

JOURNAL FOR MALTESE AROUND THE WORLD

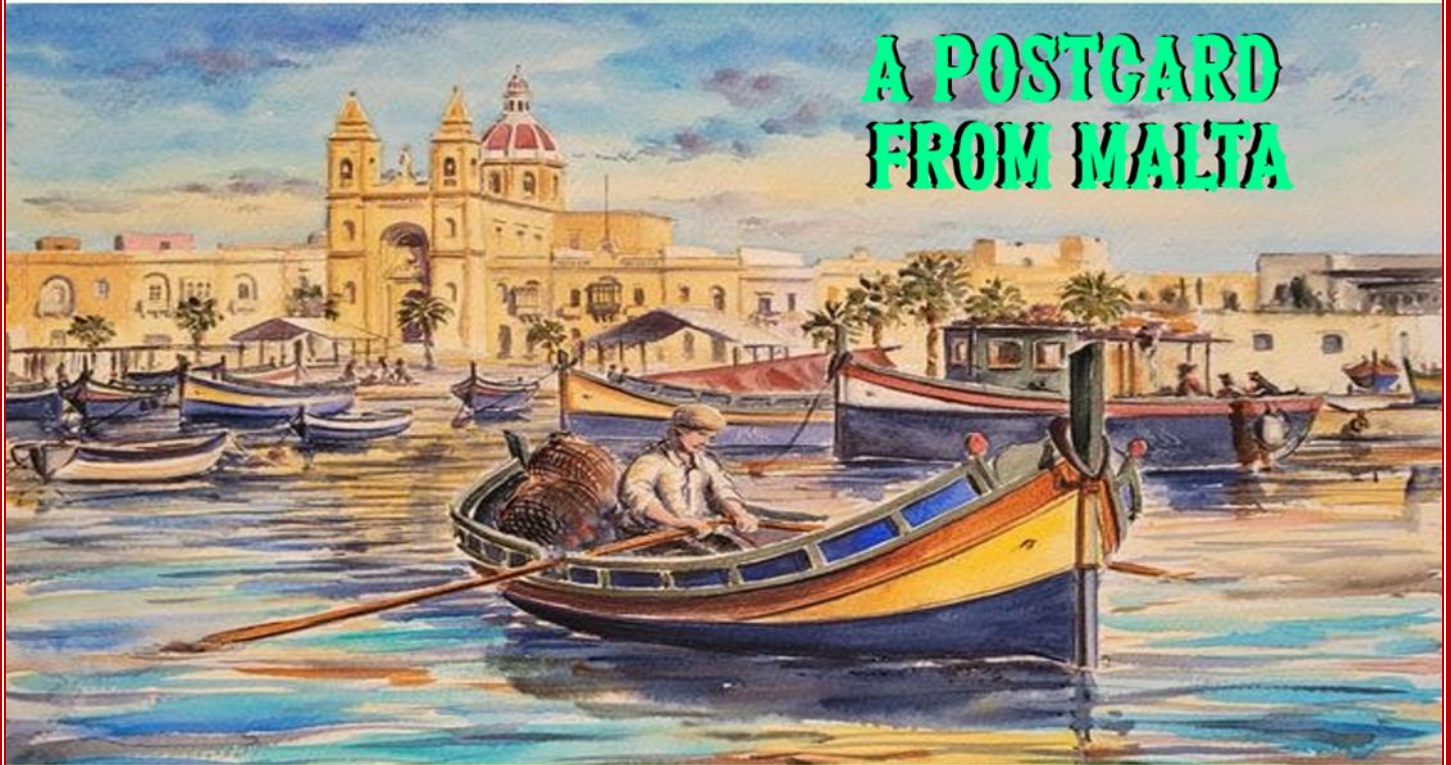


MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER



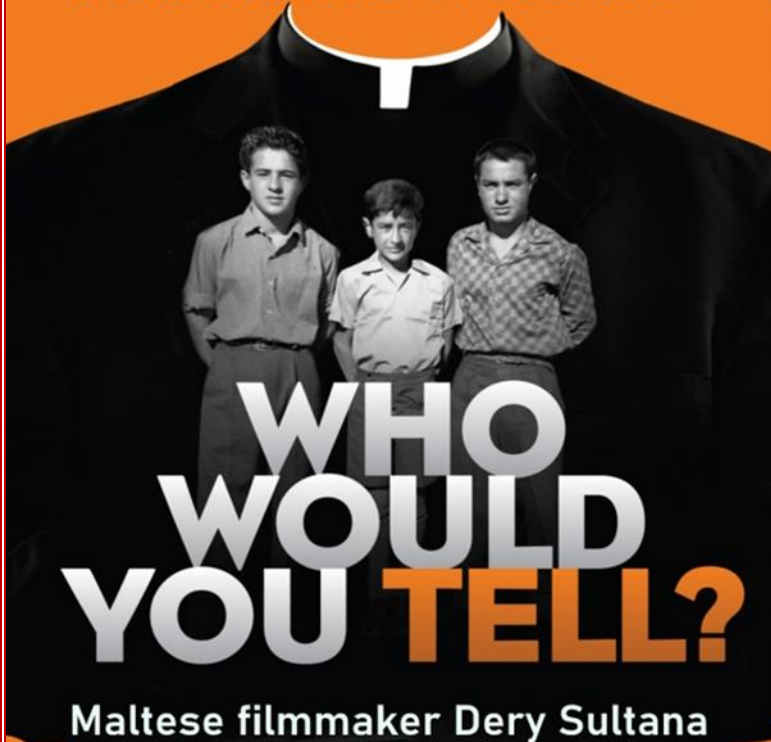
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**A POSTCARD
FROM MALTA**

A BROTHERHOOD OF SECRETS



EUROvision
SONG CONTEST
MALTA



The Busker won Malta Eurovision Song Contest with "Dance (Our Own Party)" and will now go to Liverpool UK.



THE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER CONNECTS
MALTESE LIVING ABROAD WITH THEIR HOMELAND



Eurovision Obsessions



By Sean Richardson

Malta may never have won Eurovision, but it regularly places at the top of the fan table for interest in the Eurovision contests. According to Google search data for Eurovision 2022, Malta was displaced from its

2021 ranking of #1, by Iceland for the number of Google searches for Eurovision information. Australia may not be quite as fanatical, ranking fortieth, but does qualify as European for the contest.

Living in Malta, we had a front row seat to the Eurovision obsession across the island. The selection process was must see TV with people in cafés and bars glued to the TV, briefly pinching interest from the football coverage, as the panel and public chose Gianluca and his catchy pop song *Tomorrow* as Malta's representative. With the song on high rotation in Malta, it burnt its way into my memory and remains a favourite in my playlist today.

With the recent selection of The Busker, as Malta's contestant for Eurovision 2023, interest will be sure to pick up in the coming weeks to keep Malta high on the Google search data table.

Australia does not share Malta's obsession to search for Eurovision information but this statistic belies the Eurovision fascination in Australia. The glitz, glam and music of the contest reached such consistent popularity, that in 2015 Australia became an honorary European country to compete in Eurovision, for a single appearance, but has been in the competition ever since. Australia's relationship with the Eurovision Song Contest started back in 1983 when the national broadcaster SBS, first brought the competition into lounge rooms across the country. From 2001 local commentators were added to provide a local flavour. SBS now provides dedicated programming to follow the contest. People's interest gradually increased until Eurovision parties are now common place in Australia. Eurovision partying and a dedicated Facebook page for a Eurovision fan club has taken interest to a new level. Both countries have done well in the competition. Malta's Ira Losco finished second in 2002, and Chiari matched this feat in 2005. Matching Malta's best result was Dani Im who provided Australia's highest finish, with a second place in 2016.

Australia has selected several high-profile local performers such as Jessica Mauboy and Guy Sebastian however, like most Eurovision contestants, the other performers would slowly sink leaving little trace. The



exception being Losco, with Eurovision 2002 being her breakthrough which lead to a career where she has consistently topped the charts in Malta and has supported many headline world acts on their tours through Europe.

