigeon shooting club and a Maltese cuisine restaurant specialising in traditional rabbit stew..

Bidnija is situated in the northern central part of Malta which through the ages was a very good position and an active part in Malta. Bidnija took its name from the 'Bidni olive trees' grove that is found in this village and can date back to 5,000 years. The Antique Olive Grove at Bidnija enjoys Protected area status.^[2] These olives are of importance to olive-oil's productivity. Archaeologists and Researchers also believe some Roman remains (e.g. Roman villas; tombs) can be found nearby, as Bidnija makes part of the rural surroundings of Rabat (Mdina), which served as a City in those ages, and also is not far from Salina coast which was a Roman harbour in the past.

Apart from this, one can notice the cart ruts that are found in the surroundings of Bidnija. This proves that Bidnija was already active thousands of years ago. Along the years, the farmers of the locality built their own farmhouses in Bidnija which nowadays are owned through inheritance by their descendants who still live in the village. It was during this period that the inhabitants which in population were about 25 families, showed their wish to build a church to serve for their spiritual needs. The works on the church's building started in 1920.

In the early 1900s, a number of small rooms were built all around the hill's edges. These served for the British soldiers to stay in watching the Maltese island during the World War II when Malta was a British colony. A number of war shelters are also spread all around Bidnija. These shelters served as a shelter to the farmers and the inhabitants of the village during the war. Bidnija Church In the 1920s a church designed by mason Salvu Zahra, was built in the area by the inhabitants themselves to serve for their spiritual needs. The church was built in just two years and each family in Bidnija decided to donate something to furnish the church. This church is dedicated to the Holy Family of Nazareth. A titular painting, together with two other works in this church were painted by Gianni Vella

The titular statue of the Holy Family was made by Wistin Camilleri and blessed in July 1977 by the Archpriest of Mosta of those years Mons. Bartolomeo Bezzina and a procession was held for the first time. The statue was commissioned and paid for by Angelo Galea (tat-Tork) as an ex-voto. The feast with the procession in the streets of Bidnija is celebrated by the people of this village on the 3rd Sunday of July. The first feast was celebrated in 1977.

As part of protecting Malta's patrimony, and of protecting it for the benefit of present and future generations, the church of the Holy Family in Bidnija was restored in 2019.

CYNTHIA TURNER (1933 – 2021)

was one of Malta's leading pianists. She was born in Valletta in 1932. She was educated at the Convent of the Sacred Heart, and also started studying piano at a young age under the guidance of Giovanna Bascetta. This

led her to eventually gain an LRSM, and also to her winning a scholarship from the Royal Academy of Music in London, where she studied for a time, becoming an associate. She furthered her piano studies in Germany where she studied under Horbowski in Stuttgart and then in Italy with Carlo Zecchi and in Paris under Francis Poulenc. Poulenc composed his famous piano concerto in 1949, on commission from the Boston Symphony Orchestra. It has three movements and a duration of 20 minutes ... but it also has a special connection to Cynthia Turner.

In 1952, Poulenc dedicated an annotated score of his piano concerto to Cynthia when she was still a student at the Royal Academy of Music in London. After making sure that Cynthia played it exactly as he would have wanted it to be played, he gifted her with the score and is known to have told her, "Play it everywhere, all over the world". In 2003, Ms Turner launched a CD featuring the Poulenc concerto, which she recorded with the Russian Symphony Orchestra playing under the baton of Yuri Tkachenko.

In 1967, during HM Queen Elizabeth's state visit to Malta, Cynthia Turner was entrusted

with playing for the royal couple during a concert held at the Manoel Theatre in Valletta. Turner had just returned to Malta from her studies abroad when she received the invitation to perform for the queen, and this just two weeks before the concert itself. She played Poulenc's Concerto for Piano which earned her great reviews from the local music critics. After the concert she had an audience with Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh, who was very keen to learn more about Poulenc.

Over the years, Cynthia Turner gave numerous piano recitals in Malta and also others in many cities abroad. She loved performing for her Maltese audiences and always played to a full house at the Manoel Theatre. She was also sought after as a teacher and adjudicator of senior piano students.

Miss Turner was made a Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Academiques, and in 2004 she was also made a member of the National Order of Merit (MOM).

Cynthia Turner died on the 1st February 2021 during the Covid pandemic. She was married to Anthony Caruana, and had two sons – Nicholas and Christopher.

We love this journal. It is the most informative, well-presented and enjoy to read Newsletter in Sydney. On behalf of all your readers in NSW, I congratulate you for such a wonderful achievement.
Family Camilleri 28/02/2022

Melita Foundation to support salvage of Australian Bungalow

1920s structure was sent to Malta to assist prospective migrants

The Melita Foundation will be supporting Din l-Art Helwa's project to salvage and restore the Australian Bungalow, a wooden building typical of many areas of Australia which is currently located in Ghammieri.

This unique construction was sent to Malta from Australia in the 1920s to assist prospective migrants familiarise themselves with their future environment and to learn new building skills.

Professor Tanya Sammut Bonnici, Chair of the Melita Foundation said: "Melita is delighted to support this unique project which is marked with aspects of history, culture, workmanship and the dynamics of emigration in the 1920s. It is truly exceptional that the building is still standing 100 years later."

Visiting the site recently together with officials from Din l-Art Helwa, and the High Commissioner for Australia, H.E. Jenny Cartmill, Sammut Bonnici continued to say that Melita found the project highly innovative, and the value of the project goes well over and above its historical roots.

