

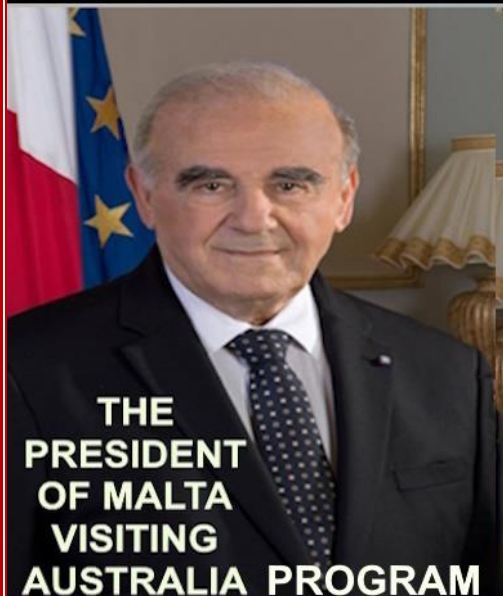
# MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

maltesejournal@gmail.com



Journal for Maltese Living Abroad

Editor: Frank Scicluna OAM MQR JP



**THE  
PRESIDENT  
OF MALTA  
VISITING  
AUSTRALIA PROGRAM**

Malta's  
Roberta Metsola  
makes it to  
TIME magazine's  
list of next  
influential leaders



**European  
Parliament  
President**

## THE VOICE REFERENDUM



# AUSTRALIA VOTES

**14 OCTOBER 2023**



**VOTE  
YES**

**VOTE  
NO**



[www.visitmalta.com](http://www.visitmalta.com)

**22 OCTOBER 2023 AT MARSASKALA - COME AND JOIN US**  
**MORE INFO AT Europa Donna Malta Facebook**



**RACE  
FOR THE  
CURE.**



**RUN WITH ALL EUROPE AGAINST BREAST CANCER**



# MALTESE DIASPORA MATTERS



# Roberta Metsola

BY URSULA VON DER LEYEN

SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

**Time Magazine ranks Roberta Metsola among top world leaders. She is the first Maltese person to make it on the list.**

*European Parliament President Roberta Metsola has been ranked one of the world's next top leaders by Time Magazine.*



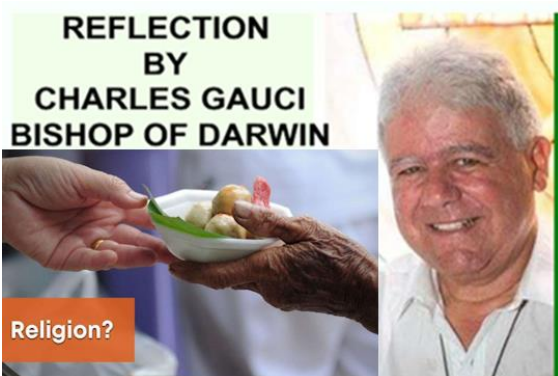
Metsola appeared in the international magazine's 'Time100 Next' list of 100 people from across the world making an impact in various fields, including politics, health, climate, businesses, sport and art.

The President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen penned the testimonial to President Metsola, saying that Metsola is one who brought the European Union closer to people. Last year, Roberta Metsola made history by becoming the youngest-ever president of the European Parliament. There is one mission above all that she has put at the heart of her presidency: reconnecting the European Union with its citizens. Whenever she travels to one of the bloc's 27 member states, whatever the issues on the agenda, she always finds time to meet with local people. And she repeats a powerful message: Get involved. Do not ever give in to cynicism. You can be the engine of change.

Roberta also works tirelessly to make European institutions better and more transparent. When some European lawmakers were accused of taking bribes during the Qatargate scandal, she advocated tougher anticorruption rules around lobbying and financial disclosures to uphold the Parliament's credibility. She has made it very clear that politicians have to be role models.

Roberta's passion for Europe has led her to the highest seat in the European Parliament: now she is channeling it in the service of all Europeans.

*Von der Leyen is the European Commission president.*



I was attending mass overseas. A man, probably a refugee, came around just before mass saying that he was hungry. He approached a number of people with the same request.

Suddenly the silence of the church was broken by the shouts of an angry sounding voice! 'Get out..' 'Get out' but he kept on shouting!!!I was horrified as were many of the other people waiting for mass to start! Now apparently this man came regularly asking the people present to give him something. Indeed, a mile or so down the road, the Franciscan Friars offer a full meal as well as a shower and

other services for those in need. I suggested to the Sacristan looking after the church to pass on the Friars' address to those looking for assistance which he agreed to follow up and do.

The man who had ordered the one asking for assistance to leave the church was dressed in a suit and was very well-dressed. In his mind, he did what he most probably thought in his mind to be the proper thing to do. However, I believe that his response was well and truly 'over the top' It is so different from what I consider a Christian response to be. Religion is very helpful and very important, however, it is dead without enough Love.





*Kummissjoni Għolja tar-Repubblika ta' Malta*  
*High Commission for the Republic of Malta*



**Visit of the President of Malta to Australia 13-22 October 2023**

The High Commission of the Republic of Malta is pleased to announce the forthcoming visit of the President of the Republic of Malta, H.E. Dr. George Vella and Mrs Vella to Australia from 13-22 October 2023. The President will be visiting the cities of Melbourne, Adelaide, Canberra & Sydney.

A reception for the Maltese communities to meet the President of Malta and Mrs Vella will be held in these cities on the following dates:

Park Hyatt Melbourne – 7:30 pm, Saturday, 14 October 2023

Rydges Adelaide – 7:30 pm, Sunday, 15 October 2023

Park Hyatt Canberra – 7:30 pm, Tuesday, 17 October 2023. *This event is the National Day Reception.*

Mandavilla Function Centre, Sydney – 6:30 pm, Friday, 20 October 2023

To register interest in attending one of the above receptions, you may send an email to [highcommission.canberra@gov.mt](mailto:highcommission.canberra@gov.mt) with the following information:

Subject: President's Visit Reception

Reception Location: (Melbourne, Adelaide, Canberra or Sydney)

Number of Attendees:

Full name: (First Name & Surname) of all Attendees:

Telephone no.: (Mobile or Landline)

Residential Address: (complete address)

Email Address:

For those who are unable to email their reply, contact can be made with the High Commission of Malta in Canberra at (02) 6290 1724.

Closing date for submission of interest is **Thursday, 28 September 2023** and due to the limited capacity of the venues, attendance will be on a first come first basis.

Official invites will then be sent at a later date.

**NOTICE:** as part of the rebranding of Identity Malta Agency, new Maltese passport application forms will be used from next week.

Should you or someone you know have an upcoming passport appointment, kindly contact us to receive the new application form, older versions may not be accepted beyond the transition period. Thanks for your cooperation.