As the interest builds towards Eurovision 2023 in May, Malta will be sure to dive into Google to feed the Eurovision obsession. With the scandal surrounding Aiden's disqualification, Malta may again top the charts of Google data searches for Eurovision. Hopefully The Busker can drive the fanatical search for information by people in Malta, returning Malta to the top of the Google chart. Australia's representative has been decided with the Perth band Voyager to contest the 2023 Eurovision, with their song Promise.

Malta's The Busker is drawn in semi-final 1 and Australia's Voyager is to perform in the semi-final grouping #2. It may be fate that pits the beats of The Busker's *Our Dance* song, against Voyager's synth-metal power ballad.

The eyes of the Eurovision loving public in both countries will turn towards Liverpool England to cheer on their favourite to perform to their best in the song contest and be those fans who are the most fanatical. Let's hope Australia and Malta do well in the competition, musicians and fans alike.

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Cosmopolitan Malta

Michael Falzon

Efforts should be made to teach Maltese to foreigners who have made Malta their home

Rather than asking Maltese to keep talking in Maltese when the majority of them do, one should help in the effort of getting foreign residents to speak in Maltese when the majority of them are actually keen to learn the language of the country of their 'adoption'

The preliminary report of the 2021 Census of the Maltese Population and Housing that was recently published by the National Statistics Office (NSO) is quite interesting. It confirms the claim that Malta has moved a long distance from being an inward looking closed society to an open cosmopolitan one.

The preliminary population headcount stands at 519,562 – an increase of 25% since 2011 or an average increase of 10,000 persons per year – the highest change ever recorded between one census and another.

Malta is by far the most densely populated country in the EU with 1,649 persons per square kilometre compared to an average of almost 100 persons per square kilometre for the EU.

With males counting for 52% of the population, more males than females were recorded for the first time in a census. This is explained by the fact that more than 20% of persons counted are foreigners and these are predominantly male and younger in age compared to the native Maltese population.

For the first time ever, the census also covered the religious affiliations of the population with 96.4% identifying themselves as Roman Catholics. This does not mean that they are practising Catholics. A recent survey commissioned by the Archbishop's Curia gives quite a different result when it comes to how many people practise their religion or go to Mass every Sunday. It is obvious that a hefty part of that 96.4% is Catholic by culture and tradition, rather than by faith.

Whether one likes it or not, this is the trend in the traditionally Catholic nations of Europe with large swathes of people remaining culturally Catholics without really observing their religion.

Even so, the mix of religious affiliations of the other 3.6% is fascinating with the most common religious affiliation after Roman Catholicism being Islam. The effect of so many foreigners choosing to reside in Malta and, in the case of those coming from non-EU countries given working permits to do so is palpable. Today certain jobs in Malta are dominated by non-Maltese employees. Forget about 'Switzerland in the Mediterranean'. It is now 'Dubai in the Mediterranean'!

Contrary to the impression given in some press reports, the census covers people residing in Malta and not just Maltese citizens. According to the web-site of the NSO, any person who has either already resided in Malta for at least 12 months by the Census date, or is residing in Malta with the intention of staying for at least 12 months by Census date is considered to be a resident and had to fill-in the questionnaire. Any person arriving in Malta by June 2021 for work purposes with the intention of staying longer than June 2022, therefore was included in the Census.

However the census refers to residents and does not seem to break the relative figure down into Maltese nationals, EU nationals and non-EU nationals.

The current make-up of the resident population shows that the make-up of people who live in Malta today is quite different from what it used to be in the recent past.

One can already see the effect of so many residents born overseas in our education and health services. One can hardly go to a state clinic or hospital without encountering a sizeable proportion of foreigners sharing the health service with us.

Similarly state schools are now also at the service of the children of these foreigners. In the school at St. Paul's Bay there are classes where children born of Maltese parents are a minority. Incidentally the population in St. Paul's Bay has almost doubled from the previous census: it now exceeds 32,000.

The census helps us understand where we have arrived, even if many cannot understand why this development actually happened so suddenly.

It should also serve as an awakening to make us realise that we have to think and plan for the future before this relentless drive for more people on this tiny island goes out of control.

Welcome to cosmopolitan Malta!

Speaking Maltese

The current efforts in favour of the Maltese language being pushed by the President's Office and pro-Maltese NGOs favouring the use of the Maltese language in all circumstances are faced with untold problems. How can I speak Maltese to a foreign waiter serving me at a cafe? Or why does a state agency spend taxpayers'

money on billboards advertising 'Jobs fil-films' when they should say 'Impjiegi fl-industrija tal-films'? Or is it 'tac-cinema'?

Efforts should be made to teach Maltese to foreigners who have made Malta their home.

In fact I am surprised at how many of these foreigners eventually learn how to talk in Maltese.

I was even more surprised recently when I overheard a Libyan talking to a Serb in Maltese. Both of them learnt (broken) Maltese on their own in Malta and they found it was the only language with which they could understand each other. Maltese is not dying, more so because foreigners working in Malta eventually need to learn how to speak it, as well as because the majority of Maltese actually speak Maltese.

Rather than asking Maltese to keep talking in Maltese when the majority of them do, one should help in the effort of getting foreign residents to speak in Maltese when the majority of them are actually keen to learn the language of the country of their 'adoption'.

Find your alternative

I have often lamented on the lack of planning when alternative routes are indicated when works make it impossible for cars to use some road.

People are told which roads they cannot use and information on alternative routes is scarce, if not even misleading.

Sometimes an easy alternative route is available by temporarily changing a one-way street to the opposite direction or temporarily shifting it to a two-way street. This is not so difficult to do, but it is apparently impossible for people at Transport Malta to think of it.

Shifting the responsibility for the search for an alternative route onto the driver

When they do, they then forget to revert to the previous signage when the works are completed.

Their way of doing things is incredibly short-sighted, anyway.

A contractor who apparently couldn't be bothered recently decided to shift the responsibility for the search for an alternative route on to the driver by putting up a sign saying: 'Road closed. Please find alternative route'.

I suppose this had the blessing of Transport Malta. They do not bother either.



[Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Inc.](#)

The Maltese Community Council of Victoria invites the Maltese Community to join us in celebrating the 75th year anniversary since the Assisted Package agreement for migrants was signed in May 1948. The event is being presented by the Maltese Community Centre of Victoria and the National Archives of Australia.

During the day, we will have entertainment, formalities, and key note speakers including Barry York. We are also privileged to have the opportunity to have a Maltese immigration exhibition at the National Archives in North Melbourne that will open mid-April until mid-July. We will be seeking your assistance to provide memorabilia that can be exhibited during this period. Such items can include photos, luggage from that era, chests, postcards, stamps etc.

Please contact the centre on (03) 9387 8922 if you can assist or email admin@mccv.org.au

The event will be on Saturday the 6 May 2023 and starts at 9:45am to 3:30pm at

National Archives Victoria Office

Victorian Archives Centre 99 Shiel Street North Melbourne Vic 3051

More details will be available soon. So stay tuned.

How bingo helped pass the time in the War



Cultural impact of the game of bingo still has resonance today

The enduring images of bingo in its most simple form are still stitched in time and memory. Photo: Unsplash

As *All Quiet on the Western Front* continues to Hoover up several prizes, including a whole batch of BAFTAs, the film also manages to convey the boredom and long stretches of inactivity spent waiting for military action in the trenches.

Although the film is from a German point of view, it illustrates that there was nothing

glamorous about life at war. It would also have struck a chord with memories and experiences from the other side of the wires. Ultimately, between the fighting, men had to do something other than await their fate. From a British perspective, those hours on the battlefield in both World Wars shaped leisure time for the next 100 years because gambling became a hobby.

The Royal Navy called bingo 'tombola' when they were playing a version of the game on the ships. The free bingo that is played these days online with all its variations, bonuses and interactive elements was nowhere near as competitive as the military playing each other. When the two World Wars were done those ex-servicemen and women continued to play the game in the halls back on home turf. It had become as entrenched as the boots in the mud of the battlefield. It was a focus.