The Australian High Commissioner, Jenny Cartmill, welcomed the valuable work of Din l-Art Helwa with the Melita Foundation, to bring this part of Maltese-Australian history back to life.

She said the bungalow represents a very Australian architectural style, which was suited to the climate and environment. She added that it was wonderful that the bungalow would in future be open to the public as part of the countries' joint history of migration, and hoped that others would add their support to the project. Professor Alex Torpiano, Executive President of Din l-Art Helwa together with Council Members Professor Lucio Mule Stagno, Joe Farrugia, and Simone Mizzi, Secretary General, described the work that had to be undertaken to save the Bungalow, which included dismantling each part, restoring and replacing missing elements, and re-erecting them in Ta Qali's Family Park where the government has allocated a site for its relocation where it will be easily accessible to the public.

"This Australian Bungalow is thought to be the last remaining example of similar structures sent to all Commonwealth countries and is unique for Malta.

"For this reason," Torpiano said. "Din l-Art Helwa is extremely grateful to the Melita Foundation for having recognised the value of the project, and hoped



this example will encourage other entities and individuals.

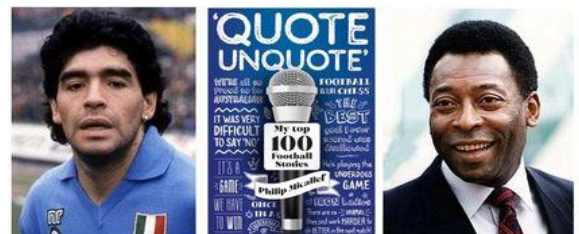
'QUOTE, UNQUOTE'

My top 100 football stories

Journalist Philip Micallef's record of some of the most significant moments in Australia's recent football history.

A journey that took him to many parts of the world and gave him the chance to interview some of the game's big names.

From Pele to Maradona, Baresi to Platini and Zola to Hurst.



Topics in the book include the men's and women's national teams, the A-League and big interviews with foreign stars and Socceroos greats.

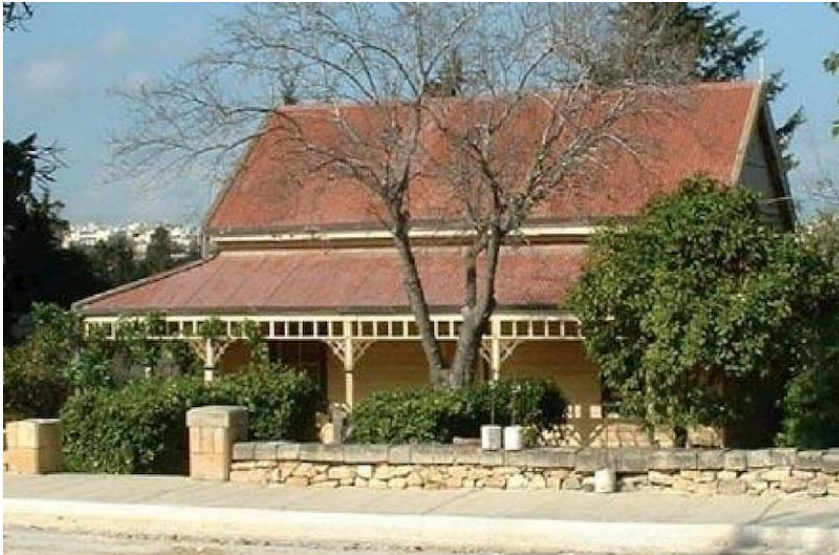
The soft-cover publication is available from Fair Play Publishing, Amazon, selected bookshops and as an e-book.

Cost is \$24.99 plus postage. The e-book costs \$12.99



How many Maltese living in Malta or abroad know about this?

Australian Bungalow at Ghammieri Farm in Malta



Early last century, when Maltese were emigrating to various countries, Australia looked towards Malta for skilled labour in agriculture and construction.

One scheme to help potential migrants was the transportation to Malta of an Australian prefabricated wooden bungalow, thought to have occurred during the 1920s.

It was envisaged that this bungalow would greatly assist in the training of potential migrants in the techniques and methods used in

building and construction. The bungalow was assembled at the private Bugeja Technical Institute (Istituto Tecnico Bugeja) in Hamrun.

Opened in 1928, the Migrants Training Centre, located within the institute, was established to train migrants in skills such as colloquial English, rough carpentry, basic bricklaying, reinforced concrete, construction of buildings, scaffolding, bush and garden fencing, and general knowledge.

By June, 1929, 137 trainees had passed through the training centre, 39 of whom went to Australia. By 1930, however, the centre - and the bungalow - were transferred to the experimental farm in Ghammieri. Only one bungalow was erected over the years, and it was used as a showroom for Australian photographs, implements and literature. The trainees had full use of it.

Around the Australian House, as it was known, a small garden was laid out; this was necessary on account of the way in which it was built, on piles driven in the ground, and also in order to give a more complete idea of the Australian atmosphere.

Over 70 years have passed since the bungalow arrived in Malta. Although the structure is in a more fragile state and has undergone numerous alterations, the building still survives at the farm. At present, it is used as a main lecture room by the Agricultural Services and Rural Development Division Department.

Ms Fabry said that the bungalow was important both as an example of a building used within a 20th century migrant training centre, as well as an example of a late 19th to early 20th century prefabricated wooden building.

The building's condition was highlighted by the Australian High Commission during the mid 1980s. However, it was not until early 2002 that the vice-president of ICOMOS Australia, Sheridan Burke, made contact with the president of ICOMOS Malta, Ray Bondin, with a view to investigating the origins of the bungalow and the possibility of preserving it.