**identità**  
[www.identita.gov.mt](http://www.identita.gov.mt)

## Members of the MCCV attended the George Cross Presentation Night



*Picture: from left to right Cr Steve Abboushi (Councillor) Mark Sultana (GC President) Cr Lara Carli (Mayor of Melton City Council) Cr Julie Shannon (Deputy Mayor) Madam Antonia Camilleri (President of the MCCV) and Joseph Matina (Treasurer of the MCCV, Chair of Multicultural events/Media)*

Members of the executive team attended the Caroline Springs George Cross Presentation Night on the ninth of September. The event was of tremendous success and full of pride due to the great achievements accomplished by both the men and the women senior teams.

The President of the Club, Mark Sultana could not be happier with the results achieved. In his speech Mr Sultana thanked his father for encouraging him to contribute to the community in an emotional statement that was heart felt. Madam President, Antonia Camilleri together with her husband Joe, Andrew Gatt, Secretary and Joseph Matina, Treasurer attended a number of different functions in the past few months.

The Executive believes that it is important that those associations under the Maltese community councils

umbrella work together and support each other and acknowledge their efforts they contribute to the community. The executive also expects that the various associations support the MCCV in attending the events organised by the council.

Madam President expressed that we are not here to compete but complement each other. "We are not a social club and therefore, we leave that task for the associations. We are here to support our senior citizens through social support and create events to promote culture, history and language. In the last 6 months, the executive delivered a Maltese play that was seen by 840 people and a very successful 75th year anniversary of the signing of the assisted passage together with an immigration exhibition. As President, I want to continue to lead and create similar events and work together with our associations under our umbrella to continue to foster our Maltese heritage



**MALTA INDEPENDENCE DAY** -The Maltese Community Council of Victoria Incorporated held the celebrations of the 59<sup>th</sup> year of Independence on Saturday 16 September. Madam President Antonia Camilleri welcomed close to 100 people who attended the event. Those who attended enjoyed sumptuous cocktail food and a glass of red/white wine. Everyone networked together and had an enjoyable night.

Madam President thanked the members of the council, Tania Di Carli, Fr Lonnie, Andrew Gatt, Chris Chetcuti and Rosemary Attard for a great team effort for both pre-event and on the day.

She also thanked a number of volunteers for the Maltese Community who also contributed to assist. Madam President acknowledged Mr Joe Ellul, President of the Newport Maltese Association & Seniors Group Inc and Mr George Saliba who is the immediate Past President of the same organisation. Lastly, Madam President thanked all those who attended

for coming and their support because without their attendance these events will not be successful.

Posted by Joseph Matina – MCCV



## Discover Malta's best-kept WW2 Secret: The Lascaris War Rooms



and the Saluting Battery in Valletta, the Lascaris War Rooms are now known to be one of Malta's best kept secrets during WWII.

The chambers housed Britain's War Head Quarters in Malta and served as the hub for strategic defence and attack throughout the

During the WWII, Malta was under severe attack on a daily basis so, the rulers on the island, the British, needed to create a system of underground tunnels and chambers to defend the island from key points. 150 feet below the Upper Barrakka Gardens Lascaris War Rooms featured an RAF Sector Fighter Control Room; this is where all lookouts observed and controlled the skies for any incoming attacks. A Filter Room, Anti-aircraft Gun Operations Room and other combined operations rooms are also found in this ultra secret complex. Since there were so many chambers, and because people lived and breathed the air in this underground space, it was mechanically ventilated for the safety of the soldiers and officers defending Britain at war.

During the war, the Lascaris War Rooms were used for several vital defences and in July 1943, General Eisenhower as well as other commanders and

Mediterranean. Because of the huge importance of this tunnel system, it was kept top secret and only shared with elite British troops who needed to know of its exact location as well as its operations room.

marshals found this location to be an ideal location for planning of the Invasion of Sicily. After the war, the Lascaris War Rooms were dubbed the Mediterranean Fleet HQ and then taken over by NATO to act as a strategic Communication Centre; acting as an interception for Soviet submarines attacking the Med.

In 1977, the War Rooms were closed down and in 2009 Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna began restorations on the cultural wonder of Malta's past. From war to heritage, a cultural journey that most of Malta's cultural staples embark on. This best kept secret is now open to the public and worth a visit.

## DE PIRO HOUSE - THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO NSW - AN INVITATION

On 20 October 2023, the President of the Republic of Malta, His Excellency Dr. George Vella and Mrs. Miriam Vella will be visiting De Piro House at Stanley Street Sydney,

The President and his wife arrive at 10.30 am where they will be welcomed by all. Afterwards there will be Mass at the chapel. When the mass ends there will be refreshments, and everyone will be able to talk to our special visitors. So, let's give our esteem visitors a big and warm welcome. For any information you can call Fr Tarcisio 02 9380 8398

**Rev Fr Tarcisio Micallef MSSP Maltese Chaplain in Sydney NSW**

*DePiro House The Paulist Missionaries opened their first house in New South Wales in January 1964. This was situated in East Sydney, almost in the heart of the city itself. The idea was to be close to the many Maltese migrants who were living close to the area. In 1997 the old house was demolished, to make way for a new building. This incorporates more modern facilities and a bigger chapel, better equipped to cater for the needs of the people.*

## The Journal of all Maltese Living Abroad



## CHAPEL OF THE ANNUNCIATION

This chapel is situated in the old village of Hal Millieri, which lies between Zurrieq, Qrendi, Mqabba and Kirkop. This village was first

documented in 1419 and its origins date back to Roman and possibly pre-historic times. The chapel was consecrated in around 1480 on the site of an earlier chapel built in the thirteenth century and is a typical example of a Maltese medieval church. To enter the chapel, one has to descend three steps. It measures about 5m wide and 7m long and is divided into five bays by pointed arches arising from the wall piers. The paintings in the chapel of the Annunciation are unique and executed in the fresco technique. Their style and the angular Gothic letters of their inscriptions date them to the middle of the fifteenth century. The frescoes cover all the interior walls of the chapel except the apse, and depict several saints such as Nicholas, Andrew, James, Lawrence, Vincent, John, Paul, Augustine, Blaise, Agatha and Leonard. St George appears twice riding a horse and slaying a dragon.

The 'Teenagers Din l-Art Helwa' group began the cleaning of the chapel in February 1968 and no less than thirteen truckloads of rubble and debris were removed. In 1970 a Trust was set up on the initiative of the Zurrieq Council and the management of the chapel was given to Din l-Art Helwa. Pieces of pottery, carved stone, coins and other historical items were found. The altar was dismantled, and only the large mensa stone and the altar step were retained.

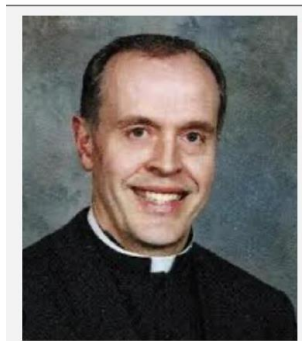
The gilt wooden ratable and the altar front frame were given to the parish church of



Zurrieq. The church had been whitewashed many times covering the precious frescoes. The restoration of the pictures necessitated the removal of the lime, salts and whitewash. Painted plaster about to be detached from the walls was consolidated and made firm by the injection of liquid lime. The plaster was carefully chipped away from the paintings thus extending the amount of paintwork visible. Unfortunately, almost all of the lower parts of the paintings were lost. Maintenance of these frescoes is ongoing and over the years has involved institutions such as Courtaulds, Opificio delle Pietre Dure, the Malta University, Museums Department, and the Restoration Centre. Humidity and salic aspects are monitored. The chapel is open for visits every first Sunday of the month, from 9.00 am to 12 noon.



## ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE PARISH, TORONTO - CANADA



From the Pastor's Desk...

### Fr. Roy Francis Farrell

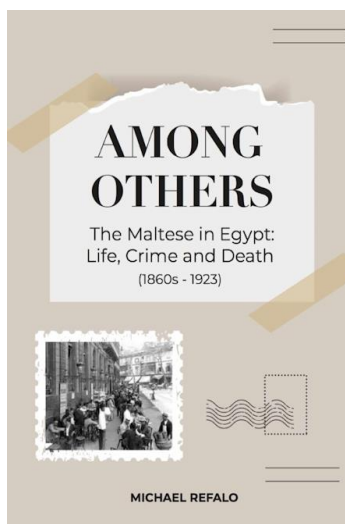
Maltese and Gozitans mark Independence Day on September 21st. This day signifies Malta's rightful place among the community of nations. 'Independence' means exercising power and autonomy without interference from other states. It means freedom from colonial rule.

It shows a process that started before 1964 and continues today. However, 'independence' has its limits. Sovereign states are independent in

terms of sovereignty and autonomy of power. States need to cooperate and depend on each other for their citizens' benefit. After two world wars, Europe needed a political structure to ensure peace.

The quest for peace was the fundamental principle embraced and promoted by the European project's founding fathers. They knew peace grows through unity among nations. They knew that adopting individualistic approaches would lead to mutual destruction. Given the present circumstances, it is essential that we remember these principles.

Pope Francis, in his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, reminds us of the interconnectedness of everything and everyone. We will hold a reception to commemorate Independence Day in the hall after the 10:30 am Mass on September 24th. This serves as a reminder to strive for solidarity, not only among nations but also within our own community and with future generations.



### Among Others, The Maltese in Egypt: Life, Crime and Death (1860s-1923), Michael Refalo

When Britain assumed its 'veiled protectorate', Egypt became more attractive to the Maltese who, themselves, were British subjects in virtue of the earlier colonization of their island by

Britain. Based upon the records of the British Consular Courts in Egypt, this book delves into the relationships, the lives and deaths, the successes and the failures of this community which made Egyptian centres their home.

Egypt was not the most popular migrant destination for the Maltese. Nevertheless, the opportunities for work (those connected to the Suez Canal among others), and the British

quasi-colonial status of the country for most of the period covered by this book, attracted many Maltese to Cairo, Alexandria, Port Said and other Egyptian centres. This book is based upon primary sources which have never been used by Maltese historians to date. It analyses in detail the lives of those migrants and their descendants. Particular attention is devoted to the family, the residence and the neighbourhood, the crimes they committed, their death and their succession strategies. Not all Maltese were financially successful; many languished at the bottom rungs of society. All, somehow or other, managed to make of Egypt their home and managed to adapt in a heterogeneous community that included migrants from different localities as well as Egyptians. Publication date: 25 June 2021





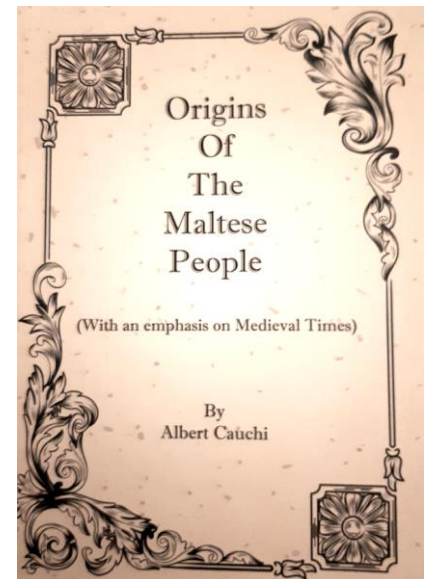
**ALBERT CAUCHI** was born in St. Julians Malta in January 1947. He is an architect and Structural Engineer but now retire. Albert was educated at the Lyceum and graduated from the University of Malta in architecture and civil engineering in 1972. He trained in the United Kingdom and graduated as a Chartered Struotional Engineer.

He also worked in Sultanate of Oman, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Malta and Vietnam on mega construction projects and was exposed to various cultures. So, after work he used to research the 500 years between the Arabs and the Knights to find out where the Maltese race came from. After all the Maltese language is of Arabic roots then mixed with European languages.

He researched for about 38 years a period that at that time hardly anybody in Malta did. Finally, Albert managed to publish this little book, describing the history of our little island from which reigns it has passed through, at the same time where our surnames came from all these countries.

This is the gist of my book which should interest people of Maltese origin around the world. He is not doing this for a profit, he donates the proceeds to charitable institutions. It costs 20 Euro + postage and handling. Albert Cauchi is a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Lazarus. He has two daughters and two granddaughters.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy write to Albert at [acauchi2@gmail.com](mailto:acauchi2@gmail.com)



## FEAST OF IL-BAMBINA IN MELBOURNE

**Lonnie Borg MSSP**

The feast of the Nativity of the BVM known as 'IL-FESTA TAL-BAMBINA', was

celebrated on September 17th at St. Mary's Star of the Sea Church. The event started with the Rosary Prayer. Then the Mass celebrated by Fr. Silvio Bezzina mssp together with Frs. Edwin Agius, John Taliana and Lonnie Borg from the Missionary Society of St. Paul.

This day was special too because we celebrated the 90th death anniversary of our Founder, the Servant of God Joseph De Piro. After the Mass there was a musical performance by the Maltese Own Band. A special **Thank you** to all who helped in the organisation of this event. Also, I like to thank those who attended and supported us with this Marian celebration close to all Maltese and Gozitans.

**MAY OUR LADY OF VICTORIES BLESS THE MALTESE ISLANDS  
AND ALL MALTESE IN MALTA AND OVERSEAS**





*The writer, Victor V. Vella has an M.A. in History (University of Sydney) and is a frequent broadcaster on SBS. Radio and correspondent of the Journal for Maltese living abroad.*

## THE ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE

The first stirrings of the movement against Britain's rule in Malta was the anti-British riot of the 7th of June (known historically as the riots of the Sette Giugno) during which British soldiers killed four Maltese demonstrators. Two years later self-government was granted and the Prince of Wales inaugurated the first Maltese Parliament. Its jurisdiction was limited to internal affairs. The first government was formed by the political groups later merged into the Nationalist Party. During those years priests ran for elections and Michael Gonzi later to be Archbishop of Malta was a senator representing the Labour Party.

