

Maltese eNewsletter

Journal for Maltese Living Abroad

Editor: Frank Scicluna OAM MQR JP

Contact: maltesejournal@gmail.com



**460th Anniversary of the Great Siege
of Malta 1565 -2025** 

573 editions of the Journal

**MALTA
REGATTA
2025**
Sunday 21 September
BORMLA
MARSA
Wollongong
Harbour
NSW

**FIRST MALTESE
REGATTA IN AUSTRALIA**



ORDER OF MALTA
Chev. Frank Testa



GRAZZI GRAZZI
**WE THANK THE MULTICULTURAL
AGED CARE (MAC) FOR THE
SUPPORT THEY GIVE TO THE
MALTESE SENIORS
OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**



National Statistics Office
Ufficju Nazzjonali tal-Istitistika

BELIEVE IT OR NOT?

In St Paul's Bay, Msida, Pieta, Sliema, Gzira and St Julian's
the number of foreign residents outnumbered
Maltese, according to the latest statistics 2024

VICTORY DAY 8 SEPTEMBER



MALTA NATIONAL DAY

On 8 September, the Maltese Islands and their people celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of Mary, known locally as Maria Bambina. This important occasion is marked in four localities: Xagħra (Gozo), Mellieħa, Naxxar, and Senglea, where religious devotion blends with cultural festivity.

The Nativity of Mary is recognised by the Catholic Church as a solemnity, the highest category of feast in the liturgical calendar. Parishes dedicate the day to prayer, mass, and processions, honouring the birth of the Virgin Mary. In Mellieħa, for example, the statue of Maria Bambina is carried through the streets in the evening, accompanied by bands and parishioners.

As with many Maltese festas, the religious ceremonies are complemented by public festivities. Streets are decorated with lights and banners, village bands perform, and the day concludes with firework displays that light up the skies. Mellieħa in particular is noted for its impressive aerial and ground fireworks.

The date, 8 September, is also celebrated nationally as Victory Day. It commemorates three historic events

linked to Malta's resilience: the lifting of the Ottoman siege in 1565, the surrender of French troops in 1800, and the end of the Second World War siege in 1942. This gives the feast a dual meaning, both religious and historical.

Each locality celebrates the day in its own way, highlighting the strong connection between parish identity and Maltese culture. In Xagħra, Naxxar, Mellieħa, and Senglea, Maria Bambina remains not only a figure of devotion but also a symbol of community pride.

This year's Feast of Maria Bambina, celebrated in Xagħra, Mellieħa, Naxxar and Senglea, will see a full programme of religious services, solemn processions with treasured statues of the Virgin Mary, lively band marches, street decorations and spectacular fireworks. Although the main feast day falls on 8 September, the celebrations will extend across the long weekend, beginning with novenas, concerts and firework displays on the eve of the festa and continuing with grand processions, music and community festivities on Sunday.

MALTA HAS CHANGED

THE TOWNS WHERE FOREIGNERS OUTNUMBER MALTESE

In St Paul's Bay, Msida, Pietà, Sliema, Gżira and St Julian's the number of foreign residents outnumbered Maltese, according to the latest statistics. Six localities had more foreign residents than Maltese by the end of last year, up from just three localities in 2021, recent official figures show. Apart from St Paul's Bay in the north, the other five localities are Pietà, Msida, Gżira, Sliema and St Julian's. In Msida, 64% of the 16,609 residents are foreign, while in St Paul's Bay, which is the largest locality in Malta, 63% of the 40,204 residents are non-Maltese. Gżira has the third highest concentration with 60% of its 12,054 residents being foreigners. St Julian's comes in at fourth with 57% of the 15,208 residents being foreign, followed by Pietà and Sliema, each with a concentration of foreigners that amounts to 55% of residents.

Pietà's overall population stands at 7,087 and that of Sliema at 22,730. In 2021, just three localities—Msida, St Paul's Bay and Gżira—had an absolute majority of residents who were foreign nationals with St Julian's, Sliema and Pietà coming close to the mark. Significantly, Pietà registered a 10-point increase in the share of foreign residents since 2021, followed by Msida and St Paul's Bay that each registered a nine-point increase. Gżira and St Julian's each recorded an eight-point increase in foreign nationals over the three-year period, while Sliema registered a six-point increase. The statistics come from the latest population figures released by the National Statistics Office to mark World Population Day. The figures show that Malta's population grew to 574,250 by the end of 2024, on the back of higher immigration. Almost 30% of the population—168,938—was made up of foreigners who live and work here.

In



WE WELCOME OUR NEW NATIONAL HOSPITALLER: FRANK TESTA KMG

The Order of Malta Australia is pleased to announce the appointment of Frank Testa as our new National Hospitalier—a vital leadership role responsible for advancing the Order's mission across Australia. As National Hospitalier, Frank will oversee the Order's charitable and humanitarian works, ensuring they reflect our core values of service to the poor and the sick, and uphold the dignity of every person. He brings to this role a wealth of professional and personal experience, with a long-

standing commitment to both the Order's mission and the wider community.

Frank joined the Order of Malta in 2011 and has consistently demonstrated his dedication through active participation in regional and national initiatives. A standout moment in his service was his leadership in the Order's response to the devastating 2020 bushfires—an effort marked by compassion, resilience, and lasting impact.

Professionally, Frank serves as Nurse Manager of the Emergency Department at Shellharbour Hospital. His clinical expertise and leadership in a high-pressure environment will be invaluable as we

continue to ensure all our projects meet the highest standards of governance, safeguarding, and care. In his new role, Frank will lead the coordination and development of national charitable programs, support regional hospitallers, and play a key role in ensuring that the Order's work remains rooted in our spiritual mission and humanitarian purpose. His leadership comes at a time of growing need in our communities, both locally and globally.

We warmly congratulate Frank on this appointment and offer our prayers and full support as he begins this important service in the name of the Australian Association of the Order of Malta.

A quick Q&A with our new National Hospitaller:

Q: How did you first learn about the Order in Australia?

A: I grew up hearing stories about the Knights of Malta from both of my Maltese grandfathers. These stories—combined with my Catholic faith and interest in the history of my ancestors—sparked a deep curiosity about the Order.

My uncle, Fr. Leonard Testa, knew of my strong faith and interest, and introduced me to members of the Order. In 2009, I was invited to begin the journey toward membership and, after a year of preparation, I was invested at the National Assembly in Sydney in 2011.

Being a member of the Order has contributed immensely to my personal and spiritual growth. It's through active service that I've found so many opportunities to live out the Christian faith I profess.

