

JOURNAL FOR MALTESE AROUND THE WORLD



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

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WE  **THE**
MALTESE JOURNAL



THE LINK BETWEEN MALTA AND GOZO



PRINCIPALITY OF ANDORRA

**Malta Presidency of the
Council of Europe**



May - November 2025

MIGRANTS COMMISSION



REV. JESMOND SCHEMBRI



**MALTA WINS GOLD MEDALS AT THE
SMALL COUNTRY GAMES IN ANDORRA**



**12 YEARS
OF SERVICE TO THE
MALTESE DIASPORA**

Maltese Diaspora



**MALTESE IN
EGYPT
GIBRALTAR
GREECE
ITALY
NEW ZEALAND
SOUTH AFRICA
TUNISIA**



**MULTICULTURAL
AGED CARE
(SA)**

DIRECTOR FOR MIGRANTS COMMISSION

“Although lately we have been assisting mostly immigrants who come to Malta, we have not abandoned our original vocation of keeping contact with Maltese emigrants who have settled in many other countries but still consider themselves to be Maltese”. Our Journal links with Migrants Commission

At the beginning of April Archbishop Charles Scicluna has appointed Deacon Jesmond Schembri as the new Director of the Migrants Commission, succeeding Fr Anton D’Amato, who served in this role for nearly five years.

For the past 75 years, the Migrants Commission has been dedicated to supporting Maltese emigrants and their families and immigrants who have arrived in Malta seeking refuge or employment. Among its key initiatives, the Commission assists migrants to help them live with dignity and facilitates their integration into Maltese society.

Jesmond Schembri holds a degree in Social Work from the Universities of Malta and Hull in the United Kingdom, and pursued Theology studies at the University of Malta’s Faculty of Theology. He was ordained a deacon of the Greek Catholic Church in May 2023 and is married. With extensive experience in social work, particularly in the field of addictions, he has also contributed to the development of social policy and worked in data protection. He joined the Migrants Commission in October 2023.

Deacon Jesmond Schembri said that when it was shared in the media that he would become the Deacon for the Greek Catholic Church, there were people who told him that he is having the “best of both worlds” due to the fact that he is a married man, father of two children, and grandfather of two grandchildren, as well as a deacon.

Rev. Schembri spent his life working for social causes through Fondazzjoni Sedqa, the Foundation for Social Welfare Services (FSWS), as well as various ministries. He was described by presenter Professor Andrew Azzopardi as someone who “kept his spirituality during the course of his life”.

The deacon explained how the Commission began as part of Azzjoni Kattolika. Through the work of the late Mgr. Philip Calleja, he began to contribute to this commission when he was still a seminarian. It addressed various questions of a social and spiritual nature for various Maltese people who left the country to look for a better future elsewhere. He mentioned how the initial work of the Commission was about Maltese emigrants, Mgr. Ġużeppi De Piro – founder of the Missionary Society of St. Paul – would send Maltese priests from the society to accompany these Maltese.

In 1971, Dar l-Emigrant was built Castille Square where it remains today. After one year, Malta had its first modern refugees from Uganda. This was the first time that people arrived in Malta with the status of refugee under the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). In 1987, Charles Buttigieg became Malta’s first representative to the UNHCR and had the power grant protections to refugees. He also became the first Commissioner for Refugees.

In 2021, Dun Anton D’Amato continued the work of the commission, taking over from Mgr. Alfred Vella and Mgr. Philip Calleja. He made various changes including changing the commission’s name to the Migrants Commission so as to cover both immigrants and emigrants.

newsbook.com.mt





MALTESE LIVING ABROAD MALTA IN THE WORLD

USEFUL INFORMATION

Composition of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad

The Council for Maltese Living Abroad was established by Act XX of 2011 and began functioning in 2012, when the first Council was appointed. The Council is headed by the Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs as Chairperson, together with 15 members and a secretary.

All members must be of Maltese nationality. In the case of five of them, they may reside both in Malta and outside Malta. They must have special knowledge and experience of the needs and interests of Maltese living outside Malta.

They must also work or have worked in non-governmental organisations and whose main objective is to promote the well-being of Maltese living outside Malta.

The other ten members are chosen from among Maltese nationals who are members of Maltese communities living outside Malta, and are distributed as follows:

- Two members from the State of Victoria in the Commonwealth of Australia;
- Two members from the State of New South Wales in the Commonwealth of Australia; Two members from the United States of America;
- One member from the United Kingdom;
- One member from another state in the Commonwealth of Australia (other than Victoria and New South Wales);
- One member from a Member State of the European Union (other than Malta); and
- One member from Canada.

The appointment of the members is made by the Prime Minister. In the case of the first five members, this is made after consultation with the Leader of the Opposition. The appointment is for three years but may be renewed for a further three years after the end of the first term of appointment.

The number of Council members is expected to increase to be more representative of Maltese residing abroad, when the Act as amended and approved by the Parliament (ACT No. XXIV of 2024) comes into force.

The current Council is composed as follows:

Ms Judith Buhagiar and Ms Amie Cardona from the State of Victoria from the Commonwealth of Australia; **Ms Miriam Friggieri and Dr. Antoine Mangion** from the State of New South Wales from the Commonwealth of Australia; **Ms Alexandra Micallef** from another state from the Commonwealth of Australia; **Prof. Sandro Galea and Ms Mona Nicholas** from the United States of America; **Ms Sarah Meli from Canada; Dr. Edgar Brincat from the United Kingdom; and Ms Alison Micallef from the European Union.** The other five members are: **Comm. Major James N. Casha; Mr Luke Incorvaja; Dr. Loredana Gatt; Ms. Giselle Sherri-Migliore; Mr. Antoine Scicluna.**

For more information one can access: <https://malteselivingabroad.gov.mt/council-for-maltese-living-abroad/>

JOSEPH A. XERRI SECRETARY



JOHN CALLEJA APPOINTED A STATE COUNCILLOR FOR THE KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS AND A MEMBER OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE (CLMA)

By the Editor – Frank Scicluna

John Calleja has been successful and busy in the South Australian communities. Last year he was elevated to State Councillor for the Knights of the Southern Cross after 23 years' service— an organisation appointed by bishops to support our Catholic Churches, Priests, St Vincent De Paul and other charities.

The Order of the Knights of the Southern Cross is a national organisation of Catholic laymen who operate with the support of the Australian Bishops. Autonomous Branches of the Order operate in each Australian State. The Order is guided by the Catholic faith and the cardinal and chivalrous virtues of prudence, faith, justice, fortitude and temperance in all its charitable works. It strives to serve the wider community and support those in need.