In 1927 the Pro-British Constitutional Party led by Lord Strickland and backed by the Labour Party, won the elections. Then the language question raised its ugly head. With a British Lord as a prime Minister of a pro-British Party in power.... the official use and dominance of Italian, used in the law-courts, the university and the Church did not fit the politics of the time. The government identified the clergy with the Nationalist Party during the language controversy. The clergy fought back, and Malta was soon torn by a political struggle between the government party and the ecclesiastical authorities. The then Archbishop of Malta, Archbishop Caruana and the newly elected Bishop of Gozo Michael Gonzi ( who had left the senate. in 1924) issued a condemnation of mortal sin on all those who voted for the Constitutionals. The British government considered this, interference in politics by the ecclesiastical authorities... the constitution and the forthcoming election were suspended. By January 1932 differences between Church and Government and the British government were sorted out and in the election which followed The Nationalists were back in power. The British realised that more trouble about the language question would be forthcoming to the possible loss of English as the 'official' language . The constitution was again suspended and direct rule by the British Governor was set up for 14 years.

In 1947 Britain though victorious in World War 2, could sense a new political mood regarding its Empire. A new constitution was offered to Malta; elections were held and the Labour Party under Dom Mintoff won the election. Its relations with the church were smooth and cordial. In 1949 Mintoff split the Labour Party and the Nationalists formed the next few governments with the support of the new Workers' Party under Paul Boffa.

The election of 1955 brought Labour to power and in its hubris, Mintoff proposed integration with the U.K. similar to the constitution of N. Ireland. This would have brought major changes, political and religious and in the campaign Archbishop Gonzi insisted that the status quo of the Church should be preserved. Negotiations broke down as Mintoff was asking for too many economic advantages, especially with the looming closure of the naval dockyard and the refusal of Britain to guarantee the current level of employment. Mintoff resigned and the campaign for independence became the centre of Maltese politics. Rioting began. The campaign was a mixture of politics. party politics, and survival politics. Religion entered the campaign as Archbishop Gonzi condemned the violence and was accused of siding with the British instead of joining the campaign for independence.

It was a bitter dilemma for the ecclesiastical politics.... and a lot has been written on the political conflict which I am not going to go into. However, it is a fact that the Church was cornered in a three-dimensional situation. If they stay aloof, they would be labelled 'enemies of the people'. If they joined the campaign for independence, they would be involving themselves in politics. This was coupled with the fear of the anti-clericalism of the incumbent leader of the Labour Party.... Meanwhile the Catholic Church was developing a more lenient policy towards the world in general, later firmly established in Vatican 2.. Anti clericalism became rampant, socialism was promulgated in the Labour media and attacked in independent and partisan media. The campaign became heated so much that the major issue of independence was virtually sidetracked as was question concerning the economic feasibility of an independent Malta. . Anti-clericalism became stronger and more direct: ithe Church became in the eyes of the officials of the Labour party the main antagonist in the fray. This resulted in Mintoff and the leaders of his party being interdicted by the Archbishop in April 1961. A few weeks later came the ban on the Labour papers Il-Helsien and the Voice of Malta.

In the elections of 1962, the Nationalist government under Dr. George Borg Olivier won an absolute majority. The Labour party only gained 16 seats out of 50. Mintoff lodged a formal complaint to the U.N. regarding the fairness of the election vis a vis the 'ecclesiastical interference'.... complaint that was dismissed by the U.K.



## JOSEPH LAWRENCE ATTARD,

Vivienne Darwon, nee ATTARD - AUSTRALIA

"Joseph was born in Naxxar Malta in 1922. In 1947 he married Mary Helen Aquilina from Birkirkara. Joe migrated to Australia in February 1949 followed by my mother and myself (Vivienne) in May 1949. They lived in East Sydney for about four years then moved to Newtown, NSW where my sister (Monica) was born and finally to Strathfield NSW where my parents spent the rest of their married life. They loved living in Strathfield and were surrounded by the many new friends and neighbours that they met during this time.

They had two trips back to Malta where they still have many nieces and nephews. Unfortunately, Joe passed away in 1993 after a prolonged illness (aged 71 yrs) but has been very much missed as a husband, a father and by his grandchildren, Matthew, Rebecca and Sasha. Our mother, Mary, of course joined him some five years ago (2018) and hopefully we will one day be reunited with our special parents. "



## We announce the death of MARY MUSCAT at the age of 102, shortly before she turned 103.

Mary, was born in 1921 in Bormla, Malta and raised in Birkirkara. She emigrated to Australia in 1964.

Mary lived in Adelaide, Australia and was a mother of seven. She had 20 grandchildren as well as being a great-grandmother of 37 and a great-great-grandmother of one. Mary remained very active and for many years participated in the functions of the Maltese community in Adelaide. She was loved by all. We will miss her cheerful personality and her big smile.

She loved to cook Maltese food including *mqaret* and *pastizzi* as well as keeping up to date with everything that is happening in Malta through the internet and TV News

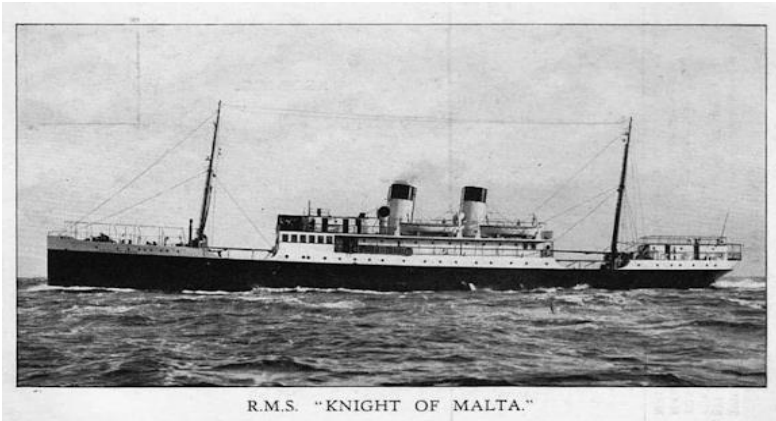
from Malta. We convey our condolences to all her family and relatives, Mary, rest in peace – Strieh fil-Paci. Frank Scicluna-Editor

Mum, words cannot express the void I have felt since you parted from us.

You couldn't have had a better passing, surrounded by all your family and though you fought hard to stay with us, it was time for God to take you into his care. You created such a loving, caring family Mum, and with God's help, we will keep it that way. I am missing you every day, as you were such an important part of my daily routine and I especially miss your calls to me, several times a day. You always ended the call with so much love and care, saying in English, "Have a good day". Mum, I will miss you forever and you will be in my heart until my last breath, just like I was with you.

