



# Maltese Newsletter

Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

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**Pope Francis dines with his cousin**



**"Stop killing women,  
stop beating women,  
stop abusing women."**

**EU President Roberta Metsola  
following the murder  
of Bernice Cassar in Malta.**

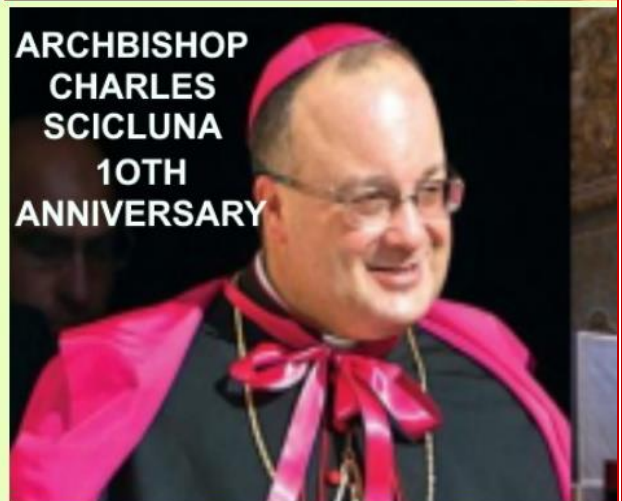


**MALTA**  
**Gaia Gambuzza**



**THE 4 "KNIGHTS OF MALTA"**

**ARCHBISHOP  
CHARLES  
SCICLUNA  
10TH  
ANNIVERSARY**



**Paul Fenech - 'ELVIS'**  
**in CRINGILA NSW**  
A Night to Remember







## ARCHBISHOP'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY

nagħtu kont. U nisma' fil-qalb tiegħi l-mistoqsija ta' Ġesù: 'Thobbni?'

### English translation

*On the occasion of the 10th anniversary since he was ordained a bishop, Mons. Charles Scicluna yesterday morning visited Freeport where he celebrated mass in one of the warehouses and met the employees. The mass was offered*

*for those who lost their lives at work. After the mass, the Archbishop toured Freeport where he had the chance to see the company's facilities. At the end of the visit, the Archbishop blessed a niche of Our Lady of Sorrows and prayed with the employees for those workers who died.*

*On Thursday evening, the Archbishop celebrated his anniversary with a Mass in the Co-Cathedral of St. John, Valletta. The Mass was attended by the President and Mrs Vella together with his wife, the Prime Minister Robert Robert Abela, the Chief Justice Mark Chetcuti, members of the clergy and religious, his family and the public. In the homily, Archbishop Scicluna said that he would like to thank God that in the people he was called to serve, the Lord gave him occasions of comfort, humiliation, wisdom and patience. He asked people to pray for him.*

*He added, "When I look back at these ten years, which seem to have passed like a dream and in which you start to feel in the maturity of your life that life goes up and down, and the idea that we have control of life, she is foolish... The more time passes the more I realize that life passes like lightning and that at some point we have to give an account. And I hear in my heart the question of Jesus: 'Do you love me?'"*

Fl-okkażjoni tal-10 anniversarju mindu ġie ordnat isqof, Mons. Charles Scicluna lbieraħ filgħodu żar il-Freeport fejn ċelebra quddiesa f'wieħed mill-imħażen u ltaqa' mal-impjegati. Il-quddiesa kienet offruta għal dawk li tilfu ħajjithom fuq il-post tax-xogħol. Wara l-quddiesa, l-Arċisqof iddawwar mal-Freeport fejn kellu ċ-ċans jara l-faċilitajiet tal-kumpanija. Fi tmiem iż-żjara, l-Arċisqof bierek niċċa tal-Madonna tad-Duluri u talab mal-impjegati għal dawk il-ħaddiema li mietu.

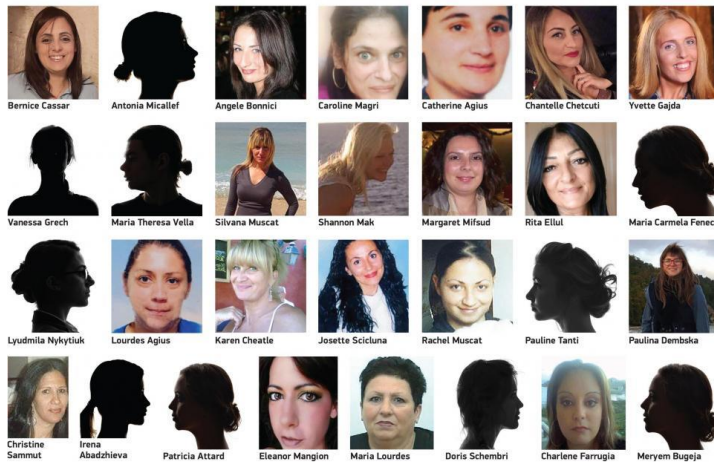
Il-Ħamis filgħaxija, l-Arċisqof iċċelebra l-anniversarju tiegħu b'quddiesa fil-Konkattedral ta' San Ġwann, il-Belt Valletta. Għall-quddiesa attendew il-President u s-Sinjura Vella flimkien ma' martu, il-Prim Ministru Robert Robert Abela, il-Prim Imħallef Mark Chetcuti, membri tal-kleru u r-reliġjużi, il-familja tiegħu u l-pubbliku. Fl-omelija, l-Arċisqof Scicluna qal li jixtieq jirringrazzja 'l Alla talli fil-poplu li ġie msejjaħ jaqdi, il-Mulej tah okkażjonijiet ta' faraġ, ta' umiljazzjoni, ta' għerf u ta' sabar. Hu talab lin-nies biex jitolbu għalih.

Żied jgħid, "Meta nħares lura lejn dawn l-għaxar snin, li donnhom għaddew bħal ħolma u li fihom tibda ttiegħem fil-maturità ta' ħajtek li l-ħajja nżul u tlajja', u l-idea li aħna għandna kontroll tal-ħajja, hi bluha... Iżjed ma jgħaddi ż-żmien iżjed ninduna li l-ħajja tgħaddi bħal berqa u li xi mument irridu

**All Maltese living abroad, and the readers of the Maltese Journal wish  
Archbishop Charles Scicluna AD MULTOS ANNOS - The Editor**



**The one and only  
Journal for Maltese Living Abroad**



## Women killed by men: Profiles of Malta's femicide victims

**Forty-four women were murdered in the past 22 years, 29 being femicides** Bernice Cassar is believed to have been killed by her husband, who is under arrest in connection with her murder on Tuesday morning.

Home Affairs Minister Byron Camilleri has called the killing a "femicide". If the courts concur, Cassar will become the first murder victim since Malta introduced the

concept of femicide into the criminal code.

But Cassar is by no means the first woman to be killed in such circumstances.

Of the 44 women murdered in Malta since the beginning of the millennium, 29 are considered femicides, according to crime historian Edward Attard. Above are the pictures of those victims: women who were shot, stabbed and strangled by men, sometimes by the people they trusted most.

## One man dead, two slightly injured in explosion at Kirkop's St Joseph fireworks factory



In a Facebook post, the San Guzepp club said Leonard Camilleri died in the explosion at St Joseph fireworks factory in Kirkop • The blast occurred on Saturday shortly after 7am while people were working inside by **Kurt Sansone**

Nardu Camilleri (right) lost his life in a fireworks explosion in Kirkop One man has died and two sustained slight injuries in a large explosion at the St Joseph fireworks factory in Kirkop on Saturday morning.

In a post on Facebook, the San Guzepp club said that Leonard Camilleri, 64, who had previously served as the factory's licensee, had died in the explosion. Camilleri had retired from making

fireworks some years ago but had recently returned to his hobby.

The explosion sent a large plume of white smoke into the air that was visible from various parts of the island Nardu iż-Żurrieqi, as Camilleri was known by those closest to him, had previously injured his hand in another explosion at the same fireworks factory on 13 February 2012. Saturday's blast happened shortly after 7am at the fireworks factory, which is situated near the airport.

At the time of the blast there were people working inside the building. Soon after the explosion it became apparent that one person remained unaccounted for, while others were injured in the blast.

The police later confirmed that Camilleri died on the spot, while another man who was inside the fireworks factory, aged 45, was slightly injured. Two other men aged 63 and 72 from Żurrieq who were tilling their fields in the vicinity were also hospitalised. The 72-year-old sustained no injuries while the 63-year-old was certified as suffering from slight injuries.

The massive explosion sent a large plume of white smoke into

the air that was visible from several parts of the island, while the blast rocked the southern areas. People living in Żurrieq described to MaltaToday, a massive blast that shook the glass panes of their windows.

The Civil Protection Department was on site along with medical teams from Mater Dei Hospital. Police and the Armed Forces of Malta bomb disposal unit were also on site. Magistrate Claire Stafrace Zammit is leading an inquiry and police investigations are ongoing.

Home Affairs Minister Byron Camilleri confirmed in a Facebook post that the explosion took place at the St Joseph fireworks factory. Julia Farrugia Portelli, minister for voluntary organisations, and Miriam Dalli, minister for environment, energy and enterprise, confirmed in separate Facebook posts that Camilleri had lost his life in the explosion.