As Clifford Lane of the Hertfordshire Regiment wrote: "I often wonder how we got over the boredom of it all. You just imagine – nobody can imagine – being stuck in a trench, six feet high, in the middle of winter, day after day with nothing to do at all, really, there was nothing you could do." There is a famous picture of British troops taking time off from digging the trenches to play what was then known as Housey. People at home, sheltering from air raids and under rationing, would also play to boost morale.

One only has to read the personal stories and anecdotes of soldiers that lie within war museums to see how gambling became something that was the most accessible tool for those that were under the most intense conditions. It even inspired the name of a famous series of bombing raids

by the United States. The Americans bombed a number of transformer stations between Italy and Austria to slow the progress of the Germans, naming it Operation Bingo.

The cultural impact of the game of bingo from 1914, when the Great War started, still has resonance today. It was a pastime that was popular with all ranks and not just within the common boots on the ground. The elements that brought the game to the masses were then more prevalent as the decades passed with bingo being played on many a holiday in the 1960s.

As the 21st century continues to bring artificial intelligence and the latest technological advances to all of us in our homes, it is sometimes hard to imagine a world where simple number games ruled the waves. The enduring images of bingo in its most simple form are still stitched in time and memory. *Source – Times of Malta*

Charlene Farrugia Piano Concert



- Malta's finest musicians will be joining forces to celebrate the Malta Society of Arts' 100 years at Palazzo de La Salle with a series of monthly concerts and masterclasses, curated by Karl Fiorini.
- **16 March 2023**
- **From 5:30 am to 7:00 am**
- **Malta Society of Arts, Republic Street, Valletta, Malta**
- Compositions from the MSA's music archive and music by past composers affiliated with the MSA will be brought to life by Christine Zerafa, Charlene Farrugia, Carlo Muscat, Philip Attard and many more.
- In addition, this Maltese musical cultural heritage will be flanked by commissioned compositions by contemporary composers. In this third concert as part of this music series celebrating the Malta Society of Arts' 100 years at Palazzo de La Salle, pianist Charlene Farrugia will be performing the following programme:
 - Carlo Diacono | Fantasia Impromptu
 - Karol Szymanowsky | 4 Études op. 4
 - Carmelo Pace | 4 Bagatelles
 - Véronique Vella | 3 short piano pieces
 - Laura Mjeda Cuperjan | ReMiniScenes
 - Heitor Villa-Lobos | Hommage à Chopin
- Charlene Farrugia was recognised at an early age as a particularly gifted child, and was referred to as the "enfant terrible of Maltese piano" and "Princess of Maltese piano" by music critics.
- In 2018, she received Malta's International Achievement Award, and was made an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music in 2020. She is one of the ambassadors of the Euro Mediterranean Music Academy (EMMA for Peace) under the patronage of UNESCO and Honorary President Riccardo Muti.
- Tickets: <https://www.showshappening.com/100-year-celebrations/Malta-Society-of-Arts-100-years-at-Palazzo-de-La-Salle-celebrations--Concert-3>
- The concert series is supported by Arts Council Malta under the Programme Support Scheme.



**THE HISTORY OF MALTESE EMIGRATION IS A
SPECIAL PART OF THE HISTORY OF MALTA**



International Women's Day - call for an end to injustice against women in Malta



Activists marched down Republic Street to the courts in Valletta on Wednesday evening to the beat of drums, calling for an end to the systemic and institutional injustices women face.

Once in front of the courts, opposite Daphne Caruana Galiazia's memorial, activists put on masks of political figures as they ignored women playing dead at their feet.

They accused the Maltese judicial system, saying women feel they are not protected by a system which should be defending them

On the Women's International Day a large number of women took to the streets of the capital city of Valletta to protest about the inefficiency in the Maltese judicial system when it comes to protecting women.

As they marched through Republic street the protesters slammed the Maltese judicial system, saying women feel they are not protected enough by a system which is supposed to defending them.

Angela Degruara, one of the speakers at the rally, said "We no longer want to attend vigils for women murdered by their partners, we don't want to beg for the rights to take personal decisions on our bodies, we don't want to see women become victims of an inefficient system,"

The march, 'Women united against injustice', was organised by a group of NGOs on international Women's Day. Protestors criticised the Maltese judicial system for its "never ending problems". "Never ending cases, mistakes, deferred cases, lawyer fees, prejudices, lost evidence, lack of coordination between departments, lack of resources, and above all else a lack of justice."

The majority of women do not feel protected by the police, laws and the courts. "We want institutions which work towards having a more just and equal society."

"Our society is not built on social justice, it a patriarchal system society dominated by men in every aspect, while women remain disadvantaged, humiliated, raped, abused, exploited and assassinated," she said.

While the march did not focus on a single individual, many who attended named Bernice Cassar, Pelin Kaya and Paulina Dembska as key women who paid the ultimate price at the hands of institutional injustice.

Activists held placards as they marched through Valletta, with signs reading, "The state failed us," "Nagħmlu hoss kontra sessizmu jboss," "Bernice will not be forgotten."

The protestors chanted "My body, my choice" and "tal-biza, tal-biza, vjolenza fuq in nisa" (it's frightening, it's frightening, violence against women).

The march was organised by Moviment Graffiti together with MGRM, Doctors for Choice, Women's Rights Foundation and Young Progressive Beings. The march was also supported by: aditus, Malta Women's Lobby, Merħba Bik, Women for Women, YMCA, Migrant Women Association Malta, Integra, ARC, IVY, Dance Beyond Borders, Allejanza Konta l-Faqar, MAWB, Men Against Violent, and Ghajjejt u Xbajt.





Today marks Women's Day, a day during which more awareness is raised about the importance of equality and the achievements of women in various spheres of society.

TVMnews spoke to the only woman who was ever in charge of coordinating all of the official engagements of the President of Malta. Captain Stephanie Debono not only managed to enter a world associated more with men because she is a soldier, but was appointed Aide-de-Camp 9 years ago and carries out her work with the dedication and professionalism that her role demands.

Captain Stephanie Debono is the first and only woman in the post of Aide-de-Camp, (ADC). She is 35 years old and has huge responsibility because she is in charge coordinating all of the official commitments of the President of Malta, such as security, logistics, protocol as well as ceremonial commitments.

On Women's Day, TVMnews met Captain Debono who recounted how she made it, stating that her journey was a long one. She says that she never had the intention of becoming a soldier, until one day, while studying at the University of Malta, her father encouraged her to apply as an Army officer. I have always liked adventure and if you are a person who does not like adventure, change and challenges, the Army will not attract you. I like adventure, I like change. I would not be happy doing something that is always the same, so this was something that attracted me.

12 years ago she joined the Army, and nine years ago she was entrusted with the post of ADC, which brings many challenges. She says she works in a male-dominated world because most of the soldiers in the Army are men citing many challenges that a female soldier is able to overcome with a positive attitude and determination.

I always strived to do my best. Let's just say when I was appointed the President's ADC, I knew that it was a job that involved a lot of protocol and a lot of diplomacy – something that I had no knowledge of. I didn't need anyone to tell me what

The first female ADC who made a name for herself in a male dominated world

to do – I saw what was necessary and I made a request to do a Masters in Protocol and Diplomacy.

The role of ADC with the President involves many hours of thought, planning and rigorous work, both during the President's commitments outside the Palace, in the activities he attends in Malta and even in visits he has overseas. Which is why Captain Debono's work is endless and why we asked her how she manages to achieve a balance between work and personal life. The Captain says that the secret lies in having family members who are ready to understand your line of work.

In life you always go through a phase, where work is demanding a little more from you and where you have to sacrifice a little of your personal life. The important thing to make it clear and tell yourself and even your employer and family members, that this is a phase and not the norm.

Captain Stephanie Debono

The captain says that this position brought her in touch with many dignitaries and heads of state including Queen Elizabeth II, the former American President Barack Obama, recently with the Irish President Michael D. Higgins and the Chief of the Church, Pope Francis.

In a message for Women's Day, Captain Debono encourages women to focus on what they really want in life, choose a job that gives them satisfaction while aiming to achieve career success.

