



Maltese eNewsletter

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I DON'T WANT MALTA TO BE A CONCRETE JUNGLE WHEN I GROW UP



Joel Cauchi named as Sydney Westfield attacker - 7 Dead



MUSLIMS IN MALTA END OF RAMADAN

EVERY MALTESE LIVING ABROAD MATTERS



MALTA IN THE WORLD



‘This was a terrible scene’: Joel Cauchi identified as Bondi Junction attacker. 7 dead including the attacker

Megan Gorrey, Anthony Segart, Jordan Baker and Sarah McPhee
The Sydney Morning Herald

Queensland man Joel Cauchi, 40, has been named as

the man who went on a stabbing spree at Bondi Junction Westfield, killing six people and injuring at least a dozen more before police shot him dead.

Five women and one man were killed in the deadly rampage at the busy shopping centre in Sydney's east on Saturday afternoon. The dead include Dawn Singleton, who is the daughter of prominent Australian businessman John Singleton, and 38-year-old mother Ash Good, whose 9-month-old daughter was injured in the attack.

Assistant Commissioner Anthony Cooke said on Sunday morning police had spoken to relatives of Cauchi, who was from the Brisbane area and was known to Queensland police.

He said Cauchi had moved to NSW last month and had rented a storage facility in inner Sydney. Cooke reiterated the attack was not terror related.

“We are continuing to work through the profiling of the offender, but ... it would appear that this is related to the mental health of the individual,” Cooke said. Police believe Cauchi lived with schizophrenia. They were investigating a potential history of targeting women.

Police did not know how he came to possess the weapon, which witnesses described as a 30-centimetre-long hunting knife, that he used in the attack. Police said many of the injured, including Good's daughter, were in a serious but stable condition.

About 17 people were stabbed in the rampage, and 12 were taken to hospital on Saturday. Three more people presented to hospital overnight, including a couple with minor injuries.

“This was a terrible scene,” Cooke said. “We are working through the process now of speaking with the families and supporting the families of those victims; two of whom would appear have no family in Australia. So we are working through and with agencies overseas to attempt to reach out to the families.”

Mourners laid floral tributes to the victims at the eastern suburbs shopping centre early on Sunday. Of the three patients in St Vincent's Hospital, one woman in her 40s is in a stable condition. A man and a woman, both in their 20s, are in a critical condition. Another patient has been discharged.

Photos posted to Cauchi's social media accounts show him posing in a wetsuit in front of a surfboard. Six days ago, he posted a message on a Facebook group for people interested in surfing and adventures in Sydney: “Hi I am surfing Bondi this afternoon if anyone wants to meet there for a surf!” According to witness reports, Cauchi, wandered the centre with a knife in his hand and struck at shoppers at random on Saturday afternoon.

Bondi Junction Westfield and streets surrounding were in lockdown and closed as police and ambulance respond to multiple stabbing.

Police say CCTV footage shows the attacker first walked into Bondi Junction Westfield at 3.10pm, and left shortly after. He then returned at about 3.20pm, and word began to spread among panicked shoppers that a man was stabbing people.

People locked themselves in storerooms, hid in change rooms – some for hours – or fled to exits. The Bondi Westfield shopping centre remains closed.

Introduction – servizz.gov Agency



servizz.gov.mt is the agency bringing all government services together. It is a bridge between the Public Service of Malta and the general public, making government services more accessible. servizz.gov makes life easier and saves time. It does away with citizens having to travel to offices in Valletta and elsewhere.

Over the years, the services offered by servizz.gov have continued to increase, and therefore, servizz.gov has now expanded its operation, and runs 24 hubs around Malta.

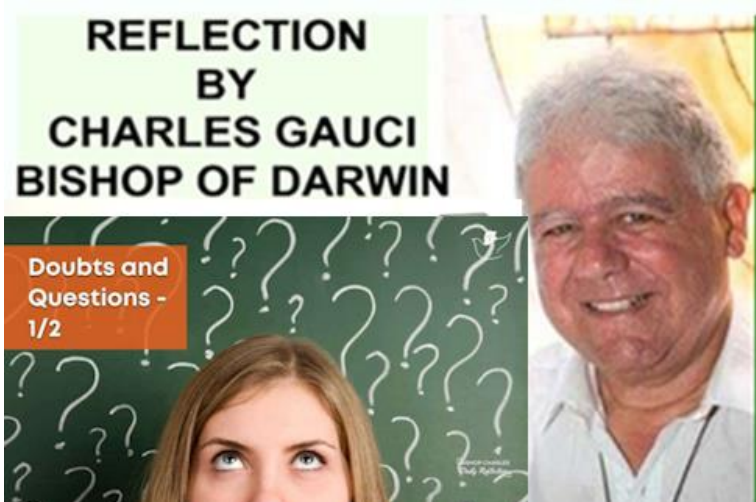
servizz.gov is also accessible via Freephone 153, email servizz@gov.mt, as well as via the website www.servizz.gov.mt and social media.

How can servizz.gov.mt help?

- Request information on Government services
- Raise an application or request a service
- Schedule appointments with servizz.gov experts
- Report problems and make complaints
- Make suggestions about Government services

Who may use servizz.gov?

Everyone. It's useful for anyone wanting help; either through face to face communication, over the phone, through the Internet or maltapps.



In the Gospel we read when Thomas doubted Jesus.

Questions and doubts are often a prelude to growth. We can sometimes view them in only a negative way. Reevaluating relationships can help to avoid stagnation and lead to deeper and more mature relationships. We make commitments in marriage, friendships, etc. These are sacred commitments meant to be about permanent loving.

We can take relationships for granted and deprive ourselves of growth. Recommitment, more unconditional loving, and more honest communication lead to deeper, richer, more God-like relationships

with tremendous mutual enrichment. We do not need to fear reassessments of existing relationships. When viewed constructively, it is part of commitment, a moment for growth.

When combined with prayer, it is about purification. Good, healthy relationships are a wonderful blessing and bring forth gratitude in our hearts.



St Publius Feast and the Mechanised Ground Fireworks Festival

Festa season kicks off with a big, colourful bang in Floriana as fireworks factories battle it out on Malta's largest square.

Adriana Bishop Summer in Malta is punctuated by fireworks. Loud,

colourful, spectacular and... did I say loud? Every parish celebrates the feast of its patron saint with as much pomp and grandeur as only a Mediterranean village can muster. No matter when you visit throughout the summer months, you can be sure there will be a *fešta* or three somewhere on the island - just follow the fireworks.

The first *fešta* for the 'prince of the island'

St Publius is one of Malta's two patron saints, the other being St Paul who was shipwrecked on the island in 60AD on his way to Rome. During his brief stay, St Paul is traditionally believed to have introduced Christianity to Malta, with Publius being his first convert. Publius served as Malta's first bishop, and is generally acknowledged as Malta's first saint and the 'prince of the island'. With such a background, it's only fair that St Publius is today still venerated by the locals and has the honour of opening *fešta* season.