Culture Minister Owen Bonnici expressed shock at the Nardu's death:

"Our hearts have been shattered by our friend Nardu's loss."



# REFUGEES IN MALTA

NEWSBOOK.COM.MT

Arwa, a migrant who arrived in Malta around a year ago, lost her only child – 7-year-old Maya – while crossing the Mediterranean with her in search for a better life.

This is just one of many stories of the thousands of migrants who have crossed the Mediterranean Sea and have fortunately lived to retell it.



This newsroom met with Aisha and Arwa, both aged over 20, Fatima, aged 14, and Aboubacar, aged 7, who despite looking like a family, have known each other for only a couple of years or months. They all met in Malta after managing to escape the peril and wars in their respective countries. In an interview, they described their rough journey to Malta, explaining how they were not provided with any food or drink for days on end. According to Aisha, out of 70 persons on her boat, only 50 managed to survive. When asked about her story, Arwa said that, during her perilous journey, 12 persons lost their lives, including her only child – 7-year-old Maya. Visibly emotional, Arwa could not continue the interview, with Aisha offering to take over.

Aisha started by explaining that she arrived in Malta from Cameroon around a year ago. She explained that she had left Libya by boat, spending 12 days without food and water. 12 people died by the time the boat landed on our shores.

The Cameroonian woman said that upon their arrival in Malta, many of those on board were not only under shock, but terrified. However, she said that thanks to the support they received in Malta, they finally could smile again.

"I thank God, for once we arrived in Malta, we were given all the comfort we needed to help us forget what we went through. We can finally smile a bit, for we are receiving the necessary support. It is not perfect, but it has helped us

a lot. We cannot complain, thank God," she said.

The woman said that those on board the boat did not know about Malta, since they were supposed to arrive in Italy. However, when in trouble, it was Malta that saved them, she said. Aisha described Malta as a beautiful and welcoming island. "We are happy, and for this we are grateful," she said.

We met these women while conducting a separate interview at the Wishing Others Well centre in St Julians, headed by Fr Hilary Tagliaferro. The centre is not only a food bank but also offers other things to those in need, including food and essential products. Upon meeting these migrants, we felt the need to show that they are people made of flesh and bone, no different than us.

KEEP ON SENDING YOUR ARTICLES, COMMENTS AND EMAILS  
BE PART OF THE ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF MALTESE CULTURE

THANK YOU - GRAZZI





Malta, the wait is over! We're super excited to announce that André Rieu will give a spectacular open-air concert at The Granaries, Malta on September 1, 2023!! Tickets are on sale now at <https://www.showshappening.com/.../Andre-Rieu-Live-in...>

[#malta](#) Photo by Matthew Mirabelli

## BRITISH NAVAL BASE IN MALTA – 1815 – 1914



### (Part 2) By Tony Mamo

**British wealth built on manufacturing, commerce, finance and the Royal Navy:**

The Suez Canal which was built by the Egyptian-French Suez Canal Company was opened in 1869 and linked the Mediterranean to the Red Sea. The Canal reduced considerably the journey from Britain and Europe to Asia and Australia because ships no

longer had to go round the Cape of Good Hope at the tip of South Africa. Despite initial opposition to the Canal construction, Britain bought shares in the Company and became its largest user.

Malta was on this strategic imperial sea route that linked Britain to its colonies in Asia via the Mediterranean and Suez Canal. Malta provided coal, supplies and other facilities to sailing ships and steam ships plying this route.

#### **The development of ships in the 19<sup>th</sup> century:**

In the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Royal Navy warships had not changed much: - warships were still built of timber; they relied on sails and wind to navigate; and they had two or three tiers of cannon along the sides of the ship. The ships' crews were highly organised, trained and disciplined. The Royal Navy was so superior to other Navies, that the British Admiralty discouraged the development of steam-powered boats for fear that the Navy would lose its superiority. Despite its strong traditions, the Royal Navy had to embrace new technologies to keep pace with rival nations like France.

The second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century saw major changes in the design, construction and armaments of warships and merchant ships. Iron and then steel replaced timber; coal-fired steam engines and screw propellers replaced the sails; and rotating gun turrets made the cannons obsolete. But these changes were gradual as

In the first part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Britain became the workshop of the world. Several factors underpinned this achievement – abundant ore deposits like coal and iron ore, cheap raw materials imported from abroad, inventions like the steam-powered machines, railways, factories, a large merchant fleet, enterprising industrialists and financiers with access to financial capital in the City of London, and a large workforce. Britain exported its manufactured goods all over the world. British financiers invested capital in foreign countries on the basis that they would buy British goods. Britain used its power to promote free trade which gave British firms greater access to foreign markets. The Royal Navy from its bases all over the world, was the global policeman protecting British trade routes and commercial interests thereby reducing risks for British industry.

Malta played an important role in British foreign trade. Firstly, it provided a base for the Royal Navy patrolling Mediterranean trade routes. Secondly, Malta became a trans-shipment hub for British goods transported in bulk. In Malta the goods were bundled into smaller quantities and then transported in smaller merchants ships to various ports in the Mediterranean. Thirdly, Malta became one of many coal stations that refueled early merchant ships which relied on coal to power their steam engines.

shipbuilders worked to solve technological problems. Initially the early steamships were small and had to stop at various coal stations (like Malta) to replenish the coal used to power the steam engines. These early steamships were used on short trading routes while merchant ships powered by sails continued to be used on the longer trading routes. The revolution in naval shipbuilding peaked in the last decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

#### **Development of naval infrastructure in Malta:**

To maintain its large Mediterranean Fleet, Britain built new drydocks, workshops, stores etc in Malta.

1830: Senglea creek was dredged to accommodate more ships.

1848: A graving dock (No 1) was completed. This dock facilitated the scraping, cleaning,

tarring and painting of the underwater parts of ships.

1857: The No 1 dock was extended to accommodate larger ships.

1857: The opening of the Drydocks school for children of its employees. The school prepared

these children for the drydocks apprenticeship examinations.

1858: The British government acquired the whole of Senglea creek for the Royal Navy.

Merchant ships were relocated to Marsa or Porto Nuovo.

1871: Completion of the Somerset Dock (No 3).

1892: Completion of the Hamilton Dock (No 4). The dock was enlarged in 1904.

1906: Completion of the breakwater at the entrance to the Grand Harbour to protect the fleet from north-easterly storms and submarine attacks.

The British government also built coal bunkering facilities to supply coal (black gold) to the Royal Navy ships powered by steam engines. Coal for the navy had to be of the highest quality to reduce damage to the boilers etc. It usually came from the coalmines of southern Wales.

An Admiral Superintendent was responsible for the administration of the drydocks and its employees. Quick turnaround of warships in the drydocks was critical to maintaining the effectiveness of the Mediterranean Fleet.

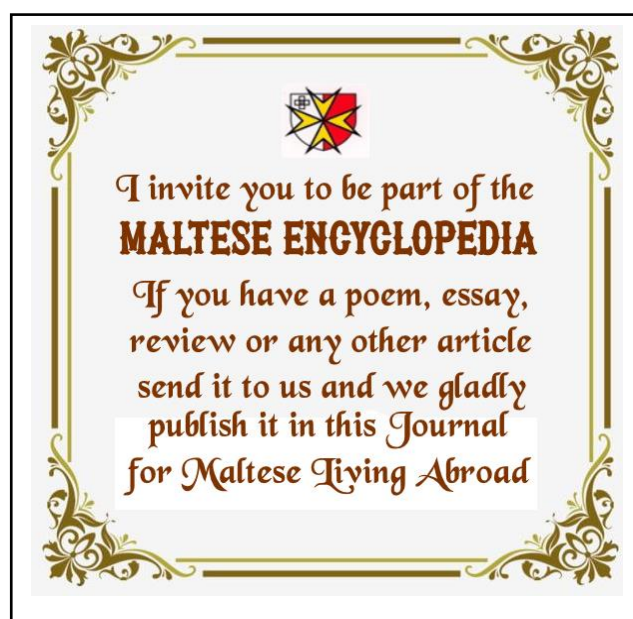
Thousands of Maltese worked on the construction of these naval assets. The Admiral Superintendent employed a core of highly skilled workers on a permanent basis and unskilled workers whose numbers fluctuated according to navy requirements.

#### **Relations between Britain and Malta:**

According to Jeremy Boissevain, a Dutch anthropologist, “the Maltese lived off the income derived from providing services as civil servants, clerks, soldiers, skilled fitters, semi- and unskilled labourers to the British colonial and military establishments which governed the islands for years”. These people were generally pro-British. For the majority of the population, jobs were scarce and life was hard because Britain did not care much about the domestic economy. Lord Kimberley, a British politician, said in 1880: “they (the Maltese) were nobody and nothing, that the fortress was everything, and the welfare of the people was of little consequence indeed”. Twenty years later, Admiral Sir John Fisher, the commander of the Mediterranean Fleet, echoed a similar view.

#### **Conclusion:**

Starting with the arrival of the British in Malta in 1800, the article traced the development of warships from the timber sailing ships to the steel, steam-driven and heavily armed warships. The Mediterranean Fleet based in Gibraltar and Malta was large because Britain was for a long time, suspicious of French and Russian imperial ambitions. The British Government spent large sums of money on new drydocks and related facilities to support this Fleet. The article examined the big changes in Europe, the emergence of Germany and the creation of two military alliances. It was Germany, not France or Russia that posed the biggest threat to Britain. Britain, therefore, concluded friendly agreements with France and Russia. British ships based in Malta and Gibraltar were relocated to Britain and French warships were stationed in Malta.