(Source-TVMNEWS)



RESILIENCE

STORIES OF WOMEN INSPIRING CHANGE
PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

8 MARCH - 28 MARCH
LAPARELLI GARDENS, VALLETTA DITCH
Entrance is free of charge

NL Netherlands WORLD PRESS PHOTO



The Indian community in Malta has celebrated the Holi colourful festival, an old Hindu tradition that commemorates a new chapter in one's life. Indian tradition says that during the Holi festival, the gods close their eyes and the celebration is one of the few occasions when the Hindu community refrains from being rigid and greatly celebrates victory over bad things, as young Indian woman, Rhythm Gang who has been living for 10 years in Malta, told TVMnews.

We through colourful powder at each other...as one can see there is also another reason that it doesn't need to the a skin colour, therefore when you have colour and you cannot identify

“I came to Malta 10 years ago, learned Maltese and feel welcomed” – Indian woman

the other person, then you can play and include everyone.

(photo) Rhythm Gang

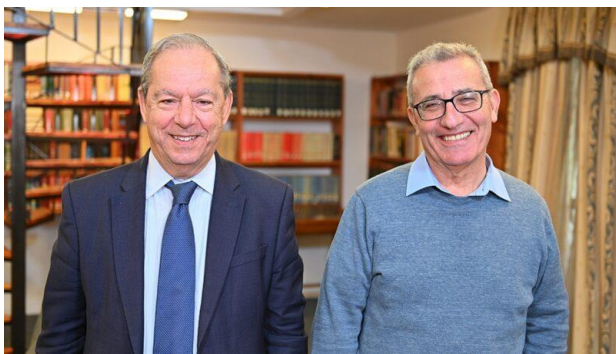
Rhtym says that from her experience in Malta she feels welcomed.

Everyone includes me. I do not feel that I am being excluded here....I came here 10 years ago and started learning Maltese since I was young.

The two-day Holi festival is principally celebrated in India and Nepal, however it is now being celebrated by communities world-wide.

Culture Minister Owen Bonnici was a guest at the Holi celebration in Malta. He expressed his appreciation that non-Maltese communities celebrate together with the Maltese to enhance unity and appreciated their cultures.

Rethink.mt - Ep.6: Good Governance



Lawrence Gonzi and Evarist Bartolo

To follow up on Pope Francis' visit to Malta, the Archdiocese of Malta is launching a project titled: **rethink.mt**: Rethink culture.

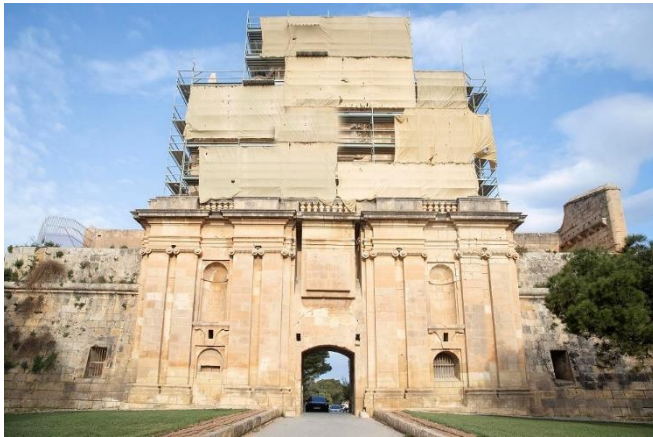
rethink.mt is a space for respectful dialogue on complex issues shaping Maltese culture. Supported by the Vicariate for Evangelisation and hosted by Justice & Peace –Malta, discussions will take place with various people active in Maltese society about the kind of culture we are hoping to build together.

If “honesty, justice, a sense of duty and transparency are the essential pillars of a mature civil society” (Pope Francis in Malta, Meeting with

the Authorities, Civil Society and the Diplomatic Corps), how is Malta doing on this score? Whilst everyone seems to agree that Malta needs to embrace these principles of good governance, the level of distrust and cynicism shown by people towards anything political seems to be increasing at an alarming level.

With Dr Lawrence Gonzi, former Prime Minister of Malta, and Dr Evarist Bartolo, former Minister for Education and Foreign Affairs, we discuss the complex reality of political life in Malta. Together with Mark Cachia from the Justice and Peace Commission they also speak about the urgent need to tackle the root causes of voter disillusion by undertaking the necessary institutional reforms coupled with a renewed emphasis on education in values and political participation.

Malta's population was 519,562 in 2021, one in five were foreigners – Census



By Ruth Amaira TVMNEWS

With close to a one million euro investment, work on the restoration of Bieb is-Sultan and the Notre Dame bastions in Cottonera is expected to be completed later this year.

The work is being handled by Restoration Directorate workers, and on completion, original architectural elements of Bieb is-Sultan are expected to come to light, whilst structural reinforcement is being carried out on areas where the bastions suffered war damage.

The project involving substantial restoration works on the Notre Dame bastions and the Notre Dame gate in Cottonera, also known as Bieb is-Sultan, is proceeding apace.

This historic building boasts the highest point in the area, from where beautiful views of most of Malta can be enjoyed. From this point one can also appreciate the strategic importance of this building in the dispatching of military signals.

The Restoration Directorate is carrying out the restoration, and architect Daphne Fenech, who is responsible for the work on the Notre Dame bastion itself, says the major part of the ongoing restoration along this stretch of fortifications is of a structural nature.

Restoration of Bieb is-Sultan and Cottonera's Notre Dame bastions to be completed this year

We encountered several structural problems, mainly because of damage to the rear of the bastion resulting from some sort of war activity, and this was not sorted out. We are now addressing it, together with the resulting problems and damage.

Architect Daphne Fenech

The Notre Dame bastions consist of an extensive line of fortifications forming part of the Cottonera Lines. One bastion after the other, eight in all, form this extensive line of fortifications.

Architect Timothy Portelli is responsible for the restoration work on Notre Dame Gate. He explained the ongoing work...

Work is also being carried out on the trophy of arms, designed in Baroque style around the bust of Grandmaster Cottoner. Restoration is also being carried out on the wooden apertures to keep the original ones. On the inside, after checking on the wooden beams, we will carry out structural consolidation to make sure they can take the weight on them.

Architect Timothy Portelli Minister for National Heritage Owen Bonnici and Parliamentary Secretary Alison Zerafa Civelli also visited the works.

Minister Bonnici said the aim of the restoration is to evaluate the historic heritage of this area of Cottonera, whilst the Parliamentary Secretary praised the commitment of workers of the Restoration Directorate working on this project.

The work on Notre Dame Gate is expected to be completed in April, and that on the bastions and ancillary structures will be completed by November.

CHILD OF MALTA

We're sleeping in a shelter
At the bottom of a well.
It's a little rocky shelter
And it's really awf'ly well

And we like our little shelter
For it's very far below.
The noise of bombs and gunfire
And such like things to know

And when the bombers droning
Is passing overhead,
And the ach-ach shells are moaning
I am in my little bed.

And over by the stairways
My little pussy, Nell,
In a little rock shelter
At the bottom of the well

It may be drear and smelly
It may be hot and dump
But when the guns are shelling
We have our little lamp.

And I wish our noble gunners
Were half as safe as Nell,
And me in our shelter
At the bottom of a well.

Malta 1942

SYLVIA



Caves also played a role in pagan mythology. They have proven a draw for many different reasons over the years. Għar il-Kbir is well-known to have been a troglodyte settlement for a long time, although the ancient 'cart ruts' nearby get most of the attention these days. Għar Dalam has been a wonderful resource for palaeontologists and archaeologists due to its Ice Age fossil record and signs of Early Neolithic human habitation. But, there are also caves with stories of religious visions, demonic infestation and apostolic teachings.

The Legend of the Shepherdess of

Mosta Mosta is a town in the centre of Malta known for its large domed church designed by the architect Giorgio Grognet de Vassé who was also convinced the islands are the remnants of Atlantis. What a lot of visitors to the town don't know, is that about seven hundred meters to the west of the church lies the 18th century Speranza Chapel (Chapel of Our Lady of Hope) on the edge of the valley of the same name.

