



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Journal for Maltese Living Abroad

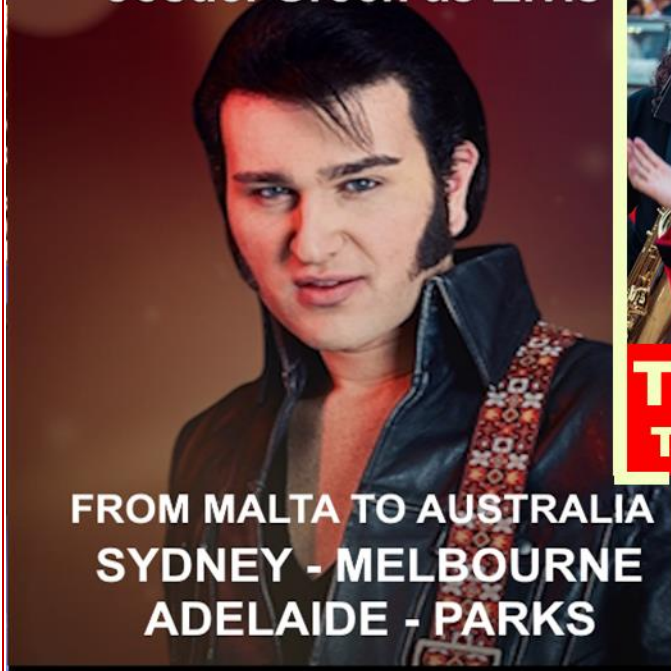
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ALI BABA SNOW WHITE ROBIN HOOD ALICE

Josuel Grech as Elvis



FROM MALTA TO AUSTRALIA
SYDNEY - MELBOURNE
ADELAIDE - PARKS



TIKKA BANDA - MALTA
The Jolly Hoppers this Christmas

**THIS JOURNAL IS FREE
BUT PRICELESS**



THE HISTORY OF EMIGRATION
IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE HISTORY OF MALTA

NEXT ISSUE

**SPECIAL
CHRISTMAS
EDITION**



OPINION

Frank Scicluna

WHY WE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL TO OUR EARLY MALTESE MIGRANTS



From the mid-1950s until the late 1990s,

following the end of the Second World War, over 140,000 persons emigrated from Malta and Gozo. Throughout these years, they remitted more than 648 million Maltese Liri (€1.5 billion) back to their families residing on our islands.

The financial support provided by these emigrants exceeded the British Government's grant of 80 million pounds (€91 million) designated for the development of our islands. **By 1967, 30% of the population had sought employment abroad, with 57% relocating to Australia, 22% to the United Kingdom, 13% to Canada, and 7% to the United States.**

To incentive their departure, their travel expenses were subsidized. 38% of the funds they sent home originated from their wages earning abroad. An additional 29% was received as gifts, dowries, and inheritances, while 33% constituted pensions for the 49,100 individuals who returned.

Beyond the substantial amounts they remitted as emigrants, they also contributed financially during their visits to their homeland. Without the financial assistance from emigrants, our population would have endured significantly greater hardships during that period. Unfortunately, our emigrants were not always embraced or appreciated in their new locations, and they experienced emotional pain from being separated from their families. They faced numerous challenges, yet many succeeded in establishing improved lives and made a good name for the Maltese Islands.

The British government compelled thousands to emigrate in an effort to decrease the population and reduce costs for us. The financial aid provided by the British government to our country was considerably less than the remittances sent back by emigrants. The British government allocated 10 million pounds (€11 million) for the reconstruction of buildings and homes that had been destroyed during the Second World War.

In total, 10,761 buildings and homes were obliterated, and 20,000 private residences suffered severe damage. Between 15,000 and 17,000 tons of bombs were dropped in over 3,300 air raids, rendering it the most heavily bombed nation in the world at that time.