"When someone you love becomes a memory, that memory becomes a treasure". You will always be our "Treasure" Mum. **Dolores Muscat on Facebook**





**R.M.S. THE KNIGHT OF MALTA** was built by Swan, Hunter & Wigham Richardson Ltd at the Neptune Yard, Low Walker in Newcastle upon Tyne.<sup>[1]</sup> She was launched on 2 October 1929 and was completed the following December.<sup>[1]</sup> The vessel was owned by Cassar Co. Ltd. in Malta. The vessel entered service on 21 February 1930,<sup>[4]</sup> and it operated between Malta and Syracuse or Tunis.<sup>1</sup> The *Knight of Malta* was the first purpose-built vessel to operate on a Malta-Sicily route. The *Knight*

of *Malta* had her own paquebot postmark which was applied to mail posted on board.

After World War II broke out, the vessel was requisitioned by the Admiralty in July 1940. She was initially an armed boarding vessel, but was later used as a stores carrier.



The *Knight of Malta* was wrecked on the night of 2–3 March 1941.<sup>[5]</sup> She was carrying troops from Alexandria to Tobruk, being escorted by the anti-submarine whaler HMSAS *Southern Maid*, when she ran aground 2 nautical miles (3.7 km) west of Ras Azzaz, Libya.<sup>[5]</sup> There were no casualties.<sup>[5]</sup> The destroyer HMS *Wryneck* was sent to determine the possibility of salvage, and the ship's cargo was salvaged. On 8 March, the Egyptian steamer *Star of Mex* also ran aground nearby, but she was towed successfully to Alexandria.<sup>[5]</sup> Salvage of the *Knight of Malta* was abandoned on 10 March, after the corvette HMS *Peony* and the tug *St Issey* were attacked.

In 1986, the vessel was depicted on a Malta postage stamp and on a Lm5 silver commemorative coin.

## ASSEMBLEA TAL-AZZJONI KATTOLIKA F'GHAWDEX L-Azzjoni Kattolika f'Għawdex



tħabbar li l-Assemblea għas-Sena Soċjali 2023-24 se tiġi ċelebrata fid-Dar Ċentrali nhar is-Sibt 7 t'Ottubru, preseduta mill-Isqof Anton Teuma.

Il-laqgħa tibda fil-5 bil-messaġġ programmatiku tal-President Djoċesan u preżentazzjoni dwar il-motto għas-sena bażat fuq il-programm pastorali tad-Djoċesi. Fit-tieni parti, l-Isqof jiċċelebra Quddiesa mal-Assistenti li fiha joffri Messaġġ lill-membri u jilqa' l-Wegħda.

### Gozo Catholic Action Assembly

The Assembly for social year 2023-24 will be held on Saturday 7 October (5-6.30pm) at its Victoria HQ. After the Diocesan President's programmatic message and a presentation about the year's message, Bishop Anton Teuma says Mass, during which he presents his message to members and accepts the Vow. Proceedings are in Maltese. Antoine Vassallo PEP PRO

## Minor Conventual Friars celebrate Provincial Chapter



The friars reconfirmed Friar Colin Charles Sammut as minister provincial (second term). Fr. Sammut, from Qawra, was born on November 8, 1981. He joined the Friars Minor Conventual in 2002 and, after studying philosophy at the University of Malta during the years of his postulancy, he began the novitiate year in Osimo, Italy, in 2005. On September 6, 2006, he made his simple profession and on September 10, 2010, his solemn profession. On December 12 of the same year, he was ordained a deacon and on

July 3, 2011, he was ordained a priest.

## It-tmien edizzjoni tal-ispettaklu Muzikali Stage and Proms on the Sea

Mill-korrispondent taghna il-Kav Joe M Attard



Wara s-suċċess li kisbet l-aħħar edizzjoni tax-show muzikali Opera vs Pop Under the Stars mill-‘Gozo Youth Orchestra’ fl-isfond tat-Tempji Neolitici tal-Ġgantija fix-Xagħra, kien jmiss li nhar it-Tnejn filgħaxija 11 ta’ Settembru 2023 fit-8.30pm il-‘Gozo Youth Wind Band’ tippreżenta l-kunċert muzikali Stage and Proms on the Sea. Mużiċisti żgħażaġh minn madwar Għawdex kollu mgħejjuna minn element Malti u barrani tawna it-tmien Edizzjoni ta’ dan l-ispettaklu muzikali li kien jinkludi shows mill-West End ta’ Londra u xogħlijiet oħra li mhux ta’ min jitlifhom fosthom għadd sabiħ ta’ musicals u siltiet minn medleys meħuda minn Musicals u Klassiċi li jkunu saru fil-lejla finali fuq il-palk tar-Royal Albert Hall ta’ Londra. Flimkien mal-‘Gozo Youth Wind Band’ ħadu sehem il-pop singers Ludwig Galea u Sarah Bonnici flimkien mal-guest singer, din is-sena, Neville Refalo, ilkoll taħt id-direzzjoni ta’ Mro Dr Joseph Grech quddiem udjenza numeruża li kienet tinkludi lill- Onor Abigail Camilleri u Dr Alex Borg.

Din l-inizjattiva kulturali u divertenti fil-Marina tal-Imġarr, saret bl-għajjnuna sħiħa tal- Ministry for Gozo Culture Events Fund fi ħdan il-Ministeru għal Għawdex, id-Direttorat tal- Wirt Kulturali fi ħdan l-istess Ministeru, b’kollaborazzjoni sħiħa mal-MTA, , General Soft Drinks Co Ltd, Paul Stellini Graphics and Design Studio, Mġarr Marina u Country Terrace Catering.

Kull min kien preżenti fl-Imġarr għal dan l-ispettaklu kellu mhux biss sigġu komdu, imma wkoll Welcome Drink, Platt għaġin tajjeb u Deserta u għal dan kollu seta’ jibbukja billi jċempel 7942 1611, 9942 1611 inkella jidhol fuq gozowindbandorchestra@yahoo.co.uk .

Is-Serata kienet tinkludi diversi musicals bħal ‘Mamma Mia’, ‘Fiddler on the Roof’, ‘The Phantom of the Opera’, ‘Les Miserables’, ‘The Lion King’, ‘Mary Poppins’, ‘Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, li iktar tard din is-sena se jinħadem ukoll fuq il-palk tal-Oratorju Don Bosco, kif ukoll varjeta ta’ mużika bħal ‘Music’, ‘Fantasia on British Sea Songs’, ‘Coldplay on Stage’, u xi marċijiet fost l-oħrajn.

Bla dubju dan kolu ma kienx ikun possibbli kieku ma tawx l-għajjnuna tagħhom l-Oratorju Don Bosco Victoria, Mr Gennaro Xerri u t-team tiegħu mill-Imġarr Marina, Malta Police, il-Kunsill Lokali t’Għajnsielem, Transport Malta, Micho Light Rentals, Pro Stage Sound, Mnarja Band Club, Frans Azzopardi, Victory Garage u l-Media. Grazzi wkoll lil Elise Grech, Martina Grech, kif ukoll mil-Loġistika s-sinjuri Frank bajada, Raymond Farrugia, Joachim Grech, Mirelle Grech, Sebastian Portelli, Lucas Portelli, u Charmaine Portelli.