Underneath this chapel is a cave shrine with a miraculous legend attached to it. According to the story, several sisters were tending their family's sheep when corsair invaders arrived on the island and entered the valley. Since one of the sisters had a limp, she couldn't escape and got left behind in the furore. Hiding in a cave she prayed to the Virgin Mary for help, promising to build a chapel if she was saved. Invaders approached the cave and were sure there could be no one inside due to an intact spider's web covering the entrance, so they left her alone. The shrine and chapel were then built according to the promise the girl had made. The cave shrine underneath the chapel has statue of the girl praying, as well as statues of St. John and St. Luke.

The Painting with a Mind of its Own

From the outside, the Mensija Chapel in the town of San Ġwann looks similar to the hundreds of other religious buildings that are scattered all over Malta and Gozo. However, a close-up inspection of the gated entrance reveals a stairway to a rock-cut subterranean sanctuary.

Malta Underground: Religious Legends, Cave Churches and Subterranean Shrines

LAURA TABONE

According to legend, in the 1400s when the area was considerably more rural, a farmer built a house on this exact spot. One night he noticed a light coming from a natural underground cave that he had disturbed by building the steps to his farmhouse. In this cave he found a lit oil lamp and a picture of the Virgin Mary, but no signs of how they had got there. When the farmer took the picture to the parish priest, it somehow made its way back into the cave. The same thing happened repeatedly so it was decided that it was a sign that the cave ought to be turned into a shrine.

An extension of the legend says that a much earlier church dedicated to the Annunciation existed on the site, hence why the painting was found there. This church supposedly dated to before the Muslim period and had been lost to time. In the 16th century a chapel was built above ground to serve as an entrance to the cave which has kept much of its natural rough appearance. The first written reference to the chapel was in 1588 when it was known as San Leonardo tal-Gebel (St. Leonard of the Boulders) at il-Hofra ta' Għar (The Sunken Cave). The chapel building today dates to renovations carried out in the 19th century.

St. Paul's First Preaching Place in Malta?

Probably the most famous underground Catholic sanctuary in Malta is the Grotto underneath the Basilica of St. Paul in Rabat. The Acts of the Apostles in the New Testament recounts the story of how St. Paul was shipwrecked in 60 AD on Malta, referred to as 'Melita,' whilst making his way from Caesarea to Rome. According to tradition, St. Paul was very popular with the locals, especially the governor of the island called Publius whose father he healed of dysentery.

The story says that St. Paul spent three months in Malta living and preaching and it's the Grotto in Rabat that's supposed to have been his home during this period. In the 18th century a statue of St. Paul was erected in the Grotto which attracts thousands of visitors a year. Although it's widely accepted that St. Paul was shipwrecked on Malta, the location of the shipwreck, and the place where he preached aren't known with any certainty. Rabat is also the home of numerous Palaeochristian catacombs, making its subterranean religious legacy something quite spectacular.



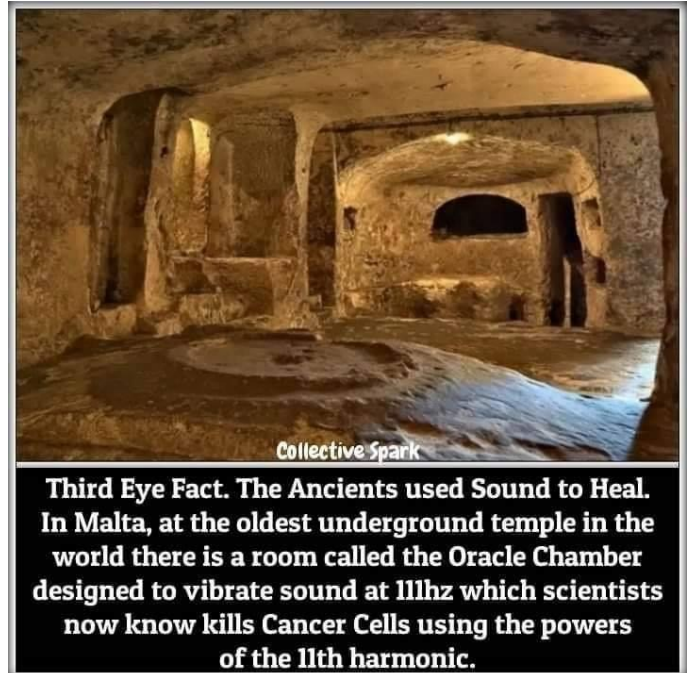
A Demon Infestation

The cave of St. Patrick (Għar San Brinkat in Maltese) in Għargħur has quite a scary legend associated with it. It is said that demons once infested this natural cavity on the edge of the Great Fault causing people to be afraid to walk past it. When a painting of a crucified Christ and St. Patrick mysteriously washed up on the shore of the nearby village of Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq, it was taken to the cave in the hope that its presence would force the demons away. Apparently, this worked pretty well, meaning the cave could be transformed into a place of worship. Another legend says that the water of a spring which fills a basin in the cave each winter, has miraculous properties. The painting is still there to this day and a mass and feast are held in the cave each year. Experts think the cave may once have played a monastic role as well. Close by, another cave known as the Għar San Pietru, is thought to have been a church possibly for a rural community. It has a rock-cut seating area, a recess in the wall that probably served as an altar and the stucco remains of what are thought to be murals.

The Oldest Marian Shrine in Malta The Sanctuary of Our Lady in the town of Mellieħa was built over the top of a very old cave church with various legends surrounding it. One story gives it a pagan origin, having been a site dedicated to the nymph Calypso of Odyssey fame. Interestingly, as a side note, there is a tradition that associates a cave in Gozo with the place where the Odyssey says Calypso held Homer for seven years. This story emerged because of Homer's reference to it having taken place on the island of Ogygia, a place that has not been identified with any certainty but could have meant Gozo.

The pagan origin legend of the cave in Mellieħa continues with the shipwreck of St. Paul and St. Luke on Malta in 60 AD, when they converted the site into a Christian shrine. To cement its new role, St. Luke is said to have painted the Virgin Mary on the rock face. Other stories prefer to give the cave a Byzantine or Medieval origin but nothing is known for certain. The

sanctuary on top of the cave that can be visited today, was built in several phases between the 16th and 18th centuries. In the 17th century a crypt, known as I-Madonna tal-Grotta was dug out of the rock near the cave. The altarpiece in the sanctuary is a fresco of the Virgin Mary and Jesus and is said to have miraculous properties. It's in a Byzantine style and could date back as early as the 12th century.



Third Eye Fact. The Ancients used Sound to Heal. In Malta, at the oldest underground temple in the world there is a room called the Oracle Chamber designed to vibrate sound at 111hz which scientists now know kills Cancer Cells using the powers of the 11th harmonic.

St. Agatha's Escape St. Agatha was born in Catania, Sicily to wealthy high-ranking pagan parents in 234 AD. According to legend she became a Christian and made a vow of virginity. When the Praetor of Catania, Quintianus, decided he wanted to marry her, she rejected his advances. At the time the Roman Emperor Decius was persecuting Christians, so Quintianus used this opportunity to try to force her hand. He tried many nefarious ways to manipulate her into submission including torture, but nothing worked. Eventually she was sentenced to death. An earthquake put a stop to her being burnt at the stake, but she died soon after in prison. In Malta there is a tradition that during the persecution of Decius, Agatha moved to Malta temporarily where it's said she prayed and preached, spending most of her time in a crypt carved from out of the rock in Rabat. This crypt became a cave church and is adjoined to a series of earlier Palaeochristian catacombs. Since similar funerary structures can be seen in the cave church, it's thought it was also a catacomb originally before being modified for worship. The church was rectangular, with an apsed section and rock-cut seating areas. It has many frescos dating to the 15th and 16th centuries which may have been painted over earlier Siculo-Byzantine ones.

The Maltese are keeping Maltese culture alive in Ireland

By [Antonia Micallef](#) TVMNEWS



Some 200 Maltese nationals live in Ireland. A healthy representation of Maltese in this country met with the President and Mrs Vella in Dublin during the last appointment of the State visit by the Maltese Head of State in Ireland. Dr Vella said the Maltese living abroad hold the key to long-term bilateral relations and remain strong at all times, and he urged them not to forget the Maltese language.