The week-long festivities traditionally kick off on the Sunday before the feast, when the titular statue of St Publius, carved in wood by Vincenzo Dimech in 1811 and believed by many to be one of the finest in Malta, is brought out of its niche.

Built in stages between the 18th and the 20th centuries, the Floriana parish church is a showcase of Maltese craftsmanship. The altar piece by Antoine de Favray dates back to 1773, the ceiling frescos depict the shipwreck of St Paul, and there are also several paintings by numerous Maltese artists including Giuseppe Cali and Emvin Cremona.

Expect the church to be dressed in its finest red damask silk and bursting with precious silverware. festivities will be ongoing during week, making it an ideal time to visit, with religious services culminating on Saturday at 6pm, with the solemn procession of the relic of St Publius from the chapel of the Police Headquarters to the parish church.

The official feast day is Sunday 14th April, and starts with a pontifical high mass at 9am. A traditional and very exuberant band march kicks off at 1pm, during which parishioners let their hair down and dance through the streets. The feast climaxes with the procession of the statue of St Publius that evening from 7pm, and of course fireworks, lots of fireworks.

Malta Mechanised Ground Fireworks Festival

No *fešta* in the Maltese Islands is complete without a cacophony of fireworks, but St Publius takes it to a higher level with a fireworks competition featuring no less than 13 fireworks factories!

And this is no ordinary fireworks festival. This is a celebration of a form of pyrotechnics that is unique to Malta. Commonly known as St Catherine's Wheels or, in Maltese *gigh-gi-fogu* (from the Italian *gioco di fuoco*) it features a mechanised set of wheels attached to a pole on the ground which provide a rotating movement for the burning gas tubes. These impressively creative ground fireworks are a regular fixture in all feasts.

Remembering the tragic bombing of the Church of St. Publius in Floriana



It took ten years for the church to be reconstructed to its previous splendour.

Lyndsey Grima

On April 28th, 1942 Floriana, specifically the Church of St. Publius, experienced an incredibly dark day.

On that morning, during World War II, Maltese civilians heard the sound of the air raid siren warning everyone to take immediate refuge. Many people who were present in St Publius church made their way to the railway tunnel. However, others remained in the church's crypt, thinking that this air raid would be just like any other that they had experienced before.

Little did anyone know that German planes were flying from Sicily to Malta to carry out an attack specifically on Floriana, with the church of St Publius being their main target. The church was hit by five large-scale bombs, which also killed 13 people who had been sheltering in its crypt and left five seriously injured. One bomb also exploded between the belfry towers and completely destroyed the statue that represented faith and the front of the building.

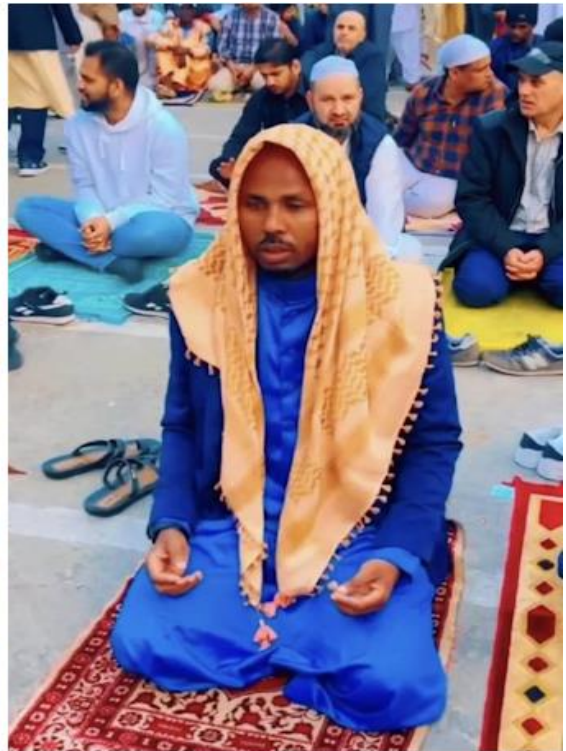
In the presence of Grand Master António Manoel de Vilhena, Bishop Paul Alphéran de Bussan laid the cornerstone of the church on August 2, 1733. Although several changes to the façade would later be made, construction was finished by January 1768, and the dome was added in 1780.

Pope Gregory XVI issued a proclamation in March 1844 establishing Floriana as a parish, with the Church of St. Publius serving as the parish church. The 19th century would see more decoration projects completed.

Malta began to be the target of enemy air strikes in June 1940, when Italy joined the war on the side of the Axis. The second half of 1941 had provided some relief after an intense period of bombings in the first half, but as Malta recovered as a platform for offensive operations, the enemy supply position in the Mediterranean worsened, persuading the Axis leaders that the island needed to be neutralised.

Malta experienced continuous day and night air strikes from the beginning of January until the end of April 1942. Even though they were primarily targeted at military targets, populated areas were not spared. Numerous other buildings and tens of thousands of homes were reduced to rubble. Because of its proximity to Marsa and the Grand Harbour, Floriana was situated close to military objectives. It took ten years for the church to be reconstructed to its previous splendour.

The Church of St. Publius is currently included on the National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands and is designated as a Grade 1 national monument.



Facebook
Mohammad Elsadi Paola, Malta

The Muslim community in Malta celebrates Eid al-Fitr

The Muslim community celebrated Eid al-Fitr which marks the end of Ramadan. This celebration that includes prayers and celebrations with families and friends. Earlier today, people who embrace the Muslim religion gathered at the Mosque in Paola to celebrate Eid al-Fitr. Several other people were gathered in other places around Malta including in the parking lot of a supermarket in Birkirkara. Imam Mohammed Elsadi shared photos of hundreds of people who gathered at the Mosque in Paola on Wednesday morning.

As in previous years, the management of the Smart supermarket has given its permission to the Muslim community so that it can use the supermarket's car park to hold this celebration. The Director of this supermarket Mark Ciantar in comments he gave to Whoswho.mt explained that they are happy to show their support to the Muslim community so that they can celebrate this important moment of this religion. This year these celebrations also recalled the humanitarian crisis that is getting worse in the Gaza Strip and the threat of Israel to follow its ground offensive in Rafah.

We thank our readers who sent a contribution towards the production of this journal

If you would like to send a donation these are the bank details

Bank - Commonwealth (Australia) BSB - 065 106
Account - 0050 2597 Name - Frank Scicluna

A red banner with white text and a Maltese cross logo. The banner contains a message of gratitude to readers who have contributed to the journal's production. It also provides bank details for donations. The Maltese cross logo is positioned on the right side of the banner.