Many of early migrants are now passing away and the 2nd and 3rd generations have only a glimpse of what their forebearers went through to settle in a foreign country. **LET US NOT FORGET OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHO GAVE UP THEIR HOMELAND (Malta and Gozo) TO SEEK A BETTER FUTURE FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES.** We salute you!!! And will never forget YOU.



Maltese Emigrants arriving in Australia 1950



Dr. Anglu Farrugia
Speaker



Denise Demicoli
Consul General

**SPEAKER
UNDERScores
MALTA'S ROLE
AND NATIONAL
IDENTITY AT
MALTA DAY
CELEBRATION IN
NEW YORK**

*Tuesday, 9 December
2025*

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Dr

Anglu Farrugia, delivered a keynote address during Malta Day celebrations held in New York. The event was organised by Malta's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Natasha Meli, together with the Consul General of Malta in New York.

In his remarks, Speaker Farrugia expressed gratitude to Meli and Consul General Denise Demicoli for their leadership and continued dedication in representing Malta at the international level. Addressing an audience of dignitaries, Maltese and Gozitan nationals, and friends of Malta, he underlined the significance of Malta Day as a moment to honour national identity, sovereignty, and shared values.

Speaker Farrugia highlighted Malta's longstanding commitment to global peace, dialogue, and solidarity-principles that continue to define its active role within the United Nations. He recalled Malta's historic contribution in 1967, when Ambassador Arvid Pardo introduced the concept of the oceans as the "common heritage of mankind," a milestone that helped shape the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. He noted that this legacy continues to guide Malta's engagement within the UN system.

The Speaker reaffirmed Malta's determination to remain at the forefront of key global priorities, including climate change, ocean protection, the safeguarding of children in armed conflict, and the promotion of the rights and dignity of older persons. He stated that these areas of work reflect Malta's enduring values as a maritime and humanitarian nation with a clear sense of international responsibility.

Speaker Farrugia also acknowledged the achievements of the Maltese and Gozitan community in the United States, noting their strong and enduring connection to their homeland. He described them as "ambassadors of Malta in their own right," who continue to uphold the country's traditions, language, and cultural identity across generations.

The event concluded with a call for unity and shared purpose, with Speaker Farrugia encouraging all present to continue honouring Malta's heritage while contributing positively to a more peaceful and stable world.

I WONDER IF THE MALTESE MIGRATION MUSEUM AT CASTILLE SQUARE, VALLETTA IS STILL OPERATING. WE WILL BE GOING TO MALTA SOON AND WE WANT TO VISIT ID-DAR TA' L-EMIGRANTI. John Vassallo - Australia



HENRY FELIX CURMI (1890–1967)

MALTA'S FIRST COMMISSIONER

by [Barry York](#)

Henry Felix Curmi (1890-1967), diplomat, was born on 2 October 1890 at Sliema, Malta, eldest of eight children of Giorgio Curmi, civil servant, and his wife Paolina, née Decelis. Educated at the Royal University of Malta, Henry served in various civil service departments, among them the lieutenant-governor's office, before taking up a commission in the King's Own Malta Regiment of Militia in 1910. After being mobilized in the Royal Malta Artillery in 1915, he served from 8 September at Gallipoli where he was mentioned in dispatches. He was also stationed on