Although considerable information has been obtained, precisely how or why the bungalow was initially sent to Malta from Australia still remains a mystery. One suggestion has been that the building arrived from Queensland as an incentive to attract additional migrants to work within the cane fields of Mackay during the 1920s.



Reliving The Sacra Infermeria: Where Heritage Meets Technology

What if museums didn't have to have a passive, showcase-style approach with panels of information hiding the beautiful stone of the old walls? What if you could interact with the Knights of St John, watch them work, and even take pictures with them? It sounds like a dream!

Many of us Maltese have probably watched a show, attended a company event or popped by the book festival, all of which were hosted within the Mediterranean Conference Centre at some point in time. But while we walk through this venue for such events, do we remember that this was the hospital of the Knights of St John which boasted

the largest ward of 16th century Europe?

Well, I wouldn't blame you for forgetting, since there are no hospital beds around to make it obvious. It is exactly this fact that made the MCC realise that it is quite a shame to have such a historically important building not open to the enjoyment of the general public simply because it lacks physical evidence.

This is where technology came in to save the day, and in July 2020 – ironically and unfortunately during the peak of the Covid pandemic – the MCC in Valletta opened its doors to the public for the very first time as an entirely virtual museum where the above questions have been made a reality...

Augmented Reality (AR) is a form of technology tied to a dedicated application which makes use of a smartphone or tablet device in order to use its in-built camera to display graphics or 3D models over what can be seen in the real world. In this way and in the case of the Sacra Infermeria hospital, visitors can now download the MCC AR app and come on site to launch footage and graphics of the Knights of St John going about their daily routine while using the physical building as the backdrop for these scenes. The true definition of history coming to life!

Consisting of an in-app audio guide in 6 languages and featuring 16 of these augmented reality scenes, you are guaranteed to never hear the words "I'm bored" from your children, as they get absorbed into the rich content and take pictures with the Knights of St John. From the rooftop terrace, which offers stunning views of the Grand Harbour, you can also play 2 augmented reality games relating to the Great Siege of 1565 and the Second World War. Think that's cool? Just wait until you get into the hologram room and have a face-to-face encounter with Grand Master Jean de Valette with the opportunity to ask him questions about his life, the building of Valletta and the role of this hospital! Malta's newest and first augmented reality museum is waiting for you to explore. With the Carnival holidays coming up next week, it's the perfect time to book and do so!

Find out more on the website: <https://relivingthesacrainfermeria.com/>

Reliving the Sacra Infermeria is a project co-financed through the European Regional Development Fund. Denise Cassar is a Tourist Guide at Colour My Travel. www.colourmytravel.com

Maltese WWII plane 'Charity' to be rebuilt

Joseph Giordimaina

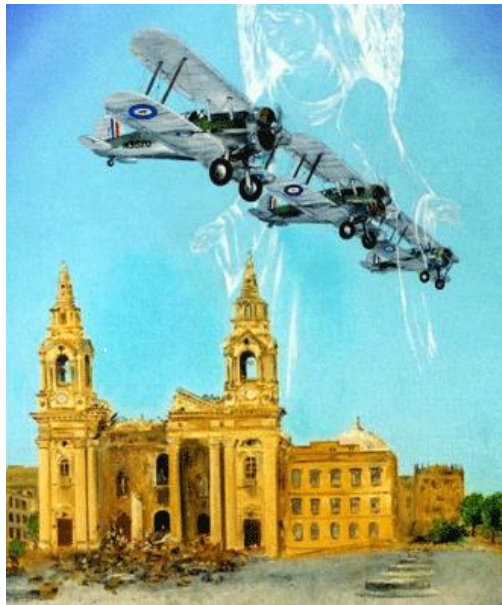
Gloster Sea Gladiator N5519 'Charity' waiting in readiness for combat at Hal Far June 1940



The Malta Aviation Museum Foundation has launched a prestigious project to rebuild an aircraft that defended Malta in World War 2, and make it airworthy again.

During the spring of 1940, with the eventuality of war quickly becoming more of a reality for Malta, a fighter flight was set up at the RAF in Hal Far. This flight was initially equipped with a handful of Gloster Sea Gladiator bi-planes. These aircraft bore the brunt of the initial onslaught from the Italian air force and despite

being outclassed by the enemy fighters, they defiantly defended Malta at the opening stage of the second World War. The Sea Gladiators, for the most part consisted of a flight of three machines, which became immortalised in the history books by the names 'Faith', 'Hope' and 'Charity'.



The Malta Aviation Museum Foundation has launched a prestigious project to rebuild Sea Gladiator N5519 'Charity' and make it airworthy again to commemorate these planes and their crews. The HSBC Malta Foundation is supporting this undertaking under the name of 'The Malta Sea Gladiator Project'.

Simon Vaughan Johnson, CEO at HSBC Malta and Chair of the HSBC Malta Foundation, who presented the Foundation's donation to this project during a visit to the Malta Aviation Museum, said: "The Gloster Sea Gladiator is a symbol of Malta's resistance at the start of the second Siege of Malta in 1940. To have such an aircraft back in our skies would be a fitting tribute to all those who courageously defended Malta during this period in Malta's history."