Recently coming back from Malta organising the 2nd ANZAC sports rowing Regatta, Malta's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Ian Borg appointed John as a member of the Regional Committee for geographical zones of Australia except Victoria and New South Wales. John told the editor in his message to the readers of the Maltese Journal Living Abroad and of the Maltese communities, "I am honoured to be working with our Regional Committees and

supporting the Council for Maltese Living Abroad in Australia and helping the members of the Maltese Community in South Australia."

John also assisted this journal and others in our plea to preserve the Australia Hall which was built in Malta in 1915 for the ANZAC soldiers who were sent to Malta to recover during the battle of Gallipoli.

While he was in Malta this year John and the students laid down four metres of green artificial turf alongside 58



planted pots of rosemary to represent 58,000 wounded ANZACS and nursed in Malta, plus added New Zealand and Australia flag

We have also learnt that Edgar Agius, the President of the Maltese Community Council of South Australia has also been appointed as a member of the Regional Committee for Council for Maltese Living Abroad. These two gentlemen will be representing us on the CLMA Regional Committee, and they are always available to discuss issues, suggestions, ideas and/or problems impacting the rights, needs and interests of the members of our community in Adelaide.

We congratulate all the new members who were appointed by the minister to this important position and wish them well in serving the Council and their respective region for the benefit of all our dear Maltese sisters and brothers scattered around the globe.

Together we try to keep alive and strengthen the few associations who are still working to keep the Maltese history, culture and language alive and leave a legacy to our younger generations.

We will publish the whole list of all the regional members as soon as it is available to us.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL FOR MALTESE LIVING ABROAD (2024)

The last meeting of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad (CMLA), held on 30th and 31st of October 2024, brought together members from various parts of the world to discuss issues affecting the Maltese diaspora.

The session was opened by the Honourable Ian Borg, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism and Chairperson of the Council, as he thanked the members for their continued dedication to the Maltese communities abroad and their invaluable contributions to strengthening Malta's ties with its diaspora.

The Director for Consular Services and Maltese Living Abroad Chirelle Ellul Sciberras explained the Directorate's work in the year 2024 with regard to Maltese living abroad, including the establishment of Maltese language libraries in diplomatic missions and initiatives such as the Consul-on-the-Move programme and the citizenship certificate awarding ceremonies.

The meeting covered a wide range of topics, including:

Funding issues The Council affirmed that it does not have a budget allocated for Maltese publications abroad but expressed its readiness to collaborate on the content of these publications if requested. He also reiterated his commitment to collaborate with Maltese NGOs outside Malta and agreed to facilitate and provide support to groups or individuals seeking funding assistance from the Malta Commission for Voluntary Organisations or through European Union funding opportunities.

Council Roadmap A strategic roadmap was agreed to guide Council members on how they will collaborate over the coming years, with the aim of fostering better communication and cooperation between regions and communities.

Amendments to Act XX of 2011 Amendments to Act XX of 2011, which were recently approved by the House of Representatives, were explained and discussed in depth. These amendments will highlight the improvement of the legal framework supporting the Council, the increase in the number of Council Members to better represent the distribution and representation of Maltese living abroad, and the review and increase of the functions of the Council.

Promotion of Forms D, O and V A presentation was given on Forms D, O, and V for Maltese living abroad, with members encouraged to promote them within their respective communities. Issues related to Form O were also addressed.

Canadian Driving Licences Transport Malta's response regarding issues involving the process of obtaining Canadian driving licences was discussed, with the entity assuring that discussions are ongoing in order to create a procedure that meets Canadian requirements.

Linguistic and cultural projects Representatives from Science Malta, the Maltese Language Centre and Arts Council Malta spoke to Council members about future opportunities and possible projects to promote the Maltese language and culture abroad.

Renewal of Maltese Passports The need for a more simplified process for passport renewal was highlighted, with suggestions for an online system and simplified forms, to assist Maltese citizens living abroad.

BOV Banking Services for the Diaspora The Bank of Valletta representatives assured that the bank has specialized procedures for clients abroad, including a specific email address * for assistance with banking matters. It was also agreed that documents requested by the bank could also be signed by a Justice of the Peace and not necessarily only by a notary.

Citizenship Discussions were held with the Malta Community on certain citizenship issues faced by applicants outside Malta.

Other items on the agenda included guidelines for the establishment of regional councils, a discussion on the future of the Council and the members' vision for it, and the possibility of developing a corporate branding strategy for the Council.

In summary, the meeting highlighted the Council's commitment to supporting the Maltese diaspora and strengthening Malta's commitment to its citizens around the world.

The collaborative efforts discussed aim to continue to foster stronger ties between Malta and Maltese communities abroad.



Presidency of Malta
Council of Europe
May - November 2025

Présidence de Malte
Conseil de l'Europe
Mai - Novembre 2025

Malta is honoured to assume the Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe for the fourth time in its history. It's vision for the Presidency is one of equality, solidarity and inclusion, strengthened by dialogue, mutual respect and empowerment. It is a vision for a better today and an even

brighter tomorrow.

In this capacity, following its consecutive tenures as an elected member of the United Nations Security Council and as Chairperson-in-Office of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Malta will remain unwavering in its efforts to continue upholding and defending multilateralism.

At the heart of its priorities will be youth empowerment. In the face of increasing trends of democratic backsliding, Malta is determined to foster a more active, meaningful and engaged role for young people in democratic life, ensuring their voices are not only heard, but nurtured and acted upon.

Furthermore, Malta will prioritise equality and the fight against violence and discrimination, working towards inclusive and fair societies where diversity is not only cherished but celebrated. The protection of children and their best interest will be high on the agenda, with particular attention paid to enhancing the fight against technologically facilitated child sexual abuse and exploitation.

Solidarity and support for Ukraine as it continues to face a war of aggression for the fourth consecutive year, will remain a key priority with a view to seeking a just and lasting peace.

As the milestone 75-year anniversary of the European Convention on Human Rights is celebrated, Malta will remain steadfast in its commitment to safeguard and promote the fundamental rights and freedoms as well as the principles of democracy and the rule of law.

The detailed priorities were formally presented on the 14th of May, marking the beginning of its Presidency.