RESTORATION OF THE AUSTRALIAN BUNGALOW IN MALTA



Photo: (from left) DLH President Patrick Calleja, Deputy Australian High Commissioner Jennifer Kingsman, Hon. Bronnie Taylor and her husband Duncan, DLH council member Joseph Philip Farrugia.

Din L-Art Helwa was thrilled to welcome Hon. Bronnie Taylor, a member of the NSW Parliament in Australia, to visit the Australia Bungalow project in Ta' Qali. She was in Malta for the first

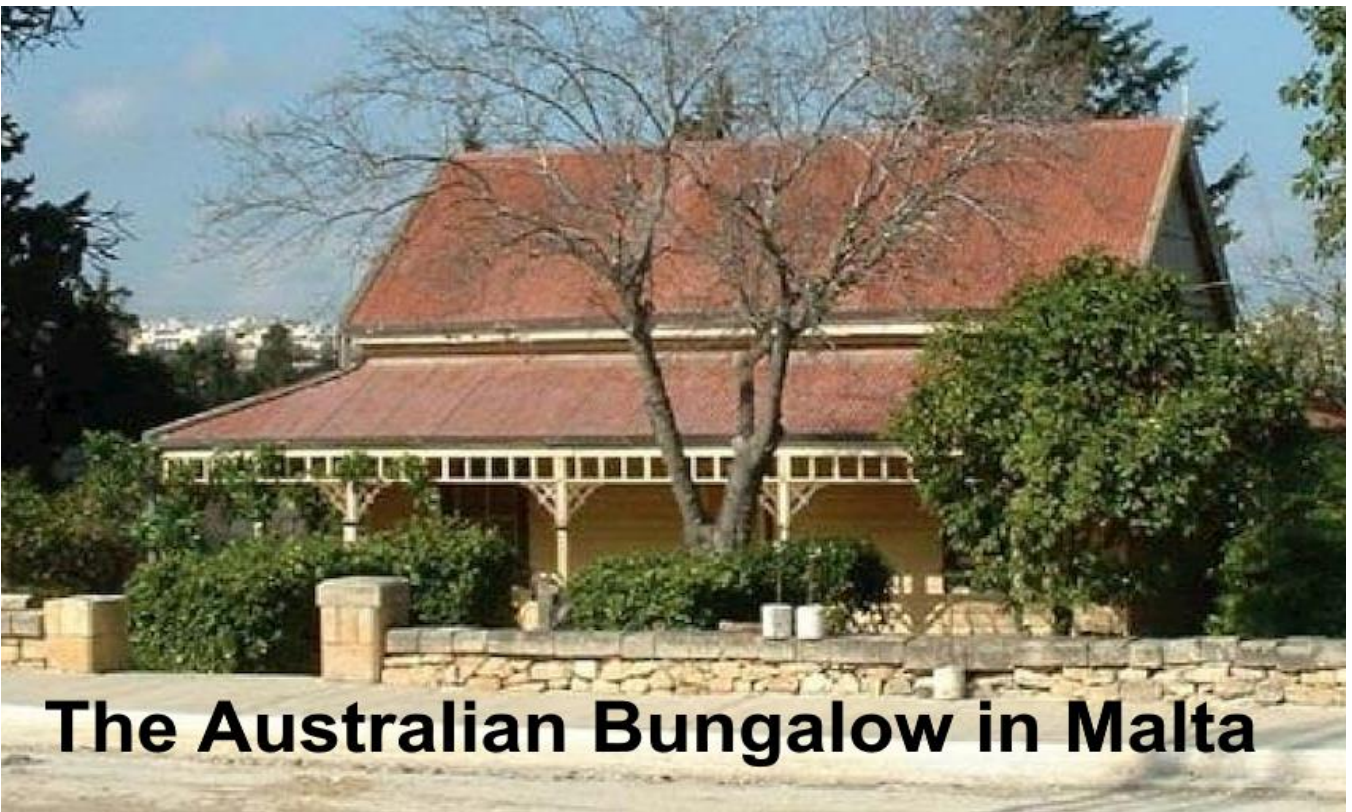
time, as part of a study tour, with her husband Duncan.

They were shown around by DLH President Patrick Calleja and DLH council member Joseph Farrugia - and joined for the visit by the Australian Deputy High Commissioner to Malta Jennifer Kingsman.

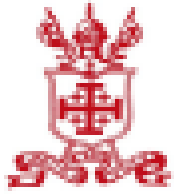
One of the main messages that Ms Taylor will be taking back with her is the importance of preserving this important cultural site, which played a role in the migration of so many Maltese and Gozitans to new shores, where they forged a new life for themselves and their families.

DLH still needs €200,000 to finish this project and donations and sponsorships would be welcome! [restoration-of-australian-bungalow.png](https://www.restoration-of-australian-bungalow.png) (1898x1069) ([simplygiving.mt](https://www.simplygiving.mt))

Vanessa Macdonald



The Australian Bungalow in Malta



**ORDO EQUESTRIS SANCTI SEPULCHRI
HIEROSOLYMITANI Locumtenentia Melitensis**

9th April 2024,

Order of the Holy Sepulchre Lieutenant Roberto Buontempo
Assumes Role as Malta's Ambassador to Hungary.



Roberto Buontempo, Lieutenant of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, presented his letters of credence to the President of Hungary H.E Tamas Sulyok on the 26th March, officially assuming the role of Malta's Ambassador to Hungary.

The ceremony was held at the renowned Sandor Palace in Budapest. Following the presentation, Ambassador Buontempo paid homage to the heroes of Hungary by laying a wreath at

Heroes Square, symbolizing respect and admiration for the host country's history and culture. During his stay in Budapest, Ambassador Buontempo engaged in a series of high level meetings, addressing current affairs, bilateral relations, and exploring potential areas for further collaboration between Malta and Hungary.

During his stay, he was accompanied by his spouse Ms Marie Josette Buontempo and Mr. Daniel Sammut, First Secretary at the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade of Malta.

His first visit emphasized Malta's commitment to strengthening its relationships with Hungary and is set to promote diplomatic and cultural ties between Malta and Hungary.

Biographical note:

Ambassador Buontempo is the Head of Property of the Archdiocese of Malta, Chairperson of the Affordable Housing Foundation and Co-Chair of the Control Committee of the Joint Office. In the past he held prominent leadership roles in the private sector and served as a director on numerous boards, both locally and internationally. He has an MPhil from the Catholic University of Murcia in Spain; is a Chartered Manager and holds professional fellowships with bodies such as the Chartered Management Institute, the Institute of Supply Chain Management, and the Royal Society of Arts. Since 2019 he holds the the position of Lieutenant within the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, Lieutenancy of Malta. He is married and has a daughter.