President Vella said the Maltese who chose Ireland as their adoptive country or for study purposes are giving a useful contribution to further boost friendship between both countries. The final activity during the President's State visit was a meeting with representatives of the Maltese community resident in Ireland. Dr Vella appealed to them to continue to safeguard the Maltese language, and reminded them that each one is an ambassador for Malta in Ireland.

Rodianne Debono has been in Ireland for the past six years. She works in information technology, and said that she made friends with several Irish people in a short time.

Initially it was more because of work because I always wanted IT. Although there are such companies in Malta, I realised the industry here is far bigger and I thought I would learn more, as I was a QA and I moved to scrum master, meaning that my move was more because of IT.

Rodianne Debono

Andre Debattista is a coordinator at an English language school, and his experience is a true case of new openings in life turning up at the right time.

An opportunity presented itself in 2018. I went to the UK and was managing, but unfortunately, because of both the Covid and Brexit situations, the school I worked for had to close down. I

AAAAAAAATHHHH

decided not to give up and came to Ireland, not so far from the UK. And here I am!

Andre Debattista

TVMnews also spoke with 12-year-old Khloe Borg Pace, who came to Ireland with her family in August. She said she likes Ireland very much and quickly adapted, even because she lives in a small town just two hours away from Dublin, and attends a small school.

Everything is normal, and we have a choice of subjects – business, which I chose, graphics, arts and French, as one has to choose two languages, between German and French.

Khloe Borg Pace

For the Maltese living abroad, the land of their birth is close to their hearts.

The sea, the family and food – which is totally different over here.

Rodianne Debono I miss my friends in Malta, but I chat with them frequently.

Khloe Borg Pace André feels very comfortable in Ireland as he appreciates the natural environment and the weather.

I love the cold weather. Some may ask me why. The air here is cleaner, but everyone misses their home country.

Andre Debattista Irish President Michael D. Higgins described President Vella's State visit to Ireland as one of friendship that further boosts the links not just between the two Heads of State but also between the two countries and peoples.



HOW THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE HAS CHANGED THE HISTORY OF MALTA



The date was 12 June 1778. After a short battle with the Knights of the Order of St John, Napoleon Bonaparte sailed under the hot Mediterranean sun into Valletta's Grand Harbour. He was there to claim Malta for France.

Photo: William Galea

Before setting sail for Egypt six days later, the French military leader set up a government commission, public finance

administration, family legal system and twelve municipalities. The island's slaves were freed and slavery was outlawed. A new public schooling system was introduced including 15 primary schools and an *Ecole Centrale*.

You may think that this rapid development would make Napoleon a local hero, but you would be wrong. The new military rulers were despised by the people of Malta.

The French rapidly made themselves unpopular by pillaging church funds to pay for military conquests and being generally hostile to Catholicism. So, two years later, the British Navy were welcomed as saviours when they helped local fighters to oust the French occupiers. The bond between Britain and Malta was established.

From empire to independence

Malta was a part of the British Empire for most of the following two centuries, until gaining independence in September 1964. After such a long relationship, the cultural ties between Britain and Malta remain strong to this day; among other things, you will recognise it in the electrical plugs, education system and the cars driving on the left!

Perhaps the greatest legacy of those two centuries is the English language, which is an official language in Malta, spoken alongside Maltese in all different parts of local life, from the family dinner table to government business. Higher education in Malta is exclusively in English.

HOLIDAY HOTSPOT

The new concept of package holidays in Britain during the 1960s made foreign travel affordable to more people than ever before.

Instead of the traditional trip to the British seaside, resorts on the shores of the Mediterranean became the new destinations of choice for Brits in need of some sunshine. A mixture of great weather, local charm and the English language made Malta one of the most popular holiday spots for these tourists.

After having a good time in Malta, a large number of British pensioners then retired to the island. With this influx and the booming tourist industry, Malta's infrastructure rapidly developed. This process continues today, in line with the general increased availability of international travel.

Katya Bonello from our EC English partner school in Malta, says "Malta has attracted tourists from all over the world for many years but in recent years increased airline routes have made Malta more accessible... also improved infrastructure, bus routes and hotel facilities have encouraged tourists to come back to repeat their great experience."

Modern Malta has an advanced infrastructure that makes it an appealing destination for travellers of all ages. The number of elderly Brits coming to Malta has decreased as the old ties between the countries loosen, but the quality of services remains high. This is one reason why Malta has become one of the top European destinations for an English course.

STUDY ABROAD COMES TO MALTA

At the start of the 1990s, as English was cementing its position as the world lingua franca, language schools on the island pitched Malta as a sunny destination for an English course. "Malta is ideal for learning

English,” says Katya, “as it is an all-year-round destination... the weather in spring and autumn is very pleasant with warm temperatures and little rainfall.”

A number of things make Malta particularly attractive as a study abroad destination. The weather and cultural life are certainly enticing, but the events that have shaped the island and its neighbours mean that there is also a fascinating history to be discovered. Due to its crucial strategic position south of Sicily, Malta has long been influenced by other cultures and countries. The oldest artefacts on the island date back to 5,000BC.

In the early years of study abroad in Malta, there was also a significant price advantage over a course in Great Britain, although that has shrunk in the years since Malta joined the Euro.

CHANGING NEEDS

Malta has continued to evolve as a study abroad destination, in line with the changing expectations of students.

Weekly *festas* in the villages and towns during the summer months are the perfect way to get into Maltese culture while letting your hair down. Local people spend months planning the parties and everyone is welcome. The startling blue water of the Blue Lagoon by Comino is a beautiful place to swim during a day on the beach. And neighbouring Gozo (which has its own language school) offers some blissfully peaceful nooks and crannies in which to relax and enjoy the sunshine.

All things considered; Malta is an alluring place to study English in Europe. And you are guaranteed a warmer welcome than Napoleon received!

Exhibition showcases the Maltese language's long road towards official recognition



/ Press Release

The National Museum of Archaeology in Valletta saw the launch of an espresso exhibition that gives an account of the Maltese language's long road towards official recognition and honours those who worked incessantly for Maltese to be duly acknowledged.

Entitled *Il-Malti: Il-Mixja sal-Għarfien Uffiċjali*, the exhibition was inaugurated by His Excellency the President of Malta and is the result of a joint effort by Heritage Malta and L-Akkademja tal-Malti, which was founded in 1920 and was originally known as L-Għaqda tal-Kittieba tal-Malti. The exhibition runs until the end of April.

The exhibition is spread across ten themes and covers the history of the Maltese language from its Semitic roots until it was declared Malta's national language in 1964 and one of the European Union's official languages in 2004.

Through documents, books and information panels, the exhibition provides insight into Pietru Caxaro's *Kantilena*, Ignazio Saverio Mifsud's sermons in Maltese, works by Agius

de Soldanis and Vassalli, the only edition in Maltese of the newspaper *L'Arlecchin* in December 1838, the Language Question, the setting up of L-Għaqda tal-Kittieba tal-Maltin, as well as monumental accomplishments such as the translation of the Bible by Pietru Pawl Saydon and Ġużè Aquilina's dictionary.

In conjunction with this exhibition, Dr Mario Cassar will be delivering a public lecture about the Maltese language during the rule of the Order of St John (1530 – 1798). The lecture will be held at the National Museum of Archaeology this Friday at 6.30pm. Admission is free of charge and no pre-booking is required.

Speaking at the exhibitions' inauguration, President George Vella noted that this exhibition demonstrates that the journey to keep our language alive is still ongoing and must continue. It also demonstrates the fact that our language has proven over the years that it has solid foundations, is resilient, and is able to adapt to different times and challenges. Our language, said the President, besides forming part of our

culture and identity, is a strong element that unites us as a nation. Therefore he called for a continuous update that respects both the roots and the structure and use of the language with the aim of keeping our language alive and active.