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MALTESE IN EGYPT GIBRALTAR, GREECE, ITALY, NEW ZEALAND, SOUTH AFRICA, TUNISIA



EGYPT Some Maltese had been present in Egypt as early as the era of Napoleon and his conquest of Egypt. The proximity between the two countries and the similarity between the Maltese and Arabic languages have led many Maltese to settle in Egypt in the past, mainly in Alexandria. Like the Italians who settled in Egypt, the Egyptian-born Maltese constituted a portion of Egypt's Roman Catholic community. By 1939, up to 20,000 Maltese were living in Egypt. Practically all of these were French-speaking and those with a French parent had French as their mother tongue. In many middle-class families (especially in Alexandria and Cairo) a language shift had occurred, with Italian used as the home language alongside French; a large minority of Egyptian Maltese (for example those of the Suez Canal Zone) still retained Maltese as their mother tongue. This number was greatly reduced by emigration years after and almost completely wiped out by expulsions in 1956 due to the Maltese being British nationals. Most of the Egyptian Franco-Maltese settled in Australia or Britain, where they remained culturally distinct from immigrants from Malta. Those with French citizenship were repatriated to France (most often to Marseille). Post-war Malta in general did not accept refugees from Egypt.

GIBRALTAR A Maltese community has existed in Gibraltar since shortly after its capture by an Anglo-Dutch fleet in 1704. The majority of the Spanish inhabitants were then expelled, leaving behind a garrison to be serviced by immigrants, mostly from Malta and Genoa. Immigration from neighboring Spanish towns soon followed, giving Gibraltar a very cosmopolitan population. Gibraltar's prosperity attracted immigrants from neighbouring Mediterranean lands and in 1885 there were about 1,000 Maltese people living in Gibraltar. Early in the 20th century the British undertook vast naval works and improvements to the existing fortifications of Gibraltar to make the rock practically impregnable. Many Maltese worked in the dockyard and others operated ancillary businesses. However, the economy of Gibraltar was not capable of absorbing a large number of immigrants from Malta and by 1912 the number of Maltese was already in decline (not above 700) as they returned to the Maltese Islands. Eventually those who stayed in Gibraltar became very much involved in the economic and social life in Gibraltar, most of them also being staunch supporters of links with the UK.

GREECE A large community of descendants of Maltese is still present in Corfu. Their forebears came to the island during the 19th century, when the British authorities brought many skilled workers from Malta to the Ionian Islands. The British needed married men so that their work would be continued by their children and as a consequence 80 people (40 families from 1815 until 1860) were transported to Corfu, whose descendants remain on the island today. In 1901, there were almost one thousand people in Corfu who considered themselves to be ethnic Maltese. In Cephalonia the number was 225. There were another hundred Maltese spread among the other lesser islands of the Ionian Group. Maltese emigration to these islands practically ceased when the islands were returned to Greece in 1864. Because of the union with Greece, a number of

Maltese families abandoned Corfu and settled in Cardiff, Wales, where their descendants still live. In Corfu, two villages on the island bear names testifying to Maltese presence: Maltezika is named after Malta and Cozzella got its name from Gozo. In Cozzella the Franciscan Sisters of Malta opened a convent and a school in 1907. Those two institutions still flourish. In 1930, the Maltese in Corfu had their own priest who looked after their welfare while he kept useful contacts with the ecclesiastical and civil authorities in Malta. That priest was the Rev. Spiridione Cilia, who had been born in Corfu of Maltese parents and became the parish priest of the Maltese community. The Corfiot Maltese community currently numbers 3,500 people in the entire island. They constitute the center of the [Catholic](#) community of Corfu, but not one among them speaks the [Maltese language](#). The former mayor of the [city of Corfu](#), Sotiris Micallef, is of Maltese descent.

ITALY The town of Pachino, in the south of Sicily, was developed based on a royal decree of Ferdinand I of the Two Sicilies of 1760. Prince Ferdinand invited the Maltese neighbours to populate the new country and more than thirty families accepted the invitation. The first families were: Agius, Azzopardi, Arafam, Buhagiar, Bartolo, Caldies, Bonelli, Camensuli, Borg, Cassar Scalia, Boager, Fenech, Farruggia, Grech, Mizzi, Meilach, Micallef, Mallia, Ongres, Saliba, Sultan and Xuereb. Between 2008 and 2019 134 Maltese have acquired Italian citizenship

LIBYA A community of Maltese in Libya was established in the 19th century. They remained in the country throughout the 20th century, as they were not subject to expulsion by the Qaddafi regime in the 1970s.^[30] Many Maltese continued to move to Libya for work, particularly after the thaw with the West of Qaddafi's regime in the 2000s, until the start of the [Libyan civil war](#) in 2011. Maltese families still live in [Tripoli](#) to this day like The family of Abuhajr, the Faruja family, the Zmayt family and the Bazina family.

NEW ZEALAND The first recorded Maltese migrant to New Zealand was Angelo Parigi, who is listed at St Patrick's Church in Auckland as having married 16-year-old RoseAnne McMullen on 4 July 1849. He was described as "a boatman born in Malta". Others followed including a James Cassar for whom some letters remained unclaimed at the Auckland Post Office in 1864. In 1883, Francesco Saverio de Cesare, who was tasked by the Government in Malta to assess the "suitability of the British Colonies in Australia as a field for Maltese Migration", reported that: "At Auckland I met three Maltese, there settled for several years and at Tauranga another one, employed as a cook; they are doing well; and have no idea of returning to Malta. They told me there are some other Maltese, whom they know, settled in Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin." The Maltese Association of Wellington was founded in 1989, with Carmen Dalli as president. The latest census puts the number of Maltese residents in New Zealand at 222.

SOUTH AFRICA The Maltese started to emigrate to South Africa right after the [Second World War](#). In 1947–1948, 102 persons, particularly highly skilled workers, moved to the South Cape colony. Yet, this first wave was soon stooped, as the new South African government did not favour further immigration.

TUNISIA Tunisia was one of the early destinations of mass migration from Malta and here Cassola delves into its beginnings (1836-1844). Not surprisingly, Maltese migrants preferred settling in the coastal towns: Sousse, Monastir, Mahdia, Sfax, Djerba and Moknine, finding solace in the same sea which washed the shores of their homeland.

In the early decades of British rule, the economic situation was not prosperous, forcing thousands of Maltese to seek a better life across the sea. The difference between migration to Sicily and to Tunisia is that the former attracted individuals whereas the latter took in whole groups. Tunisia offered opportunities for the lower classes.



THE ORDER OF MALTA AT THE 78TH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

May 2025

The Grand Hospitaller Josef D. Blotz: “Placing human dignity at the centre of every action”

With a call for international solidarity and the centrality of human dignity, the Grand Hospitaller of the Order of Malta spoke today at the plenary session of the 78th World Health Assembly, currently taking place in Geneva (19-22 May). Speaking in front of the representatives of the WHO member states, Josef D. Blotz reaffirmed the centuries-old commitment of the Order to healthcare and humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable, faithful to its hospitaller mission in a

spirit of neutrality.

