

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

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THE JOURNAL FOR MALTESE LIVING ABROAD



KIDS TEACH US HOW TO LIVE TOGETHER IN PEACE



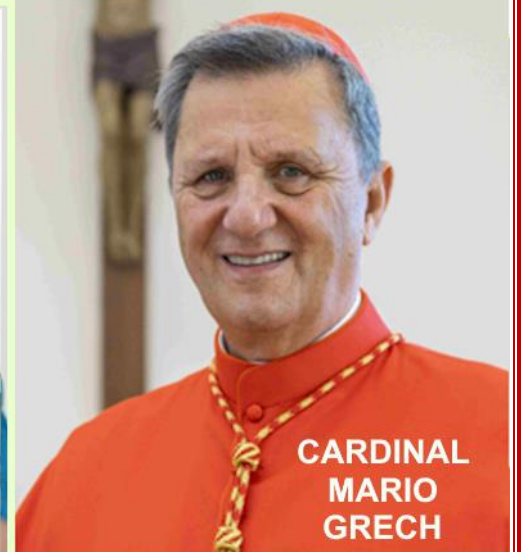
EU PRESIDENT ROBERTA METSOLA VISITS ISRAEL, GAZA AND WEST BANK



LINDA PEEK



MALTA
A Childhood Under Siege



CARDINAL MARIO GRECH



Meet the Maltese-Australian Author of the gripping thriller set in Malta
THE MALTESE WEB



www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/conversations/linda-peek-margaret-staples-malta-world-war-two/104912730

ABC Program:

Surviving bombs and starvation on a Mediterranean island paradise

Presented by Richard Fidler

"Air raid warning, air raid warning. Shut your doors and windows."

Margaret Staples was nine years old at the beginning of 1939 when her father was posted from England to the British colony of Malta with the Royal Engineers. Margaret and her four siblings thought they were in paradise, but everything changed when the Second World War broke out in September of that year. ... [Google Books](#)

When Linda Peek was growing up, her mother, Margaret, would tell her remarkable stories from her wartime childhood -- stories of survival, friendship and tragedy.

Margaret had spent her most formative years on the island of Malta during World War Two.

The Mediterranean Island was not only an idyllic paradise, it was also a British stronghold in a highly strategic position, and Adolf Hitler wanted it.

And so the Axis powers laid siege to Malta for more than two years, dropping thousands of bombs and trying to starve the island into submission.

Somehow, Malta survived, and so did Linda's mother.

Further information

Malta: A Childhood Under Siege is published by Woodlands Publishing.

You can read more about Linda's own life here.

Credits Carmel Rooney, Executive Producer Richard Fidler, Presenter Meggie Morris, Producer

Image Details (Supplied by Linda Peek) Email: linda@oztradepacific.com.au

HOPE - JOY GOSPEL SINGERS CONCERT

IN HONOR OF MONSIGNOR VICTOR GRECH IN BENEFIT OF CARITAS

Date: Friday, 21 March 2025 Time: 08.00pm

Location: St Paul's Metropolitan Cathedral, Mdina

Join us for an unforgettable evening of soulful melodies and uplifting music at the Joy Gospel Singers Concert! This special event will feature the talented voices of the Joy Gospel Singers, along with the participation of children from St. Joseph Mater Boni Consilii School, Paola.

Proceeds from this event will support the vital work of Caritas Malta in the community. Tickets are available

against a donation of €20. Don't miss this heartwarming concert—a celebration of joy, hope, and togetherness through the power of music. Reserve your tickets now and be part of this



meaningful event!

The Director of Caritas Malta said that this is the first activity to be held after the loss of Dun Victor Grech, and this concert will be dedicated in honour of the love and commitment of his work in Caritas Malta. Caritas Malta makes several appeals for 3rd party events and Michelle Abela, the Director of Joy Gospel Singers, approached Caritas to hold a Gospel music concert in aid of Caritas Malta. This will support the free services provided by Caritas Malta.

“Caritas sees around 800 people a year from the Caritas Community Centre, Hamrun, various services from usury, mental health problems, gambling and emotional problems; these psycho-social services are all free of charge. In drug rehabilitation services, Caritas saw around 900 people per year attending for help in 2023 and 2024, where it saw a jump in the amount of people requesting help, compared to the 700 people in previous years.

Caritas thanks Joy Gospel Singers, the Cathedral Chapter, Archpriest Mons. Claude Portelli, Prof. Mons Edgar Vella, the students who will participate from St Joseph Mater Boni Consilii school in Paola and finally LIDL who always provides a continuous support behind the work of Caritas.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION



On the 6th of February, Emanuel Camilleri Ex president of the MCC NSW, attended the office of Annalise Sammut, Maltese Consulate in Sydney to be presented with a certificate for his contribution towards service to the CMLA: “Maltese Living Abroad.”

The Onor. Ian Borg, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism, had issued special certificates to Onor all members who participate in the CMLA from 15th October 2018 till 21st September 2024. We also add our congratulations to Emanuel for his services to the Maltese Community of NSW. – The Editor



PRESIDENT METSOLA VISITS ISRAEL, GAZA AND WEST BANK

By Beata

Stur

THIS IS WHAT THE MALTESE EU PRESIDENT WROTE ON HER FACEBOOK PAGE

The last 48 hours in Israel and the Palestinian territories have been a whirlwind of meetings and emotions in Jerusalem, Kerem Shalom, Re'im, Ramallah, Tel Aviv...and even Gaza.

The discussions on behalf of the [European Parliament](#) have been intense, emotional, and important. I met with Israeli and Palestinian

leaders & representatives and underlined Europe's support and role in securing the current ceasefire and hostage release deal, which must be a building block of lasting stability.

In Kerem Shalom, with trucks delivering aid, I crossed into Gaza and after sat down with the dedicated Europeans operating our EUBAM station out of Gaza, who are playing a critical part in securing the deal and helping to ensure safe passage out of Gaza for sick and wounded.