## AUSTRALIA First Nations Justice Team GetUp! Cultural Heritage protections will be legislated

Frank — this morning, Federal Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek announced that **the Albanese Government will legislate a new Cultural Heritage Protection Act.**

Two years on from the shameful desecration of

Juukan Gorge, one year since the final recommendations of the inquiry into the destruction, and years of stalling and weasel words from the Morrison Government, **we are one step closer in the fight that the Aboriginal Land Rights movement has led for over 50 years.** For over two years, GetUp members like you have stood in solidarity, working side by side with Traditional Owners calling for strong new laws that uphold the wisdom and stewardship over Country and cultural heritage that our communities have held for time immemorial. Plibersek has announced that *all but one* of the key recommendations are set to be enacted. And Frank, for this we should celebrate because the recommendations are big.

- **The new law must be co-designed with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.**
- **A review of all Aboriginal Heritage Areas** that would turn into a national register of tangible and intangible cultural heritage sites, including those already destroyed.
- **Veto power for Traditional Owners** to refuse projects impacting cultural heritage.
- **Harsher penalties** for corporations who destroy cultural heritage, giving Traditional Owners the right to pursue damages.

This is enormous. This kind of legislation would mean that Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities can start to breathe a sigh of relief. But each and every day that passes, our sites are at risk. This can't wait — we need these protections legislated *now*. **Any legislation that falls short of implementing these recommendations isn't worth the paper it's written on.** But we know that **this reform will not go uncontested.** Mining and fracking corporations will fight tooth and nail to stop these laws from being updated. Because this kind of change is transformative, and strips industry of the ability to ride roughshod over the consent of Aboriginal communities.<sup>3</sup> It puts power into the rightful hands of Traditional Owners.

This will have *huge* implications for plans like Tamboran's industrial fracking gasfields in the Northern Territory. So Frank, we have to be ready to do what our movement does best - speak truth to power, and show this government that hundreds of thousands of people like us want to see this federal legislation enacted — **and we want to see it now.**

It's been a massive campaign. We never allowed the pressure to ease, putting the Government and CEOs of mining corporations on notice — starting with the sacking of Rio Tinto's CEO.<sup>4</sup> GetUp members like you made sure that we had the very best legal advice, raising enough to bring in Eddie Mabo's lawyer to craft our recommendations to the inquiry. **It's these same key recommendations that are now slated for legislation.**

Then, we made sure that Traditional Owners leading the fight could walk the halls of Parliament House, speaking truth to power. Through their tireless advocacy, staunch Elders and Traditional Owners made sure that no politician could get away with forcing through recommendations that did not centre Traditional Owners' right to veto projects that would damage or destroy cultural heritage.<sup>5,6</sup> In the 2022 Federal Election, we put Cultural Heritage legislation front and centre, with thousands of GetUp members making calls, having conversations and putting up yard signs to show politicians that this is a huge issue that voters care about.

**And that brings us to now — where we are rapidly approaching historic reform which will transform the landscape for First Nations people caring for and defending country.**

Our cultural heritage and songlines are the core of who we are as First Nations people. The destruction of our sites robs us and future generations of the ability to read our country and connect to our ancestors' footprints.

We need to make sure that the recommendations are implemented *in full* — not watered down by pressure from vested interests who seek to damage and destroy our cultural heritage and sacred sites for private profit. **But today we celebrate.** In hope,

**Larissa, Amy, Anyupa, Edie, Jordan, Tamika, Nick, and Samala, for the GetUp team**

*All First Nations work at GetUp is led by a team of campaigners and organisers from the Widjabul Wia-bul, Gooreng Gooreng, Warlpiri, Luritja-Pitjantjatjara, Wiradjuri, Noongar, Wakka Wakka, Gubbi Gubbi, Lardil, Woppaburra, Yanyuwa and Garrwa, and Butchulla Nations.*

## In Tunisia, prickly pear producers predict cacti cosmetics cash-in

**Prickly pear trees used to grow extensively in Malta**



An organic prickly pear field in Zelfen near Kasserine, in central Tunisia.

Rows of sprawling cacti fill a valley in central Tunisia, where producers are hoping the spiky fruit can fuel a cosmetics cash-in.

"This is the capital of the Barbary fig," said Mohamed Rochdi Bannani, one of the North African country's first producers of cosmetic oil from the seeds of the fruit -- better known as the

prickly pear.

He is hoping the oil, with its rich antioxidant properties and a price tag of some €350 euros a litre, can bring wealth to the marginalised province of Kasserine.

"This fruit has changed my life and the life of the region. It's created wealth in the district, even though the fruit used to be a symbol of poverty," the 52-year-old said.

He was standing on his 420-hectare (about 1,000-acre) organic-certified farm in the parched Zelfen district. Every year, Bannani produces 2,000 litres of oil from the plant, which has been cultivated in North Africa for generations. The prickly pear tree also used to grow extensively in Malta for centuries, and even featured on the country's Coat of Arms)

Used in moisturising and anti-ageing products, it is a much-needed cash cow in a region where one third of people live in poverty and unemployment runs at 20 percent.

The cactus plant's ability to weather extreme drought is another advantage.

Some 30,000 hectares of land are dedicated to the crop in Zelfen, close to the border with Algeria. Around a tenth of that is organic-certified.

The industry employs some 5,000 people, says Boubaker Raddaoui of the United Nations-backed Market Access Project for Agrifood and Local Products (PAMPAT).

"This oil has become a catalyst for an inclusive local economy," he said, praising the cactus for its "ability to adapt and produce in difficult conditions, as well as its industrial potential".

"It's really a miracle plant," he said.

Tunisia ranks fifth in the world in terms of land devoted to prickly pear production, behind Brazil, Mexico, Ethiopia and Morocco. While some of the 550,000 tonnes of fruit it produces every year are sold in markets and from street carts known as "hindi", most goes to oil. Some 8,000 litres were exported in 2021, bringing in five million euros (dollars) in revenue, according to PAMPAT. The organisation has been helping farmers with training and business advice since 2013, and has seen rapid growth in the sector, Raddaoui said.

"Exports jumped by 50 percent between 2019 and 2021," he told AFP.



"This shows the attractiveness of the sector and the increase in demand from one year to the next." Since the start of the millennium, the country has gone from having five processing plants to 55. Zelfen alone has 11, run by cooperatives. "Before, everyone just wanted to emigrate, but today that's ancient history -- thanks to the oil," said Hamza Rochdi, a young farmer with 40 hectares of land.

Hanane Messaoudi, who harvests the fruit for the minimum wage of just \$125 a month, says demand for the fruit has improved her working conditions.

Yet the high price of its oil is not the prickly pear's only asset. In a dry country where access to water is already far below the 1,700 cubic metres per resident per year the United Nations defines as "water stressed", the drought-tolerant cactus is a safer bet compared with thirstier crops.

"The prickly pear is undemanding, adapts to lots of soil types and doesn't use much water," Raddaoui said. The success of the crop in Zelfen has prompted farmers in other regions such as Nabeul and Kairouan to take an interest.

But there is only so much demand for the product, and Bannani says "marketing problems" mean he only processes around a fifth of his harvest -- some 20,000 tonnes of fruit -- for oil.

## Megalithic Temples of Malta and Gozo A UNESCO World Heritage Site



### The Wonders of The Megalithic Temples of Malta

Historians have always put emphasis on Egypt, Greece, and Mesopotamia when talking about ancient temples. However, the small country of Malta has become a focal point of discussion after the discovery of the Megalithic Temples of Malta. The Megalithic Temples of Malta are ancient temples built over a period of 2900 years with construction commencing in 3600BC, and this makes them one of the oldest free-standing artificial structures in the world. Carbon dating conducted on some of the temples have indicated their date of construction as being 5,500 BC making them the oldest temples in the world,

and older than the popular Stonehenge or the Egyptian Pyramids.

The total number of Megalithic Temples in Malta is eleven temples with seven of the temples being inducted in the UNESCO World Heritage Site list. According to the local folklore, it is believed that the mega structures were constructed by giants, a legend from which one of the biggest temples derives its name; Ggantija (The Giant's Tower). The presence of pottery, charcoal, and remnants of human skeletons has established that Malta had a bustling population whose origin is traced to the Early Bronze Age. The Megalithic Temples of Malta attract archaeologists who are astonished of the architecture employed in their construction, a huge feat for the technology of the era. The temples were constructed in several phases with each phase featuring a distinct technology from the next. Archaeology and carbon dating have classified the stages of constructions into three phases.

**GGANTIJA PHASE** The Megalithic Temples constructed during the Ggantija Phase are among the oldest in Malta and by extension globally. The construction of these temples is estimated to have commenced in 5000 BC to about 3200BC.

**SAFLIENI PHASE** The Safflieni phase of Megalithic Temple construction is estimated to have begun in 3300 BC and ended in 3000BC and is named after the site on which temples from this period are located, The Hypogeum of Hal-Safflieni.