Q: What was the biggest outtake from the Order's response to the 2020 Bushfire response?

A: The 2020 Bushfires were devastating for many families on the South Coast of NSW. We witnessed the destruction first-hand and heard so many heartbreaking stories from people who literally lost everything that they owned.

Our team visited the region every month for over 18 months. It was a privilege to support families as they began the long journey toward recovery. There was no quick fix, but what stood out most was the unwavering commitment of my fellow team members—Confreres Daniel Kwok, Dunstan De Souza, and Stephen Gatt. Their example of selfless service truly embodied what it means to live your faith through the Order.

We were humbled to be welcomed into the lives of those we served. I hope we made a difficult time a little easier and that those families remember the Order of Malta with warmth and hope.

Q: What opportunities do you see for the Order of Malta Australia to assist the poor and sick in the coming years?

A: The need for support continues to grow. With rising inflation, the housing crisis, and increasing cost of living, more individuals and families are seeking help than ever before.

I'm inspired by the outstanding work already happening across our regions. The **Our Lady of Philermos House** on the Gold Coast will soon provide shelter and support to people experiencing homelessness. The **Community Care Kitchen** in Bondi is feeding the poor and homeless every week. Our **Vans** and **Coats for the Homeless** programs are expanding, and the **Palliative Care Project** in the South is bringing comfort and dignity to those at the end of life.

I believe there's strong potential to take some of these regional projects national. We're also developing initiatives to support those in prison and their families, as well as the dying.

A key priority for me is growing our volunteer base. With more hands and hearts, we can expand existing programs and launch new ones, continuing to meet the call to serve the sick and the poor with love and humility.



By Sean Richardson

Driving through Gozo, our car dashboard showed a temperature of 40.1°C. Inside, the air conditioning was struggling, so we decided a dip in the Inland Sea was the only remedy for our overheating bodies.

That was over five years ago, and what is a regular feature of an Australian summer was a

totally unexpected experience in Malta. Yet again, in 2025, Malta is experiencing an extreme summer. One of Malta's attractions is its 300 days of sunshine each year, but that reputation is surely being tested by the relentless heat.

Being in the middle of the Mediterranean, at the crossroads of cultures and trade, has always given Malta strategic importance. But it also places the islands at the meeting point of weather systems, leading to extreme conditions. Malta is sweltering as southern Europe endures a severe heatwave.

June's mild beginning quickly turned into a long, hot stretch, leaving Malta and Gozo under intense heat that made living, working, and visiting particularly challenging. During June the maximum temperature reached 41.5°C, well above average. While other countries are experiencing similar conditions, Malta is especially exposed. The terrain, generally low-lying and flat, offers little relief from the heat, with no high mountains or large inland bodies of water to cool the air. Normally, the Mediterranean Sea acts as a moderating influence, but in June its surface temperatures surged past 30°C in some areas, unusual for so early in the season. This warming has continued, and the sea is now experiencing a marine heatwave contributing to Malta's extreme conditions.

Although the islands are surrounded by sea, Malta's weather is also affected by the Atlas Mountains to the west, Sicily to the north, and the desert to the south. A North African high-pressure system, combined with a jet stream pulling hot Saharan air northward, has created stable, sunny, and very hot weather. The result is persistent heatwaves and above-average temperatures across the region, with Malta particularly exposed.

During July residents endured six days above 35°C, with the mercury again topping 40°C. While measured temperatures remained in the mid-30s, the high humidity and minimal wind meant the 'real feel' climbed closer to 40°C.

The trend continues into August, only interrupted by a sudden storm causing flash flooding in several parts of Malta. As anyone who has lived there knows, flash floods capable of sweeping cars away, are not typical summer events.

A persistent high-pressure ridge over the Western and Central Mediterranean is expected to continue the heatwave conditions.

It will be the time to enjoy a dip in the sea, a chilly Cisk, a cold Kinnie or a crisp cool white wine. And perhaps crank up the AC!

You can read more of Sean's stories about Malta at seanrichardson.com.au



Friends of Valletta

City of Chichester - Valletta Capital of Malta



**ARE WARMLY INVITED TO ATTEND OUR NEXT TALK
AT CHICHESTER CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, UK, ALSO ON ZOOM, 1900HRS (2000HRS MALTA TIME), TUESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2025 COL (RETD) DAVID VASSALLO L/RAMC PRESENTS THE
GREAT SIEGE OF MALTA 1565**

You can register via the link above. Please donate £5 or 5 euro by BACS to attend, thank you for your generosity. Proceeds will be forwarded to: BACS details: Friends of Valletta; Sort code 60-03-08, Account number 81138695, Reference: '[Your Surname]'.

This Zoom talk will be recorded for our website. Your attendance will be taken as consent to potentially appear on this recording. Look us up on www.friendsofvalletta.org and also register to attend our talks on that site.



**Colonel (retd)
David Vassallo
FRCSEd MA L/RAMC**

Our guest speaker Colonel (retd) David Vassallo FRCSEd MA L/RAMC

David Vassallo, who is Maltese and has lived in the UK since 1978, served 34 years as a military surgeon with the UK's Defence Medical Services between 1983 - 2018, caring for casualties in many war zones from the First Gulf War through to Afghanistan. He has been Chairman, Friends of Millbank since 2020, promoting the heritage, achievements, and ongoing relevance of military medicine, organising monthly talks on military medical history in London and on Zoom, see www.friendsofmillbank.org. He has been actively involved in education and training throughout his career, developing the HOSPEX Tabletop & Expanded Tabletop field

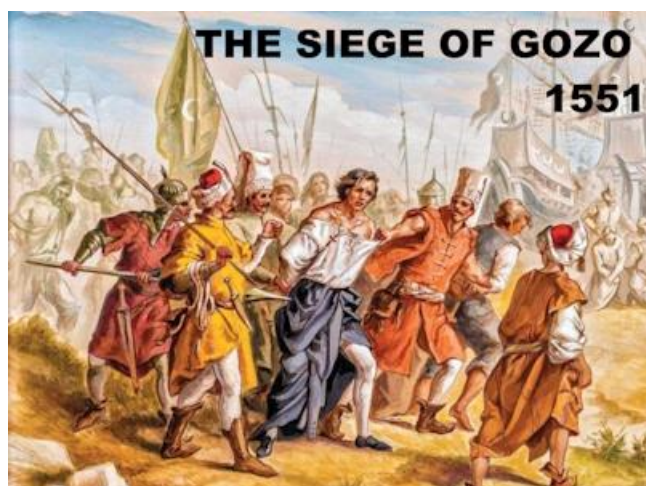
hospital training exercise, instructing on various courses, and being appointed Assistant Head Defence Healthcare Education and Training in 2015 - 2016.