Director-General of the Malta Aviation Museum Foundation, Ray Polidano stated: "The Museum exists to preserve Malta's aviation heritage and there is no aircraft more iconic to Malta than the Gloster Sea Gladiator. Apart from helping us to commemorate important historical events, rebuilding an airworthy aircraft of this calibre at our workshop, will most certainly attract more visitors to our museum. We would like to thank the HSBC Malta Foundation for their donation towards this exciting project."

NEWSBOOK

www.newsbook.com.mt/



1950....Memories of a Salesian

Boy Scout

Joe Zammit Ciantar

The three-storey building of the Oratory of St John Bosco, in Victoria, as it stood in the 1960s. Photo: John Cremona

In the 1950s, there were only two Boy Scout groups in Gozo: one in Xagħra and another one which

formed part of the Don Bosco Oratory (founded by Dun Pawl Micallef) 'active groups', in Victoria – that of the Salesian Boy Scouts with charismatic Scout Master and spiritual director Fr Joseph Borg, SDB.

These active groups also included the altar boys' group, which was under the guidance of Fr Joseph Mangion SDB, and the drama group, which was managed by Dun Alwiġ (Fr Louis) Mizzi, a Gozitan from Għarb, who was also the director of the oratory.



Senior Scouts: Back row from left: Ġużi Grech, Ignatius Saliba, Tarcisio Zammit and John Attard; Front row from left: Joe Zammit Ciantar, Michael Camilleri, Carmel Sacco, Achille Attard, Mario Grech and Emidio Mercieca behind a set of drums, a brass drum and a pair of cymbals, which had just been bought by the Salesian Boy Scouts. Photo: Achilles Attard

Both the altar boys and the drama group were very active. The former took part in all the religious activities and celebrations of the oratory and sometimes even in a procession held on *Corpus Christi* in Għasri. The drama

people rehearsed regularly for plays which were presented to the public on Saturday and Sunday evenings, besides the popular Passion play, *Il-Passjoni*. The Scout Group, however, held meetings more regularly.

Three brothers, three Scouts

I was enrolled as a Scout in this group when I was 10. My two brothers, Anton and Giovanni, joined as Cubs later on (Anton and I were also altar boys).

THANKS TO ALL OUR READERS AND CONTRIBUTORS





Appreciation: Joseph Muscat: the ‘grandad’ of Maltese maritime history

Fabian Mangion

Joseph Muscat, a brilliant author and humble man with a fine sense of humour, crossed the threshold to eternal life

silently, serenely, on Friday, January 28, 2022. It is not every day that one meets a man whose depth of knowledge is also enhanced with ‘breadth’ and understanding of many different fields. It is a rare privilege to meet such an educated man who is also gentle and humble.

Born on December 16, 1934, he was the youngest of five children. At a young age, he spent hours in his father’s carpentry shop where he learnt to construct delicate wooden objects.

At 18, as a clerk with the Royal Air Force, he restored antique models of ships at the National Museum. To do so, he had to do a lot of research as there was little published information about the vessels of the Order at the time. He also bought magazines, books and ship model kits from other countries so he could scrutinise more thoroughly the vessels’ smallest details. His work was something no one before him had really paid much notice to.

He attended St Michael’s Training College, Ta’ Giorni, between 1969 and 1971 to embark on a teaching career. His dissertation was about the history of sailing vessels around Malta from the time of the Phoenicians until before the Knights’ arrival. He also presented a model of a gallery used by the Knights of St John.

In 1988, Muscat, a maritime expert, was appointed secretary to the provisional committee of the Maritime Museum. When the former Royal Naval Bakery was chosen to house the museum, he was entrusted with the task to assist in its set-up. There, besides being a ship model-maker, he carried out various restoration works on old ship models.

His passion led him to many parts of the world – travels he financed himself except once when he

was awarded a one-month scholarship to carry out research in Venice. He spent the whole month going through old documents in the library and the archives of the Grand Priory of Venice.

His publications deal with the Maltese historical maritime theme, the fleet of the Order of St John, the Maltese maritime ex-voto paintings and maritime graffiti, detailed illustrations, drawn by him, of all seafaring vessels that sailed in Malta before the Phoenicians until the beginning of the 20th century, slaves, and food and drink on Maltese galleries. His 516-page publication *Sails Round Malta – Types of Sea Vessels 1600BC-1900AD* (2008) is considered to be his *magnum opus*.

A respected international authority on his subject, Muscat participated in congresses, locally and abroad. He was an active member of the Malta Historical Society and the Society for Nautical Research of England.

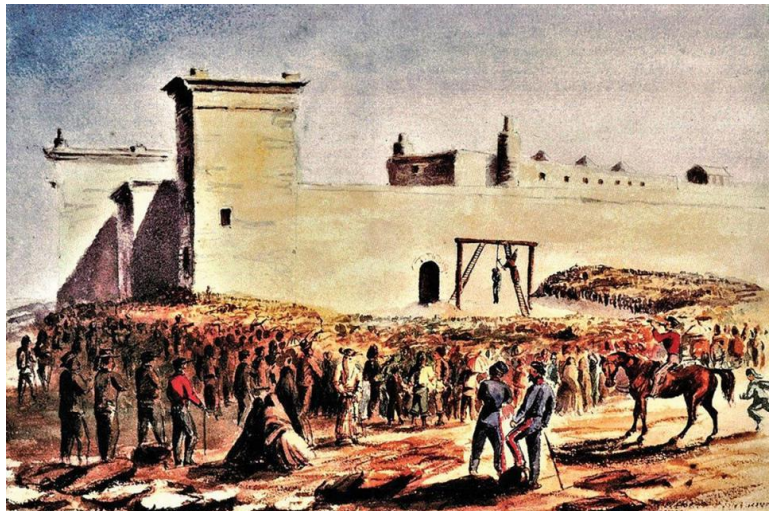
Like all truly educated men, Joseph worked in many areas including the production of educational television programmes. He also played several musical instruments including the harmonium, the violin, the cello and the organ.