Intant l-appuntament li jiġi wara mbagħad sa jkun ‘Rock Classics of the 60’s and 70’s fuq il-palk tat-tejnatru tal-Opra Aurora Victoria il-Ġimgħa 27 ta’ Ottubru fit-8.30pm u l-Booking huwa miftuh.. Biex tibbukja idhol [www.teatruaurora.com](http://www.teatruaurora.com) . Din l-attivitá qed tkun sponsorjata minn Festivals Malta. Il-Gozo Youth Orchestra dejjem taħt id-direzzjoni ta’ Mro Dr Joseph Grech se tkun qed tippreżenta wkoll id-Don Bosco Grand Concert matul Jannar li ġej kif ukoll ir-Rock Classics of the 60’s and 70’s fl- MCC Valleta f’Marzu li ġej bil- kollaborazzjoni tas-7 Star Pyramid Productions u Festivals Malta u l-Cash and Band. Fl- aħħar iżda mhux linqas kulhadd mistieden ukoll għal 15-il edizzjoni tal-ispettaklu ‘Opera vs Pop under the Stars’ f’Awwissu 2024.



## A one-day celebration of language to be held at Valetta university campus



**One-day Festalingwi festival to celebrate European Day of Languages Co The event will be held on September 24.**

Maltese, English and other European languages will take centre stage for a free one-day festival to be held at the University of Malta's Valetta campus on Sunday, September 24.

Festalingwi, which is being organised by the European Commission Representation in Malta in collaboration with the University of Malta, commemorates the European Day of Languages.

Over 20 different activities are planned for the event, complemented by an array of informative stands.

For children, events range from a theatrical performance by More or Less Theatre titled "The History of Malta and Maltese", the final of the Żanzan Kelma Maltese spelling bee as well as French classes especially tailored for children.

Attendees can also sign up for introductory courses in Maltese Sign Language and Maltese for foreigners, as well as an introduction to the Basque language.

The European Day of Languages is a yearly celebration of linguistic diversity and cultural heritage across Europe, established by the Council of Europe and European Commission. It is celebrated annually on the 26 September.

Festalingwi will address pertinent topics, including local attitudes towards Maltese and English, as well as the role of Maltese in an increasingly multicultural society. Local NGO Inizjamed will lead

a literary workshop, while the Department of English Students Association (DESA) will be testing attendees' literary knowledge at their stand.

The festival will culminate with a Maltese language musical performance by Djun, with Mariele Żammit and Christian Borg also enchanting the audience with Maltese songs and traditional għana infused with a jazzy twist.

David Schembri, Language Officer at the EC Representation, stated, "Languages are at the core of our lives, and by delving deeper into them, we gain insights into ourselves as individuals and as a society. We hope that Festalingwi will nurture a profound love and appreciation for languages, whether foreign or our own."

Pierre Cassar, Director of Marketing, Communications and Alumni at the University of Malta, expressed his enthusiasm, saying, "The University of Malta is a leading institution in language scholarship in Malta, and we are thrilled to have a new platform to showcase our language research and teaching to a broader audience beyond our lecture halls."



**Mikiel Zammit 'Il-Mejlaq, with the big bell known as Tal-Mejlaq situated at the parish church of Imqabba**

PUBLIC LECTURE

Prof Joseph M. Pirotta

## 28 April 1958 Mintoff and the National Interest



Saturday 23 September 2023  
at 11:00

Il-Ħaġar | Heart of Gozo Museum  
Pjazza San Ġorġ, Victoria, Gozo  
Registration: [events@heartofgozo.com.mt](mailto:events@heartofgozo.com.mt)



midseaBOOKS



## FONDAZZJONI BELT VICTORIA

VO/0762

Gozo NGOs Association founding  
member HNR0004

Pjazza San Ġorġ, Victoria VCT 1101  
[info@heartofgozo.org.mt](mailto:info@heartofgozo.org.mt) Media  
release

Mintoff's National Interest @ IL-ĦAĠAR Il-Ħaġar Museum and Community Cultural Centre in Victoria's Pjazza San Ġorġ is resuming its tenth anniversary Saturday morning lectures on 23 September at 11am. Professor Joseph M. Pirotta has an established reputation for scholarship, objectivity, and flowing style.

He will be offering a preview of his new book "28 April 1958: Mintoff and the National

Interest", signed copies of which will obviously be available. On 30 December 1957 our Legislative Assembly unanimously approved a Break with Britain Resolution moved by Prime Minister Mintoff, the reason being that negotiations over his plan to integrate Malta into the United Kingdom had stalled – and finally broke down by the end of March 1958.

The uncertainty concerning the future of the Naval dockyard was a further problem, culminating in the Government's resignation. On 28 April, the General Workers Union called a protest strike in solidarity, marked by violent incidents and serious property damage. Who was behind the mayhem? Were the day's incidents the spontaneous reaction of an angry population?

What was Dom Mintoff's role? What were the political results and consequences? These are some of the questions that Professor Pirotta, winner of the National Book Council's Prize for Biographical and Historiographic Research, seeks to answer while exploring Mintoff's political mission, his attempts to fulfil it, his *modus operandi* and his conception of the national interest.

Admission is, as always at Il-Ħaġar, free of charge, but seat reservations are recommended to [events@heartofgozo.org.mt](mailto:events@heartofgozo.org.mt). This will surely be a good opportunity to inspect the current CARBONARO exhibition!

Frank, this journal is a gem – a treasure and the true voice of all Maltese living abroad. I believe the government authorities in Malta should officially acknowledge this journal which is doing such a magnificent and important job – promoting Malta and Gozo overseas and keeping Maltese all over the world informed, entertained and linked with each other and especially with their homeland and their ancestors.

It is pleasing to know that because of the journal the history, culture and heritage of the Maltese Islands are being preserved passed on especially to the present and future generations. John M Attard – United Kingdom



## NEWS FROM WOLLONGONG REGION



**H.E. Dr. George Vella**  
**President of the Republic of Malta**  
**Visiting the Maltese Community Centre**  
**at Cringila NSW - 19 October 2023**

On Thursday 19 October the President of the Republic of Malta H.E. Dr. George Vella and Mrs Vella will be arriving in Cringila during their visit to

Australia.

Louis Parnis, the President of the George Cross Falcons Community Centre, the committee, volunteers and the members of the Maltese community will give a great welcome to these distinguished guests at Cringila, NSW. It is envisaged to have a great attendance at the club. The President will place flowers at the Cringila War Monument remembering the Maltese ANZACS who lost their lives during World War 1. There will be a reception for the special visitors and they would like to meet as many Maltese as possible in our region. Everyone is most welcome to attend. We will give you more information later on this journal.



Recently I have been listening to the Vox FM 106.9, the Voice of the Illawarra and I was impressed with the variety of programs.

For over 40 years, this station has been dedicated to giving members of the community a powerful voice through their diverse programming and commitment to supporting local talent. Classic hits from the 50s, 60s, 70s, and 80s, to lively discussions about the issues that matter most to the Illawarra region, Vox FM has something for everyone. They are proud to showcase the rich diversity of the Illawarra community through their ethnic music programs, which provide a platform for a wide variety of cultural voices.