David is married, with two daughters, and lives in Hampshire. He enjoys sailing.

He now specialises as a military medical historian, creating online resources through the Friends of Millbank website, and also giving talks on Malta's military and medical history during the First and Second World Wars. He is a committee member of Friends of Valletta, an active member of the George Cross Island Association and of the Friends of the Museum of Military Medicine, and a volunteer with Heritage Malta. He is a published author, with four books, several chapters, and some 40 peer-reviewed journal articles to his name. He was the Guest Editor for the British Society for the History of Medicine's annual Journal in 2023, editing the special issue 'History of Military Medicine'. His latest book, based on a Second World War RAF Malta diary that was donated to the National War Museum Association in Malta, is 'Ben Jinks – The War in Malta as I Saw it', published by Heritage Malta in September 2023. He is now working on another book on Malta, watch this space. Ta.org/talks

We thank Anne Sxcicluna, Vice Chairman of the Friends of Malta UK and Editor of Melita – The Newsletter of the Friends of Malta for keeping us informed regarding the events and activities of the vibrant group – followiww them on Facebook

40 Adelaide Road, Chichester, PO19 7NF anne@annescic.plus.com 01243 789065



When in July 1551 the Gozitans realized that they were about to be attacked by a large Ottoman Turkish force, and knowing that the Castle (the Citadel) was too weak, outdated, and unarmed to protect them, they sent the women and children by boat to Malta to take refuge behind the fortifications of Birgu.

But Grand Master Juan d'Omedes (c. 1477 – 6 September 1553) was very harsh, and when the boats with the Gozitan refugees entered the Grand Harbour, he ordered them to go back to Gozo. He even threatened that if they did not

return, he would order them to be fired upon and sunk. He argued that Gozitan men would fight with greater strength if their wives and children were with them to defend.

Anton Attard recounts this when writing about the stories and legends that arose after the Ottoman attack on Gozo in 1551, which ended with the devastation of Gozo and around 6,000 people taken into slavery — many to Tarhuna in Libya and many more to Constantinople.

They did not expect an attack on Gozo. Beyond these stories and legends, what we know for sure is that Grand Master d'Omedes did not send help to the Gozitans to defend themselves. It is said that, together with other leaders of the Order of the Knights, he thought the Turks would not attack Gozo

but rather Naples or Toulon.

Governor Frà Galiziano de Sessè, who commanded the Citadel, sent a message to Malta asking d'Omedes for help once the Castle was already under siege. But the messenger was captured by the Ottomans, and the message never arrived. When he saw that no help was coming from Malta and realized the overwhelming superiority of the Ottomans (145 ships with 10,000–12,000 soldiers), the Governor surrendered and was taken into slavery with the thousands of others. He spent five years rowing in Ottoman galleys.

On 12 August 1551, d'Omedes wrote to King Charles V of Spain to inform him that Gozo had been destroyed and Tripoli captured by the Ottomans. Grand Master d'Omedes wanted the Knights who had let Gozo be destroyed and Tripoli fall to be sentenced to death. D'Omedes believed the Knights in



Grand Master Juan D'Omedes

Gozo should have died fighting rather than surrender.

Charges dropped against the Governor. At the end of August, an inquiry was opened into Governor de Sessè and the Knights under his command. In the Council of the Order, some reasoned that de Sessè should not be accused and judged while absent from Malta as a captive slave.

The case dragged on until 1557. By then, de Sessè had returned to Malta after paying for his release. In the meantime, a new Grand Master, La Sengle, had been elected, and he looked at what had happened during the attack on Gozo differently from d'Omedes.

He concluded that de Sessè could hardly have stopped the Ottomans. He only had one cannon. He had not betrayed the Order, and on 14 August 1557, all charges against him were dropped. Painting by Paul Camilleri Cauchi shows the Gozitans being taken into slavery in 1551. Photo: Daniel Cilia d'O

Grape harvesting season kicks off



Grape harvesting in Malta typically takes place in August and September, with international varieties harvested in August and local grapes like Girgentina and Ġellewża harvested later, in September. Farmers use daily berry sampling and technical analysis to determine the precise optimal harvest date

for each variety and vineyard. While the exact timing varies each year due to weather conditions, the harvest is a significant event that celebrates rural heritage and provides the raw material for Malta's increasingly popular and high-quality wines. Several farmers will be out in their fields in the coming days to start harvesting their grapes. The season kicked off officially with the Minister for Agriculture, Anton Refalo, standing surrounded by vines. Minister Refalo promised more support for this industry, which he described as an important part of Malta's identity and culture.

The grape harvesting season for wine production has officially started. As always, farmers started harvesting early varieties of Chardonnay and Moscato, and they are now expected to continue on other varieties.

During a visit to a vineyard where bunches of grapes were being harvested from the vines, the Director of Research and Consultancy Services within the Agriculture Ministry, Jürgen Mifsud, spoke about the support and advice being given to farmers to increase their competitiveness and resilience.

We are getting feedback from our Maltese and Gozitan farmers about the problems they encounter on a daily basis. As a result, we are bringing over experts in agronomy, and we give advice based on research to improve this sector.

Jurgen Mifsud Director – Research and Consultancy Services Directorate

Agriculture Minister Anton Refalo said the grape harvesting is an important step that highlights the value of farmers, and results in the production of Maltese and Gozitan wines, products of distinction that are much appreciated. Minister Refalo also noted that although every year brings with it different circumstances, the final product continues to stand out in quality.

The Minister added that through the new Directorate for Research and Advisory Services within the Ministry and the Agriconnect service, support and advice based on research are being offered, leading to farmers always having the necessary information and tools to boost their competitiveness and resilience. In recent years, Maltese and Gozitan farmers who grow grapes have produced enough grapes for around two million bottles of certified quality wine

When an itinerant missionary commits himself fully to Christ and to his Church, he knows that life won't be that easy for him in many ways. He will put so many inputs in all the efforts that he will make because the stakes are so high and the constant challenges will lead him to many crossroads decisions to make to reach his destination. He knows from experience that he needs to be 'in Christ' and 'for Christ' in all that he wishes to accomplish in life by the proclamation of the Gospel. He will come in the long run to discover that so many obstacles will block his way forward yet he is spiritually mature and continue his way unencumbered by any fear or doubt of any kind. He will never be alone on his 'long and winding road' because he has always believed and still believes in those assurances given to him by God himself that: "I am going to be always with you till the end of time."