Being an active member of the Society of Christian Doctrine, he spent years teaching catechism to young children in Rabat, Attard and Dingli. From its founder St George Preca, he inherited the zeal to propagate love for the crib. He truly lived Christmas all your round and was held as a knowledgeable authority on Maltese crib-making and its history.

In 2001, Muscat was decorated with the *Medalja għall-Qadi tar-Repubblika* and honoured with the *Croce dell’Ordine al Merito Melitense*. In 2011 he was conferred a Master of Arts in Philosophy (*Honoris Causa*) by the University of Malta. He was also decorated by the Rabat local council with *Gieħ ir-Rabat* in 2012.

Farewell, Ġużeppi. You left behind an impressive legacy of scholarship on various aspects of maritime history. Generations of students and scholars are indebted to you for your work and your generous guidance.

MALTA DIARY 1832 – ASTOUNDINGLY SHOCKING; YOUNG GIRL BEHEADED IN SENGLEA, TWO YOUTHS HANGED, ONE SUICIDE AND A FATAL BEATING



This is a shocking, gruesome and most bizarre affair. We tend to believe that horrendous crimes by humanity on humanity are a current development as a result of something or other. The real version is that many acts of “humanity” have been perpetrated down through the centuries and are not merely a current development – the difference being that today we are immediately informed of them by modern communication whereas in the past it took time and was mainly conveyed by word of mouth.

Was this most horrendous criminality an act of femicide or a homicide? Judge for yourselves the facts as detailed hereunder.

A-public-execution-a-scene-of-horror-but-often-entertainment-for-the-people

Senglea is one of the cities that make up the Cottonera zone, an area that has featured much in the history of the Maltese Islands. On 13th April in 1832, the door of a residence in number 37, St Philip Street, had to be broken down and the ensuing scene shocked and recoiled the Police and neighbours.

The body of a young woman, Grazia Grech, who lived and worked there, was found. Her head was only hanging by a thread to her vertebra, held only by some tattered skin and muscle around a blood-soaked razor. Blood was splattered everywhere.

The main protagonists were three. Young Grazia Grech (known as ta' Zolinzol) who worked from her rooms as a prostitute in a shoddy Senglea apartment building inhabited by the poor. Two of her admirers were two young men, Giovanni Fedele from Sliema aged 18 and Paolo Laus aged 21 from Valletta. They were apprenticed to a goldsmith and were great friends. However, they lived a restless and vagabond life.

The two young men shared her graces and a great friendship bond developed between the trio. The bond was so close that when the two lads faced financial difficulties she often sold her clothes to help them out. She always made it clear they were her favourite clients.

However, on the evening of the day before the discovery of her virtually severed head they were seen entering her room and leaving at about 8.30 pm to visit a nearby shop and came back with a bottle of rum. This purchase was unusual because previously they had always bought wine. Later, during their arraignment and trial the Prosecution contended this unusual purchase was to give them ‘Dutch courage’ for what they were about to do...as well as to numb the victim and weaken her.

Early the following morning they were seen leaving her rooms, locking the door behind them. Neighbours said that during the night they heard the youths talking but did not hear the girl's voice and there were no sounds of any arguments or struggles.

Neighbours said as the youths were leaving at 5 am Fedele was heard telling Laus who was locking the door, “quickly, quickly, let's get out of here”.

The-opening-paragraph-of-the-manuscript-which-describes-in-detail-the-murder-the-trial-and-the-execution

All these suspicious and strange movements raised the apprehension and curiosity of the neighbours. They called to Grazia Grech through her front door but received no reply. Ladders were brought

and those who climbed saw a scene of horror. The Police were called and forced open the front door and were smitten with horror.

The Duty Magistrate was called and documented that a body was found on the floor partly covered by a blanket and a bedspread. The body was that of Grazia Grech her head only held to her neck by some tattered skin and a muscle. Blood was all around and a pillow and an under-sheet were abundantly soaked in blood.

Later it was ascertained Laus was often seen carrying the razor.

Governor-Sir-Patrick-Ponsonby-who-refused-to-commute-the-death-penalty-of-Fedele-and-Laus

The two roamed the streets in a drunken and confused state. It was noted by passers-by that their clothes were soaked in blood. Later they claimed they had been beaten and robbed but later still Fedele changed his version and said he had banged into a door and split his nose and Laus had helped him staunch the blood.

They returned to Laus's residence in Valletta and were arrested by the Police.

On 10th May the two were arraigned in the Criminal Court which at the time was in the old Castellania in Valletta's Merchants Street. The Prosecution said it was an open and shut case and the two were guilty despite their pleas. However, documents do not mention their Defence Counsel and this was taken to mean they had a lawyer provided by the State for the destitute who could not afford a lawyer.

Grandmaster-Claude-de-la-Sengle-after-who-Senglea-was-named

The motive emerged the two had gifted a gold ring to their beloved Grazia but to their dismay she had given it away to another client. The two were smitten with anger and jealousy.

Fedele and Laus were sentenced to death and despite appeals regarding their young age and that their jealousy had been provoked by a most unkind act, the appeals were all rejected and their action was a premeditated act of murder.