In his address, the Grand Hospitaller underlined how the Order of Malta, with its 170.000 members, volunteers and staff, is “modern by tradition”, capable of adapting to the most difficult contexts without losing “the simple call to help the poor and the sick. Wherever people are in need, we are there.”

In 2024, the Order of Malta intensified its presence in many emergency areas. In the Holy Land, the Grand Hospitaller recalled, “our long-standing commitment to peace and care continues amidst unimaginable suffering.” Between last June and December, in collaboration with the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, 35,000 people from all communities in northern Gaza were supported through the delivery of food supplies.

In Ukraine, a land battered by war, “we have extended our operations from emergency relief to long-term rehabilitation and psychological trauma support.” The Order of Malta’s relief efforts “reach 64 cities from frontline cities such as Kharkiv to the borders with Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, and Romania, where the Order has supported over 4 million people.”

Finally, Blotz spoke about the intervention following the recent earthquake in central Myanmar. “Our international relief agency, Malteser International, is delivering urgent medical care, psychosocial support, and public health services to affected communities.” The Order has been active in Myanmar since 1996. Now, “with hospitals overwhelmed and infrastructure damaged, our teams in Yangon and Shan State are addressing critical health needs, including access to clean water and sanitation to prevent disease outbreaks.”

The Sovereign Order of Malta’s presence at the 78th World Health Assembly confirms its active role in humanitarian diplomacy and international cooperation for global health, in line with its status as a sovereign entity and permanent observer at the United Nations.

The Grand Hospitaller had also bilateral meetings with Viktor Liashko, Minister of Health of Ukraine, Rakan Nassereddine, Minister of Public Health of Lebanon, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, Altaf Musani, WHO Director of Emergency Health Interventions, Joaquin Molina, Head of the NATO Liaison Office to the International Organizations in Geneva, Musaab Nazzal al-Ali, Minister of Health of Syria, Archbishop Ettore Balestrero, Permanent Observer of the Holy See, Maged Abu Ramadan, Minister of Health of Palestine, and Tai-Yuan Chiu, Minister of Health and Welfare of Taiwan.



**EUROPEANS
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD**



Dr. RAYMOND C. XERRI,

Press release - 056/2025

**THE EUROPE'S LARGEST NGOS
EUROPEANS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD (E.T.T.W.)
HAS ELECTED A NEW PRESIDENT FROM THE TINY
MEDITERRANEAN ISLAND OF GOZO, MALTA**

Chev. Dr. Raymond C. XERRI, K.H.S., Ph.D.(Australia), M.A.(Dip.St.)(Malta), D.D.S., E.U.Sch(E.U.Law)(F.R.G.), B.A.(Hons.)(U.S.A.), the only doctoral graduate and expert in Maltese Diaspora from the islands of Gozo, Malta has just been unanimously elected as the next President of E.T.T.W. (2025-2029) by the General Assembly of European Diaspora organizations and individual expert-members. Elected for the second time as president, Chev. Dr. Xerri previously served in the same position between 2016 and 2019 leaving a good mark on E.T.T.W. after rising up the ranks as one of the five vice-presidents between 2013-2016 representing the *Council of the Maltese Living Abroad*¹.

EUROPEANS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD is a federation of European Diaspora organizations and individual expert-members from different countries of Europe. E.T.T.W. speaks out for more than 60 million European citizens who

live in a country that is not their own and 17 million of them live in one of the countries of the 27 EU Member States. By extension, the 480 million people of European descent living throughout the globe are also considered in the formulation of E.T.T.W.'s policy and actions.

EUROPEANS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

E.T.T.W.'s three main pillars are:-

- Ensure democratic rights for all European expatriates, particularly the right to vote and the right to be represented in national parliaments.
 - Work hard towards equality of treatment for all European expats and diasporas with nationals of countries of origin and of countries of destination.
 - Strive to improve assistance to European expats, with special attention given to consular protection, recognition of diplomas, social security, pension and native language training.
- In more detail, E.T.T.W. aims at: -
- To promote the development of international cooperation between associations of European expatriates and individual expatriates, whether they reside in a member country or in a third country.
 - To act towards all authorities concerned as the spokesperson and defender of the European expatriates it represents, for the safeguard of their rights.
 - To collect information on the activities of these associations and on all organizations, institutions, foundations, official and private services concerned with the temporary or permanent presence abroad of European expatriates.
 - To encourage the creation of associations having similar goals in the countries where they do not yet exist, as well as European circles in third countries, which bring together European expatriates of different nationalities.
 - To make its information accessible to all and to ensure its dissemination.

- To carry out studies and issue publications on issues common to the association of European expatriates; from these proposals, to establish and implement a programme of joint actions;
- To facilitate the mutual relations between existing associations, or those to be created.
- To promote the study and knowledge of the rights and duties of European expatriates; and,
- To act in accordance with the principles of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

The seat of this international non-profit association (AISBL) is in Foundation Universitaire, 11 rue d'Egmont, Brussels B1050, Brussels judicial district and its identification number is 872/84

To mark that end of the 40th Anniversary celebrations, a International Conference entitled, ***The European Diaspora at a Crossroads - Challenges for the European Expatriates in a rapidly changing World***, is to be organised on 11th June 2025 from

13:30hrs to 17:30CET held at the Press Club Brussels Europe, Rue Froissart 95, 1040 Brussels.

To participate in the ETTW Conference and registration process fill the following form in <https://forms.gle/i1RES9A2NZiLNHRt5or> please contact

Daria Pirvu on: ettw.euromonde@gmail.com

For further information or interviews please contact, President, Chev. Dr. Raymond C. Xerri and can be contacted on +35699427644 and/or on raymond.c.xerri@gmail.com Brussels, Belgium



OLQP
Festa
60 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

save the date
Sunday
28th September
2025



Mgr. Anton Teuma,
Bishop of Gozo

OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE PARISH GREYSTANES - NSW

The Festa Committee along with the parish priest Fr Paul Roberts and the extended OLQP Parish community and parishioners, are excited to welcome amongst us for Festa 2025

**Bishop Anton Teuma, Bishop of Gozo,
at our Festa mass this year,**

celebrating the 60 year anniversary of the OLQP Festa.