In Re'im, the site of the Nova Festival massacre, I planted a tree of hope on behalf of the European Parliament at what has become a memorial site to all those young revellers murdered.

After entering the West Bank, I hugged Palestinian activists - mothers who work bravely to advocate dialogue, non-violence and promote peace under difficult conditions.

In Tel Aviv, I held the hands of released and rescued hostages and the families of those still being held, as we bore witness to their testimony and who are still enduring the horror - close to 500 days since the Hamas terrorist attack of 7th October.

Europe's immediate priority remains to ensure that the ceasefire holds. That all the hostages are released. That humanitarian aid gets to those who need it.

That's how we can start to turn despair into hope.



'Art at the Consulate'

Consulate General of Malta
613/343 Little Collins St,
Melbourne VIC 3000

For the next four months, the Consulate General will be showcasing six paintings by Maltese-Australian artist Rita Muscat Galea. Her artwork is deeply inspired by the rich history of the Maltese Islands and the natural beauty of the Australian landscape.

This is the second art display at the Consulate following the first one last year by artist Lewis Spiteri. We invite any artists from the State of Victoria whose art is inspired by Malta to contact us for their work to be featured in the future as part of the project 'Art at the Consulate'

SMALL ISLAND, BIG STORY AND JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME



"The Maltese Web" is a gripping thriller set in Malta, featuring Marica Debono, a financial investigator fighting to stop criminal money laundering and Russian exploitation amidst a European financial crisis. Battling personal and professional challenges, Marica must unravel a web of deceit and protect those she loves. Available on Amazon as Kindle and Paperback.

SATURDAY, MARCH 8 AT 5PM

NANNA'S PLACE MEDITERRANEAN RESTAURANT, 256 MORAY ST, SOUTH MELBOURNE VIC (03) 9379 9913 Join us for an evening that brings Malta to life through storytelling, travel, and authentic flavours. Whether you're drawn to its rich history, breathtaking landscapes, or mouthwatering cuisine,

MEET SEAN RICHARDSON

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
28 February, 5:30pm	A novel with nibbles and a tippie. Talk on Weaving Malta into the Maltese Web	South Durras Big 4 Holiday Park, South Durras NSW
8 March, 5pm	A Taste of Malta; Meet the Author with Desire to Travel at Nanna's Mediterranean Restaurant.	256 Moray Street South Melbourne Restaurant Bookings 03 9379 9913
3 March 3:30pm. All welcome no bookings required	Portarlinton Neighbourhood Writing Group Book Club	The Bayview Room, Parks Hall. Newcombe Road, Portarlinton
15 March, 7:45pm	Chat with the Author and Book Signing	St Bernadette's church, 59b Westmoreland Road Sunshine North
16 March, 2pm	Meet the Author and Book Signing	Maltese Community Centre , Maltese Museum, La Trobe Valley. Henry Street Morwell. Lunch bookings 0412 411 719

The Republic of Malta: The First Fifty Years, 1974-2024



The Republic of Malta: The First Fifty Years, 1974-2024 is an exhibition at the Grand Master's Palace in Valletta, commemorating five decades of the nation's journey as a republic. The exhibition opens for the public on the 7th of December 2024 and runs until March 2025.

The exhibition features a rich collection of documents, artefacts, and multimedia displays exploring Malta's struggle for self-determination – outlining the

evolution from a people ruled by foreign powers to a res publica, and its achievements as a sovereign state. The exhibition also underscores the pivotal role of the Presidency in safeguarding democracy and fostering unity.

A bilingual, lavishly illustrated book that complements the exhibition will be available for purchase. Entrance to the exhibition is included in the Grand Master's Palace experience, which is fully accessible for persons with mobility challenges. For further information, you may follow Heritage Malta's social media channels, or contact us on: (+356) 2295 4300.

The Republic of Malta: The First Fifty Years, 1974-2024

Event Until 31 Mar 2025 Monday - Sunday: 09.00 - 17.00

Adult €12 Senior, Student €10 Children €8



CARDINAL MARIO GRECH, 67 FROM MALTA FAVOURITE TO BECOME NEXT POPE

The New York Post mentions Gozitan Cardinal Mario Grech among the favourites to become Pope.

The well-known New York Post in an article about who is the favourite to become the leader of the Catholic Church – Mario Grech was among the 8 who according to the newspaper are the favourites to take over the Church.

These articles are also being circulated and published after Pope Francis is currently hospitalized in Rome after an acute bronchitis.

The current secretary general of the Synod of Bishops, Mario Grech is considered a potential moderate successor of Pope Francis. He has previously spoken of the necessity to reach out to those who are ostracized from the Church due to their sexuality or marital status. In a 2014 speech given at the Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, Grech highlighted the Church's need to maintain continuity of teaching while allowing for creativity in the methodology of speaking to the people. Grech was made a cardinal in 2020 by Pope Francis.

The journal stresses that Cardinal Grech is a man who always pushes for the Catholic Church to reach as many people as possible through its means in order to always bring the people of the world close to the teachings of Christ.



MALTA EMBASSY IN BRAZIL

[John Aquilina](#)

Ambassador

[14 February at 05:13](#) ·

Welcome Bernard. At the Embassy of Malta in Brazil we are delighted to welcome the new Deputy Head of Mission, Bernard Vella, who emerged from the Airport Terminal six minutes before midnight which began the

first day of his Tour of Duty. In the morning he was at the Embassy sorting through some administrative duties, before in the evening attending his first function, which was hosted by the Embassies of Slovakia and Slovenia. Bernard comes to us straight from the Ministry's Protocol Unit, bringing with him a wealth of well travelled experience, including having worked for some time with the the European Union's External Action Service (EEAS), working in Cameroon. We wish Bernard a happy and productive time working AT THE Maltese Embassy of Brazil.