**TARXIEN PHASE** The Tarxien phase represents the most "recent" period of the temples' construction and is estimated to have begun in 3150BC to 2500BC. The temples built during this period showcase the peak of technological advancement of the ancient island dwellers. The Tarxien phase is named after a location where such temples are found called Tarxien.

**APPEARANCE OF THE TEMPLES** The temples usually have an entrance located at the centre of the façade leading through a passageway to a paved court. The walls consist of stone slabs some of which are set on beams. The temples were built using local stones and had excellent masonry skills evident in the arrangements of the stone slabs. The masons then coated the exterior walls with limestone to make the temples dazzling white.

**UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE LISTING** A few of the Megalithic Temples of Malta have been listed as World Heritage Sites by UNESCO with the two temples located in Ggantija being listed in 1980. Later, in 1992 temples from five other sites were listed as World Heritage Sites by the international body and consist of the Hagar Qim temple, the Mnajdra temple, the Skorba temples and the Tarxien temples.



## Maltese Jiu-Jitsu Fighter Becomes World Champion

Way to go Selma

Local Jiu-Jitsu competitor Selma dominated her competition at the Abu Dhabi Championship and returned home with the country's first-ever World Champion title. Selma participated in the Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu World Pro Championship, which was recently held in Abu Dhabi. Despite holding a blue belt in the

master one level (+35) and weighing little less than 55 kg, she took first place in the master one (+30yo) division. According to her coach, she defeated an Egyptian in the final on points after defeating two members of the Kazakhstan national team earlier on the path to her victory.



Ghaziz Frank, Grazzi u prosi minn qalbi ghax-xoghol kollu li tiehu biex tlesti u tibghatilna dan il-magazine. Emminni li kull darba li naqrah inhossni kburija bil-fatt li jien Maltija meta nirrealizza kif il-Maltin huma mxerrdin mad-dinja kollha. Mhux biss, imma kull fejn imorru jippruvaw jivvintaw xi haga gdida li tibqa' tissemma' kemm jekk tkun tal-ikel u kemm jekk tkun xi haga differenti. Bilkemm jitwemmnu dawn l-affarijiet meta Malta hija tikka kwazi invizibbli f'nofs il-Mediterran. Naf zgur li inti wkoll thossok l-istess. Tislijiet mill-qalb lilek u lil kull min jghinek biex tlestu dan il-journal tant interessanti.

**Lina Brockdorff – Pembroke Malta.**

I find it very hard and almost impossible to find words to let you know how much I love reading your

work on the e-News letter. Thank you so very much, looking forward for the next one. Grazzi hafna min qieh qalbi. Best wishes to you and your loved ones. Sahha **Henry Berry Pakenham Victoria.**

Thank you for the frequent editions of the Maltese E-Journal. It is a lovely, informative history document to me having left Malta in Dec 1954 for Melb as a 10 y.o. child from our lovely seaside Birzebbugia apartment. My history knowledge of Malta, its traditions etc have only been acquired here as an adult through a lot of reading and attending the presentations of the Maltese Historical Association. There is a lot I am still learning and discovering.

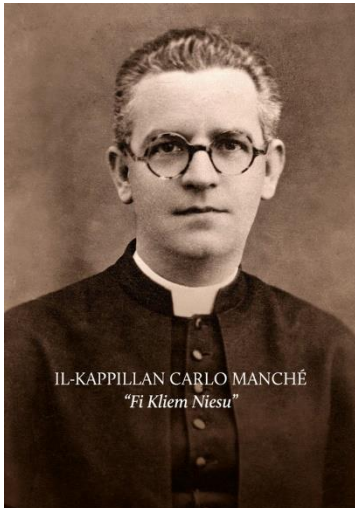
My father from Zejtun used to take me by bus each year to the November celebration feast of St Catherine, Zejtun. He used to combine this with a visit to my widowed paternal grandmother.

I learned of your journal for the first time with issue No 432 after it was suggested I place a notice with you regarding my new aviation history book.

Sadly, the Malta of my 1978 and 2016 visits is no longer. It has become a mad, sad, building frenzy without much respect for heritage even if it is of British era vintage.

Regards and Keep safe. **Joe Vella Glen Iris, Victoria, Australia**





## DUN CARLO MANCHE' NEW PUBLICATION

"Dun Carlo Manche' – Fi Kliem Niesu", huwa ktieb b'ħafna tagħrif dwar l-maħbub Kappillan Manche' li mexxa l-Parroċċa tal-Gżira bejn l-1935 u l-1950. Fil-ktieb qed jidhru, fost l-oħrajn, intervisti li għamel is-Superjur

kollaborazzjoni tal-Kunsill Lokali tal-Gżira. Tony Micallef huwa l-editur tal-ktieb.

### English Translation

"Dun Carlo Manche' - Fi Kliem Niesu", is a book with a lot of information about the beloved Parish Priest Manche' who administered the Parish of GZIRA between 1935 and 1950. The book features, among others, interviews made by the Superior of the M.U.S.E.U.M. Lorry Formosa with people like Twanny Farrugia, Nenu Buhagiar, Paulu Pantalleresco, Evelyn Cassar, Charles Portelli, Johnnie Formosa and others who all knew Don Carlo well. There are also the experiences of Rev. Alfred Manche', who is the brother of Rev. Carlo, of Rev. Edward Corrado and of Mons. Arturo Bonnici. Father Charlò Camilleri, Carmelite and from Gżira, wrote about "Dun Karlu Manche' and Carmelite Spirituality".

The book is enriched with photographs and documents, some of which are in colour and are appearing for the first time. The book is being published by the Parish of Gzira, with the collaboration of the Local Council of the Island.

Tony Micallef is the editor of the book.

tal-M.U.S.E.U.M. Lorry Formosa ma' nies bħal Twanny Farrugia, Nenu Buhagiar, Pawlu Pantalleresco, Evelyn Cassar, Charles Portelli, Johnnie Formosa u oħrajn, Ikoll Gżirjani u li Ikoll kienu jafu sew lil Dun Carlo. Hemm ukoll l-esperjenzi ta' Dun Alfred Manche', li jiġi ħu Dun Carlo, ta' Dun Edward Corrado u ta' Mons. Arturo Bonnici. Patri Charlò Camilleri, Karmelitan u Gżirjan, kiteb dwar "Dun Karlu Manche' u l-Ispiritwalità Karmelitana". Il-ktieb huwa mżewwaq b'ritratti u dokumenti li wħud minnhom huma bil-kulur u qed jidhru għall-ewwel darba. Il-ktieb qed tippubblikah l-Parroċċa tal-Gżira, bil-

You may buy the book at: <https://bdlbooks.com/product/il-kappillan-carlo-manche-fi-kliem-niesu/>



## The Embassy of Malta in Tel Aviv receives students from the Debate for Peace Program

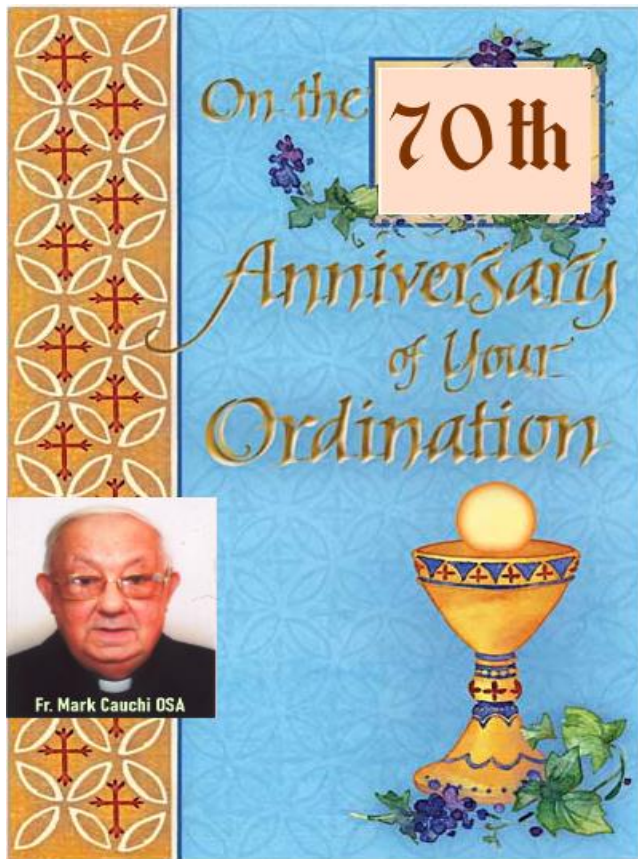
Press Release Issue Date: Nov 18, 2022

2022, the Maltese Ambassador to Israel, H.E. Cecilia Attard-Pirotta, together with Mr Charles Calleja, First Secretary at the Embassy of Malta in Tel Aviv, received at the Embassy in Tel Aviv High School students studying diplomacy. The students visited the Embassy as part of the Debate for Peace Model UN Program here in Israel.

"By moving ideas and encouraging discussions, we are building stronger ties between the people of Malta and the people of Israel" said Attard-Pirotta. During the Presentation, the Ambassador also referred to the work sought by the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade ahead of

Malta's upcoming tenure in the United Nations Security Council during the years 2023 and 2024. The Maltese Ambassador highlighted the groundwork warranted for the Maltese diplomatic mission in Israel, which in turn serve to promote the Maltese islands. Ambassador Attard-Pirotta took the opportunity to encourage the students to pursue a career in diplomacy.