Join us on Sunday 28th September 2025 at 2:00pm to celebrate in thanksgiving for the parish of Our Lady Queen of Peace, blessed with its Maltese origins and traditions and now living and sharing faith with the many cultures that form our community.



extraordinary reasons why it should be a UNESCO World Heritage Site
Dwejra in Gozo is far more amazing than you may know!

Melanie Drury 8th March 2019

Though Dwejra used to be known primarily for the now-no-longer Azure Window, this was merely the tip of the iceberg. The dramatic, craggy site in Gozo boasts other features whose importance far exceed that of the collapsed arch.

"Dwejra is a site of immense geological, ecological, and astronomical importance, not only locally but, on many counts, on an international scale," says Joseph Caruana, a lecturer and researcher of astrophysics at the University of Malta, an astronomer, a diver, a photographer and a Gozo resident enamoured with the importance of this particular location."

"It features some unique geomorphological features such as a high concentration of sinkholes; it hosts a number of different organisms including some species endemic to the Maltese islands; and it is the best place left on the Maltese archipelago from where to carry out astronomical observations due to relatively low levels of light pollution. Moreover, it hosts a number of interesting archeologically remains."

Dwejra would classify as a mixed site for UNESCO's purposes, therefore possessing a mesh of natural and cultural features. It is, indeed, of extraordinary significance. Dwejra has extraordinary geological features Dwejra is a wonderful testimony to the ever-changing coastal landscape over even relatively short periods of time. The forces of nature have shaped a beautiful topology with a variety of geomorphological features, including sinkholes. The area allows one to observe the entire sequence of rock formation from fissures to caves to tunnels, arches, and stacks. Meanwhile, underwater, one can find various caverns, chimneys, arches and swim-throughs.



1. There are four sinkholes right next to each other

Joseph Caruana

'Viewed from above, Dwejra's sinkholes are clearly identifiable: Qala tad-Dwejra, Il-Qasir, Qawra (Inland Sea), and the smaller Blue Hole. This high concentration of sinkholes next to each other makes Dwejra a site of unique importance.'

2. The Inland Sea is spectacular

One of these sinkholes is particularly interesting from a geomorphological point of view. It meets the

Mediterranean through a tunnel arch 80m long, forming an inland sea measuring between 300m and 400m in diameter. The tunnel is also a popular diving location.

3. The Blue Hole is a divers' delight

The Blue Hole is both a sinkhole and an arch. Measuring about 10 metres in diameter with its collapsed north-west wall now a Golden Cup Coral-adorned arch leading to the open sea, the Blue Hole is also one of the most famous diving sites in the Mediterranean; Dwejra offers some of the best diving in Gozo. There is also a cavern in the south-east wall directly opposite the arch, at the bottom of the hole. at 16 metres.



4. The Azure Window is a trip through geomorphological history

Previously a natural arch and now a dive site after its collapse on 8th March 2017, the ruins of the Azure Window are of immense interest to geoscientists. This coastal arch started off as a fissure in the rock, widening to a cave, evolving into a window-like shape and then to a curved arch. Due to erosion and wave action, the pillar itself collapsed the entire arch, leaving no stack. It will eventually become a natural reef.

Dwejra is home to several endemic species

Dwejra offers diverse habitats that host a number of species, some of which are endemic to the Maltese islands. Dwejra is also home to *il-Qattara*, a rare freshwater pool that's a haven for a wonderful diversity of flora and fauna. Go to Dwejra by night to listen to the eerie cry of the shearwater, a bird which lives on the cliffs. Underwater, Dwejra Bay is home to a sea grass species known as *posidonia meadows* (as well as many other organisms), which led to it being designated a Marine Protected Area.

5. The Fungus Rock is a stack with great significance

The Fungus Rock is the remaining stack left after the collapse of an arch that connected it to the mainland. During the occupation of the Knights of Malta, it was protected for its prized medicinal plant that was used as a styptic dressing for wounds and a cure for dysentery.



6. It is home to an endemic lizard

Podarcis filfolensis ssp. Generalensis by Arnold Sciberras
In Dwejra, particularly on the Fungus Rock, one can find a lizard subspecies that's unique. *Podarcis filfolensis ssp. Generalensis* are only to be found here! That's very rare

and special indeed!



7. It is where endemic flowers grow

Maltese Everlasting by Joseph Caruana

Dwejra hosts the only substantial population of the protected endemic plant species Maltese Everlasting (*Helichrysum Melitense*). Even the Maltese Salt Tree (*Darniella Melitensis*), The Maltese Stocks (*Mathiola Incana SSP. Melitensis*) and Maltese Sea-Chamomile (*Anthemis Urvilleana*) grow here and are protected by

law. Dwejra has a rich and amazing history

While the natural attractions at Dwejra are the most remarkable and well-known, the area also possesses historic interest. Dwejra was one of the earliest known human settlements, dating from the Neolithic period some 7,000 years ago, through the Punic period until 5 AD.



8. Neolithic Caves

Joseph Caruana

The caves atop the plateaued hill of Ghajn Abdul are a barely known national treasure, in that they were some of the very first dwellings on the Maltese Islands. Stentinello pottery unearthed from Ghajn Abdul indicate that Gozo had settlers even before Malta!



9. Cart Ruts

The mysterious parallel grooves carved into the ground known as cart ruts, which are found in several areas around the Maltese Islands, are also to be found in Dwejra. The enigma surrounding their development increases in Dwejra, where there is no evident location identified for potential transport, the most accepted reason for their formation. Added to that, here are six pairs set in globigerina limestone. Moreover, the ruins of a circular

construction are evident close to the cart ruts (top left in the image).

10. Punic Temple Better-known as Ras il-Wardija Temple, this rectangular chamber is evidence that Wardija was inhabited even after the Bronze Age, during the Punic Period until at least 5 AD. This spot offers breathtaking views of the cliffs and of Fungus Rock, Dwejra Bay and Qawra.

11. Dwejra Tower More recently, Dwejra Tower was the last of the Lascaris watch towers to be built by the Knights of Malta. Dating from 1652, it also acted as an outpost to guard against unauthorised access to the Fungus rock, which, as aforementioned, was prized for a special medicinal plant that grew on it.

That's more than two handfuls of reasons why Dwejra should be nominated a UNESCO World Heritage site. This single location tells the history of an island, its flora and fauna and its first inhabitants. Now that's quite special!

BONUS And just in case all of that was not enough, Dwejra is also an amazing sunset spot!