FAREWELL

So sad to say farewell. It was with mixed emotions that my wife Ann and I hosted a Dinner to extend our Congratulations to Stephen Cachia, Malta's Deputy Head of Mission in Brazil on his appointment as Deputy Head of Mission to Malta's Embassy in Lisbon, Portugal. While we are all very happy for

Stephen in his new posting, we are very sorry to see the departure of an outstanding professional colleague and a dear friend. Stephen was greeted at the Dinner by many Deputies from Embassies of other EU nations, the Malta Embassy staff, and business colleagues who regularly deal with the Embassy

WHEN NORTH KOREA ATTACKED MALTA



[December 15, 2024~Sean R](#)

Three hackers from a North Korean cyber intelligence agency were found to have been the masterminds behind a 2019 attack on Malta, attempting a €13million heist on the Bank of Valletta (BOV).

Nigerian influencer Ramon Abbas, aka Hush Puppi, and his accomplice Ghaleb Alaumary were alleged to have conspired with the Lazarus Group, a cybercrime collective with ties to the North Korean government. The Lazarus Group had successfully masterminded attacks on Sony Pictures, the Bangladesh Bank, and released the

WannaCry ransomware. The group's cybercrime efforts, have been used to allegedly fund North Korea's nuclear program. Malta was seen as an easy target for their next attack, but instead contributed to the group's downfall.

Standing trial in the US, court documents quote a suspect Alaumary as discussing the monitoring capabilities of the Maltese bank believing it would be an easy target to attack and then siphon off the money to Romanian banks. The hackers targeted BOV's Swift messaging system, enabling them to send the money to bank accounts they control. "If they don't notice, we keep pumping," Alaumary said, according to the charging document. "We still have access and they didn't realize, we gonna shoot again tomoro am [sic]."

However, the Maltese bank cut off that access before the gang could fully execute their plan. Alaumary, looted only a fraction of what he had tried to steal and lamented "[too] bad they caught on or it would [have] been a nice payout."

If not for the vigilant and quick actions of bank staff who identified discrepancies during the start of business when the reconciliation of international transactions threw up inaccuracies the attack would have been successful. Within 30 minutes of discovering the attack, BOV decided to shut down its systems. It was confirmed by the Malta Security Services that BOV had been the victim of a cyber- attack.

Using a simple but daring approach the group had broken into systems of a financier in France and posed as the French stock market regulator to contact entities in Malta and France. They sent authentic-looking emails with letterheads and a fake document that granted them access to the banks' systems. They then transferred huge sums of money to banks in the UK, US, Czech Republic, and Hong Kong

.And why was Malta attacked by North Korea? As explained in the BBC podcast The Lazarus Heist, the North Korean government had recruited hackers, into an elite unit, to plunder banks around the world as a means of financing the North Korean government. Exploiting Malta's perceived vulnerability and being part of the EU, meant it could be a gateway into the European financial system allowing the hackers to gather and launder vast sums of money. The group stole and extorted more than \$1.3 billion (€1.07 billion) of money and cryptocurrency from financial institutions and companies across the globe, including BOV. Abbas was charged with money laundering, including the BOV heist. Both Abbas and Alaumary were sentenced to 11 years in the US for the crime.

If it wasn't for the quick actions of the Maltese, Hush Puppi may have continued the large scale fraud helping to bankroll the North Koreans' nuclear program.

This article first appeared in The Maltese Journal edition [484](#)



POPE: MUSIC CAN HELP THE COEXISTENCE OF PEOPLES

In a recorded message at the Italian Sanremo Festival, Pope Francis focuses attention on the importance of using music to build peace in a world filled with wars that “destroy children.”

By Kielce Gussie

At the annual Italian music festival, Sanremo, the focus shifted from the who’s-who list of musicians and

attendees when Pope Francis called the attention to the important role music has in creating world peace.

Music is a language that speaks to all

At the Ariston Theatre, the festival host and artistic director, Carlo Conti, announced that a “surprise” guest would share a message that was not listed on the schedule for the 75th edition of the Sanremo Festival.

Joining in with a recorded video message from Casa Santa Marta at the Vatican, Pope Francis explained how music “is a tool for peace.”



NEW VOCAL AND ORCHESTRAL CANTATA TO PREMIERE IN GOZO IN APRIL

Piece to be conducted by the composer, Joseph Galea
17 February [Press Release](#)

Maestro Joseph Galea (left) and tenor Angelo Muscat
On the occasion of the Catholic Church’s Jubilee of Hope, the Gozo Regional Orchestra will perform the original sacred music composition *It-Triq tas-Salib* at St Anthony church, Għajnsielem, on April 12 at 7.30pm. Composed by Joseph Galea, the piece

features lyrics and reflections by the Franciscan friars Marcellino Ghirlando, OFM, and the late Fr Raymond Camilleri, OFM.

The orchestra will be under the baton of Mro Galea himself and will be accompanied by the Michel Angelo & Friends Choir, under the direction of Marita Debattista Bigeni, tenor Angelo Muscat and baritone Ken Scicluna. Fr Ghirlando will be the evening’s narrator. The orchestral and vocal composition is structured over the 14 Via Crucis stations, with each station complemented by a reflection. The orchestra will be accompanied by Michel Angelo & Friends Choir, under the direction of Marita Debattista Bigeni, tenor Angelo Muscat and baritone Ken Scicluna. Fr Ghirlando will be the narrator.

The orchestral and vocal composition is structured over the 14 Via Crucis stations, with each station complemented by a relevant reflection. The climax of this cantata will be reached at the 14th station, when the soloists, choir and orchestra will execute *Ġesù jqum mill-mewt* (*Jesus has risen*) – *Hallelujah!* A new funeral march (*marcia funebre*), entitled *Ġublew tal-Ħniena* (Jubilee of Hope), that Mro Galea composed for this special occasion, will premiere as a prelude to the *cantata*. Entrance is free, with donations welcome for the new set of bells at St Anthony church. The event is being held under the patronage of the minister provincial, Fr Anthony Chirop, OFM.