A petition to the British Governor, Sir Patrick Ponsonby to commute the death sentence achieved no success. His reply was, "Had there been the slightest doubt about their guilt, their young age and a common sense of humanity, not less the standards of clemency with which our laws are applied, would certainly have worked in their favour, but this clemency could not extend to a killing so atrocious in nature."

Their execution took place a few days later on 21st May on the Floriana gallows. A huge crowd was present because in those days public entertainment was sparse and such executions were seen as "entertainment", others driven by curiosity and yet others in having been present at a momentous moment.

Sadly, Giovanni Fedele holds the dubious record of having been the youngest person ever executed in Malta while Grazia Grech was the first prostitute to have been murdered during the British period.

HOWEVER, matters did not end there. Paolo Laus's father, Girolamo, was saddened and stricken by remorse over his son's execution. On 14th June he went from Valletta to St Julian's and hanged himself from a tree.

The fishmonger from where the youths used to purchase their fish was physically attacked by persons unknown and succumbed to his injuries.

The whole episode was a horrible chain of events reflecting human frailties.

With acknowledgement and thanks to Maroma Camilleri and the staff at the Malta National Library, as well as "The Times of Malta". ALBERT FENECH Source: www.b-c-ing-u.com/



**IF YOU HAVE A STORY
TO TELL, SEND IT TO US
AND SHARE IT WITH
OTHERS**



Maltese Center New York City USA

40th Anniversary

1982-2022. This year will mark the 40th anniversary when the Maltese Center officially opened its doors on

MALTESE CENTER NY



27-20, Malta Square,
Hoyt Ave. South,
Astoria, NY 11102
tel: (718) 728 - 9883

October 16th 1982 as the Maltese Social Club.

The Maltese in New York and America have a long history. Over the years there were quite a few Maltese centers throughout New York City. Over time many of these centers closed their doors and reorganized. The Maltese Center of today was established in 1979 and the building was commemorated on October 16th, 1982. The Maltese had the foresight to purchase a building in Astoria to own and secure a place for future generations of the Maltese community. The dedication of the community raised funds and provided skills to make the Center what it is today. The Maltese Center is regarded as one of the most active centers in the Northeast. Throughout the year we will be taking a look back. If you have any photos or memories you would like to share with us send an email or DM. Join today and keep the Maltese Center here for another 40 years!



Maltese American Benevolent Society Inc

1832 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MICHIGAN USA 48216
Tel 313-961-8393
Find us on Facebook

MABSI

2022-23

Executive Board

Updated 21 February 2022

Carmen Nino - President
Eleno Sammut - Vice President
Mary Zammit - Secretary
Sandy Chavarria - Treasurer
Trustee 1 - Lily Micallef
Trustee 2 - Paul Scicluna
Trustee 3 - Lily Flask
Sergeant at Arms - Open

If you are interested in the open SOA position,
please contact a current board member.

SAINT NICHOLAS FESTA COMMITTEE



Sunday 13th March 2022

Good Shepherd Parish Hall
130-136 Hyatts Road, Plumpton Sydney NSW
(Opposite the shopping centre)



THE BIG FETE – FIERA TAL – FNIK

At 1.30pm

Music & Entertainment by:
The Heartbeats



With lots of popular music.

Lots of fantastic prizes to be won.

There will be drinks and food available, including:

'Pastizzi, Hobz biz-zejt or bil-Bigilla and Hot Chips'

And **FREE** Ice-cream for the kids



ENTRY IS FREE AND PLENTY OF PARKING

So come along, bring your family and friends!



IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2022

Variety Night on Saturday 30th April

Lejla Fil-Buskett on Sunday 10th July

Fiera on Sunday 16th October

Dinner Dance Saturday 19th November

The Feast of St Nicholas on Sunday 4th December



For further information please contact:-

The President – Emmanuel Vella on 0405 677 064

Or

Public Relations Officer – Stella Vella on 0414 188 226



PLEASE NOTE!!

All Government Covid-19 rules will apply

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER 414

February 2022

NOSTALGIA



IL-POMPA
TAN-NEMUS



ZUGRAGA
QABEL L-IPAD



GUGARELL
TAD-DAQQ

Maltese Dolphins New York Soccer Team



FROM MALTA TO MOTOWN FACEBOOK - DETROIT



Come learn this important Maltese Easter Tradition!
Figoli Making Demonstration April 10 at 2pm.
Class size is limited. \$10 for members, \$15 non-members
and \$5 for children ages 10 to 15 and we will have cookies
for people to decorate. Raffles, door prizes, fresh hot
pastizzi and bar will be open! Figoli forms that were
preordered can be picked up and more available
for purchase. Please contact Margaretpurdy76@gmail.com
or Facebook. Stop in during Friday nights dinners
to sign up or call the club 313 846 7077.



Mario Farrugia Borg, the High Commissioner for Malta in Australia
Attending a reception at the Residence of H.E. Yamagami Shingo,
Ambassador of Japan to Australia, to celebrate the Birthday
of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, it was an absolute
pleasure to informally meet and chat with Mr Tony Abbot,
former Prime Minister of Australia, who still recalled
very vividly his meeting with our then Prime Minister
Dr Joseph Muscat in 2018

**Trams and horse carriages wait outside King's Gate in 1911
, where the Valletta Triton Fountain sits today**



**Enjoying a picnic by the sea
at St Paul's Bay 100 years ago**

MALTA





A fresh take on tradition in Mackay

Ricky Falzon is a long way from the island of Malta in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea. Despite being oceans away he has kept the traditions of his family's ancestors alive and cooking.