First Secretary, Mr. Charles Calleja, outlined the duties entailed by the Maltese Embassy in Israel, and then gave an overview of the history of the Maltese Islands, an overview of the country's economy, and the work being done by Maltese Diplomats across the globe.



## THE BELOVED MARK CAUCHI 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination

.In 1958 I was sent to Tunisia, North Africa. At that time the Tunisia was fighting for independence. They had in mind that every Christian was French including me. We suffered a lot at that time especially during religious functions. I served in the biggest parish of Tunisia in the parish of Sacre Coeur at Bab-el-Khadra. In that parish there were more than 39,000 Christians. I was vicar coordinator of the parish. I spent there as well as in La Goulette for thirteen years. It was difficult and dangerous to live and work there. From La Goulette I was administered for three years at Paceville, St. Julian's. Afterwards, I was sent to St. Augustine's college, Pietà and joined the teaching staff and the College Board.

During my spare time I always engaged myself in pastoral work. I spent fifteen years at the College. Afterwards I was sent to join the community at our Rabat convent. From there travelled to Switzerland. where I was appointed chaplain in the General Hospital at Poschiavo. I served as was the chaplain to the Augustinian Sisters I spent ten years in Switzerland. From there I returned to Malta. And I retired but I am still active as member of the community

Dear Frank, It is unusual that am writing to you but I felt it is a must. On the 20th. December will be the 70th. Anniversary of my Ordination to priesthood. My Ordination was celebrated at St. John's Co-Cathedral, Valletta by Mgr. Sir Michael Gonzi, Archbishop of Malta.

During the first years of my priesthood in Malta I served in the several Augustinian churches and in some diocesan churches as well

**ON THE 7TH.JANUARY 2023 I SHALL CELEBRATE A THANKSGIVING MASS AT ST. AUGUSTINE'S PARISH CHURCH IN VALLETTA. EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND.**

I wish you, Fr. Mark, good health and blessings from the Lord on behalf of the readers of this Journal.

**. AD MULTOS ANNOS!**

Fr. Mark was born in Cospicua on July 5, 1928 and after his primary education in Cospicua he continued his secondary education at St. Aloysius College in Birkirkara. On January 20, 1946, he joined the Augustinian family starting his novitiate at St. Augustine's Priory, Victoria, Gozo. One year later, on January 26, 1947 (75 years ago), he made the Simple Profession of the Evangelical Councils in the Order of St. Augustine. He then continued his studies in Philosophy and Theology at St. Mark's College in the Augustinian Priory in Rabat, Malta and on February 5, 1950 he made his Solemn Profession. He was ordained a priest on December 20, 1952 at St. John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta. Father Mark also studied French at the University of Grenoble in France. Over the years he has always had a great love for history, research and writing, so much so that he has written several articles and even published books usually of a historical nature.



## A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

On Saturday 26 November 2022 the George Cross Falcons Community Centre was full to the brim with a very enthusiastic audience which was entertained by the popular Australian-Maltese 'Elvis Presley' impersonator – Paul Fenech. It was one of the biggest nights in the history of the Centre in Cringila., NSW.

The special guests were the State Member of Parliament, the Hon Paul Scully, and the Federal Member, the Hon Alison Byrnes who thoroughly enjoyed the performance. We thank these two important personalities for the great support they always give to our community Centre

The dinner was catered for by the Fraternity Club, the place many visit on regular basis. Two buses from outside the Illawarra region, one from Rockdale and another from the Marsa group, joined our community during this night of great entertainment. The show was fantastic and the backup music was provided by Vic Price.

One lucky lady won \$1,000 in the raffle on the night. The free tickets were given to the attendees although a few others were sold. The Community

**Mr. Louis Parnis – GCFCC President.**

### Paul Fenech crowned Parkes' Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist

Paul Fenech is one of Australia's most experienced Elvis Tribute performers and one of the world's most successful, with over 19 years of international and domestic experience including regular performances in Memphis USA, New Zealand and Asia.

Paul's biggest attributes come by way of his powerful vocals and energetic performances. His shows are emotionally charged and are very interactive with his audiences. He is second to none when it comes to stage presence, vocal likeness, stature and physical delivery of Elvis in the 70's.

Three decades ago, it was his dad who got Paul his first club gig as Elvis, when Fenech couldn't get anyone to hire him. His dad put in a phone

call to Rockdale RSL and got him into a tribute

show. Since then, Fenech has performed around the world, including in an official competition at Elvis's home — Graceland, Memphis, Tennessee. Fenech still performs regularly; he was in PNG in December and performed in New Zealand in March. He also performed in Malta.

Anthony's latest achievements have seen him billed as a headline act at festivals throughout Australia and New Zealand. In 2023, Anthony will star as Elvis Presley in the hit production show 'One Night in Memphis' which is touring in theatres all throughout the country.



**Elvis with Michelle and Louis Parnis**



**Elvis with Paul Scully and Alison Byrnes**





## MALTESE OF NEW CALEDONIA – HUNDRED YEARS ON – NOVEMBER 1916 MIGRATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 6) 2001

**Nick Bolkus is a former  
Federal Australian**

**Senator and Minister and former Australian Labor Party politician. He was a member of the Senate from July 1981 to 2005, representing the state of South Australia. Here is a section of his speech in the Australian parliament regarding the Migration Legislation Amendment Bill 2001.**

**Senator Bolkus said:** I support this legislation because it is the only option, but I am concerned about where it takes Australia. As immigration minister in 1995, I had the pleasure of launching a book. I will read some excerpts from that book. It was about a man called Emmanuel Attard, written by Mark Caruana and Barry York. Emmanuel Attard was a man of special dignity, charm, intelligence, patience and reserve. He was born in the village of Qala, in Gozo, Malta, in 1898. At the time of his birth, Australia did not exist as a nation; it was six separate colonies. Malta's population was about 180,000. The life of Emmanuel Attard had, in its first seven decades, spanned all of, I suppose, the transition of the world at the turn of the century. He lived through a depression and through two world wars. The book states:

In the first global conflagration, he served at Gallipoli with the Malta Labour Corps and, in 1917, enlisted with the Australian Forces and served on Europe's Western Front.

Mr Attard was 96 years old when I launched the book. I hope that he is still alive now; I have had no contact with him since that time. Mr Attard was one of 214 Maltese migrants who travelled to Australia on the French mail boat, the *Gange*, in 1916. The *Gange* had assumed almost legendary status among Maltese-Australians as a tale of grave injustice and as an indictment of Australian racism. Emmanuel Attard was one man who experienced it. The 214 men who travelled to Australia on that French mail boat in 1916 had every right to believe that they would be allowed to disembark at an Australian port, but they were denied entry. They were declared prohibited immigrants and compelled to stay on the ship until it reached its final destination, the Pacific island of New Caledonia. Don't things ever stay the same!

There the men languished for nearly 10 weeks, until finally being returned to Sydney, where they were detained for approximately 20 days on an old hulk in Berry's Bay, Sydney Harbour. Finally, after a storm of protest about their treatment, the Australian Prime Minister, Billy Hughes, allowed them to disembark. Why did they finish up in New Caledonia? How did that happen? When they arrived in Australia—and they arrived here as British subjects—they expected that they would be allowed on board but when they reached

Melbourne the actual prohibition took place. This is documented in the logbook of the *Gange's* captain. *When they reached Melbourne, the men were declared prohibited immigrants after failing the infamous dictation test which was applied to them in the Dutch language. Off they went to New Caledonia for 10 weeks. Why were they refused entry?* According to the book:

Essentially, the answer lay in two factors: the Maltese had become the meat in a domestic political sandwich and there was hostility in Australian society to any immigrants regarded as 'non-white'. The Australian people in those days were generally racist. In October 1916, for example, the Australian Workers Union described the Maltese as '**The Black Menace**'. In Australian immigration policy, the Maltese were regarded as '**semi-white**' until 1944 when, at the instigation of Australian External Affairs Minister, Herbert Vere Evatt, and after persistent lobbying by Malta's High Commissioner, Captain Henry Curmi, they were reclassified as '**white British subjects of European descent**'.

It is ironic that some 86 years further down the track we are now debating a similar situation. Responses have not changed all that much but you would have thought that during that intervening 86 years governments would have learned from the mistakes of the past—but I do not think this government has.

The Maltese remained on the *Gange* until it reached Noumea. They were there for 10 weeks. They were returned to Sydney on the *St Louis* on 22 February 1917 and stayed on the old hulk for some time. In Emmanuel Attard's case, he accepted an offer to be allowed into Australia so long as he join the armed services; he did that. His other colleagues on the boat were not prepared to do that.

It is amazing when you look back that since those days Australia has become the home of probably 350,000 or so Maltese migrants, all of whom have settled here and are a model community in terms of the migration process. It is also interesting to note that Mr Attard lived in Adelaide—and it is a coincidence that I had not realised earlier that he lived very close to where my parents lived. Eighty-six years later, we are still as a nation going through the same fear and the same concerns and the same need to protect our borders. For some period, there in the eighties and nineties we found a better way of doing it. Unfortunately for this country's reputation, this government dropped the ball and missed the opportunity to do something effective over the last 12 months. We now find ourselves in a position where this parliament, I believe, does not have an option but to support this legislation, recognising full well that this is not the best way to go.