Fr Joshua Cortis Priest in Charge Balluta's Parish Church- St Julians

Ritratt: Arcidjoċesi ta' Malta

Fr Joshua Cortis has IS THE priest in charge of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Church at Balluta once the church is transferred from the Carmelites to the Archdiocese of Malta. Born on 23 December 1987, Fr Joshua

pursued a double degree in biology and chemistry. He then pursued studies at the Archbishop's Seminary, followed by a degree in theology. He also holds a Licentiate in Pastoral Theology.

Fr Joshua was ordained on 8 May 2021. During the years he served as deacon and deputy parish priest at St Julian's parish church (2020-2024) and spiritual director of the National Sports School in Pembroke (2022-2024).

The Balluta parish is made up of around 5,200 people.

Overlooking the waterfront of Sliema, the Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel stands out from a row of surrounding buildings both for its size and beautiful design. The neo-gothic building is a real gem of Balluta Bay, located within Saint Julian's seaside resort area, which is very popular among tourists. Compared to most well-known attractions of Malta, the church is quite a modern construction, though the initial church dedicated to Our Lady of Mount Carmel was built there as far back as 1859. It was constructed by Carmelites from Valletta, who were followers of the famous Catholic religious order, originated from pilgrims or crusaders in 12th century. While owned by the Carmelites, the building was rebuilt twice – in 1877 and in 1900, but the third restoration became necessary after WWII, since the church was almost completely ruined during the Nazi air raids. It was rebuilt once again in 1958, when acquired its present majestic appearance, and then, in 1974, was transformed into the parish church of Balluta Bay under parish office of Carmelite friars until 2024.

.Located right on the waterfront on the border of St. Julian's and Sliema, the church enraptures passers-by and tourists by its impressive design, being especially beautiful in the light of the evening illumination. Tourists can observe traditional Maltese wedding ceremonies that take place in the church directly from the beach or the promenade. Since the church is open to the public, there is a chance to see some of Catholic rituals or visit other events, like a concert of religious music or a feast. The most famous of parish feasts celebrated in the church is the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel that takes place in July.

WE THANK ALL THOSE WHO SENT A DONATION

If you want to send a donation to continue publishing this journal
here are my bank details

Bank - Commonwealth (Australia)
Account No. - 00502597

BSB - 065106
Name - Frank Scicluna





The Count Roger Band Club presents Masters of Melody. A concert commemorating some of the musical giants that left a rich musical history amongst Maltese Band Clubs.

Refundable Booking Available

Select Refundable Booking at checkout to get a full refund in case you are unable to attend this event (sickness included). T&Cs apply.

Saturday, 15 March 2025 at 20:00

Standard Ticket The ticket will grant you access to the Concert. Seating will be available to all ticket holders. **€10.00 + €1.00 BF**

Description

The Count Roger Band Club, a beloved institution in Malta for over 150 years, is organizing a grand philharmonic concert to celebrate its rich history and bright future.

The concert will pay tribute to renowned composers like Giuseppe Vitaliti, Vincenzo Ciappara and Prof. Joseph Vella, who have shaped our musical legacy. Looking forward, the concert will also shine light on some of the greatest up and coming musical composers which have a strong bond with the Band Club, such as Mro Carmel Borg, Dr Kristian Schembri and Mro Luke Vella.

We're excited to combine traditional music with modern art forms, creating a unique and unforgettable experience.

This event is organised in collaboration with the National Band Clubs Association and with the support of Arts Council Malta, Visit Malta and the Mdina Metropolitan Chapter

Access to the De Redin Bastions is rather limited, therefore we recommend wearing comfortable shoes.

Should weather conditions on the 15th of March be unsuitable for the concert, it will be held on the 5th of April at 20:00.



Looking for good Maltese food in NSW? 119 Railway Terrace, Schofields NSW 2762

In the western suburb of Schofields there is a café called the Limestone café which has a large range of Maltese foods.

Limestone Cafe offers a place where everyone can enjoy homemade, authentic food and great coffee in a friendly and casual environment.

The menu is eclectic menu, inspired by the Maltese heritage, modern Australian cuisine and classic French pastries, having a blend of authentic Maltese dishes, pastizzi, and breads, fresh and vibrant Aussie dishes and mouth-watering French pastries.

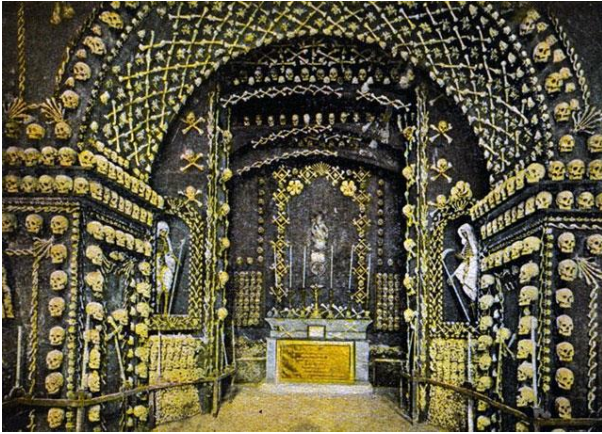
At Limestone Café they believe in sourcing the freshest seasonal produce locally wherever possible to showcase the best New South Wales can offer.

When Limestone Cafe opened in 2016, it served bacon and eggs, smashed avocado and lattes. But plans were already in place for something more. The owners, Stephen and Ben Sultana, are Maltese.

Now Limestone has a wood-fired oven baking traditional bread and serves Maltese specialities. The cuisine is like Southern Italian but has influences from Malta's many previous rulers and trade partners, Britain and the Middle East in particular. One thing most people will recognise from Maltese cuisine is pastizzi. Limestone bakes the diamond-shaped pastry in two flavours: pea and bacon, and ricotta.