18 Moonlight Ville, Triq il-Qasba, Ibrag SWQ2422 – MALTA. Email: admin@eohsjmalta.com

Valentina Lupo, DHS



Frank Joseph Grima

MALTESE PIONEER DIES IN ADELAIDE AUSTRALIA

The Maltese Community of Adelaide has just lost one of its most dedicated members. Frank Grima died peacefully on Wed 3 April 2024 at

the age of 81, after a long illness.

Born in Zejtun, Malta, Frank migrated to Australia in 1955. He was married to Jane and had two children, Jaqueline and Sam, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Although he made Australia home for himself and his family, he still maintained the culture and heritage of his homeland – Malta.

Frank was an outstanding community leader and a champion for social justice for all. The members of the Maltese community of Adelaide acknowledge and are proud of Frank's life of service to others and his immense contribution especially to the Maltese Seniors in Adelaide.

He served the Maltese Community in Adelaide with a passion not often seen in his compatriots. He administered the Maltese Senior Citizens Association as President for several years.

Every Friday, he, and his wife Jane, together with his committee and volunteers, provided

lunch, entertainment and social gathering for the members of the Association.

He was also involved in other societies including the Maltese Community Council and St. Catherine Society of South Australia.

I worked with him very closely when I was the honorary Consul for Malta in South Australia.

Frank used to allow me to use the premises where the senior citizens meet at Kilburn to provide services to the Maltese/Australian citizens especially to apply for citizenship and passport.

Frank was respected not only by his fellow Maltese but by the Government and religious authorities in Adelaide. He received many accolades, awards and certificates of appreciation from various sources including the Premier of SA, the Department for Multiculturalism and the Multicultural Aged Care Commission.

But most of all Frank is remembered for his splendid character and his spirit of friendliness, humility, and dedication. Frank will be sadly missed by all who knew him and by the number of persons within the community who have benefitted personally from his services and hard work.

I, on behalf of the readers of the Maltese Journal and the members of the community, convey my deepest sympathy to his family here in Australia and in Malta.

Frank Scicluna

International Conference April 2024

Parental Alienation Early Detection & Early Intervention

Fri 26 April

15:00-19:30

For Professionals

Sat 27 April

09:00-13:30

Professionals & Interested Others



The Auditorium
Attard Parish
Centre, Attard
Malta

+35699565730
+35677603330



Happy Parenting - Malta
(For Happier Children)
www.happy parenting.mt



The spring hunting season for 2024 is now open

Malta once again only country in Europe to permit spring hunting of turtle dove

The season will run between 1st and 30th April following yesterday's announcement by the MaltaGov and the publication of legal notices allowing hunting for Common Quail between the 1st and the 30th of the month, and hunting for the Vulnerable European Turtle-dove from the 17th till the end of the month. All other bird species are protected. The government accepted the recommendation by the ORNIS Committee to apply the derogation after a request for a Warrant of Prohibitory Injunction by BirdLife Malta was rejected by the Court. A call for a moratorium made by BirdLife Malta during the ORNIS meeting was also outvoted.

As of this morning, hunting is permitted every day of the season from two hours before sunrise (circa 4:30am) until noon (Monday to Sunday, including public holidays). The national hunting bag limit for #Quail has been set at 2,400 birds and that for #TurtleDove is 1,500 birds. Each bird caught needs to be reported to the authorities, and when the quota for any of the two species is reached, the hunting season has to close.



We will be monitoring the hunting season with the help of a team of volunteers who have joined us for our annual #SpringWatch camp, to keep an eye out for bird migration and also to assist us in reporting any illegal killing that happens during the upcoming three weeks.

For more details about this year's spring hunting season, and a step-by-step guide on how to report illegal hunting to the police, visit the hunting section on our website at bit.ly/BLMhunting.

Should you encounter any illegal hunting or find a shot injured bird you may report to police on 119 asking for the Environmental Protection Unit (EPU) or directly to us on

2134 7645 (office hours) or 7925 5697 (outside office hours).

Meanwhile, we remind everyone that Turtle-dove hunting will still be illegal until the 17th April, and until then only Quail is legally hutable. Here is a reminder on how to easily distinguish between the two species that have very evident different characteristics, varying from one another in terms of appearance, flight patterns, hunting and luring methods (this video was prepared some years back when spring hunting was only permitted for Quail since the Turtledove was exempt from spring hunting by a moratorium).



Pjazza San Ġorġ



, Victoria VCT 1101



Gozo Philatelic Society

PO Box 10 VCT 1000 Gozo - MALTA

www.stamps-gozo.org

info@heartofgozo.org.mt

Media release

Philately @ Il-Ħaġar

The Gozo Philatelic Society is pleased to announce a new exhibition in its showcase on level -1 at Il-Ħaġar Museum in Victoria's Pjazza San Ġorġ.

To continue celebrating its Silver Jubilee, it again shows a part of the collection donated by established Melitensia collector Wolfgang Juncker. This time British stamps used in Malta are featured, with an interesting assortment of entires (including a letter by Gozo Bishop Pietro Pace to Rome) and a strong range of loose stamps.

Visitors are again able to pick up copies of the GPS periodical. Visiting hours remain 9am – 5pm seven days a week, still with no entrance fee.

Filatelija fil-ĦAĠAR

Is-Socjetà Filatelika t'Għawdex ramat wirja ġdida fil-vevtrina li għandha fil livell -1 fil-mużew Il-Ħaġar fi Pjazza San Ġorġ (ir-Rabat).

Qegħda tkompli tiċċelebra l-Ġublew tal-Fidda u reġgħet intgħazlet parti mid-donazzjoni li taha d-dilettant kbir tal-Melitensia Wolfgang Juncker. Din id-darba hemm bolli Ingliżi użati f'pajjiżna: jinkludu ittra mibgħuta lejn Ruma mill-Isqof t'Għawdex Pietru Pace.

Jistgħu jingabru ukoll kopji tal-perjodiku tal-Gozo Philatelic Society. Il-ħinijiet tad-dħul – bla ħlas – jibqgħu mid-9am sal-5pm sebat ijiem fil-ġimgħa.

10 IV 24



Konferenza Internazzjonali organizzata minn Happy Parenting - Malta (For Happier Children)

FI-Auditorium, Ċentru Parrokkjali Attard, H'Attard, Malta
Il-Ġimgħa 26'April 15:00 -19:30
għal Professionisti

Tema: Tfal Ferħana bi Trobbija Kongunta Sana

Is-Sibt 27 t'April 09:00-13:30 għal professjonisti u oħrajn interessati Tema: Nagħrfu s-sinjali u nintervjenu minn kmieni f'każijiet ta' Parental Alienation;

L-Importanza ta' Trobbija Kongunta. *Bl-appoġġ tal-Ministeru għal Politika Soċjali u d-Drittijiet tat-Tfal u l-Ministeru għall-Ġustizzja u r-Riforma tas-Settur tal-Kostruzzjoni.*

Għal aktar taġħrif tista' ukoll tikkuntattja permezz tal-mobile jew WhatsApp +356 77603330 / +356 99565730 Jingħata ċertifikat ta' partċipazzjoni



Durubg a visit to the Maltese Library, designated President Jutta Günther welcomed the Maltese ambassador to Germany, His Excellency Dr. Giovanni Xuereb. From left to right: Maike Vorholt, Julia Nintemann, Professor Jutta Günther, H.E. Dr. Giovanni Xuereb

Have You Heard of... the Maltese Library?