HISTORY OF THE MALTA MILK SUPPLY



The indigenous Maltese goat supplied the islanders with most of their milk up to the beginning of the 20th century. Cross-breeding with the British Saanen-type resulted in the gradual disappearance of the original Maltese stock, and the outcome was a hardy and prolific milker. The number of goats on the islands was fairly constant between 1934 and 1938, but in the following year it leaped by 6,288 to 41,758. Feeding difficulties reduced this growth during the war years, but a 25% increase was registered by 1945, and a

further 20% increase during the following year. A small reversal took place in 1947, but the number was up to the 1946 record a year later. After that, decline was rapid and the goat population stood at 34,688 in 1960.

Increases in forage costs and the greater availability of cows' milk were mainly responsible for this decline. Another factor was the shortage of grazing-land and the regulations governing goats' milk supply. Wasteland had always provided a natural pasture for goats; but as its area contracted, the herdsman had to shift to fieldgrown forages, which was a limited source. At the same time, the Milk Marketing Undertaking (MMU) theoretically bought and processed all local milk supplies. Up to the late forties, the herdsman would take his flock round the village streets where he would milk the goat at one's doorstep. The presence of Brucellosis Melitensis in about 20% of Maltese goats necessitated obligatory pasteurization in an effort to wipe out undulant fever, the Maltese disease that was particularly rampant during and after the War years.

Two considerations have to be made here. In the first place, villagers still preferred to have their milk directly from the goat, so that an illegal trade in goats' milk was still carried on. This preference, however, was not limited to the village, for the average Maltese still appeared to favour pasteurized goats' milk to cows' milk, though there were signs that this preference was declining. One explanation for the latter eventuality has been the free distribution of milk in Government schools; the psychological impact of something distributed freely, added to the social element in group consumption may have nullified, in the child's mind, the distinction between the two types of milk. In the second place, the extinction of Brucellosis Melitensis was not an easy task. The conditions under which the Maltese peasant farmer had to carry on his trade in Malta were not conducive to hygiene. As experience showed, Government imposition to control his animal husbandry could have led him to reduce the breeding of goats; and, consequently, would have given rise to hardship on the farms.



The supply and marketing of goats' milk were a very complex affair. Several improvements were made over the period. In an effort to lessen the reliance on goats, a system was adopted in 1956 by which herdsmen could get one Dutch Friesian heifer in calf in exchange for twelve diseased goats. But, given the background or preference for goats' milk, the substitution of the cow for the goat on a universal scale was somewhat impractical. Moreover, the Dutch Friesian is a pedigree animal, and requires trained management if pedigree standards were to be maintained. It was debatable whether the Maltese farmer could acquire the skill and the facilities to breed it on good standards.

Social and political considerations were also vital factors governing this situation. The Government could not sacrifice the goat-breeder to minimise its own losses. Neither could it sacrifice the interests of the consumer in a matter so closely affecting the vitality and health of the nation. A greater impetus in

cooperative production and marketing was really the only practical answer to the manifold problems of the milk supply. If some coordinated policy of production could have been worked out, then perhaps, it would not have been too difficult to ease out fluctuations among milk producers as a whole. A good marketing system would have had to be developed, channelling the produce direct to the consumer through the producers' own organization. The MMU, which was doing excellent essential work, could not, of course, have been eliminated from the scene. But, on the hypothesis that a central production system coupled with a central marketing channel should have resulted in equilibrium in the milk economy, then the Government's real concern would have been the surveillance of the pasteurization of goats' milk.

But in postulating the above, it is acceptable that one would be basing on a set of suppositions that could take place only through severe changes in the social structure of Maltese animal husbandry. Vassallo History.



QUEENSLAND MALTESE AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION (QMAC)

WHEN: AUGUST 31ST 2025 - 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
WHERE: GOVERNMENT HOUSE, FERNBERG ROAD, PADDINGTON QUEENSLAND

With **free entry** and an exciting lineup of cultural festivities, this celebration promises a full day of:

- **Live musical performances from across the Commonwealth**
- **A vibrant bazaar marketplace**
- **Food vans serving traditional cuisines**
- **An extravagant street parade throughout the estate**

Over **5,000 people** are expected to attend this spectacular community event.

We're proud to announce that the Queensland Maltese Australian Association (QMAC) will be representing Malta with a dedicated marquee, showcasing our heritage, culture, and community spirit.

We're Calling on Our Maltese Community!

Food Vendors Do you operate a Maltese food business or food truck? Join us to share your delicious cuisine. *All vendors must comply with Food Safety Standards. There are no participation fees.*

Performers Are you a singer, dancer, musician or entertainer? Show off your talent in the **street parade** or during a **pop-up performance!!** If you're interested in getting involved, please contact us at: alexandra.micallef@gmail.com



The term "concrete jungle" in relation to Gozo refers to the negative perception of increased, often uncontrolled, development on the island, leading to the replacement of natural landscapes with buildings and infrastructure. This transformation is seen as detrimental to the island's natural beauty and historical character.

Elaboration:

• **Rapid Development:**

Gozo, like Malta, has experienced a significant surge in construction, with many viewing this as detrimental to the island's environment and character.

• **Loss of Natural Beauty:**

The replacement of traditional buildings and landscapes with large, often high-rise structures is seen as a loss of natural beauty and a change in the island's character.

• **Impact on Local Communities:**

The rapid development can also negatively impact local communities, leading to increased traffic, noise, and a general sense of being disconnected from nature.

• **Perspective of Residents:**

Some residents feel that the island is becoming a "concrete jungle," with a loss of natural spaces and a feeling of being enclosed by buildings.

- **Criticism of Development:**

There are concerns about the lack of consideration for the environment, the historical context, and the aesthetic impact of new construction on Gozo.

- **Lack of Planning:**

Some argue that the development on Gozo is not adequately planned or controlled, leading to the creation of a less attractive and less livable space.

- **Examples of Development:**

The construction of high-rise buildings in close proximity to traditional village cores and the replacement of natural areas with concrete are cited as examples of this transformation.



IN HONOUR OF VINCENZO BONELLO WHO SAVED THE *BANCA GIURATALE* IN RABAT, GOZO

When one vote is decisive! And its affect remains. That is what happened in the middle of the last Century when Parliament proposed to dismantle the Banca Giuratale in Rabat, Gozo.

It was the endeavour of one individual person that the proposal did not come through and today it is still standing. This was the work of Cavalier Vincenzo Bonello and the memory was honoured by the Victoria Local Council.

The gaze of all those who wander in the centre of Rabat in Gozo undoubtedly fall on the baroque architecture of the building known as the Banca Giuratale.