The most distinct part of the cuisine, though, is the popularity of rabbit. Limestone serves spaghetti with peas and a wine and rabbit jus. There's also a wood-fired clay-pot rabbit stew served with chips, salad and bread. Other Maltese dishes on the menu are closer to Italian dishes: lasagna, cannelloni and ravioli made with a semolina dough. It's more like *pierogi* (Eastern European dumplings). They come in two styles: boiled with tomato sauce, and deep-fried with a herb oil and parmesan. To finish, try *imqaret*, a deep-fried, biscuit-like pastry filled with date paste. Or *pudina tal-hobż*, a chocolaty bread. If you haven't already had a roll smeared with olive oil during your meal, get a loaf on the way out. *Hobż tal-malti* is the national loaf, it's somewhere between a sourdough and a soft sandwich loaf.

The Lost Chapel of Bones in Malta



Charlie Hintz

Somewhere beneath the ruins of the Nibbia Chapel in Malta is an ossuary decorated in human bones exhumed from a nearby cemetery.

Crypt beneath the Nibbia Chapel of Bones in Valletta, Malta

For nearly a hundred years a small church in Malta's capital of Valletta served as a place of powerful religious devotion, as well as a macabre tourist destination. Known as the Chapel of Bones, the vaulted crypt beneath the church was elaborately decorated with human skulls and bones exhumed from a nearby

cemetery in the mid-1800s. Bombs dropped on the city during the second World War, on February 14, 1941, left the chapel damaged. What remained was later demolished sometime in the 1970s. Only the sarcophagus of the chapel's builder Fra Giorgia Nibbia, along with remnants of the foundation, were left standing.

The Nibbia Chapel was built in the year 1612. Nibbia, a member of the Knights of the Order of St. John (who controlled the island at that time) funded the construction of the Roman Catholic chapel beside a cemetery where deceased patients of the nearby Sacra Infermeria hospital were laid to rest. It was dedicated to the *Madonna della Misericordia*, or Our Lady of Mercy, and was originally called *Taz-Zuntier*, a Maltese word for "cemetery." The altar had a Latin inscription that, according to the *Times of Malta*, "lamented the ephemerity of life and requested prayers for the dead." When Nibbia died in 1619, he was entombed in a stone sarcophagus within the chapel.

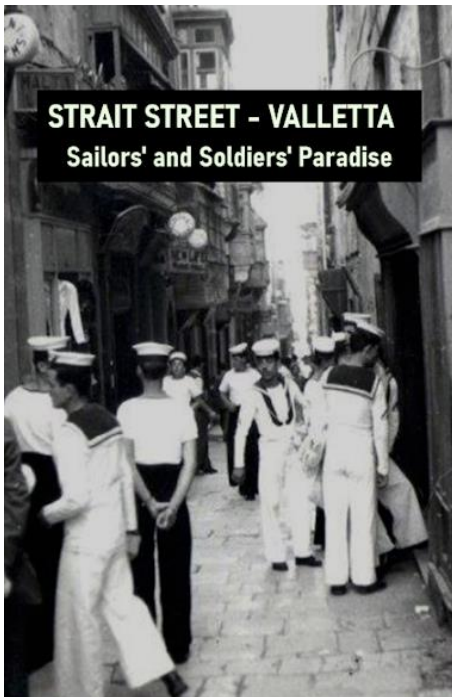
The chapel was dismantled in 1730 to make room for expansion of the hospital. At that time, Nibbia's tomb was opened, and his corpse was said to appear untouched by death. The church was rebuilt the following year in the Baroque style with architecture attributed to Romano Carapecchia. This new structure, as described by the *Times of Malta*, "consisted of a large portal panel having the main door set within two clustered sets of Doric pilasters on each side. The door's architrave was adorned with a marble plaque at the centre and topped by a broken rounded pediment. A thin cornice separated the upper section which was made up of a central light arched window set between two smaller clusters of pilasters and running scrolls. Above the whole was a triangular pediment."

In 1776, the decision was made to relocate the cemetery. The remains were exhumed and reinterred underground in a large ossuary beneath the chapel. Then, in 1852, hospital chaplain Rev. Sacco decided to use the bones as decoration, adorning the walls and ceiling of the crypt with elaborate shapes and patterns made entirely of human skeletal remains. He created intricate patterns with crossed long bones, scapulae were used for floral shapes, skulls lined the walls, and smaller bones were used as trim.

In the 1914 book *Six and One Abroad*, author Sidney J. Thomas wrote about the Church of St. John in Valetta, where a relic said to be the mummified right hand of John the Baptist was kept (after Napoleon stole the diamond ring from its finger), before moving on to describe the city's other macabre destination.

"But yet a more startling apartment in this remarkable edifice is a chapel whose walls and ceiling are lined with grinning human skulls," Thomas wrote. "This gruesome decoration of bones is not disposed at random and in sparse bits here and there, but is arranged with artistic skill into all sorts of designs, shaped into full framed skeletons that STARE at you with ghastly smiles, into

the curves of arm bones and arches of clavicles and windows and wainscotting of ribs. In the world, civilized and savage, there is not another such a gruesome and appalling spectacle. It was a clever artist who assembled these, the relics of the sturdy Knights of Malta, into such extraordinary schemes of drapery and friezes and ornaments – here and arm bone finished off with finger joints and meeting another of the same kind and together holding a grinning skull as the keystone of an arch; yonder a row of columns with their tops decorated with skulls.”NThough little remains of the Nibbia Chapel, the underground crypt is believed to still exist, and may one day be found.



Valletta's Strait Street is easily the most famous street in Malta. Known as *Strada Stretta* in Maltese, the street was the pinnacle of nightlife amongst American and British military men and Maltese frequenters between the 19th and mid-20th century.

Strait Street represents a fascinating period of time in Malta's history – one in which people of different nationalities and classes intermingled together in a social context. This was a new kind of multiculturalism, one that was different from previous centuries of simply being dominated by power after power. This was more integrated, more inclusive. Strait Street became a hub in which English, Italian, and Maltese could co-exist. Certainly, this level of interaction with soldiers meant that many more Maltese learnt the English language – from barmen to the Maltese ladies who pined after the foreign sailors.