The GW2 building houses the world's largest collection of Maltese literature outside Malta. Professor Thomas Stolz's trip to Malta with his wife in 1996 turned into a vacation that changed linguistic research. What was meant to be an ordinary holiday became, in retrospect, the first steps toward establishing the Malta Center and Maltese Library – one-of-a-kind facilities in the world.

In the mid-1990s, linguist Thomas Stolz traveled with his wife to Malta for a summer vacation. However, there was a sudden change to their plans. "As soon as we arrived, my wife came down with the chicken pox. She had to go into quarantine at the hotel, so I had a lot of time to read," says Stolz, professor of General and Comparative Linguistics at the [University of Bremen's Faculty of Linguistics and Literary Studies](#). While looking for something to read to relieve their boredom, he found that he could understand the local newspapers thanks to his knowledge of Italian. "As a linguist, I naturally found that interesting. To delve deeper, I first bought myself a dictionary and some children's books," he says. "I started reading in Maltese throughout the vacation. I had plenty of time on my hands."

Maltese: A Little-Researched Language

Back in Bremen, Stolz was surprised to find that Maltese had hardly been researched. "There had been very little research done on this language. Until then, Maltese had only been dealt with marginally, as part of Arabic studies. Most research was conducted within Malta and rarely extended to the international research community," recalls Stolz. In the following summers, he and his wife traveled to Malta several times. The professor took the opportunity to get acquainted with the linguistics faculty at the local university and established first contacts. "I set myself the goal of bringing Maltese to the attention of linguistics research. To do this, I brought together researchers from all over the world," says Stolz.

The Maltese Library now contains more than 1,100 books.

© Matej Meza / Universität Bremen

Foundation of the Maltese Library as Part of the Malta Center

In 2007, Stolz founded the International Association of Maltese Linguistics in Bremen. This laid the groundwork for establishing the Malta Center in 2012 as a cooperation between the Universities of Malta and Bremen. An important part of this is the Maltese Library, which includes publications in Maltese released since 2000. The team in Bremen works with a major mail-order bookseller in Malta, which sends an annual list of all new publications. On this basis, about 30 to 60 new books are ordered each year. The books are first cataloged at the State and University Library before being sorted in the GW2 building's library and recorded in the [online catalog](#). "Currently, we have 1,126 books in our collection," says Julia Nintemann, the research assistant responsible for the organization of the Malta Center.

Bremen as a Center of Maltese Language Research

The development of the Malta Center has provided impetus to the study of the Maltese language. About 100 to 150 people worldwide are now researching this topic; they can work on the collection on-site in Bremen and network with others. The center regularly offers language courses for private individuals and for professional purposes, while students can spend a semester in Malta through the Erasmus program. Research in Bremen is also making progress, as Maike Vorholt is investigating the Maltese preposition system as part of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation – DFG) project titled "Präpositionen und ihre Grammatik im Maltesischen" (Prepositions and Their Grammar in Maltese). The aim of the project is to determine the total number of Maltese prepositions and to describe them comprehensively in terms of their phonological, morphological, syntactic, and semantic properties.

Cooperation Extended until 2027

At the end of May, the Malta Center received a visit from Malta's ambassador to Germany, Dr. Giovanni Xuereb, and Honorary Consul General Dr. Thomas Stöcker. Their visit coincided with the extension of the cooperation between the Universities of Malta and Bremen. "This visit was a great honour for us. We are delighted that our research is also of great importance for Malta," says Stolz. "Thanks to the Malta Centre, the study of the Maltese language is no longer a niche topic, but has a permanent place in linguistics."



Universität İċ-Ċentru tal-ilsien Malti | Malta Centre
Bremen

**LEARN THE MALTESE LANGUAGE IN
GERMANY**

Language classes 2024

New practical Maltese classes in the summer!

Maltese for Beginners 8 - 12 July 2024

Maltese for Advanced Learners 15 - 19 July 2024

The language of instruction is English. Classes are offered free of charge.

Students can acquire 3CPs for General Studies.

Both classes are recognised as *Bildungszeit* (Bildungsurlaub) in Bremen.

Location: University of Bremen, Germany (participation is only possible in person)

Teacher: Sandra Abela

Organizer: Maike Vorholt (Malta Centre)

Registration: Please register by contacting Maike Vorholt via maltauni-bremen.de. The maximum number of students per class is 20. Registration is possible for only one or for both classes. <vorholt@uni-bremen.de>



Venture into the heart of Malta's prehistory with a special opening of Kordin III, located on the Corradino promontory at the edge of a modern industrial estate.

Despite its unlikely setting, Kordin III stands as the last beacon of an ancient civilization that once flourished along this strategic ridge overlooking the Grand Harbour. Other historical remnants along the promontory have succumbed to the advances of military and industrial evolution, making Kordin III a precious guardian of our ancestral heritage.

For one day only, on the 28th of April, the

usually private gates of Kordin III will swing open to welcome the public. This is a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in the site's rich archaeological significance through guided tours provided in both Maltese and English.

The tours at 09:00 and 10:30 will be in Maltese, while those starting at 09:45 and 11:15 will be in English, ensuring an intimate and insightful exploration of the ancient activities and lifestyles that characterized this area.

With a limit of 25 participants per tour, this event is open to history buffs, families, and anyone eager to connect with Malta's rich past in a meaningful way.

Tickets are available for a nominal fee of €4, with free admission for Heritage Malta members and children under 6 years of age.



Don't miss this extraordinary opportunity to venture into prehistory at Kordin III! Book your spot by purchasing your ticket from our online store at Store –

Heritage Malta or from any Heritage Malta museum or site. Come and experience the legacy of ancient Malta, where the past echoes amidst the bustle of modern life

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Teatru Manoel in collaboration with House of Tours is proud to present 'Honest Entertainment: A Theatrical Tour of Teatru Manoel'.

Join Jeremy Grech as the brave, the beautiful and the bold (thank god for that wig) Monsieur Baroque on this wild ride as we dissect the history of one of the oldest working theatre in Europe. You have the details, but do not wait around as these tickets sell out quite fast! Grab them from the Teatru Manoel website or else our box office!