## Valletta Cruise Port wins 'World's Best Cruise Terminal for Sustainability' award



Source – THE MALTA INDEPENDENT

Valletta Cruise Port, a subsidiary of Global Ports Holding, is the winner of the 'World's Best Cruise Terminal for Sustainability 2022' awarded by the 'World Cruise Awards', the company said in a statement.

Stephen Xuereb, COO of Global Ports Holding and CEO of Valletta Cruise Port commented, "It is with great pride to see Valletta Cruise Port and a number of Global Ports Holding ports bagging awards in various categories in this year's World Cruise Awards. These awards recognize, reward and celebrate excellence in the global cruise sector. Global Ports Holding is indeed focused on continuous improvement, whilst striving to provide the best service to our guests and customers, and simultaneously innovating services in our ports and destinations, and contributing to the communities we operate in."

Now celebrating its twentieth anniversary, Valletta Cruise Port annually ushers thousands of passengers, crew members and tourists into Malta's capital, offering a combination of location, practicality and versatility. Valletta Cruise Port's terminals are housed in restored buildings

located just below the iconic Valletta bastions. These were restored to blend the old and the new whilst respecting the historic fabric. Valletta Cruise Port's concession covers an area of nearly 5 hectares of land comprising nineteen beautifully restored Baroque 18th century warehouses and ancillary buildings, known as the Valletta Waterfront, an award-winning urban development destination in its own right.

Valletta Cruise Port continues to look to the future and is supporting a €49.9 million initiative spearheaded by the Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects, Infrastructure Malta and Transport Malta to develop shore-side electricity infrastructure as part of the Grand Harbour Clean Air Project. The project includes a €37m investment to provide shore power on the 5 main cruise ship quays of Valletta's Grand Harbour within 2023, resulting in major air quality improvements with drastic emission reduction.

From an economic perspective, the cruise industry leaves a huge economic impact on the Maltese economy. In 2019, direct

expenditure by the cruise industry locally amounted to €83.36 million of which €31 million was expenditure by cruise passengers and €52 million expenditure by cruise lines. As a signatory to UNWTO's Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, Valletta Cruise Port follows a comprehensive set of principles designed to guide key players in tourism development, to help maximise the sector's benefits and mitigating any potentially undesirable impacts on the environment, cultural heritage and communities.

Valletta Cruise Port understands that the cruise industry and port activity impact the local communities in various ways, and is committed to carry out its activities responsibly, with the aim of leaving a positive impact on the local community. The Valletta Cruise Port Social Club takes a number of additional initiatives to further contribute to the local community with various educational, sportive, environmental, cultural and charitable activities.



# TIMPANA

## baked macaroni – Imqarrun il-Forn

Timpana recipe, make your own traditional Maltese baked macaroni in a pastry case

Timpana is the ultimate pasta pie! Macaroni with bolognaise style sauce are baked in a pastry case in either a deep dish or baking tray until its golden brown. You can find this dish in the typical pastizzerias in Malta for a really cheap price!

Imqarrun il-Forn (baked macaroni). This dish is perfect for Winter, but would make a great Summer dish too, especially paired with an ice-cold Cisk! The Maltese way is to cook until crispy, however you can modify this method as you prefer.

Ingredients to make your own Timpana:

- 500g puff pastry (frozen sheets)
- 500g dried macaroni or penne
- 300g beef mince
- 300g pork mince
- 300g chicken livers, diced (optional)
- 300g bacon, finely diced
- 500g onions, finely diced
- 4 cloves garlic, crushed
- 150g parmesan cheese, grated
- 150g tasty cheese, grated
- 7 eggs, beaten
- 200g tomato paste
- 200g tomato purée
- 500ml chicken or beef stock
- 150g butter
- Salt and pepper

For glaze

- 100ml milk
- 1 egg, extra

Don't worry, preparing Timpana is not that hard:

Preheat oven to 180°C.

**Fry onions and garlic** in olive oil for 5 minutes, then add bacon and pork mince, stirring well to separate. Add beef mince and continue stirring, cooking for another 10 minutes. If you want to try the traditional recipe, add chicken livers and cook for another 5 minutes. Now, pour the stock, mix well and bring to boil. Simmer for 20 minutes. Add tomato paste and tomato purée.

While the sauce is cooking, **cook pasta** in a large pot of boiling salted water until just undercooked, a bit before al dente, to give you an idea. Drain and mix with sauce, adding parmesan and tasty cheese.

Stir in beaten eggs to give consistency to the mixture.

Line a greased baking dish with the pastry, also on the sides. Fill it with the pasta dressed up with the bolognaise sauce and cover the top with another layer of pastry which has been pricked all over with a knife to let steam escape.

**Bake for 1 to 1 ½ hours** and Enjoy!





## The Maltese in Gibraltar

Source: Wikipedia

A Maltese community has existed in Gibraltar since shortly after its capture by an Anglo-Dutch fleet in 1704. Gibraltar, Malta and Cyprus were the three stepping stones whereby Great Britain controlled the Mediterranean and the vital route to the Suez Canal and thence to India. Following the Capture of Gibraltar, most of the existing population elected to leave, leaving behind a small population of around seventy (mainly neutral Genoese people). Immigration from neighboring Spanish towns soon followed, giving Gibraltar a very cosmopolitan population. Years of coexistence and intermarriage on the Rock soon led to a coalescence of Maltese, Italian and Andalusian culture, preserving the Mediterranean and Catholic nature of Gibraltar despite the centuries of British rule.



**COLONIALISM** Gibraltar prospered with the arrival of 19th century trade with North Africa and the presence of the Royal Navy. This prosperity attracted immigrants from neighbouring Mediterranean lands and in 1885 there were about 1,000 Maltese people living in Gibraltar. Early in the 20th century the British undertook vast naval works and improvements to the existing fortifications of Gibraltar to make the rock practically impregnable. The naval base in Gibraltar was to prove its strategic value in the two world wars. Given the common cultural bond between Malta and Gibraltar, the prospect of lucrative employment spurred further immigration from Malta.

**MALTESE IN GIBRALTAR** By 1912 the total number of Maltese living in Gibraltar was not



Typical Gibraltar gharry somewhere up the Rock.  
This style of coach was a Maltese import and was often referred to as a Malta gharry during the late 19th and early 20th century (1890s)

above 700. Many worked in the dockyard and others operated businesses which were usually ancillary to the dockyard. However, the economy of Gibraltar was not capable of absorbing a large number of immigrants from Malta and by 1912 the number of Maltese was already in decline as they returned to the Maltese Islands. Eventually those who stayed in Gibraltar became very much involved in the economic and social life in Gibraltar, most of them also being staunch supporters of links with the UK. The situation in Malta was very different, where, despite an earlier attempt at integration with the UK, rising nationalist sentiment led to independence in 1964 and the establishment of a republic a decade later.

### NOTABLE GIBRALTARIANS OF MALTESE DESCENT

Keith Azopardi QC, leader of the Gibraltar Social Democrats and former leader of the Progressive Democratic Party.

Davina Barbara, TV presenter of the Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation.

Charles Caruana CBE, former bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Gibraltar.

Peter Caruana QC, former Chief Minister of Gibraltar.

Georgina Cassar, rhythmic gymnast and 2012 Olympian for Team GB.

Gerard Teuma, Chief Executive of the Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation.

Maurice Xiberras, Politician, deputy leader of the Integration With Britain Party, deputy Chief Minister 1969–1972, Leader of the Opposition 1972–1979

## Minister Ian Borg in a meeting with Pope Francis



"My visit to Malta reminds me of the kindness of the Maltese". These were the words of Pope Francis during an audience he had with Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade Ian Borg during a visit to the Vatican.

During the audience with Pope Francis, Minister Ian Borg said that Malta is always honoured by the visit of his holiness to our country. They also discussed the

ongoing bilateral work between the two states and about Malta's preparation for the United Nations Security Council aiming to continue being an agent of peace and stability around the world.

During this visit to the Vatican state, Minister Borg had the opportunity to also meet with the Secretary of State of the Vatican Cardinal Pietro Parolin and the Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher. The long relationship between the two states and the importance that catholicism still has in our country were discussed.

The work that needs to be done between the two states' foreign affairs offices in order to set up a joint commission to discuss the management of the sede owned lands in Malta was also discussed. Immigration in the Mediterranean, the situation in Libya and the conflict between Ukraine and Russia were also on the agenda.



## The Embassy of Malta in Tel Aviv receives students from the Debate for Peace Program

Reference Number: , Press Release Issue

Date: Nov 18, 2022

On Friday, 18 November 2022, the Maltese Ambassador to Israel, H.E. Cecilia Attard-Pirotta, together with Mr Charles Calleja, First Secretary at the Embassy of Malta in Tel Aviv, received at the Embassy in Tel Aviv High School students studying

diplomacy. The students visited the Embassy as part of the Debate for Peace Model UN Program here in Israel.