From secret ingredient sausages and pepper cheese to pastizzis, Ricky is now recreating recipes that have been passed down to him through four generations.

Ricky Falzon has a passion for food and for the Greater Whitsunday region.

He is taking the best of his family's food traditions and applying them to fresh and modern ways through innovated solutions and creative cooking with his business Frisk Deli.

"It is a story that dates back to the island and has been passed down to me. I have tweaked the recipes, to modernise them, to appeal to a new customer base," he said.

Growing up Ricky had a passion for food and spent many days with his Nannu and late father David under the family home making Maltese sausages.

During his childhood Ricky had dreams of becoming a chef, as he always had a natural gift for cooking, spending many hours in the kitchen helping prepare dinner.

Fast forward to today, he is currently still working full- time in the mining industry, building Frisk Deli and running Avenue Café.

Like his great- grandfather, Ricky has inherited a strong work ethic, combined with his talent for reinvention, it has led him to innovate tradition.

"My great -grandfather was a butcher in Malta and immigrated to Australia and like all other Maltese folk back then, he had to work multiple jobs, so he cut cane and made sausages, to buy

his cane farm". It was his great-grandfather's Maltese sausage recipe that was handed down through the family, but it was Ricky's curiosity which found him creating pepper cheese and pastizzis.

"I said to Mum and Dad back then I haven't had cheese pastizzis or pepper cheese for ages, and said they are having trouble finding them. So, I said, why can't we make them?

"And that was the start. There has been a lot of development with this product, the cheese was developed purely through me.

"I would make a batch and send it out and get the feedback, all the good bad and the ugly, most of the time it was bad and ugly," he joked. Ricky said all his Frisk Deli products are accredited and meet the standards of Food Safe Queensland and HACCP which was 12-month journey of red tape and lessons.

He said the biggest issue they had was merging traditional practices into a food safe environment, that Frisk Deli could operate under.

"There was a lot of traditional aspects that I couldn't apply, to making pepper cheese. Traditionally how they would do it, was to go down to the paddock and milk the cow drop a rennet table in it. By the time they walked up to the house, it started curdling, and by lunchtime pastizzis would be made."

Part of the traditional process was during the winter months cheese would hang in the shed on a stainless- steel gridded rack with hooks, where the cheese would be smothered in salt so bugs wouldn't get caught in it, while drying in the breeze.

Today for health and safety standards, new ways to make the traditional cheese had to be found and Ricky's father and brother created a modern replica with an all-year-round cheese drying machine. Ricky said at the heart of Frisk Deli, which mean fresh in Maltese, was to continue to create traditional products through modern technologies.

"I would love to have a bigger facility in the future.

"Our vision is to be punching out Frisk Deli Maltese goods, from the region in Australia and overseas. It can get as big as it likes as long as it holds these three things taste, tradition and modern merging. – I will be happy.

"I have been able to innovate up until now and I am sure as I move forward with the use of technology, I will be able to keep punching forward."

Frisk Deli is run by Ricky Falzon and Cath Martin who make fresh Maltese goods in their kitchen in North Mackay. And forward Frisk Deli is moving.

With keen interest to export across the country, with several interstate Maltese wholesalers interested in his products, Ricky wants to put Mackay on the map.

"I love Mackay. I love the region. I love what we do, and we are undervalued.

"The diversity of our region is incredible and, in an hour, and half drive you are in a completely different place."

When asked what the next five years looks like, Ricky wants to grow and thrive right here in the Greater Whitsunday region, with dreams of a factory employing the region's people and manufacturing handmade small goods from our region's best agricultural products.

It is safe to say there is a new chapter in Ricky's family story to pass on, thanks to the foundations of tradition that have helped create a new way of doing things.

For more information or to check out Frisk Deli's Maltese small goods on FACEBOOK

MALTESE IN MACKAY – QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA THE MALTA GARDEN



The Malta Garden is the first of five themed gardens and precincts within the Mackay Regional

Botanic Gardens that pay homage to the cultural heritage of Mackay. Immigrants from the islands of Malta in the Mediterranean came to Australia in their thousands after Australian Federation in 1901, to seek a better life. Many settled in the then small city of Mackay primarily to work in the sugar industry, harvesting sugar cane by hand. Today, Mackay boasts the largest population of Maltese immigrants and descendants in an Australian regional centre.

The garden features several iconic and interpretative themes to represent Malta. A stylized aqueduct or viaduct - a system of

bridges and channels primarily used to transport water, is represented here in stone and metal and is based on several impressive solid stone structures that can still be seen today in Malta built in both Roman and recent history. A sand bocce court represents a vanishing style of the popular ball game that was traditionally played on sand, which many people around the world today play on grass.

Malta has experienced thousands of years of trade and invasion and flora from around the world has been brought to and flourished in the sunny, dry climate. This garden features plants that originate in arid and semi-arid climates, or are drought tolerant, that will grow in Mackay's wetter climate.

Carob Tree – *Ceratonia siliqua* – used today as a coffee or chocolate substitute, this tree from northern Africa and the Mediterranean also has special significance in biblical and modern day agricultural uses in Malta.



Charlie Catania left Malta as a child to have a chance at a better life in Australia. Charles and his mother had three options: England, Canada or Australia.

Charlie is 80 years old now and have been in Australia for close to 72 years. His father and mother wanted to give him and his siblings opportunities that did not exist in Malta after the second world war.