• 27-28th April 2024 13:30 & 15:00 Duration - 1 Hour



By **Jeremy Grech**

On April 7, 1942, when the theatre was bombed my Great Grandfather George Sandham, a Police Officer, was on duty just outside the Royal Opera House in Valletta

His main job was to stand on guard during the air raid, of which there were many, and not allow anyone inside the theatre. Why would they want to head inside? Some would seek immediate shelter within walls and others to loot! Once the coast was clear and the people were well within the shelters, our own men in blue had to remain on duty as enemy planes hurled above them. Yet, great grandfather's habits got the better of him. He turned to the other officer on duty and asked him 'Do you mind if I just cross the street and smoke a cigarette?' - with the

coast clear...he did just that. And as soon as he crossed and lit his cigarette the theatre was bombed. The other officer lost his life, Malta lost its Theatre, but lucky George lived to tell the tale. Moral of the story? Well apparently, sometimes smoking doesn't always kill.

In commemoration of the infamous day, I am releasing 'Il-Hruk ta Irrelai Teatru', a rare poem dating back to 1873. This is when the first tragedy struck at the theatre and burned down. This poem was sourced all thanks to Dr. William Zammit. It was digitally reproduced and translated into modern Maltese by myself, Jeremy Grech. And it was corrected and supervised by Ms. Nicole Bartolo.

The poem cost me about €200 to purchase due to its rarity and condition and several hours trying to understand the old Maltese. My aim was to immortalise this by typing it down for everyone to access and not be lost to time. If anyone would like to make a small contribution for the efforts involved, you can support me by sending a donation on Revolut or Bov on 79298551.

Thank you and enjoy! To read the poem go to Jeremy Grech's Facebook page.

[/www.facebook.com/jeremygrech97](https://www.facebook.com/jeremygrech97)

The struggle within Malta to join Europe.



by our correspondent
Sean Richardson



A scuffle breaks out. A man grabs another by the shirt, a third, larger man wraps his arms around the combatants tackling them to the stone ground of the Granaries. Flags wave above the

yelling and fists pump. A news crew moves in to capture the outbreak of violence and the screwed up faces of overflowing emotions. They themselves reel back under a flurry of fists and flags and the boot of an old man, who is pulled back by his checked shirt by a single hand from the crowd.

A small band of police move in, yelling at the crowd to move back, wrenching people from the melee to the ground. Other officers intervene to push the two sides apart, forming an uneasy zone of peace between the parties; those in favour of European Union membership and those opposing.

The referendum to invite the population to vote on whether Malta is to join the EU or stay disengaged is only days away. It is the culmination of years of squabbles, claims and counterclaims; of hopes and aspirations pitted against fears and dreads.

Twenty years ago, on 1 May 2004, Malta formally joined the EU. Being a member of the EU, is a situation many would take as normal and is not a topic of everyday life to think too much about. But in those years, everyday life became a hotbed of discontent, a mixture of partisan politics, blurred visions of the future and current concerns. It was a long road for the accession of Malta into the EU.

The European Union itself did not exist until 1992. Starting from the end of World War Two, there were over 40 years of negotiating separate agreements, that established several European communities to agree

common economic and trade protocols. A treaty that formed the EU was finally agreed with 12 countries to become the founding members.

Malta's long and rocky road to becoming an EU member began once it became independent from Great Britain in 1964. Malta joined the Council of Europe in 1965. The Council of Europe was distinct from the EU but it was a first tentative step towards integration into Europe. The foundations for Malta to eventually join the EU were through a relationship with the forerunner to the EU, the European Economic Community (EEC), which agreed an Association Agreement with Malta in 1970. Two years later the UK joined the EEC as a member but the economic burden on Malta was deemed too high for Malta to become a member.

Broadly, National Party (NP) governments pursued integration with Europe while Labour (MLP) followed a path of non-alignment. Malta would make future attempts to join the EEC as a member and, as would be the case for the next twenty years, the Maltese government of the day would pursue integration and then, with a change of government, retreat from actual membership.

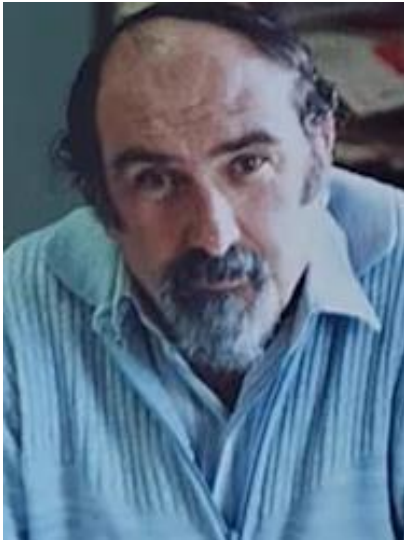
This rocky path would continue until 2002 when the government decided on holding a referendum to let the people decide. It had become, and continued to be, a polarising issue right up to the referendum in 2003.

Watch out for the next instalment, concentrating on the campaigns in the immediate lead up to the referendum.

Read more of my stories about Malta, at seanrichardson.com.au.

My first novel set in Malta, *The Maltese Web (One Investigator, One Island, Countless Secrets)* is available on Amazon.

The late Lino (Carmelo) Vella AM



Carmelo Vella affectionately known as 'Lino', was a respected community leader and editor of the iconic Maltese Herald for over 40 years — perhaps the longest-serving editor of any Maltese newspaper.

Under Lino's leadership, the paper fought for the rights of Maltese migrants on issues such as dual citizenship and promoted many community organisations and activities, including the Maltese Community Council and the Maltese Welfare Group, of which he was a founding member.

Lino was born in Paola, Malta, on 22 September 1936. In 1939, he moved with his family to Birzebuġa and to St. Julians in 1945. He spent his formative years at St. Julians before migrating to Australia in 1954.

Having left school in 1951, Lino's father, a canteen manager, helped him find work with the NAAFI. His first job in Sydney was as a trench digger for the New South Wales Water Board. He took on various positions, including six years with the Olympic Tyre Company.

A lifelong devotee of football, Lino's association with Melita Eagles dates back to the year of the team's formation in Sydney in 1955. Lino was President of the Malta Eagles when the club amalgamated with the Melita Football Club in 1956.

Lino's commitment to the Eagles was continuous. He served the club at the executive level, as coach, and as goalkeeper. He also played for the NSW X1 and was made a Life Member of the club. Lino's love of football led him into the world of journalism, and in 1957, he worked with Mr. Dimech on the magazine, 'Soccer Light'.