"By moving ideas and encouraging discussions, we are building stronger ties between the people of Malta and the people of Israel" said Attard-Pirotta. During the Presentation, the Ambassador also referred to the work sought by the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade ahead of Malta's upcoming tenure in the United Nations Security Council during the years 2023 and 2024. The Maltese Ambassador highlighted the groundwork warranted for the Maltese diplomatic mission in Israel, which in turn serve to promote the Maltese islands. Ambassador Attard-Pirotta took the opportunity to encourage the students to pursue a career in diplomacy.

First Secretary, Mr. Charles Calleja, outlined the duties entailed by the Maltese Embassy in Israel, and then gave an overview of the history of the Maltese Islands, an overview of the country's economy, and the work being done by Maltese Diplomats across the globe.



## The great earthquake that hit Malta in 1693

Malta has experienced many earth tremors, some so slight as to pass by almost unnoticed. At other times, shocks have been greater and damage was caused. Perhaps the tremor that caused most damage in the Maltese islands...

January 13, 2020 | Joseph Grimal | 07 min read

The church of St George in Victoria, Gozo, whose dome caved in when the 1693 earthquake hit the island.

In the course of local history, Malta has experienced many earth tremors, some so slight as to pass by almost unnoticed. At other times, shocks have been greater and damage was caused. Perhaps the tremor that caused most damage in the Maltese islands and which is usually ranked as being the most terrible earthquake recorded in the history of Malta was the one that occurred in January 1693.

It seems that the earthquake followed in the wake of a great volcanic eruption by Mount Etna in neighbouring Sicily where the resulting tremors terrified the population. Slight shocks were experienced in Malta on January 9 but these were only the forerunners of the great tremor of January 11.

On that particular Sunday afternoon, at 2pm, a strange rumbling sound was heard, with one eyewitness describing it as “the noise of an ever-approaching cart” but which was more horrible the nearer it was heard. When recording Grazia Cassar’s last will, Notary Marc’Antonio Brancati, for some unexplained reason, included a description of the earthquake as a very loud crack like a thunderbolt roaring in the distance but approaching all the time, together with a great upheaval of the earth while the house swayed and its walls shook.

Canon G.P. Agius de Soldanis wrote that, at Xlendi Bay in Gozo, the sea retired for a mile from the shore while a quantity of rocks broke away from the precipice at Ġebel Sannat. However, although damage – quite extensive in some cases – was reported, no lives were lost. The epicentre of the earthquake had been in Sicily where casualties were estimated to have included at least between 50,000 and 60,000 deaths.

The 1693 earthquake filled the Maltese population with great fear and anxiety. As so often happens in the face of adversity and common danger, the local government and the people sought divine mercy and intercession by praying to the saints, particularly to St Paul.

Grand Master Adrien de Wignacourt ordered the temporary closure of the law courts, stopped all kinds of entertainment, and cancelled all carnival celebrations for 1693. The Knights were encouraged to participate in acts of repentance, and the Holy Sacrament was exposed at St John Conventual Church. The members of the Order were urged to fast on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday of the week ending on January 26 when an aux flambeaux procession with the relic of the arm of St John the Baptist was to proceed from St John’s.

Bishop Davide Cocco Palmieri also ordered the exposition of the Holy Sacrament in the whole diocese for several days. Special processions were held at Mdina and several other localities while, on January 25, the feast of the Conversion of St Paul, all the parishes participated in a general procession to St Paul’s Bay where High Mass, followed by benediction, was sung for the occasion. The Cathedral Chapter also instituted an annual votive procession and Mass for January 11, while a dowry of 50 scudi was to be given to a poor female orphan to be married on January 11, 1694, the first anniversary of the earthquake.

In Gozo, prayers for intercession were mainly directed to St Ursula and an annual votive procession was also instituted. It was to take place on the second Sunday of January and was to proceed from the collegiate church in the Castello (now the Gozo Cathedral) to the church of Our Lady of Grace, then known as Ta’ Fomm ir-Riĥ.

The present Gozo Cathedral erected in 1711 to replace the ruined collegiate church.

*Although damage – quite extensive in some cases – was reported, no lives were lost*

All these religious manifestations were held to alleviate God’s anger by direct prayer, penance and also by praying to saints for their intercession.

Although no lives were lost, yet an appreciable amount of damage was suffered. Certainly the best-known is the partial destruction of Mdina’s medieval cathedral, of which only the apse, with its then recent

painting by Mattia Preti, remained intact. Planning for a new cathedral was actually already in hand before the earthquake struck.

Together with the fortifications, many buildings in Mdina, which was already being depopulated and deserted at that time, suffered appreciable damages due to the fact that the Old City is built on a hill where tremor effects are more manifest, apart from the clayey nature of parts of the hill itself. The 1693 damages paved the way for the eventual building of the present cathedral to the plans of Lorenzo Gafà and the subsequent remodelling of appreciable parts of the city to the plans of François de Mondion during the magistracy of Antonio Manoel de Vilhena (1722-36).

On January 16, the Order commissioned three knights to report about damages in Valletta and Cottonera. Their first report concerned Valletta, wherein it was stated that there were many houses that suffered damages but needed only slight repairs. However, there were others that were partly or wholly in a dangerous state, including the Jesuit College, whose main dormitory was destroyed, and the church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, which was closed to the public because of the great damage suffered in the vault.

At least 10 houses were to be demolished immediately to prevent damage to neighbouring buildings, while at least another nine were to be repaired immediately for the same reason. Repairs were also to be effected to the Auberge d'Aragon and to houses (in modern Merchants Street) belonging to the Priory of Castille.

Much less damage was reported in the three cities of Cottonera. In Vittoriosa, the so-called Old Palace suffered great damage and it was recommended that at least part of it be pulled down. Two houses were also recommended for complete demolition.

In Cospicua, only one house near the so-called Ponte del Manderaggio was considerably damaged and earmarked for demolition. However, Senglea parish church incurred serious damages such that the commissioners recommended that the dome be demolished because it was feared it might collapse without warning. Two Senglea houses were also in ruins.

Unfortunately, information about the countryside and the villages is scanty and conspicuous by its absence. Perhaps there was little damage but the way the whole population responded to religious manifestations is a sure indication that the tremor was really felt and installed terror in all. In fact, many Maltese actually spent a number of nights living under makeshift tents because they feared being buried alive under debris should another tremor take place.

In Gozo, it seems that damage was restricted to Victoria and the Castello (Citadel). In fact, research has established that, to quote one example, no damages occurred in the Nadur area. The engineer Mederico Blondel was sent to Gozo to assess the damages that had occurred there.

Blondel found a castle in ruins with one-third of the houses levelled to the ground. But the engineer pointed out that considerable damage was due to the fact that most of the damaged buildings had long been deserted and the earthquake had simply hastened a process already under way. However, the collegiate church was badly damaged and the dome of the newly-constructed church of St George at Victoria had caved in.

Regarding the fortifications of the Castello, Blondel reported that the state of the walls had been in a deplorable state for a long time and the damages were not all due to the tremor. The same comments applied to the interior, that is, the government buildings within. He reported that he had long been advocating various repairs but nothing has been carried out.

The Order of St John also suffered losses in Sicily, particularly in Syracuse and Augusta, where the Knights' powder magazines, mills and ovens were a total loss. This complicated the Order's problems because these installations were an important part of its naval organisation. Indeed, the Order had to look elsewhere to obtain the necessary supplies and provisions, thus spiralling expenditure at a time when a combined Christian campaign against Turkey was being planned. The Order also suffered the loss of some men who had disembarked to load biscuits on the galleys. In fact, Grand Master Adrien de Wignacourt was seriously considering retiring from the forthcoming campaign. However, the Order received help from Pope Innocent XII who also persuaded the rulers of France and Savoy to exempt the Knights from property taxes. On their part, the Knights sent their galleys laden with medicines to Sicily to render all the help they could to the stricken population.

To express gratitude to divine providence, the Università of Mdina erected a niche with a picture of St Paul and a commemorative inscription in Latin facing the main gate of the old city. In Gozo, the painter Stefano Erardi was commissioned to paint a canvas of Our Lady of Grace holding the Child Jesus with



the Gozitan votive procession in the background. Furthermore, the rebuilt cathedrals of Malta and Gozo to plans of Lorenzo Gafà (the Gozitan church had not yet attained cathedral status) are a further living testimony to the havoc wreaked by the earthquake of 1693.

*Historian Dr Joseph F. Grima, a retired casual lecturer of History and Assistant Director of Education, includes among his publications Żmien il-Kavallieri f'Malta 1530-1798 and The Fleet of the Knights of Malta: Its Organisation in the Eighteenth Century.*

## NATIONAL MILITARY VEHICLE MUSEUM SOUTH AUSTRALIA

10 Sturton Road, EDINBURGH PARKS South Australia 5111

**Tel: 08 8285 3011**



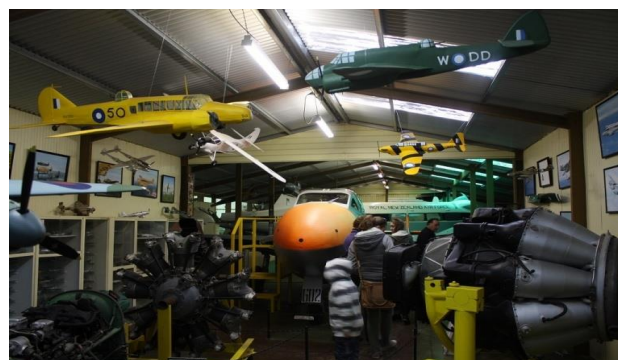
Welcome to our Museum, which is operated on a volunteer basis by members of the Military Vehicle Preservation Society of South Australia. The Society is one of many Military Vehicle Clubs across Australia and throughout the world and its members are dedicated to the preservation of vehicles that are of military origin. The museum was developed as a way of providing undercover storage for the vehicles and at the same time allowing the public to view them.