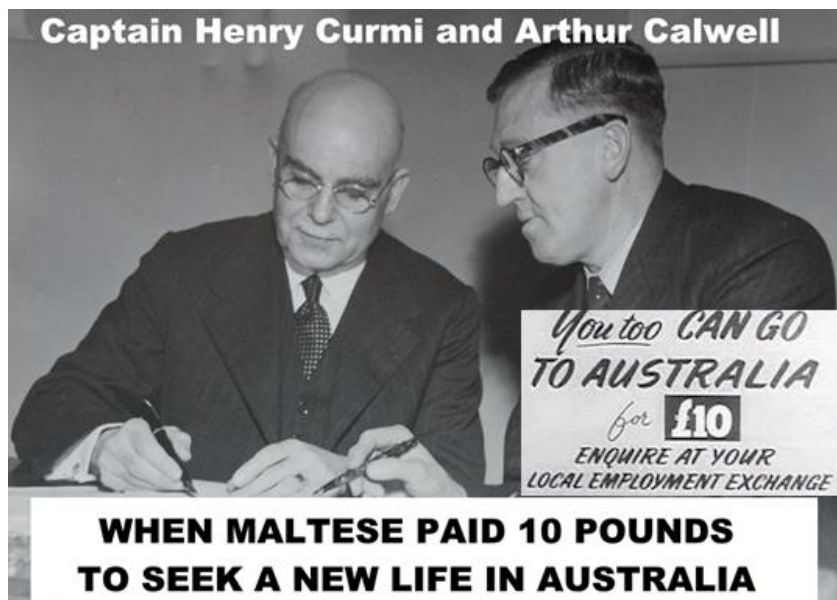
Lemnos, in Egypt and in Palestine, and was promoted lieutenant in 1917. During the war he met Bessie Evelyn Simmonds, an English nurse stationed in Malta. She converted to Catholicism and they were married on 23 April 1919 at St Polycarp's Church, Farnham, England.

Captain Curmi's interest in Maltese emigration was stimulated by his successive appointments as secretary (1921) to the minister for labour, posts and agriculture (who had responsibility for migration) and as secretary (1922) of Malta's emigration committee. In 1928 he was made commissioner for labour and in 1929 was appointed to Australia as Malta's first commissioner for migration. His arrival coincided with the Depression which provoked intense anti-immigrant feeling. Having undertaken gruelling trips from Perth to Cairns (Queensland) and Melbourne, in 1930 he returned in ill health to Malta. He was replaced by [H. W. Potts](#) and then by the Melbourne solicitor Frank Corder.

In June 1936 Curmi came back to Australia as commissioner for Malta. Next year he was appointed O.B.E. His office at 108 Queen Street, Melbourne, became a focal point for Maltese settlers throughout the country, as well as a base for the Malta Relief Fund, which raised money and food for the besieged Mediterranean island during World War II. A central and recurring issue for Curmi was the Federal government's refusal to recognize the Maltese as 'white British subjects'. He worked patiently to alter Australian policy and attained formal success in 1944. In addition, he played a key role in negotiations which led to the Malta-Australia Assisted Passage Agreement in 1948. During Curmi's second period as commissioner, the Maltese in Australia increased from some 3000 to about 10,000. He retired in 1952 and was appointed C.B.E. that year. Curmi's strong and charming personality was born of a sense of personal worth which carried over into his dignified representation of Malta. While fully Maltese, he was very aware of things British. In Malta he had been general secretary of the Boy Scouts' Association. He was an avid reader of European and Church history; in his retirement, he indulged his interest in wood, leather and ivory work, and was secretary of the Arts and Crafts Society of Victoria. Predeceased by his wife, and survived by their three daughters and two sons, he died on 5 March 1967 at Kew and was buried in Springvale cemetery.

10 POUNDS MIGRANTS

HISTORY OF MALTESE EMIGRATION



Henry Curmi, the first Commissioner in Australia and Hon Arthur Calwell, Australian Minister of Migration

Maltese migrants were part of Australia's post-WWII **Assisted Passage Migration Scheme**, colloquially known as the "**Ten Pound Pom**" scheme, where many paid just £10 for passage to Australia, particularly under a 1948 agreement, helping to significantly grow the Maltese community in Australia, especially in Melbourne, Sydney and Queensland. While the term "Pom" usually meant British, the scheme was extended to other Commonwealth citizens,

including Maltese, who came seeking better opportunities, often arriving by ship or plane.

Key Details of the Scheme:

- **Goal:** Populate Australia with skilled and unskilled workers after WWII.
- **Cost:** A nominal £10 (British Pounds) for adults, with children often going free, compared to the actual passage cost of around £120.
- **Eligibility:** Applied to British subjects, including those from colonies like Malta, and later other Europeans.
- **Conditions:** Migrants usually had to stay in Australia for at least two years.
- **Maltese Experience:** Around 10% of Malta's population migrated under this agreement, with many settling in Melbourne, creating a vibrant community.