Lino's journalism took him a further step in the late 1950s when he became Sports Editor for the Sydney-based Malta News. In 1961, when The

Maltese Herald commenced publication, he wrote the column 'On Target' in the sports section. By the mid-1960s, the Maltese Herald had expanded from an eight-paged monthly into a 20-paged weekly. In 1971, when its first full-time editor, Dimech, was appointed Consul General for Malta in New South Wales, Lino replaced Lawrence as editor and became the sole owner of the newspaper from 1983 onward.

In 1999, Lino was awarded the Australian Medal AM, for his services to the Maltese community. And in 2011, the Government of Malta awarded Lino with the Gieħ ir-Repubblika for his services to the Maltese community.

The Xirka Ġieħ ir-Repubblika is a society of honour that offers membership to those who have demonstrated exceptional merit in the service of Malta or of humanity.

Lino was married to Barbara Platel in 1957 at St. Mary's Cathedral Sydney with whom he raised two children, Paul and Annette, in Australia.

"My parents installed values of money and savings to the family. Annette became his accountant," said Lino's son, Paul.

As a Father, Lino coached his son, Paul's football team, which led to the highlight of his Dad's life meeting Pele at a coaching clinic in Granville.

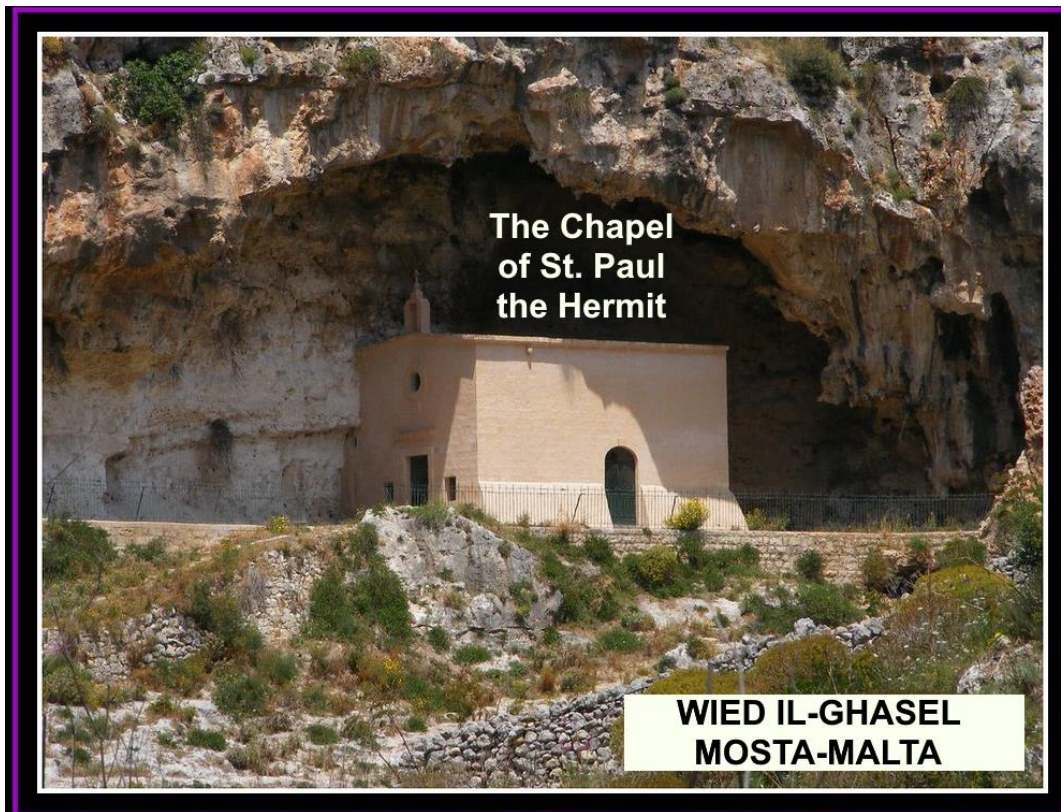
Lino also served on the Australia Day Committee with former Australian professional tennis player and national living treasure, John Newcombe AO ABE.

"I had always respected and was proud of my Dad. He was always the peacekeeper where he could be. He celebrated many other people's lives and captured them with his photography skills," said Paul.

"Learning from Dad, the art of thankfulness, forgiveness and support of fellow man. Even when sometimes we make mistakes."

This electronic newsletter is not a business venture and is produced by volunteers and distributed FREE to all Maltese living abroad

The Legend of Wied il-Ghasel



This chapel of Saint Paul the Hermit is in 'Wied il-Ghasel', (the Valley of Honey) in Mosta. It is in a big cave in the side of the valley. At the back of the cave there is a smaller cave.

In this second cave there is a fresh water stream that flows very slowly into three natural rock basins, one below the other. From here the water then flows into the valley.

In the 14th century, there was only an altar and a painting of Our Lady in the cave. In the 15th century a chapel was built but it was destroyed and rebuilt many times over the years. Today a group of volunteers from Mosta, look after the chapel. The chapel is opened at least twice a year for worship - on the first Sunday after the 15th January to celebrate the feast of St. Paul the Hermit and in September for the feast of Our Lady of Graces.

The Legend

A holy man, called Korrado, lived in this cave. He was a hermit because he lived alone and spent most of his time praying. In his opinion the people who came near his cave were living a very bad life. He often told them to change their lifestyle but they only made fun of him. One day they started throwing stones at him. He started running along the valley until he arrived at the seaside. As he stood by the water, he took off his cloak, put it on the water, stepped on it and he was carried away to Gozo. When they saw him walking on water the people were filled with fear. They started calling for him to return to them promising him they will change their life. But he did not turn back. In Gozo he went to live next to the church of the Conception in the village of Qala. He died some years later and was buried near the church. Many people used to visit his grave to show their respect. The people of Mosta built a church inside the cave where he used to live. Many people believed that water flowed inside the cave because of the hermit's miraculous powers. The chapel was named after the first St. Paul the Hermit, who lived in Egypt and also spent most of his life in a cave. You can read more about the first St. Paul the Hermit here. Some people believe that the hermit of Wied il-Ghasel was Corrado di Noto of Sicily. He was also a hermit and lived in a cave.

Maltese Traditions That Are Sadly Dying Out

Malta is changing fast.

Children today are growing up in a very different world than we did.

As well as busier roads, more traffic and much more hectic lifestyles, our traditions are changing too with some in danger of dying out.

Here are six Maltese traditions that your nanna would've probably followed religiously when she was your age.

IL-BORZA TA' SAN MARTIN

'Ġewż, Lewż, Qastan, Tin, Kemm inħobb il-San Martin.'

Every 11th of November, or well the Sunday following it, you would wake up to a bag full of walnuts, almonds, chestnuts and figs, or a bag full of sweets.

Think of it as the equivalent of Halloween nowadays. A tradition that kids looked forward to every year, and is unfortunately not as popular anymore.