Strait Street also became a notable platform for live music, especially jazz. As more and more musicians learnt to emulate the songs from records brought from the USA, the stronger the grooving sounds of piano, drums, bass, and saxophone permeated from the street's many venues.

The fun was hardly innocent, as one might imagine. Indeed, Strait Street's reputation stems from its sheer contrast to the Catholic Malta that encased it, with its drunkenness, rowdiness, prostitution, and even cross-dressing being the nightly routine. It's no wonder that the street was known as the 'The Gut' amongst its English visitors.



Thankfully, the secrets of the street have not been buried at sea. Strait Street is the result of the need to create optimism in an era haunted by war, and it has been documented as an iconic

part of Malta's history. A number of books have been written about it, and a TV show called *Strada Stretta* is was run weekly on Maltese television.

Does Strait Street exist today? Yes, and it's just as vibrant as it ever was! Nowadays the popular area still hosts bars, live music, and even festivals. We're pretty sure that there's less debauchery, though. HOWEVER, strict regulations have been laid down, mainly that all forms of revival must strictly adhere to the street as it used to be, the same names for the bars and clubs, the same decorations and even street advertisements have to reflect the adverts used in the 1950s but prstitution is NOT included in the revival plans.

Strait Street has returned to the glorious days of the straight and narrow



Ghalkemm qsajjar, reġa' magħna
Dan l-imqarqaç xahar ta' Frar,
Illi skont misserijietna
Jingħad li jfawwar il-bjar!

Dan ix-xahar dlonk iġib miegħu
In-Nawfraġju ta' San Pawl;
Dak l-Appostlu li ġabilna
Ta' twemminna l-akbar dawl.

Ftit jiem wara jfeġġu fuqna
Il-jiem sbieħ tal-Karnival
Meta fl-enclosure jingabru
Nisa, rġiel, zġażaġħ u tfal.

Biex għal mument wara daharhom
Jitfġu gwaj, problemi w hemm,
U jinsew x'għaddej madwarhom –
Gwerer, ġlied, tixrid ta' demm.

Mal-ibliet u mal-irhula
Isaltnu l-bluh u l-ġenn
U kulhadd jaqbez u jiżfen
U tad-dar iħalli l-kenn.

Fil-vetrini u fil-ħwienet
Tibda tara l-Prinjolata –
Lgħabek jinżel xhin idduqha
Kollha lewż u çikkulata.

Fl-antik niesna kienu jħobbu
Jiffullaw għall-Kumittiva;
Oħrajn kienu jippreferu
Minn mal-arblu jġibu l-priza.

L-għannej Fredu bil-kitarra
Ma' treqatna kien idur
Liebes stramb, jgħanni u jqabbel
U milqugħ kulfejn imur.

Tal-Liżar mad-dlam tal-għodwa
Kienu jwerwru n-nies fit-toroq
Warajk jiġru, jtuk xi qatgħa
“Kma ssibx ruhek taħt ix-xorok!

Kien hemm żmien meta l-Parata
Kienet tkun tant mistennija;
Fuq l-Istorja tieqa tiftaħ –
Xwabel, sjuf, imwiet u dmija!

Bil-Kunsilli jħabirku
Spinta ħadna 'l quddiem;
Dawn il-festi m'Għawdex xterdu,
Kif jinbidel hux, iż-żmien!

Jalla dawn il-festi jibqgħu
Bil-ferħ jimlew qalb in-nies!
Basta l-briju u l-allegrija
Isiru bl-għaqal u l-qies!

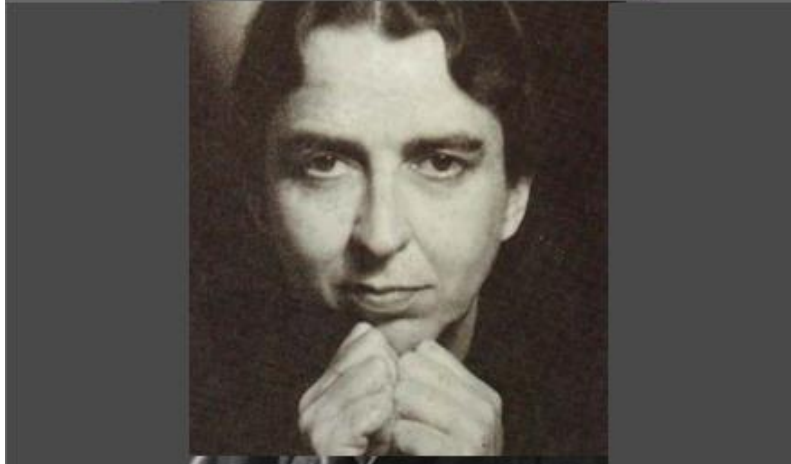
L-għada, l-aħwa addio ġiri
Ma' wiçċna jfeġġ ir-Randan –
Jiem ta' sawm u astinenza,
Neħtiġuh ħbieb żmien bħal dan!

Kav. Joe M. Attard
Victoria, Għawdex 2025

VIVA L-KARVIVAL

**THE JOURNAL FOR MALTESE LIVING ABROAD
IS WELL-READ NOT ONLY IN MALTA BUT ALSO IN
OUR BELOVED SISTER ISLAND - GOZO**

Mabel Strickland OBE Anglo-Maltese journalist and politician (1899 - 1988)



Mabel Edeline Strickland OBE (8 January 1899 – 29 November 1988), was an Anglo-Maltese journalist, newspaper proprietor and politician.

Mabel's father was Sir Gerald Strickland, 6th Count della Catena, 1st Baron Strickland, (24 May 1861 – 22 August 1940). He was a Maltese and British politician and peer, who served as Prime Minister of Malta, Governor of the Leeward Islands, Governor of Tasmania, Governor of Western Australia and Governor of New South Wales, in addition to sitting successively in the House of Commons and House of Lords in the Parliament of the United Kingdom

Having never married or had children of her own, Mabel Strickland's chosen heir was her great nephew Robert Hornyold-Strickland. Mabel Strickland lived the most of her life at Villa

Parasio in Lija, Malta.