Vox FM believes that everyone deserves to be heard, and we're proud to have listeners from all walks of life, including Indigenous, Bosnian, Croatian, Cyprian, Dutch, Filipino, German, Greek, Indian, Irish, Koori, Macedonian, Maltese, Portuguese, Scottish, Serbian, Slovenian, Spanish, Polish, and Arabic backgrounds. They are more than just a radio station – they are a vibrant and inclusive community that values creativity, expression, and the power of the human voice.

Louis Parnis, the President of the George Cross Falcons Community Centre presents a beautiful program in Maltese on Monday at 5.00pm which is worth listening. You may hear it on – VOX FM 106.9.



**THE WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL,  
 NSW FLYING THE MALTESE FLAG ON  
 21 SEPTEMBER 2023 TO  
 COMMEMORATE MALTA'S  
 INDEPENDENCE DAY.**

**THANKING ALL THE CORRESPONDENTS AND  
 READERS IN SYDNEY – NSW- AUSTRALIA  
 SUPPORTING US MEANS KEEPING  
 MALTESE LIVING ABROAD ON THE MAP**

**THE No.1 BEST SELLING**  
**Maltese-English-Maltese**  
**Dictionary**

Joseph Aquilina

**Concise**  
 Maltese English  
 English Maltese  
 Dictionary

Easy-to-use  
 everyday dictionary.  
 Ideal for school,  
 home and office.  
**1190 pages**  
 Now at a  
 special price

midseaBOOKS

**NEW BOOK**

Peter Portelli  
 masterfully  
 weaves story  
 and history to  
 form an  
 interesting  
 tapestry of  
 fast unfolding  
 adventure...

PHILIP FARRUGIA RANDON

PRE-PUBLICATION  
 OFFER  
**ORDER NOW**  
**€15**  
 INSTEAD OF €18.50

PETER PORTELLI  
**THE ORDER**  
 Defend what is sacred

midseaBOOKS

Announcing the publication of  
 JOSEPH M. PIROTTA's latest research

**Mintoff**  
 and the National Interest  
 The incidents of 28 April 1958

Order your copy now  
 for the pre-publication  
 price of **€59**  
 PUBLISHED PRICE €70

Hardbound, 336 pages, fully illustrated,  
 over 200 photos many of which never published.

28 April 1958  
 Mintoff and the National Interest

JOSEPH M. PIROTTA

X'KIEN ĠARA SEW FIS-  
**SETTE**  
**GIUGNO**  
 PAUL BARTOLO

**€24**  
 PREZZ SPEĊJALI  
 GHAL FTIT  
 GRANET  
 BISS

NEW PUBLICATIONS VISIT Klabb Kotba Maltin FACEBOOK PAGE

**midseaBOOKS**



I sincerely thank all those who sent a small donation  
 to assist in the production of this journal.  
 If you would like to help send your donation to  
 Name: Frank Scicluna Bank: Commonwealth Australia  
 BSB: 065-106 ACC: 0050 2597





**Explore more *stories***


**TRADITIONS, RICHNESS, & COLOUR!**  
The sheer magnetism of Maltese culture is apparent everywhere you go, making it almost impossible not to be drawn in.

<https://www.visitmalta.com/>

  @VisitMalta  **VisitMalta**

**CARDJOLA GARDENS, SENGLEA**

**IMAGINE**  
A NEW WORLD TO DISCOVER



**THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS**

malteselivingabroad.mfet@gov.mt  
  
**VIRTUAL YOUTH FORUM**  
[www.malteselivingabroad.gov.mt/](http://www.malteselivingabroad.gov.mt/)

*Save the Date*

**DATE: 27 OCTOBER 2023**

**TIME: 6 PM**

**2nd Virtual Youth Forum for Maltese Living Abroad**

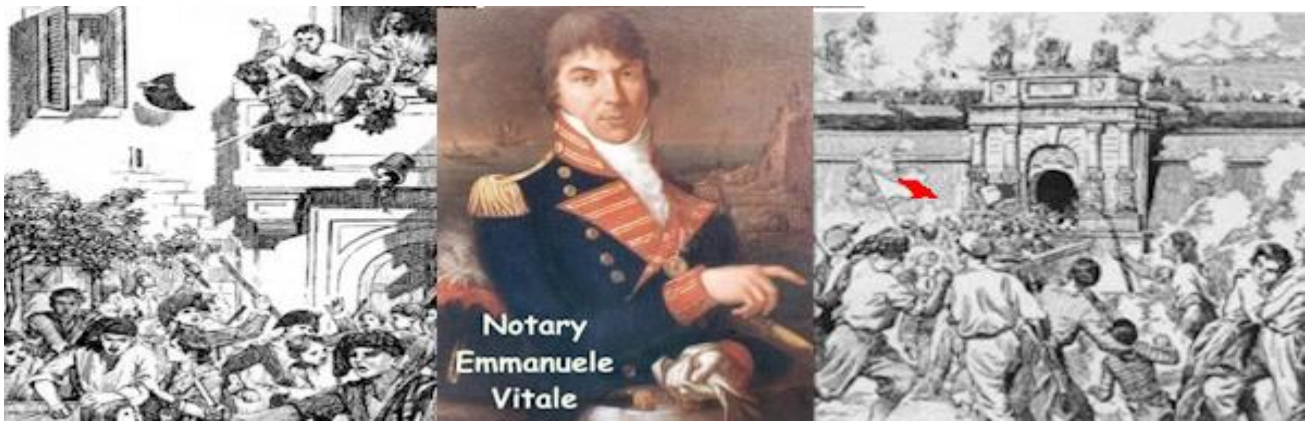


## INVITATION

The Virtual Youth Forum for Maltese Living Abroad is back for the second time. Join us on Friday 27 October at 6pm CET for a unique opportunity for Maltese youths both in Malta and Beyond to connect and discuss issues of common concern to youth all across the globe. Save the date! More information and registration details to come in the coming weeks!

## The Journal of all Maltese Living Abroad





## SILVERWARE WHICH WAS TO BE AUCTIONED BY THE FRENCH EXHIBITED IN RABAT

The Archconfraternity of Saint Joseph, together with the Franciscan Friars of Rabat, will display the silverware that was saved from the French Rule 225 years ago.

This silver was going to be auctioned by the French Government, on Sunday 2 September 1798 but the items were saved. It was the 2nd of September 1798 when the French Republican Commission sent the soldiers to hold the auction of the silver items that were stolen from the convents and churches of Rabat and Mdina.

That day was the feast of Madonna taċ-Ċintura, and the auction was supposed to be held at the Church of Ta' Giesu, but Notary Emmanuele Vitale who was Rector of the Archconfraternity of Saint Joseph gathered a number a large group of people from the Rabat area to prevent this auction from happening, and he succeeded. While the angry people were all gathered in Mdina, the French commander Louis Masson accompanied by two officers came out of Mdina and started waving his sword to try to scare the residents of Rabat.