You'd have to stay very quiet in your sleep, because San Martin would supposedly climb down your roof in a Santa-like fashion and leave the bag of goodies hanging from your wardrobe.

SETTING UP A TABLE-LONG PRESEPU

Come Christmas time, every house would be competing against each other for the best presepu set up in the town.

These things were huge, with over 150 figures. You'd have shop keepers, farmers and merchants in there, all eagerly awaiting the arrival of baby Jesus.

Either because people don't have the time anymore, or because they don't have the space, but you rarely ever see these gorgeously decorated preseppi anymore.

THE 40 DAYS OF LENT

In the 40 days before Easter, you'd have whole families giving up all forms of sweets as a religious sacrifice. No meat on Wednesdays and especially on Fridays.

Some people would allow themselves a small treat on a Sunday, and wherever you went, you'd find the ħelu tal-ħarrub and the kwareżimal, which were supposedly the only form of sweets you could eat during this time.

On Easter day, kids would have their figolla blessed by the town priest and the days of Lent would be over.

Nowadays, people start eating figolli from around a week before Lent starts.

WEDDING AND BABY ANNOUNCEMENTS ON YOUR FRONT DOOR

It's still seen in some places in Malta, but not nearly as much as it was before.

In olden days, if one of your children is getting married or you've just had a baby, you'd stick a white, blue or pink bow to your door, according to the occasion to let everyone know.

LEAVING YOUR KEY IN YOUR FRONT DOOR

Only a few years ago, people would leave their house key at their door unattended, while they ran their errands.

Sometimes, especially in Gozo, you'll still find the odd one here or there.

Lots of us remember playing games when we were younger, counting the amount of keys left hanging from Gozitan doors.

Which of these Maltese traditions do you still follow? Let us know.

TIFTAKAROM

**Il-pestus pestes tpepsisa lill-pestusa
u l-pestusa pestset tpepsisa lill-pestus**



IL-BASLA - Most of us associate onions with crying and tears, and maybe we don't realize the richness of the word "basla" or "basal" in the Maltese context. You find surnames, expressions and sayings using the word 'basla', among others.

It left its mark on the surname "Psaila". Several linguists such as Guze' Aquilina, a Maltese writer said that the roots of Psaila are in the Arabic word "bsajla" which means a small onion. However, others like Dr. Mario Cassar say that the surname Psaila may have derived from the Arabic surname Abū Sala or even from some Greek words¹. Who knows!

But the onion is not involved only in surnames but it is often mentioned in expressions and idioms, for example:

Wasal tal-basal – when someone arrives unexpectedly.

X'basla daħal fiha! – when someone gets into trouble

Kemm int basla! – teasing someone.

Also onions have power in food, in language and even in life because as they say, la qatt tidħol bejn il-basla u qoxritha għax tibqa' b'rihitha! - never gets between the onion and its skin because you finish up VERY SMELLY.!



Photo: Canva Pro; Facebook - Kazin San Filep

69 years ago, four people lost their lives in an explosion that took place in the San Filep Fireworks Factory at the Kandlora area, Zebbug, Malta. These were Philip Cassar (Ta' Simillu, 37 years old), Anthony Debono (Tal-Paradajs, 29 years old), John Mary Farrugia (tal-Bidillu, 37 years old), and Philip Xuereb (ta' Lilel, 52 years

old), four fire artisans members of the Musical Society, Saint Philip Band Club. On the day of the explosion, the 7th of April 1955 was Maudy Thursday and the explosion happened in early afternoon.

Farrugia and Debono died instantly and were taken out from under the rubble unrecognizable, Cassar and Xuereb died the next day in Saint Luke's Hospital. The funeral took place two days after the tragedy, on Easter Saturday, April 9, 1955.

Saint Philip's band accompanied them to the grave in the cemetery of the Sacred Heart at Zebbug. As a sign of respect that year at the feast of Saint Philip there were no fireworks and no marching band. Several societies from other villages accompanied with the standards. In 2005 there was also a procession to their grave in the cemetery. The relatives and relatives of the victims took part in it together with many members and officials of the Association Kazin Banda San Filep. The memory of this tragedy is still alive among the people of Zebbug to this day!



A DRAMATIC CHANGE IN ARCHITECTURE



LEGACY TO OUR NEXT GENERATION - MALTA TODAY AND THE FUTURE



IL-KEBBIES TAL-FANALI

ta' Anton Buttigieg

Kull flgħaxija
kif mal-għabex
tnin u tmut saħħet il-jum,
jiġi Majsi bis-sellum
u jixgħelli taħt it-tieqa
fanal ċkejken,
li tal-lejl itaffi d-diqa.

Saħħti wkoll
qed inħossha tmut kuljum;
iżda msejkna l-Poeżija,
kull flgħaxija

dlonk tixxabat mas-sellum,
u ġo qalbi
tixgħel naqra ta' fanal
illi jtaffi ftit id-diqa
sa ma jmut ta' ħajti l-fdal.

Allaħares ma kienx Majsi
illi jagħmel ftit tad-dija;
u ma' Majsi – Alla ħares –
ma kinitx il-Poeżija!



**TELL US YOUR STORY
WE LOVE TO HEAR
FROM YOU
SHARE AND
CONNECT WITH
OTHERS**

Comino boat trip and cultural trail

28 April 2024

9.30am - 3.00pm

Meeting place at Cirkewwa Kafe Kiosk at 9am

Adults, Seniors and Students - 25 Euro
Children (up to 11 years)
and Heritage Malta Members - 15 Euro



TARXIEN SOCIAL CLUB FESTA DINNER DANCE

Event by Tarxien Social Club Victoria
The Luxor Reception and Function Centre
503 SYDENHAM RD, TAYLORS LAKES VIC 3038
Join us for our Festa Dinner Dance Sat 20th April
with the Tequila Brothers Don't Miss the Fun!
please note this event is almost sold out so hurry.
Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
0414 307 557 rayray1948@gmail.com

FREE ENTRY

SCIENCE IN THE Citadel

SUNDAY
28 APRIL 2024
10AM - 6PM
CITADEL, VICTORIA - GOZO

EDUCATIONAL EVENT FOR ALL THE FAMILY & ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES

DISCOVER & LEARN

WORKSHOPS

INTERACTIVE SCIENCE FAIR

ANIMATED ACTION

DEMOS & EXPERIMENTS

EXHIBITIONS

TOURS & TALKS

SCIENCE COMEDY, MAGIC & DANCE

GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
MINISTRY FOR GOZO AND PLANNING

eco GOZO
4-641164 3020

The Maltese Center

Mother's Day
Bingo
with Elvis impersonator

Brunch

SUNDAY May 5th
12:30

FOOD | DRINKS | LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
\$ 25 PER PERSON
* Bingo Cards not included

RSVP recommended
Pauline Zammit 718-728-7108
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