"It is a pity that the use of Maltese among us is decreasing", stated the President while mentioning that Maltese is being increasingly influenced by elements of the English language. He also mentioned that the Maltese language is gradually being lost among the thousands of Maltese living abroad. "It is due to these considerations that my Office has always sought to work closely with the Maltese language organisations with the aim of identifying concrete measures that will help us use the Maltese language properly, as well as correctly", added the President while referring to the 'Il-Malti għal Qalbi' campaign organised as a collaboration between the Office of the President and seven Maltese language organisations.

Minister for the National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government, Owen Bonnici, said that this exhibition attests to a century of perseverance for the sake of the Maltese language. Every language has its own unique characteristics which must be preserved in the best way possible to keep each country's identity alive. Such exhibitions are an important element of Maltese identity. Thanks to their language, the Maltese people have expressed their ambition towards their identity, the Minister said.

Heritage Malta's Chairman, Mr Mario Cutajar, said that the Maltese language forms part of our national heritage and as such it has been entrusted to us to protect it and to leave it to our successors as a means of distinguishing themselves from other nations. This exhibition, said Mr Cutajar, has three main aims, namely that we acknowledge the lengthy struggle of those who strove to give our language the dignity it deserves; that we fully realise that the Maltese language is our heritage and should be treasured; and that, guided by the past, we learn to appreciate our language and look after it well. If we keep these aims alive, we will be honouring those who dedicated their lives to our language because they understood it to be part of our identity, even when others chose to shun it.

Mr Joseph Borg, Secretary of L-Akkademja tal-Malti, spoke of how Heritage Malta and L-Akkademja tal-Malti have been working closely on this exhibition since 2015. Their collaboration started with a lecture on the 450th anniversary of the Great Siege and continued through various publications, including Agius de Soldanis' *Damma* in 2016 and *Storja tal-Ilsien u l-Letteratura Maltija – kronoloġija* by Dr Mario Cassar in 2021. Mr Borg added that the exhibition was originally planned to coincide with the centenary of the establishment of L-Għaqda tal-Kittieba tal-Malti in 2020 but those plans were disrupted by the pandemic. However, preparations continued and the plan was eventually brought to fruition. Mr Borg expressed satisfaction that the exhibition has now coincided with the campaign 'Il-Malti għal Qalbi' – an excellent initiative by HE the President of Malta organised jointly with Maltese language associations.



The Australian Federal Government has appointed Justin Mohamed as Australia's inaugural Ambassador for First Nations People.

Justin Mohamed's role as First Nations Ambassador will elevate Indigenous voices to the world stage. © Alan Porritt/AAP PHOTOS

In a joint statement Foreign Minister Penny Wong, Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney and Senator Pat Dodson said the new position ensures, for the first time, that Australia will have dedicated Indigenous representation in international engagement.

"Justin has worked for decades in First Nations health, social justice, and reconciliation," Ms Burney tweeted. "I just know he'll do great things on the world stage and help elevate First Nations voices to the world stage." Mr Mohamed, a Gooreng Gooreng man from Bundaberg, Queensland, is deputy secretary of Aboriginal Justice in Victoria.

His previous positions include Reconciliation Australia CEO and he has represented Indigenous organisations internationally, including at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

"I am excited about the opportunities ahead to embed First Nations voices and knowledge into Australia's foreign policies and trade," Mr Mohamed said.

"I am looking forward to sitting down and listening to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the country, as we develop foreign policies that have First Nations People's knowledges, voice and connection to country front and centre."

The Government said elevating the perspectives of First Nations people – this land's first diplomats – enables deeper engagement with many of Australia's closest partners including Pacific nations.

Mr Mohamed will lead the Office of First Nations Engagement in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. He will commence as ambassador in April.

Maltese Bread is also baked in ancient history

The traditional Maltese round sourdough loaf – finished with a crunchy wood-fired exterior and fluffy centre – has one of the world's oldest bread histories. (Getty Images)



The Mediterranean country of Malta has one of the oldest recorded bread histories in the world, influenced by centuries of politics, sourdough power and family love.

By Yasmin Noone

The sun-kissed Maltese archipelago, cast within the Mediterranean Sea between Sicily and North Africa, has experienced one of the world's longest-running love affairs with the humblest of foods. The enduring object of dinner table affection in Malta, spanning centuries and involving generations of Maltese families, is none other than bread. The traditional Maltese round sourdough loaf (*il-Hobż tal-Malti*) – finished with a crunchy wood-fired exterior and fluffy centre – has one of the longest recorded bread histories in the world.

The existence of the staple food in Malta dates back to the [Phoenician period \(725-218 BC\)](#), although archaeological evidence indicates that Neolithic farmers originating from Sicily were already cultivating wheat on the islands long before – from around 5,000 BC.

Last year, [UNESCO added the Maltese il-ftira](#), a close cousin of the traditional loaf, to its Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity list. Maltese ftira is a handmade, ring-shaped flattened sourdough bread that uses the same ingredients as other loaves but is prevented from rising once the baker pinches a hole in the middle. It's believed that this process has remained relatively unchanged since it was first created back in the 1500s when the Knights Hospitaller (or Order of Saint John as a vassal state of the [Kingdom of Sicily](#)) ruled Malta.

The first mobile phone was sold 40 years ago



A new device which surfaced on the market 40 years ago has since changed the lives of many. On 6th March 1983 the first ever mobile phone was up for sale.

The model was a DynaTAC 8000X and it had been manufactured by Motorola. The mobile had a similar look to a 'walkie talkie' as it was elongated, measuring 25cm and weighing 800g.

This mobile was capable of a 30 minute call duration and could hold up to 30 numbers in its directory.

The DynaTAC 8000X was priced at €3,700, and was bought by over 300,000 persons.

Previously Motorola had also been the first company to make a call using a mobile phone. This achievement was claimed by engineer Martin Cooper in April 1973.



Fr. Joseph Camilleri End of an era in Guatemala

Fr. Joseph Camilleri who was born on December 13th 1933 in Xewkija Gozo has been working in Guatemala since November 15th 1992. After spending over 20 years in New York working in a parish there, at the age of 62, he was encouraged to go to Guatemala accompanied by 6 lay missionaries. While being there for nearly two months, he was encouraged by Bishop Julio Cabrera of the Diocese of Jutiapa to stay in Guatemala and later on replace Fr. Peter Paul Meilaq who was very sick. Fr. Peter Paul Meilaq was a Franciscan priest working in Comapa and in charge of over a population of 25000 poor people.

After a long period of 17 years working in the limits of Patagua, reaching out not only to the people of his big parish including the 38 communities in the highlands, Fr. Joseph Camilleri started his first project. This first project was the building of a big hospital in order to address all the medical problems of so many poor and dispossessed people. This big hospital named after the Patron Saint of his birthplace Xewkija Gozo is officially known as Hospital San Juan Bautista. It is well equipped by a very good medical team that caters every day for so many patients and outpatients.

The second project of this hyperactive Gozitan priest was the launching of a big housing program. This program consisted of building accommodations and affordable houses for the poor. At present, there are already 48 houses built to the joy of 48 families whose low income blocked their chances of living in a decent house, especially during the cold and rainy seasons.

The last project that he embarked on was the agricultural project helping five poor families to cultivate pieces of agricultural land that could help them live a healthy and dignified life. The little money that they were receiving by being exploited

prevented them from living in the normal way they deserved and so now they are uniting their forces and cultivating the pieces of land that they have received from Fr. Joseph Camilleri and taking the produce to the market where they sell their produce on a daily basis.

Fr. Joseph knew so well his parishioners' headaches when it came to raising a family or finding a job. He knew all the hardships that they had to go through. That is why he committed himself so much to their good welfare.

For the time being Fr. Joseph is still in Guatemala giving the last pieces of advice and recommendations to all those who are in-charge in the Hospital, the Agricultural team and also that of the Housing program in charge. As a good missionary, he never thought of retirement; on the contrary, he wanted to continue to help heart and soul all those that shared his dreams during his 30-year presence in Guatemala. Yet he needs to take care of himself too at his age of nearly 90 years. His relatives want him in Xewkija so that they can enjoy his company too besides so many well-wishers who know him so well throughout the years that he has visited them.