Opened in August 1993 at the old Messenger Press building at Port Adelaide and now relocated to a group of historic WW2 era



buildings within the Defence precinct of Edinburgh Parks this museum is unique number of ways. The majority of the vehicles are privately owned by the Society members and therefore each member is responsible for their own vehicles. In addition the vehicles are not just restored to look at, they are rebuilt to authentic running condition and most are road registered and driven regularly. Military vehicles and items range from the First World War to current times.

Should you require further information about the



Museum or the Society one of our members in attendance would be pleased to assist. You are also invited to loan or donate items to the Museum for display purposes. Alternatively you can contact us or email us. Take a virtual tour through our Museum now on

**[www.military-vehicle-museum.org.au](http://www.military-vehicle-museum.org.au).**

The museum is **open every Sunday and Public Holiday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm**, with the exception of Good Friday and Christmas Day. The museum can also be opened at any time, by arrangement, for group bookings.

Thanks to Sam Cutajar



**The one and only  
Journal for Maltese Living Abroad**





**Pentow bil-Malti 2022**  
**ADAMS FAMILI**

BILJETTI MINN BUYTICKETS.MT CATHOLIC INSTITUTE THEATRE FLORIANA  
 PRODUZZJONI TA' KUMPAĊIJA TEATRU RJAL B'KITBA TA' RODNEY GAUCI  
**23 26 27 28 29 30 DIC 6 7 8 JAN**

Jiehdu sehem:  
 Rodney Gauci, Mario Cassar, Brian Farrugia, Steve Mifsud,  
 Michela Galea, Lee-N, Julie Pomorski, Mariah Mangion,  
 Leah, Beppe Calleja Tonna, Jurgen Ciantar, Alexia Micallef,  
 Gorg Micallef, Sergio Agius, Stephen Caruana,

**ONLINE BOOKING: [www.ktrmalta.com](http://www.ktrmalta.com)**

**ST.CATHERINE SOCIETY OF SA**  
**Christmas Lunch - Break-up**  
**at St. Brigid's Parish Hall**  
**Kilburn - South Australia**  
**Members-Free Non Members \$15**  
**DJ - Jason**



**WENZU U ROZI**  
**The Play**  
**When 19 February**  
**Time 4pm and 7pm Sessions**

**THE MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
 OF VICTORIA**  
 is proud to present this funny play  
 of short stories of a loving yet frequently  
 elderly Maltese couple in a background  
 of village life in the early nineteen hundreds.  
 The stories are written by  
 Dr George Zammit and the  
 play will be directed by Simone E. Cremona .  
 Tickets will be available shortly.  
 In the meantime book the date on your diary.

**La Valette Social Centre Blacktown NSW**

**LA VALETTE**

**SUNDAY**  
**18**  
**DECEMBER**

MUSIC  
 ENTERTAINMENT, WORKSHOPS  
 AND MORE!!

**MORE INFO  
 COMING  
 SOON!**

**CHRISTMAS  
 SPECTACULAR**

SUPPORTED BY  
 



Young people  
 make your voice heard.  
 This is your Journal

We thank all our  
 correspondents from  
 Malta, Gozo, USA  
 Canada, UK and  
 Australia



## Christmas Concert



The Concert will be held at Messina Palace Valletta on Friday, 9th December 2022 at 7:00 pm.

### Duo Flaccord

Katharina Martini (Flute) and Christine Herzog (Accordion) will enchant the audience with a musical journey presenting interpretations of works among others by Bizet, Chopin & Piazzolla

...

**FREE ENTRANCE**  
SEAT RESERVATION IS REQUIRED



GERMAN-MALTESE CIRCLE  
DEUTSCH-MALTESISCHER ZIRKEL

MCLE  
IRKEL

## 2022 Christmas Party

SUNDAY - 11 DECEMBER 2022

Christ the King Catholic Church/Hall  
Henley Beach Road. LOCKLEYS SA

After the 2pm  
Maltese Mass  
Service.

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL - DON'T MISS OUT!**

CONTACT Mary - 0422388423 or Katy - 0429310556

Fun Games



Raffles



Pinata



### SOUTH AUSTRALIA

### 2 COURSE MEAL - \$15

Roast Pork & Veggies

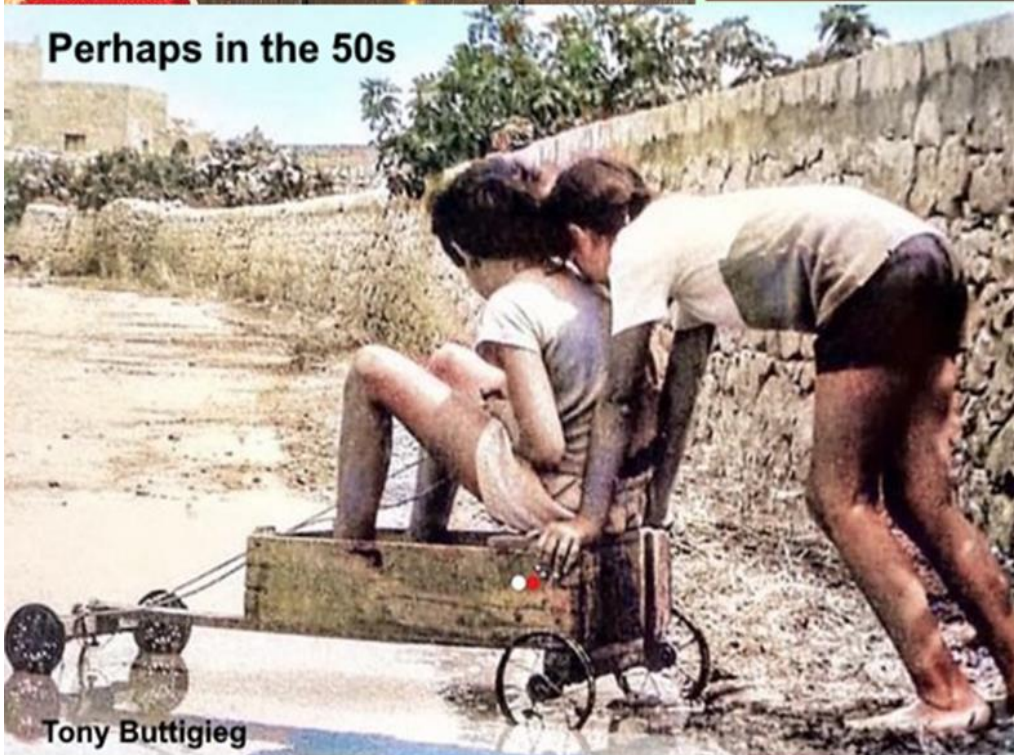
Christmas Pudding & Custard

Children 12 and under free

"children's menu"

**SA Maltese Chaplaincy  
Festivities Group  
and the  
Maltese Queen  
of Victories Band**

### Perhaps in the 50s



Tony Buttigieg

Instead of playing with their mobile or laptop or watching Television these kids are playing with their homemade cart after school.



The only  
**MALTESE  
JOURNAL**  
produced  
100%  
in  
**AUSTRALIA**





Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP  
invites you to

# CHRISTMAS at the Cathedral


*a festival evening at St Mary's*

PRESENTED BY **paynterdixon**

**8-25 DECEMBER 2022**

We invite our parish families and all people of goodwill across Sydney to come together at St Mary's Cathedral during Advent to prepare for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Festivities begin at 7pm with:**  
Christmas market stalls, food, fun activities for the kids and live entertainment.




## FEAST OF SAINT NICHOLAS

**SUNDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2022**  
Good Shepherd Parish  
130-136 Hyatts Road, Plumpton NSW

**Program for the evening**

**3.30pm** Festa Mass in English  
Principal Celebrant; Fr. Bollar Barreto

**4.30pm** **Procession**  
Maltese Concert Band will play Religious Marches

**Food for Sale:**  
BBQ, Chips, Pastizzi, Hobz biz-Zejt, Kinnie, Soft drinks, & other Maltese Food supplied by TRADITIONAL DELIGHTS

**5.30pm** **Entertainment:**  
Maltese Concert Band Programme  
The Choir will sing Christmas Carols.

A Jumping Castle will be available for the children.

**7.00pm** St. Nicholas Festa Committee Raffle is Drawn  
All Winners Will Be Notified

**8.00pm** Santa Claus Arrives:  
Lollies and goodies given to all children

**8.30pm** **Fire Works**

For more information call:-  
President: Emanuel Vella on - 0405 677 064 or  
Public Relations Officer: Stella Vella on: - 0414 188 226

Come along and bring your Family & Friends with You











We wish you a happy day  
Tislijiet - Best Regards