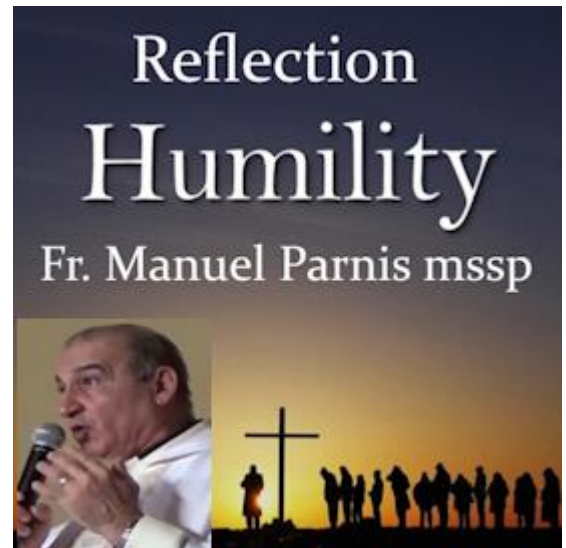
With so much humility, St. Paul assures his Philippine community that he can make it in his life journey because he is accustomed to all the woes that they might have in his pastoral life. He knows how to 'budget' and to live according to the circumstances that he is going to find himself in. He has suffered from beatings, hunger, thirst, floggings, shipwrecks, locked up in prisons, stoned and rejected on account of the envy of the Jews.

He is a hardened missionary and so full of faith in Jesus Christ, he is ready to continue till the end as he explains very well to Timothy. A seasoned preacher will take full responsibility of all his actions, of all that he does in his mission. Many times, he finds himself in uncharted waters unfriendly places and unfriendly people who will treat him with suspicion. Yet through his humble ways of communication with them and his good sharing of his true message, he will one day with them over because it is not him who is going to speak but the Holy Spirit through him.

He is full of Joy and enthusiasm being urged by this spirit of grace to look ahead and cross the boundaries that can limit his present and future missionary activity by building bridges of friendship and solidarity with everyone who needs his help and support. He is full of hope and determination that by building basic Christian communities he will be able later on with the help of indigenous leaders to move and advance forward to other fields of commitment by creating an atmosphere of sincere dialogue of respect, love and brotherhood wherever he goes. He knows for sure that by discerning well every result of his missionary work, he could enjoy the achievement of his efforts or else failure that perhaps can inanimate him full of doubts and unbelief. He tries to eradicate any form of division, mistrust, and jealousy among the members of the community. All these obstacles can be solved through the power of prayer and sincere acknowledgement of each and everyone's dignity, value and uniqueness..

Lastly, by being convinced that he has to put 'on Christ' every-time that he has to work in his 'vineyard', he will continue to work faithfully according to the mindset of Christ so that he will become his best 'ambassador' and representative whenever and wherever he goes. By being an itinerant missionary, he is going to help others to become 'new creation to the whole world, light of the world and salt of the earth. Being sent by Christ himself to prepare the way for him, he will anchor his missionary work on his life giving power to open the eyes of the blind and liberate everyone from any kind of darkness that can keep him away from the real light that is Christ.

This apostle of the New Covenant will dedicate all his life for the call that he had received from Christ who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.



ICONIC HERITAGE ESTABLISHMENT IN VALLETTA

CLOSING DOWN AFTER 191 YEARS

The Wembley Store in Valletta stands as an iconic landmark, woven tightly into the fabric of Malta's capital city. Located at the very entrance of Republic Street, this beloved establishment has embodied tradition and resilience for nearly a century.



Recently, the Wembley Store marked its enduring presence with a nostalgic post on social media, sharing a throwback photo of the store, which first opened its doors in 1924. Over the decades, the store has weathered many changes, always dedicated to its founding values and continuing to delight customers with its array of luxury and gourmet foods—a living piece of Maltese history.

Since 1924, Wembley Store has anchored the heart of Valletta, just past the City Gate. For more than one hundred years, the shop has welcomed generations with the finest foods, carefully selected wines, and a genuine warmth that reflects its

traditional roots.

Founded by Emanuel Gauci and stewarded through three generations, Wembley Store has consistently upheld its core principles: excellence, refinement, and respect for quality craftsmanship. From gourmet treats to daily essentials, its shelves have celebrated the care of small-scale producers and mirrored both local and international traditions, evolving alongside the tastes of loyal patrons.

During World War II, the store suffered serious damage when debris from the bombed Opera House struck the building. Yet Emanuel's commitment never wavered. According to his descendants, the store remained open throughout those dark days, distributing rations when fine goods were scarce.

After the war, Wembley Store was rebuilt. Emanuel's son Joseph returned in 1946 after apprenticing at Harrods in London, introducing fresh ideas while honouring the store's traditions. In 1972, Joseph formally established Wembley Stores Co. Ltd, providing a strong foundation for future growth. His sons, Noel and Christopher, later modernised the business, nurturing relationships with artisan suppliers and safeguarding its rich heritage.

Before the war, Wembley Store also served as a social gathering point—patrons would purchase fine chocolates there before attending performances at the Opera House. The devastation of the theatre left a lasting impact; as recounted by fourth-generation family member Katrina Gauci, passing by became a painful reminder of what was lost. During her architectural studies, Katrina also explored how the shop's sign—featuring a broken arrow—emerged as a symbol, eventually appearing on postcards.

Wembley Store has been part of Republic Street's evolution, from its Strada Reale origins to Kingsway, adapting through the decades and flourishing, particularly during the British era.

Now, after 101 years of service, this cherished store prepares to close its doors, marking the end of a remarkable era in Valletta's history.

Malta Naming Customs

Naming Customs

standing customs used in surnames and given names can help you identify tors in records. Learn to recognize name variations and see clues in names.

Surnames

- Different cultures have their impact on the demographics of the Maltese islands, and this is evident in the various surnames Maltese citizens bear nowadays.
- There are very few Maltese surnames per se: the few that originate from Maltese places of origin include **Chircop (Kirkop)**, **Lia (Lija)**, **Balzan (Balzan)**, **Valletta (Valletta)**, and **Sciberras (Xebb ir-Ras Hill, on which Valletta was built)**.
- The village of **Munxar, Gozo** is characterised by the majority of its population having one of two surnames, either **Curmi** or **de Brincat**. In Gozo, the surnames **Bajada** and **Farrugia** are also common.