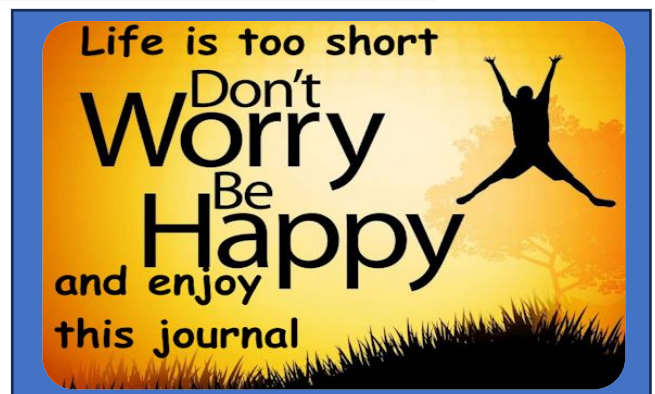
When they arrived near Ta' Giezu, the crowd attacked them and the two officers fled, while Masson took refuge in the house of the notary Pietro Antonio Bezzina which is in front of the church of Ta' Giezu.

Despite this, the crowd jumped on him and threw him from the balcony while the two officers were also killed. When they saw this, 63 French soldiers closed the doors of Mdina and started shooting at the Maltese, who were gathering at Rabat from every corner of the island.

The next day the Notary Emmanuele Vitale, who in the meantime was appointed leader of the Maltese group, took with him 65 Maltese and entered through a small door behind the Mdina Cathedral and fought French unexpectedly in a skirmish that led to several French soldiers killed, while some Maltese also died. It was here that the blockade against the French in Valletta began.

The exhibition will be staged inside the National Shrine of Saint Joseph, Church of Saint Mary of Jesus, in Rabat, as part of the *Rabat Sacrum* activity with the theme 'Treasures hidden in the Rabat'.

Visitors can also visit historic sites free of charge and places not normally open to the general public. The activity will also include several concerts, exhibitions and flowered in churches and convents. This activity is organized by the Rabat Local Council and funded from the financial scheme for Annual Cultural Activities. Rabat Sacrum will be staged by the Rabat Local Council on Saturday 23 September from 7pm onwards and the following day Sunday 24 September from 9am to 12pm.







THE SOLEMN FEAST IN HONOUR OF  
OUR LADY OF VICTORIES

Patroness of the Maltese Community  
of South Australia

CELEBRATED AT CHRIST THE KING CHURCH  
LOCKLEYS S.A.

29 Sept - 1 Oct 2023

## VITORJA FESTA IN ADELAIDE

**Friday September 29th** - Tributes to Our Lady - 7pm in the Lockleys Christ the King Church. Followed by light supper in the Church Hall.

**Saturday September 30th** - Social Night - 3 course meal \$35.00 per head with drinks available at the bar at reasonable prices. DJ Eric will be playing your favourite music. No tickets at the door, must be pre booked. Tickets are available by ringing Jane Agius 08 82687168 or Mary Saliba 0422 388 423 - be quick and book your ticket or book a table.

**Sunday 1st October** - Mass begins at 2.30 with Father Alfred. (There will be no procession this year). After mass we meet at the Parish Hall for entertainment.

Come along and socialise with old friends or make some new ones. The Maltese Queen of Victories will play a concert and then the BRIJU at the close of the evening. Bring along your whole family and have a great time.

**Monday 2nd October** - Cleanup day - come along and

help us with the cleanup.



LA VALETTE SOCIAL CENTER  
175 Walters Rd, Blacktown, Sydney, NSW



## NEW PLAYGROUND AT LA VALETTE

Come lend a hand! Our new playground's been installed. We need to install the boundary and lay mulch before children can play, and we're planning to do this from 9am on Saturday 23 September (+Sunday if needed). If you can join us, please text or call Antoine on 0405 233 144.

To say thanks there'll be a free feed for all helpers. This project has come about with thanks to supporters Canterbury Timber & Building Supplies, Parklea Sand & Soil, & club sponsor Maltese Funerals – Hills Family Funerals. Our address is 175 Walters Rd Blacktown NSW

OUR JOURNAL IS THE MOUTHPIECE OF ALL MALTESE LIVING ABROAD.  
EVERYONE IS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE AND BE PART OF THIS CULTURAL  
AND HISTORICAL MAGAZINE AT NO COST  
READ, ENJOYED, SUPPORTED AND SHARED BY THOUSANDS OF EAGER  
READERS ALL OVER THE GLOBE.  
ARCHIVED IN MANY PLACES IN MALTA, GOZO, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND,  
UNITED STATES, CANADA AND UNITED KINGDOM



## Our Lady Queen of Victories Festa 2023

Sunday 24 October 2023  
 198 Old Prospect Road, Greystanes  
 2.00 pm Festa Malta in English  
 After Mass Procession of the  
 Statue of Our Lady Queen of Peace  
 4.30 pm Outside Festivities begin  
 4.15 pm Musical Performance by the  
 Maltese Concert Band NSW Inc  
 6.30pm Musical Performance by  
 G-Sus Youth Band  
 8.30pm FIREWORKS DISPLAY

## Celebrating The Feast of Our Lady Of Victories at Horsley Park, NSW.

Thanking Fr Domenic and the Choir from the Marion Catholic School for the beautiful Mass celebration and the Maltese Band music directed by Roderick Pirotta during the procession led by Joe Demanuele. The band then entertained the crowd with their music for the rest of the afternoon. We would like to commend the work of Louise Cordina and her team for organising this cultural event.

The car show was also wonderful and the food stalls was varied and incredibly tasty provided by *Escape to Malta Eats* and *Mandavilla Function Centre* amongst others. Once again, the Maltese Community came together to celebrate our Faith and Tradition. We thank also the Parish Priest all those who attended.



## Sacred Music Concert APOSTOLO DELLE GENTI

by the Societa' Filarmonica Nazionale  
 La Valette AD 1874  
 St John's Co Cathedral, Valletta  
 Friday 3 Nov. 2023, 7.30 pm

Mons Mro Marco Frisina's sacred works will be performed in a Concert for orchestra, soloists and

choir, including highlights from his Oratorio - Apostolo delle Genti.

Mons Frisina is a world renowned composer of sound-tracks for films and sacred music for liturgy regularly performed in the Rome Diocese in the presence of His Holiness Pope Francis. He is as well the Choir Director of the Diocese that he founded in 1984. Soprano Rosabelle Bianchi, Tenor Charles Vincenti and the Mirabitur Choir will perform under the baton of Mro Dominic Darmanin and Mons Frisina.

Booking: Società Filarmonica Nazionale La Valette, 297 Republic Street, Valletta

Mob: 79882828 Email: [lavaletteband1874@gmail.com](mailto:lavaletteband1874@gmail.com) Showshappening.com

Submitted by Dr Tonio Portuguese,

**WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE JOURNAL FOR MALTESE LIVING ABROAD?**