Strickland founded a newspaper group in Malta with her father and her stepmother, Lady Strickland, DBE (Margaret, daughter of Edward Hulton). In 1935 she became editor of *The Times of Malta* and "*Il Berqa*" before taking over as Managing Director of the Group on the death of her father in 1940. The paper never missed an issue throughout the Siege of Malta in World War Two, despite taking direct hits on several occasions. She formed and led the Progressive Constitutionalist Party during the 1950s and was one of the principal political leaders of the 1950s, participating in the integration talks in 1956-57 as well as opposing independence in 1964. She was elected to the Maltese Parliament again in 1962. She always fought passionately for a free and independent press and to maintain Malta's ties with Britain and the Commonwealth. On her retirement she has established the Strickland Foundation in the name of her family. Mabel Strickland died on 29 November 1988 and is buried in the family crypt in the Cathedral in Mdina, Malta. Her tombstone lies near that of her father, who was the principal influence in her life.

Mabel Strickland, OBE, died on November 29, 1988, a month short of her 90th birthday. She was an indomitable woman and, in her prime, was very much part of the fabric of Malta, especially to anyone who had been in Malta during World War II and in the ensuing 25 years.



Sir Gerald Strickland

Those who knew her personally admired her spirit and determination; she was a colourful character, mixing easily with people from all nationalities, social backgrounds and across all differing political persuasions. She was first and foremost an editor and publisher but she also made time to pursue a political and business career.

While some people found her larger than life, others found her passionate and caring who had an infectious and mischievous sense of humour and a deep, booming voice that many have tried to imitate over the years. She was trusting of most people she came in contact with – except some politicians. That might have been because she was a woman in a man's world or because her ownership of the Times of Malta and The Sunday Times of Malta made her wary of people befriending her for possibly the wrong reasons.

Having been a politician herself, she was acutely aware of how politicians behaved in a small island culture, balancing their legitimate responsibilities of representing their constituents' concerns and guiding their country against the lures of personal profit, power and prestige. I well remember my aunt illustrating the pitfalls of politics and the need for a strong, inner moral compass when she explained the "personal sacrifice" she made when she gave up her job in 1950 as editor of the Times of Malta (a job she loved) to serve her country as a politician. Although born in Malta, Mabel Strickland grew up in Australia, where her father had a succession of governorships. Next edition – Biography of Gerland Strickland.



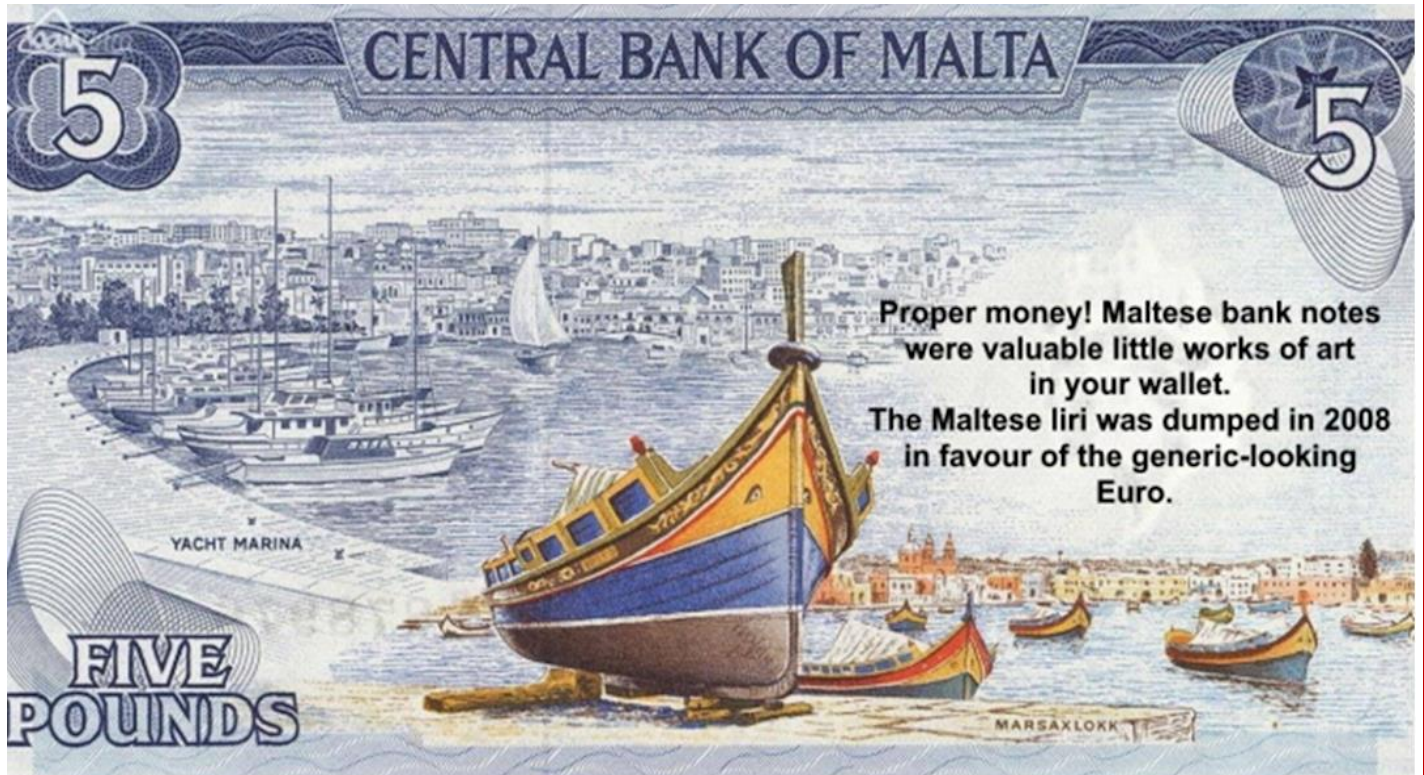
THE PRIDE AND JOY OF PETER BORG - ADELAIDE - SA
Moonee Valley race course showcars Melbourne 2025
Another win for the Maltese