Sicilian and Italian surnames

Sicilian and Italian surnames are common due to the close vicinity to Malta. Sicilians were the first to colonise the Maltese islands. Common examples include Azzopardi, Bonello, Cauchi, Farrugia, Gauci, Rizzo, Schembri, Tabone, Vassallo, Vella.

French surnames

Common examples include Depuis, Montfort, Monsenuier, Tafel.

English surnames

English surnames exist for a number of reasons, but mainly due to migration as well as Malta forming a part of the British Empire in the 19th century and most of the 20th. Common examples include Bone, Harding, Atkins, Mattocks, Smith, Jones, Woods, Turner.

Sicilian Arabic surnames Arabic surnames occur in part due to the early presence of the Arabs in Malta. Common examples include Sammut, Camilleri, Zammit, and Xuereb.

Spanish surnames Common surnames of Spanish origin include Abela, Galdes, Herrera, and Guzman.

German surnames Surnames from foreign countries from the Middle Ages include German, such as von Brockdorff, Hyzler, and Schranz.

Greek surnames Many of the earliest Maltese surnames are Sicilian Greek, e.g. Cilia, Calleia, Brincat, Cauchi. Much less common are recent surnames from Greece; examples include Dacoutros, and Trakosopoulos

Jewish surnames The original Jewish community of Malta and Gozo has left no trace of their presence on the islands since they were expelled in January 1493.

Customs In line with the practice in other Christian, European states, women generally assume their husband's surname after legal marriage, and this is passed on to any children the couple may bear. Some women opt to retain their old name, for professional/personal reasons, or combine their surname with that of their husband.

References ["Surnames by country: Malta"](#), in Wikipedia, accessed 11 March 2021.



FIRST IN AUSTRALIA MALTA REGATTA 2025

Wollongong City Surf Life Saving Club

Have you ever had a dream and worked hard in making that dream a reality?

I had a dream of seeing the Boat Race (Regatta) we grow up to watch as kids living in Marsa Malta on Malta's National Day. Well, it is not a dream anymore and on Sunday 21 September a crowd will be going to verge on the Wollongong Harbour in NSW to witness the first ever Regatta in the lifetime of Maltese Migration in Australia.

I am proud to announce that Wollongong SLSC is providing two boats and ten rowers for the traditional

race. After meeting with the secretary of the Wollongong SLSC it became evident that they are excited in supporting this event and work with the George Cross Falcons Community Centre of Cringila NSW to make this occasion possible.

It is one thing to hold such an event but it requires lots of preparation, and personally I been working on this project for over six months. We had to work fast as Sunday the 21 of September is an ideal day since it also happens to be Malta Independence Day.

With the assistance of my nephew a graphic artist we designed artwork for the shirts and thanks to our Major Sponsor Frankie's Auto Electric for his generosity. Malta also got onboard, and one finds Visit Malta on the back of the shirts. We also acknowledge The Builders Club for all the support towards the association. Once announcing of the event, we received lots of financial support, realizing such an event will incur many expenses to organise.

On the day buses will be coming from Sydney to witness this special event. We will meet at Belmore Basin near the coffee shop around 9.30am. The actual race will commence at 10.30 am.

The program will commence with the Cringila Folklore Group dance while waiting for the boats to row in to shore prior to the race. The spectators will cheer the rowers as they row out for the starting line up outside the lighthouse. Once the signal is giving the two boats will row into shore in front of all the excited and vocal spectators. After the finishing of the race medals and certificates will be presented to all involved in making this day a success.

It is with pleasure to announce that the Wollongong and Shellharbour Mayors and politicians will be attending to support our Regatta. The Malta Consul General for NSW will assist in the Ceremony.

We asked everyone to support by filling the foreshore at the Wollongong Harbour cheering the rowers during the race. **Louis Parnis – President GCFCC**





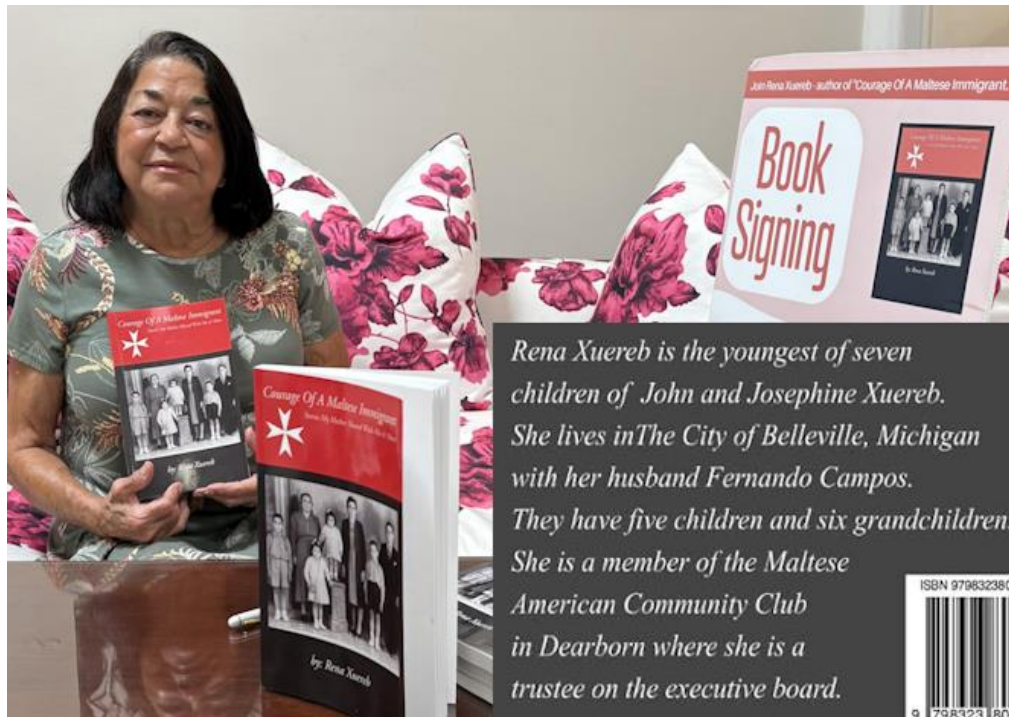
**MALTESE SOCCER TEAMS
ADELAIDE SOUTH AUSTRALIA 1950-70**

***CAN YOU HELP US TO IDENTIFY THESE
LAYERS - MOST OF THEM ARE MALTESE***

Photos supplied by Tony Calleja
Nostalgia



Hello Frank. While I was visiting Malta recently I had my book **Courage of a Maltese Immigrant** signing at the Hotel Phoenicia, Valletta. The Book is still available on Amazon or Ingramspark Thank
Yours - Rena Xuereb



Courage of a Maltese Immigrant by Rena Xuereb



Where- Maltese Community Centre
677 Royal Parade, Parkville Vict.