Some enter to view the exhibitions held in there from time to time while others because it is the site which hosts the Victoria-Rabat Local Council. This is all possible because in the mid 50s it was on one vote the building was approved to remain and not re moved to provide more free space in the square. Working hard to ensure the heritage building remained standing was Cavalier Vincenzo Bonello. He did this through lengthy lobbying of Members of Parliament.

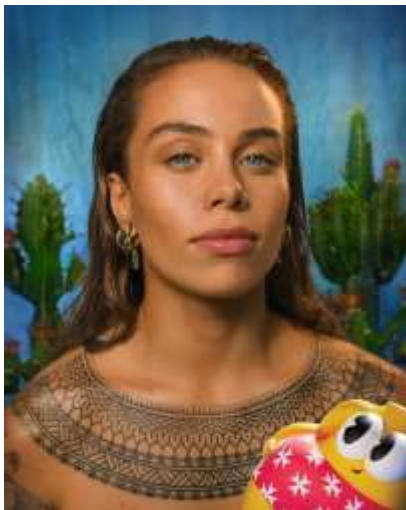
His son, Judge Emeritus Giovanni Bonello, said this is an example how an individual has a strong enough voice for ensuring heritage and make all the difference.

He said it is to be kept in mind tyat in current circumstances the biss of heritage is maintained. This can be achieved through conservation of national heritage rather than there being destroyed. Conservation retains the heritage of history and culture and the traditional value of value culture which defines one population from another population.

More than 70 years later, through a proposal by the Fondazzjoni Alfred Mizzi, the Victoria Local Council has affixed a panel of the patriotic value of the perseverance of Vincenzo Bonello.

The Banca Giuratale has an intrinsic tie to various developments with the Gozo Regional Government. Since the Middle Ages this has formed part of history from the time of the Knight Cavaliers when it was a Government office in Gozo. This was expanded in the 18th Century until a small office was opened in Rabat.

Renovation took place 150 years ago when a new facade was made for the building. When the "Universitas" was abolished by the British in 1819, the Banca Giuratale has served as a Police Station, Public Archives, the Department of Agriculture, the seat of the Civic Council and today the Local Council and the Office for Culture.



Ella Ayes - British powerhouse Ella Eyre, famous for her soulful voice and dynamic performances, cherishes her Maltese heritage through her maternal grandmother from Marsaxlokk. This connection adds an intriguing cultural dimension to her identity as an artist.

Tash Sultana Tash Sultana, an Australian musician known for her multi-instrumental talents and unique sound, draws part of their heritage from Malta. Tash's father, a Maltese immigrant, instilled in his children a deep sense of cultural pride, influencing their artistic journey.



Pete Buttigieg Pete Buttigieg, a prominent figure in American politics, owes part of his diverse background to Malta. His father emigrated from Malta, imbuing Buttigieg with a blend of Maltese and American values that reflect in his progressive political stance.



Kerry Ingram Kelly Ingram, who captivated audiences as Shireen Baratheon in "Game of Thrones," has Maltese ancestry through her grandfather. This lineage adds a layer of Maltese heritage to her rising stardom in the acting world. Kerry Ingram, who captivated audiences as Shireen Baratheon in "Game of Thrones," has Maltese ancestry through her grandfather. This lineage adds a layer of Maltese heritage to her rising stardom in the acting world.

Marama Corlett Marama Corlett, born and raised in Malta, has transitioned from the island's natural beauty to the Hollywood spotlight. Her roles in "Blood Drive" and "Sick Note" carry the essence of her Maltese upbringing, showcasing her versatility as an actress.



Bryan Adams Canadian rock star Bryan Adams has a direct Maltese lineage through his mother, Elizabeth Jane Watson, born in Malta. His ties to Malta were celebrated during a concert in Pembroke, highlighting his connection to the island.

England in the early 20th century introduced a Maltese element into her family history, adding depth to her diverse ancestry.



Britney Spears Pop icon Britney Spears has a Maltese connection through her maternal great-grandfather, Anthony Portelli. Portelli's journey from Malta to



Teddy Teuma Teddy Teuma, a footballer making strides on the international stage, proudly represents Malta, his birthplace. His skills on the field are a testament to the sporting talent emerging from this small yet passionate nation.

Granddayy Benjamin, better known as Granddayy, is a Maltese internet sensation whose memes and digital content have a global following. His works often include subtle nods to his Maltese upbringing, blending



local humour with universal appeal.

These individuals, each with their unique Maltese connection, illustrate the island's far-reaching influence. From the arts to politics and sports, the touch of Malta is evident in various global arenas, celebrating the cultural richness of this Mediterranean jewel. *(Supplied by F. Aquilina)*

**THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO ALL OF US
MALTESE LIVING ABROAD
PARTICIPATE AND SEND US YOUR INPUT**

BARITONE CHARLES BUTTIGIEG TO PERFORM IN GERMANY



Maltese talent, in this case Gozitan, continues to be appreciated abroad. Maltese and Gozitan musicians have always done well and broadened their careers outside Malta. The young Gozitan baritone Charles Buttigieg will be performing in major theatres in Germany in September which is a dream come true for him.

The life of a baritone is beautiful but full of sacrifices.

This is what the Charles Buttigieg told tvnnews. Charles is a product of his hard-working talent and the stage is where he spends most of his time.

A truly beautiful life but also full of sacrifices. You have to travel all the time and prepare to be on top and you have to be very dedicated.

Currently based in Florence with Masquarade Opera, Charles was chosen to form part of the New Generation Festival, a festival that celebrates young talent.

"I will sing Cossi Fan Tutte and then I have a concert in June in Germany and other surprises in September." Charles said.

Charles Buttigieg knows very well that peaking in one's musical career does not come without hard work. He is only 26 years old and has been studying music since he was 11 years old after he was discovered by Juliette Bisazza.

Charles Buttigieg's debut in Germany is a step he has been striving for and waiting for his whole life. But that sense of working with major opera houses comes with responsibility and you have to give everything you have studied and not just the voice, but also the character because character is everything in opera.