England and Canada were too cold so they chose Australia, which his parents knew nothing about. The Australian government at the time were seeking immigrants and assisted them with the cost of moving there. He remembers leaving Malta with his mother on the *SS Austuris* which also had British people on board going for a new life in Australia.

They still watch the Maltese news on SBS television to keep up with the latest news from Malta.

CHARLIE CATANIA MADE AUSTRALIA HOME

His father planned to arrive first but got to Australia after us. His intention was to arrive before his wife and Charlie, as neither of them could speak or understood English at the time. However, the flight they were supposed to take from England was delayed by a few days. So he got in touch with the nuns of St. Vincent Hospital in Sydney, who sponsored him, and they organised a Maltese-speaking gentleman to meet them when the ship berthed in Sydney. A week or so later, his father and brother arrived and they rented a flat in Darlinghurst, before my parents bought a newly-built house in Maroubra. Charlie was put into boarding school in 1949 and came out at the end of 1955. His father, who was a former British navy man during WWII, believed that if you were going to be an Aussie you had to live, eat, play and be educated with them.

In Australia Charlie met Mary, his wife of 55 years. They had four children and eleven grandchildren but no great-grand-children yet. God willing. Charlie and his wife have been to Malta twice. Once in 1990 and a second time in 2002, after visiting their daughter and her family who were living in England at the time



From left: Maria Elena Farrugia, Nicola Said, Massimo Zammit, Kate Fenech Field, and Riccardo Bianchi

From 10 to 13 March 2022, Teatru Manoel will present four consecutive evenings of opera events in *A Celebration of Opera*.

Opera-lovers prepare: Teatru Manoel to hit a high note with A Celebration of Opera

Renowned for its annual full-scale production, Teatru Manoel is now synonymous with opera. The ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, however, limited the production of a fully staged opera at Malta's national theatre this year.

Yet opera-lovers will still have an opportunity to celebrate popular opera repertoire this

March. *A Celebration of Opera* will offer four gala evenings with a variety of music from Baroque to Sondheim, featuring an all-star cast of singers directed for stage by Caroline Clegg with music direction by Riccardo Bianchi and accompanied by the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra (MPO). "Teatru Manoel is proud to continue our tradition of bringing opera to audiences, through these intimately staged Galas," says Teatru Manoel CEO Massimo Zammit. "As the pandemic continues to demand a different approach to live performance, our exceptional creative team have innovated to ensure that the Manoel, as Malta's operatic home, can still celebrate the joy of opera."

The stellar cast features Luis Aguilar, Albert Buttigieg, Louis Andrew Cassar, Miriam Cauchi, Nico Darmanin, Claire Debono, Graziella Debattista, Nicola Said and Cliff Zammit Stevens, with orchestral arrangements by Veronique Vella and Federico Bonoldi. Also joining the cast for her Teatru Manoel debut will be world-class British Soprano Louise Alder.

"The biggest challenge was making music in spaces and in formations that we never thought possible," explains Mr Bianchi. "My first feeling is a sense of responsibility and respect: given the artistic value of the cast and the MPO, I have the opportunity to work on the repertoire at a high level. But my second feeling is one of joy: at last, we can do what we have loved all our lives!"

Indeed, the packed *A Celebration of Opera* programme showcases the best of opera through its finest performers. On Thursday 10 March, the event kick-starts with *Light Fantastic*, a Gala evening of uplifting, energetic and sentimental music from the Operetta repertoire. Here, Soprano Nicola Said, Tenor Nico Darmanin and special

guests lead a rip-roaring jaunt from Paris to Vienna with music by great composers including Lehar, Strauss and Offenbach.

Voted as the most popular composer of all time, the Manoel will celebrate the timeless works of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart in *Magical Mozart* on Friday 11 March. Join the audience as Soprano Claire Debono, Tenor Nico Darmanin, Baritone Louis Andrew Cassar, Bass Albert Buttigieg and special guests perform dramatic highlights from *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Don Giovanni* and *Così fan Tutte*.

Transatlantic Drift on Saturday 12 March will meanwhile honour the musical exchanges between the shores of the Atlantic. Acclaimed Soprano Louise Alder joins Cliff Zammit Stevens and special guests to perform scenes in English from works by Purcell, Handel, Britten and Stravinsky, as well as contemporary opera company standard repertoire such as Gershwin, Sondheim and Weill.

Finally, *Passione* on Sunday 13 March completes *A Celebration of Opera* with an evening dedicated to Italian Opera starring Soprano Miriam Cauchi, Mezzo Soprano Graziella Debattista, Tenor Luis Aguilar, Baritone Louis Andrew Cassar, Bass Albert Buttigieg and special guests. Audience favourites by Italy's finest composers such as Bellini, Cilea, Donizetti, Mascagni, Puccini, Rossini and Verdi will close the event with a flourish.

"I am delighted to be invited to the stunning Teatru Manoel to direct these four very distinct Galas which, in this beautiful and intimate setting, will allow us to reveal all the dramatic nuances of the greatest operatic music from romance and drama to comedy and duplicity," Ms Clegg concludes.

Wow that was very interesting to hear about that Australia Hall where they nursed the men from Gallipoli. I had never heard about that before and I have been to Malta three times now. Malta had a history of nursing the sick in the early days with the role of the knights of Malta and the hospitals they built so to hear that in later years they continued to do this in other wars was just like history repeating itself and there again was little Malta playing a big part in helping the sick and injured. Thanks for sharing this piece of history with us. So yes I support its preservation. Leanne Giroto - Australia