When - Saturday 20 September 2025

Time - 6.00pm Mass at the Chapel
7.00 pm Formalities and Celebrations

Cost \$38 RSVP - 10 September 2025

Email: gmc@germanmaltesecircle.org

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/GMCValletta/>

**GERMAN-MALTESE CIRCLE
DEUTSCH-MALTESISCHER ZIRKEL**

OPEN DAY

German Maltese Circle Messina Palace,
141, Triq San Kristofru, Valletta VLT 1465, Malta

✓German language courses for all levels

✓Internationally recognised Goethe Institut Exams

✓Get a free language placement test

✓Enjoy an early bird discount when you register and pay on the day

September 6
9:30 - 13:30

Din l-Omm Tagħna
Reġġet Magħna

Din l-Omm tagħna reġġet
 magħna –
 Kemm ninsabu ferħanin;
 Hawn arana mdawrin miegħek
 Inti l-Omm t'Alla l-hanin!

Illi f'Betlem rajt jitwielew
 Għan-nifs sħun ta' baqra w ħmar
 Kulhadd baqa' mbikki, mbellah
 Għal dak l-għaġeb illi sar!

U lilek mar jagħmlek safja
 Sa ma qabel ma tnissilt –
 Hekk kien jixraq lil Omm Alla
 Bl-ebda tebgħa int twelidt!

'Tota pulchra es Maria'
 Inkantawlek f'dawn il-jiem
 Id-dnub qatt lilek ma jassar
 Mal-medda twila taż-żmien!

Għawdex jista' żgur jiftaħar
 Bi statwa tassew sabiħa
 Illi żzejjen lil dil-knisja
 U timliha bl-ifjen fwieħa!

Salvu Psaila l-istatwarju
 Tana dal-kapolavur;
 O kemm kien artist mill-aqwa
 Li għamlilna dal-favur!

U hallielna dal-wirt helu
 F'idejn l-aħwa Frangiskani
 Li jgħożżuh u jqimu bosta -
 Imprezzabbli u wisq għani!

Miżmum tajjeb ġewwa l-knisja
 Fil-għażiża belt minn tagħna
 Fejn ta' spiss aħna
 ningabru
 Ilkoll hienja hawnhekk
 tarana.

It-treqat nibdew narmaw
 Bl-aqwa bnadar u pilandri
 Ersqu 'l hawn sabiex taraw.

Il-knisja xxidd il-libsa
 U ssir tixbah il-Genna
 Camilleri Cauchi haseb
 Biex hawnhekk issib il-
 hena.

Peniġierku, l-awqa Tridu
 Ta' kull sena ma jonqsux,
 Purċissjoni timla t-toroq
 Bnadi oħra la tmorrux.

Imma ejjew fil-qalb ta'
 beltna
 Fejn isaltnu hena w ferħ;
 San Frangisk hawnhekk
 isaltan
 U iqassam paċi w serħ!

O Marija Immakulata
 Aħna wliedek midinbin
 Kun inti dlonk l-Avukata
 U dahħalna mat-tajbin

Xierek anke lill-ħbieb tagħna
 Lil hutna l-Patrijiet
 Li ssibhom dejjem magħna
 F'kollha tagħna l-ħtiġijiet.

U meta mat-treqat toħroġ
 Merfugħa fuq l-spallejn
 Minn kull demgħa ixxuttalna
 Id-dmugħ nieżel mill-
 għajnejn.

Ibqa' diehla fid-djar tagħna
 U fejjaq kull mard u hemm
 Inti l-Omm tal-bnedmin
 kolha
 Taf li d-demmm qatt ma sar
 semm!

Is-sena riesqa lejn
 tmiemha
 O kemm kellna gwaj u mwiet;
 Itlob ftit lill-għażiż lbnek
 Biex jerfagħna minn dal-Wied

U mill-ġdid fostna jreġġa'
 Għaqda, tama, hena w ġid;
 B'hekk id-dinja 'l quddiem timxi
 B'rieda soda tal-ħadid.

B'hekk ferħana halli ngħajtu
 Evviva l-Immakulata
 Kun inti l-Omm imbierka tagħna
 Għalina inti l-aqwa blata!

Lill-Qalin irrid insellem
 Fejn jien għandi bosta ħbieb
 Dawn ukoll l-Immakulata
 Beraħ jifthulha l-bieb

U f'Santwarju qadim bosta
 Festa jagħmlulha bil-kbir
 U l-Isqof lilha jsellem
 Dan kull sena lilha
 jsir.

Bi ħġaru l-poplu tagħna
 F'nhar il-festa lilha jżur
 Hawn iduq il-kagħak tal-għasel
 Li bihom il-pjazza tfur.

F'Bormla wkoll l-Immakulata
 Ma tgħaddix bla ebda ħoss
 Bl-ebda dubju l-poplu Malti
 Ihossu bil-wisq kommiss

Għax ilkoll ejjew nammettu
 Din l-Omm tilqa' lil kulhadd
 Għax dirgħajha dejjem fethet
 U ma warrbet qatt lil hadd!

Kav Joe M Attard

Rabat – Għawdex 2025

**The Assumption of the
 Blessed Virgin Malta**





Everything You Need to Know About Lampuki Season in Malta

by Sabine

If you are coming on your holidays to Malta over the next few months, the chances are you will hear the word “lampuki” bandied about. But what on earth is a Lampuki, what do you do with it, and what do you need to know about it? Before you touch down on the beautiful island

of Malta, make sure you get to grips with one of its finest delicacies!

What is lampuki? Lampuki is a type of fish that is typically found in and around the waters of Malta. It goes by various other names, depending on where you are from, such as the dorado, dolphinfish or the mahi-mahi. It migrates through the Maltese waters between the end of August and the end of December and it is one of the most popular, traditional autumnal Maltese dishes. A white, meaty fish with a delicate flavour, it lends itself to a variety of sauces and accompaniments- making it one of the most versatile fish you can choose to eat.



How do they catch it? In a technique known as kannizzati, local fishermen cut down the lower fronds from palm trees which they then weave into large, flat rafts. These rafts are then put out to sea, usually accompanied by traditional fishing boats known as 'Luzzu', or more modern fuel powered crafts. As the sun reaches the highest point in the sky, the lampuki all clamber to seek shade under the rafts, the fishermen wait for a large number of fish to gather before casting a net over them. This is a technique that has not changed since the Roman times and even when the fish is

used for commercial purposes, this old method is still used.