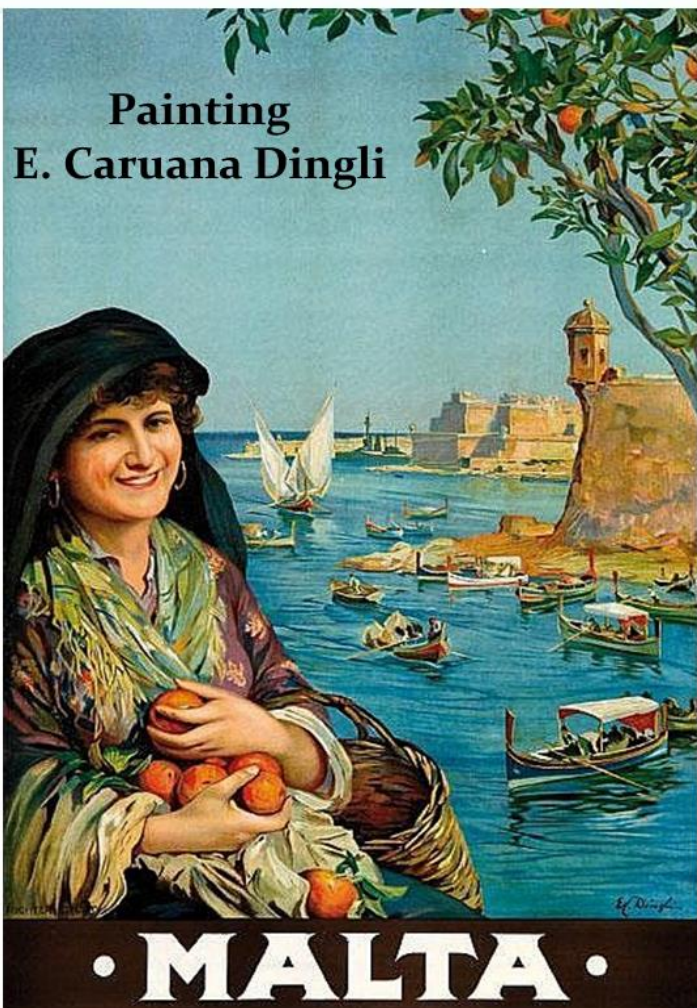
**MALTESE SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**
Every Friday from 10am till 3pm
Community Hall
49 LeHunte Street, Kilburn SA
LUNCH AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Collect the Maltese Journal provided by MAC

WELCOME



Proper money! Maltese bank notes were valuable little works of art in your wallet. The Maltese liri was dumped in 2008 in favour of the generic-looking Euro.



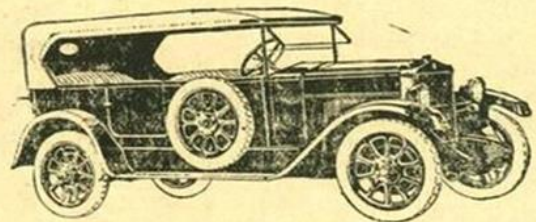
Painting
E. Caruana Dingli

• MALTA •



Cul min irit jixtri automobili fina, sabieha u ma tatemm katt ghandu jaghzel FIAT li ghanda lisbah fama mad-dinja collha.

Haun carrozzi FIAT giò Malta li ilhom jahdmu 18 il sena; din hia l'isbah prova tat-tiubija u durabilità.



Prezzi et min £185 il fuk.

Il Fiat huma l'unici carrozzi garantiti bis-serietà u m'hux bil cliem biss.

MUSCAT

14, 15, Strada Reale.

How Beautiful to watch the craft ladies working together at the George Cross Falcons Community Centre in Cringila. NSW
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Paul Fenech



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SATURDAY
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LETS MAKE CRINGILA LAUGH AGAIN

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SAVE THE DATE

CARITAS RUN FOR LIFE

02 March 2025

10KM RUN 5KM RUN
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Mark Your Calendars! Caritas Run for Life is back! Join us for the third edition on 2nd March 2025. Save the date, lace up your running shoes, and tag your running buddy to join you on this amazing journey! Together, let's make a difference!

2025 Registrations NOW OPEN

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Home Ground At Berruex Reserve, Barossa Drive, Minchinbury NSW

Under 6-10	Mixed	\$160
Under 11-15	Mixed	\$180
Under 8,10,12,15	Girls	\$150

Rego includes: Full playing kit & club jacket

Register online at:
<https://nswcfamel.myclubmate.com.au/myDetails/>

For registration or any queries please contact Mark Tanti on 0457 446 965

CFA
FOOTBALL SINCE 1951



The LOVE sign in Malta is a statue at Spinola Bay, in Saint Julians, which was created by the Malta artist Richard England. The letters are inverted, but the word to be read upright in the water's reflection and monument shadow in certain hours.

**MALTESE AMERICAN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 1956
844 Michigan Avenue was the first
Maltese Club...they had to move
to the current location
because of the
I-10(Lodge Freeway) construction!!**



If you have a story to tell - the readers of this journal like to hear it.
SHARE IT WITH OTHERS

Why don't you join our big and happy family
MALTESE LIVING ABROAD



**Free Event
Author Talk
Mystery & Intrigue in Malta**

Join author, Sean Richardson, to talk about how he wove everyday life and locations into his thriller set in modern day Malta.

*Trid toqtol
il-brimba biex tnehi
l-ghanqbuta.*



**Maltese Museum
La Trobe Valley**

**When: Sunday 16 March
Time: 2pm at Maltese Community
Centre Henry Street Morwell**