VOLUNTARY ASSISTED EUTHANASIA IN MALTA

A public consultation is currently underway regarding "so-called 'Voluntary Assisted Euthanasia.'" The Malta Bishops said that in a White Paper published by the Government, it is being proposed that patients will be legally permitted to end their own lives with the assistance of medical professionals, either in hospital or at home, if they meet the following conditions: they are over 18, suffering from a terminal illness, and they have been told by doctors they have less than six months to live. The Malta Bishops in their pastoral letter are inviting the public to "reflect carefully, and understand, the implications of the White Paper on your future and that of your loved ones so that you are in a position to add your voice to the consultation process." Read the Pastoral Letter online

www.church.mt/pastorallettereuthanasia2025/

EVERY HUMAN LIFE IS PRECIOUS FROM THE BEGINNING TO THE END

MALTESE COMMUNITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The committee of the Maltese Guild (SA) held for the first time in South Australia a Miss Malta Contest. Nine beautiful and enthusiastic young women were chosen to be part of this beautiful occasion. The Grand Ball during which Miss Malta was crowned was held on Sturday 8 September 1962, Malta's National Day



MISS MALTA 1962

From left to right: Daniel Caruana (Treasurer and Organiser), John Portelli (Secretary), Frank Brincat (President), Theresa Muscat, Mary Gatt, Miss Virginia Muscat, Cathy Cauchi, Marlene Butigieg (Miss Malta), Lorraine Grech, Lina Gatt, Joyce Butigieg and Mary Gatt.



MISS MALTA 1963

Organising Committee. Left to right: C. Zammit, D. Caruana, J. Hili, J. Barbara, M. Mallia, A. Zammit, Marlene Buttigieg (Miss Malta), J. DeFelice, M. Sgarbossa, V. Mifsud, T. Mahoney



MISS MALTA 1966

Organising Committee: (From left to right) C. Zammit, J. Hili, D. Caruana, F. Falzon, Virginia Muscat (Miss Malta), F. Bartolo, A. Zammit, J. Barbara, L. Lia

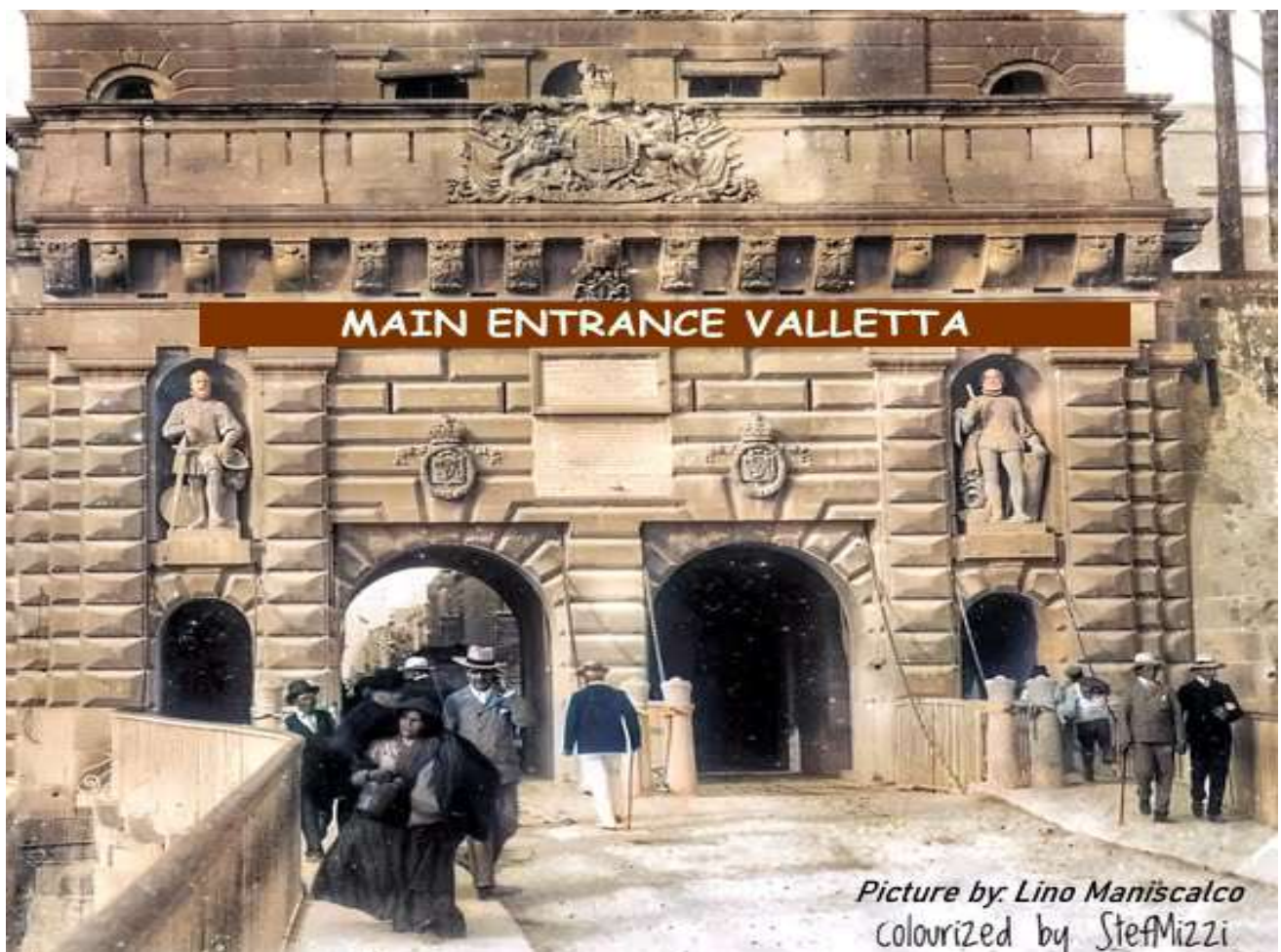
**THESE PICTURES ARE PRECIOUS AND MEMORABLE BECAUSE MOST OF THE MALTESE IN THESE PHOTOS HAVE PASSED AWAY – BUT NOT FORGOTTEN
KEEP ON SENDING US MORE NOSTALGIC PICTURES**

Hi Frank Thanks once again for another issue of "the Maltese journal"
One wonders how much time you dedicate to produce such a journal with so much information and history of present and past. Wish you and all your helpers good health. Here are the names of the couples of the photo you published in the previous journal. Best Regards from Harry Bugeja – Adelaide, Australia 5/2025

MISS MALTA 1970 From Left To Right



Mr & Mrs Mary & Michale
Dingli Mr & Mrs Josephine &
Joseph Vella, Mr & Mrs
Frances & Tony Chetcuti Mr &
Mrs Josephine & Carmenu
Degabriele
Mr & Mrs Kitty & Gustu Vella
Mr & Mrs Mary & Harry
Bugeja





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THE TRADITIONAL MALTESE
FOLK FEAST OF ST PETER & ST PAUL

L-IMNARJA
LA VALETTE
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ENTERTAINMENT
MARKET STALLS
& EXHIBITIONS
LIVE MUSIC

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