Where can I get it from? Well that totally depends on whether you want to try it out in a restaurant, or have a go at cooking it for yourself! Some of the best restaurants to try lampuki are situated in the south of Malta- e.g. Marsaskala, Birgu, and Marsaxlokk. Here, the fish you eat has often been caught that lunchtime and is as fresh as you can imagine. You also have the bonus of getting to enjoy your meal in a picturesque seaside village. Alternatively, you can pick some up from one of the fishmongers, or keep your ears out for the fish van that roams the streets every morning selling a range of fresh seafood- you can pick up quite a bargain here.

How should I eat it? This is a matter of great debate- some like their lampuki in a pie, some like it with a thick, garlic infused sauce, and some prefer it grilled in tinfoil with just a smattering of seasoning to taste. Alternatively, you can try it in a delicious fish stew called alijotta, all soaked up with some delicious, fresh, Maltese bread, or “hobz” as it is known locally.

One thing is for sure, if you are visiting Malta this Autumn- be sure not to miss out on sampling the delicious delights of the lampuki. In the next edition we will include a recipe of a Lampuki Pie.

Angelo Azzopardi

AFL Carlton's Knight of Malta



Tony De Bolfo, AFL Carlton Media - Melbourne – Victoria - Australia



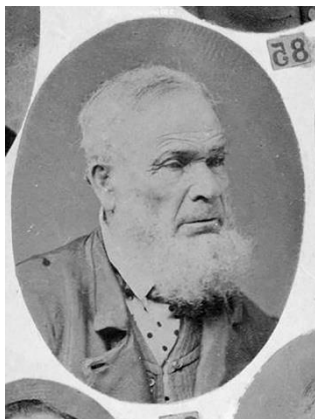
Former Carlton footballer Angelo Azzopardi, the son of Australia's first Maltese free settler in Australia. (Photo: Blueseum)

If multiculturalism means “the existence, acceptance, or promotion of multiple cultural traditions within a single jurisdiction” then Carlton Football Club can surely claim football’s multicultural dominion.

Amongst the club’s historic ranks is a solid collective born beyond Australian shores - from the Indian-born Fred Pringle through to the London-born Wayne Blackwell.

Then there are those boasting generational links with the old world – from Wally Koochew, whose father was Chinese and mother of Nordic extraction, through to Anthony Koutoufides, the son of a Greek Egyptian-born father and Italian-born mother.

Another such Carltonite was truly of another time. His name was Angelo Azzopardi, whom history records was the son of Australia’s first Maltese free settler, Antonio Azzopardi.



The much-resourced Carlton historic website www.blueseum.org, through its dedicated researcher Pete McLean, unearthed precious details of Australia’s first Azzopardi family.

Angelo’s father, the seaman Antonio Azzopardi, was born in Zejtun, a city in the south eastern region of Malta, in 1805. An image of him is included in the photographic montage published by Thomas Foster Chuck in 1872 entitled “The Explorers and Early Colonists of Victoria and he is listed as number 84, “A. Azzopardi”.

Antonio Azzopardi, Australia's first Maltese free settler.

Antonio disembarked the barque *Mary Hay* in Melbourne in 1839 - just four years after the city's founding by John Batman. Antonio initially toiled as a mail contractor before turning his hand to the publishing game as a canvasser with

Melbourne’s *The Herald* newspaper. In time he acquired RM Abbott’s printing works and duly pursued a career in the printing profession.

Antonio’s son Angelo (later to represent the Carlton Football Club in its pre-VFA years), was born in this city on August 8, 1846 – one of four children (three brothers and a sister) raised by Antonio and his Scottish-born wife Margaret Hannah Sandeman, who had exchanged marital vows at the Congregational Church the previous October.

At one point, Angelo and his siblings followed their mother back to their homeland, and legend has it that on his return aboard the *SS Great Britain*, Angelo spoke with a Sean Connery-esque brogue.

Back in Melbourne, and according to The Dictionary of Australian Artists Online (DAAO), Angelo Azzopardi followed his father into the printing profession, and pursued a career as artist-engraver and publisher.

An early Azzopardi football engraving.

At some point in the 1870s, Angelo established an independent printing business headquartered in the Herald Passage - an old cobblestone lane tucked behind the city’s GPO Building. For a time he worked in partnership with Oliver Levey, a subsequent owner of *The Herald*, and later Hildreth & Co. Angelo’s

presence obviously impacted on local planners, as a 1937 edition of Morgan's Melbourne street directory lists the passageway as "Angelo Lane".

That lane was later incorporated into the Myer complex.



Angelo's engraving, could this be a self portrait?

Angelo also gained local fame as a watercolour painter who exhibited his works at the 1866 Melbourne Intercolonial Exhibition. He also pursued an interest as an engraver and silversmith by way of the Eureka Electrotype and Stereotype foundry out of 17-19 La Trobe Street, between Exhibition and Springs Streets at the top end of town.

According to newspaper records, Angelo turned out for Carlton through two stints - 1868-1870 and 1875. He was named for the club in five matches in his maiden season, which took on rivals such as Geelong, South Yarra and Emerald Hill, but it remains unclear as to how many matches he actually participated in.

The 19th century publication, "The Footballer", carries on one of its front cover a sketch of what appears to be a Geelong footballer in full flight as he carries the ball. Beneath the figure's left heel in small print, appears the name Azzopardi. Could this be the footballer or the artist?

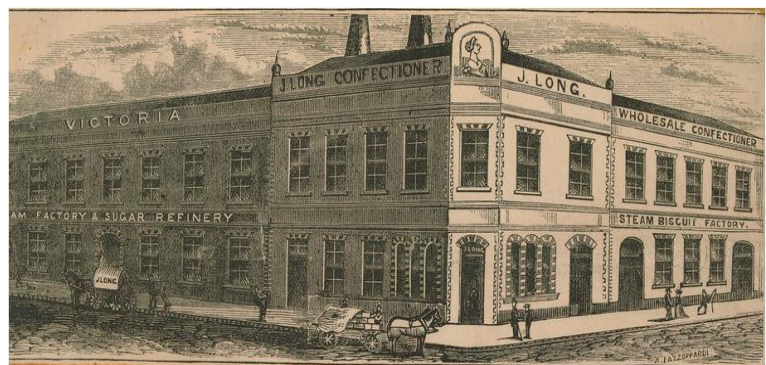
Angelo James Azzopardi was 49 when he died in neighbouring Brunswick on January 18, 1896 – a year before Carlton became a foundation member of the fledgling VFL.