Now Fr. Joseph needs our help so that all his dedicated work will continue to give so much support to so many in need of close attention. He needs us to keep on contributing to his projects in order to sustain them. If you really want to help, you can by sending your donation to :

Fr. Joseph Mario Camilleri

28, DonationsSt. Zachary Street Xewkija Gozo

Or deposits Fr. Joseph Mario Camilleri Mission.

BOV Xewkija Gozo

A/C no. MT52VALL22013 0000 0001 2416 9550

12 BOV mobile App 79703918

Fr Joseph Camilleri of Gozo started his mission with Bishop Fiordeli of Prato, then, after two years he moved on to New York where he worked with Maltese and Italian emigrants. After these 22 years he made a radical change in his life by moving to Guatemala, leaving all the American luxury and started off in a parish which had 35 villages. While in Guatemala, he embarked on two projects: Project Gozo which dealt in agriculture and Project Hospital Juan Batista mainly sponsored by the Knights of Malta. Doctors from the USA, Canada and Cuba offered their services, providing surgery to the poor. Fr. Joseph is retiring to his beloved home in Xewkija Gozo soon.

Who Would You Tell?



Dery Sultana

This appropriately titled documentary is yet another sobering and chilling account of child abuse.

Who Would You Tell? chronicles the tragic true story of a family of post-war migrant children who were sent down under from Malta to orphanages in Western Australia.

The three Maltese youths travelled by ship to Fremantle in 1960 to escape the ravages of the Second World War and were taken in by the Catholic Church and housed in the Castledare Boys' home in Tardun.

It was there that the boys received an education and were then farmed out as labourers on local farms.

On top of being subjected to slave labour, the boys were also victims of constant sexual abuse by the residing priests in the orphanage. It wasn't until the *Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse* in 2017 that these victims got to publicly share their stories and help uncover the extent of the conspiracies and receive public apologies and resultant compensation.

Who Would You Tell? consists of aching honest interviews with the surviving brothers who graphically describe their horrific experiences and their resultant psychological and physical trauma.

The film also features interviews with Government officials and the clergy from Malta who reflect on the incidents and the failure of authorities to investigate the abuses.

Director Dery Sultana has crafted an emotionally affecting documentary that not only boldly brings to light this disturbing chapter in Australian history but also examines the personal stories behind it.

"Who Would You Tell?" Following premieres in Bologna and Melbourne, Malta's Eden Cinemas will host a premiere this Friday 10th March (Cinema 1), showing daily thereafter for one week only. A harrowing exposition of a true story, fearlessly directed by Dery Sultana, produced by Ramon Mizzi and Anton Calleja, written by Ramon Mizzi (and script-editing by Marie Briguglio), filmed by Alex Mizzi, (with additional filming by Alex Begetis, David O'Connor, Warren Brimmer, and Lee Farrugia), featuring Peter, Manny and Raphael Ellul, Chris Caldwell, Maria Schembri, Henry J Frendo, Lawrence Gonzi, and the late Mons Philip Calleja with music by Freddie Portelli, Trania, Etnika and Tribali, and with thanks to the Malta Film Commission, Department of Information (Malta), Migrants Commission, PBS Malta. Thanks also go to Peppi Azzopardi and Mandy, James, Abigail, Marlene, Ken Scicluna, Stefano, PJ, Angie, Henry, Carlos, Jon, Lou, Gregory, Kurt, Duane, Robert, Claire, Ivan, Claudette, Herman, Sandro, Keith, Felix, Ruth, Rodianne, MaltaToday, Times of Malta, Xarabank, Indri, Peter Paul, Antojn and many others

Get all the information at:

<https://bit.ly/WhoWouldYouTell>









Variety Night

Saturday 29th April 2023
6.30pm to 11pm
At The Good Shepherd Hall
136, Hyatts Road Plumpton NSW 2761
Food & Drinks available from the Kitchen
\$10 Entry Donation & Kids U / 12yrs. Free

For tickets please call
Stella on 0414 188 226
Public Relations Officer

WHEN YOU THOUGHT I WASN'T LOOKING

Thank you always for being there and supporting me and my electronic newsletter. I am so grateful for your patronage, understanding and friendship.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw reading my newsletter, and I immediately started to write the next edition of the journal.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you feed a stray cat, and I learned that it was good to be kind to animals.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you make your favourite cake, and I learned that the little things can be the special things in life.

When you thought I wasn't looking I heard you say a prayer, and I knew that there is a God I could always talk to, and I learned to trust in Him.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you make a meal and take it to a friend who was sick, and I learned that we all have to help take care of each other.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you take care of your house and your family, and I learned we have to take care of what we are given.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw how you handled your responsibilities, even when you didn't feel good, and I learned that I would have to be responsible and care about others..

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw tears come from your eyes, and I learned that sometimes things hurt, but it's all right to cry.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw that you cared, and I wanted to be everything that I could be.

When you thought I wasn't looking I learned most of life's lessons that I need to continue to be a good, honest and productive person.

When you thought I wasn't looking I looked at you and wanted to say, 'Thanks for all the things I saw when you thought I wasn't looking'.



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

SUIT UP IN PINK GEAR

Sunday
14 May 2023 is
Mother's Day
in Australia

to show solidarity with
the 1 in 7 women diagnosed
with breast cancer

You can register your support NOW here
<https://www.mothersdayclassic.com.au/>



Nicole Osborne (née Aquilina) first generation
Maltese/Australian is a Director on the Mother's Day Classic Board

If you're after a sleep-in on Mother's Day
or prefer the flexibility to complete
your chosen distance on a different day or time,
register to complete the event
anywhere and anytime with MDC Anywhere!
We'll send you a Mother's Day Classic race bib as well as
your commemorative medallion so you
can create your very own Mother's Day Classic
experience and be a part of our MDC community.

MOTHER'S DAY CLASSIC

KIDS Easter PARTY

APRIL 2nd at 2 pm
TICKETS ONLINE ONLY
www.themaltesecenter.com

MALTESE CENTER NY

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

**MALTESE COMMUNITY OF ADELAIDE
SOUTH AUSTRALIA**
Maltese Senior Citizens meet for lunch
every Friday 10am-3pm at Kilburn

Maltese Guild of SA members and friends
meet every Tuesday at the
Maltese Cultural Centre - Beverley
from 10am - 3.30pm

SAINT NICHOLAS FESTA COMMITTEE

Sunday 19th March 2023

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

THE BIG FETE - FIERA TAL - FNIK
At 1.30pm

Music & Entertainment by:
CHARLIE MUSCAT

With lots of popular music.
Lots of fantastic prizes to be won.
There will be drinks and food available, including:
'Pastizzi, Hobz blz-zejt, 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 2023

Variety Night on Saturday 29th April
Lejla Fil-Buskett on Sunday 2nd July
Fiera on Sunday 15th October
Dinner Dance Saturday 11th November
The Feast of St Nicholas on Sunday 3rd December

For further information please contact:-
The President - Emanuel Vella on 0405 677 064
Or
Public Relations Officer - Stella Vella on 0414 188 226

KIDS EASTER PARTY

It's Easter Bonanza.
Arts & Crafts, Pizza & Juice.
Professional Entertainment
with bubble show,
musical games,
balloon twisting, face painting,
clown, Easter bunny,
prizes, afterwards raffle,
egg hunt and goodie bag .
Time Apr 02, 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

About The Event

It's Easter Bonanza.
Arts & Crafts, Pizza & Juice.
Professional
Entertainment
with bubble show,
musical games, balloon twisting,
face painting, clown,
Easter bunny, prizes,
afterwards raffle,
egg hunt and goodie bag .

WEBSITE

www.themaltesecenter.com/events-1



The Malta We Love



UGLIFICATION



A Postcard from Malta



One of the paintings exhibited at Pause2Save
at the Banca Giuratale, Victoria, Gozo.
Open till 26th March 2023
Opening hrs
Mon-Fri 8.00am till 2.30pm
Sat & Sun 9.00am till 12.00pm
Watercolours 35 x 50cm

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