A death notice acknowledged that Angelo died suddenly at his home, 74 Cassels Road, just off Moreland Road, and was survived by his dear wife Annie, who co-incidentally was also a Scot.

One hundred and twenty years after Angelo's untimely passing, the Azzopardi name remains inextricably linked to this football club's stirring multicultural story.

Angelo J. Azzopardi | *Melbourne St West*
Queen & La Trobe Street

Above: In **1878** Angelo signed a petition which was presented to the Melbourne City Council calling on the council to provide a portion of Princes Park for the club to use as a football ground. Angelo's brother Valetta also signed. This document is now kept at the Victorian Public Records Office in North Melbourne. (PROV) **1888** The Herald March 22 (p3) had a report of land sales in Melbourne; "Land and a two story brick building at the corner of La Trobe street and Queens street, at one time known as Azzopardi's printing office, having 70 feet to Queen street, and 44 feet to Lonsdale street." The property was passed in."



Two engravings by Angelo Azzopardi. Note his name at the bottom of each picture



Recently Chev. Sydney Borg, NSW Prior and Bailiff of the OSJ and National President of the [Australian Maltese Chamber of Commerce Inc](#) together with H.E. Paul Borg, Lieutenant Grand Master of [Order of St. John of Jerusalem The Knights Hospitaller Malta](#) visited the Gato's Pastizzi Restaurant.

The owner of the shop said that It was a real pleasure to meet these two esteemed gentlemen both, share a few

words, and welcome them to our factory outlet. "I truly appreciated the visit and wish both gentlemen well for the rest of their time together this week. Always great to see Maltese culture and connections thriving here in Sydney. Something we're proud to be a part of at Gato's Pastizzi"

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Who Would You Tell? - NSW Screening 2025

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AEST

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Theatrette

Sydney NSW, Australia

[Fish Isle Films](#)

**Join us for a FREE screening
of Who Would You Tell? a**

**feature documentary film at the prestigious New South Wales Parliament House. Date:
THURSDAY 11 SEPT. 2025 Time: 18:20**

With the promise of a better future in a foreign land, *Who Would You Tell?* tells the story of three Maltese brothers separated from their destitute family at a young age and sent to Tardun, Western Australia, under the child migration scheme. What was meant to be a second chance turned into a lifetime of regret, pain, and missed opportunities that shaped their journey to adulthood.

Fifty years on, Raphael, Peter, and Manny reflect on their stolen childhoods and the profound impact of the sexual, emotional, and physical abuse they endured. Through interviews and archival materials, the documentary delves into their memories of abuse, homesickness, and severed family ties, exposing the historic failures of a scheme backed by two governments and the broken promises of the Catholic organisation that received them.

Following its premiere in Malta in 2023 and recent win at the German International Film Festival 2024, Fish Isle Films is thrilled to bring *Who Would You Tell?* to a NSW audience.

Stay after the screening for a Q&A session with the filmmakers.

“An artistic witness given with competence, clarity, compassion, and great dignity.”

Mgr Charles Scicluna - Archbishop of Malta

“A disturbing chapter in our history, often brushed (down) under the rug.”

Mr Herman Grech - Chief Editor Times Of Malta

“A very distressing and moving film.” Her Excellency Ms Jenny Cartmill - Former Australian High Commission in Malta Don't miss this moving and insightful documentary. Free entry, and all are welcome! **Registrations are essential. Note: Attendees are advised that photographs and videos may be taken during the event and reproduced for promotional purposes.**

For further information: whowouldyoutell.com

MALTA HERITAGE WELCOME YOU TO



MUSEUMS BY CANDLELIGHT - a night where history, candlelight and music intertwine. Our musical line-up for this year's final edition in Rabat and Mdina features Jodi & Ian's harmonies at the fascinating St Paul's Catacombs, angelic harp melodies by Laetitia Troisi De Menville at the

Domvs Romana, and Kathy the Violinist at the National Museum of Natural History. 14 Saturday - 20th September, 7pm-midnight.

One ticket, three sites, endless magic. Contact www.heritagemalta.mt to book your ticket



The Minister for Culture, the Arts, and Local Government, Owen Bonnici, inaugurated a new exhibition celebrating Victory Day at the Grandmaster's Palace in Valletta. The exhibition will remain open to the public until Sunday, 14 September, and is complemented by a new catalogue and publication.

Minister Owen Bonnici

stated that, as we commemorate the 460th anniversary of the Great Siege, the exhibition, titled “8 September: The First National Day”, shines a light on three pivotal historical events for the Maltese people: the end of the Great Siege in 1565, the French capitulation in 1800, and Italy's declaration of armistice during the Second World War in 1943.

“This exhibition not only reminds us of our nation's rich history but also places it in clear context, showing how the Maltese people have consistently emerged victorious from challenging moments. Thanks to Heritage Malta for this exhibition, which brings together art, research, and our collective memory in a single experience. It is another beautiful chapter in our cultural identity,” Minister Bonnici concluded.

Held in the Throne Room, the exhibition features a carefully curated selection of artifacts from the national collection, displayed together for this special occasion. Highlights related to the Great Siege include the frescoes by Matteo Perez d'Aleccio within the Grandmaster's Palace, accompanied by engravings and maps, as well as sixteenth-century medals and coins.

The French capitulation is illustrated through three large silver plates gifted by the Maltese to the British and medals awarded to Maltese heroes following the 1798–1800 blockade, alongside a handwritten sonnet by Maltese volunteers as part of the preparations for victory celebrations.

Closer to modern times, the exhibition showcases an Italian officer's pistol and stock, a 1943 print of the Bambina of Isla, and an original newspaper from 9 September 1943, guiding visitors through Malta's final moments during the Second World War.

An illustrated bilingual catalogue complements the experience and is available for purchase at the Palace shop. Heritage Malta has also launched a new publication entitled “Grand Master Jehan de Valette”. Written by renowned historian Prof. Carmel Cassar, the book offers insights into the life of the Grand Master who led the Order during the Great Siege and founded the city of Valletta. The publication is available online at heritagemalta.mt/store/grand-master-jehan-de-vallete-hero-of-the-ottoman-siege-of-malta-and-founder-of-valletta and at the Palace gift shop.

The exhibition “8 September: The First National Day” is open daily from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm (last entry at 5:30 pm) and is included in the Grandmaster's Palace experience, which is fully accessible to wheelchair users. For more information, visit Heritage Malta heritagemalta.mt/whats-on or on social media



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