Maltese Arrivals:

- A specific migration agreement between Malta and Australia was signed in 1948, opening the door for many Maltese workers, like dockyard worker Tony Grima, to find work and a new life.
- Many arrived by ship, such as the SS *Sydney*, with families often sponsored by relatives already in Australia.

This scheme was crucial for both Malta, facing tough post-war conditions, and Australia, needing new residents, leading to a significant cultural exchange and new Australian communities.





CELEBRATING THE FESTIVE SEASON WITH NEW COLOURFUL STAMP ISSUES

by [Gozo News](#)

MaltaPost is issuing two new philatelic issues in celebration of the festive season, MaltaPost – one set featuring a playful depiction of Santa Claus with his nine cheerful reindeer, and another showcasing traditional nativity scenes in Bethlehem.

The Christmas issue consists of 10 stamps, each bearing a denomination of €0.45. The set illustrates Father Christmas and his reindeers, with whom he travels the world on his magical sleigh. Together, they spread joy and wonder to people all over the world. These stamp illustrations have been created by Fabio Agius. The stamps will be issued in sheets of 10, each stamp measuring 35mm x 35mm, with a comb perforation of 14.3 x 14.3 and bearing the Maltese Cross watermark. The sheets measure 203mm x 98mm and were produced by Printex Ltd in the offset process. The issue consists of 300,000 stamps



The **Nativity** holds a special place in religious art and devotion in Malta. To celebrate this special annual event, MaltaPost will issue a set of 2 stamps depicting paintings of the newborn Christ's birthplace. They are the creative work of renowned Gozitan artist Pawlu Camilleri Cauchi.

The painting within the €0.45 stamp, found within the Parish Church of the Assumption in Qrendi, depicts the moment of arrival of the humble shepherds at the stable where they found Mary and Joseph and Baby Jesus lying in a manger. The other painting, within the €1.50 stamp, focuses on the visit of the three Magi from the East who were guided by the Star of Bethlehem to Jesus' birthplace. It is found within the Parish Church of Sacro Cuor in Sliema.

Photography of both paintings was done by Mark Micallef Perconte.

The stamps will be issued in sheets of 10, each stamp measuring 31mm x 44mm, with a comb perforation of 14.1 x 14.2 and bearing the Maltese Cross watermark. The sheets measure 180mm x 115mm and were produced by Printex Ltd in the offset process. The issue consists of 50,000 of the €0.45c stamp and 50,000 of the €1.50 stamp.

Both the Christmas 2025 issue and the Nativity 2025 issue will be available from all Post Offices in Malta and Gozo from Thursday, the 20th of November.

Orders may be placed online at www.maltaphilately.com or by mail from the Philatelic Bureau, MaltaPost p.l.c. 305, Qormi Road, Marsa, MTP 1001; Telephone: 2596 1740, e-mail: info@maltaphilately.com [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [WhatsApp](#) [Pinterest](#) [Tumblr](#) [Reddit](#)

The birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem is known as The Nativity and commemorated by Christians worldwide on Christmas Day - which stands for "mass on Christ's day". Since the early centuries of Christianity, the Nativity has been one of the most frequently depicted biblical scenes in art. Here

in Malta, the Nativity commands a special place in religious art and devotion - portrayed in paintings, statues, and the traditional Presepu (Crib).

To celebrate Christmas, this year MaltaPost shall issue a set of 2 stamps depicting Jesus' birth in a manger, the shepherds' visit to the Holy Family, and the arrival of the Magi. Both stamps are the work of local artist Paul Camilleri Cauchi, born in 1940 in Victoria, Gozo. The painting within the 0.45 stamp depicts the arrival of the shepherds at the stable with Mary and Joseph and the Baby Jesus lying in a manger. The stable and manger represent humility and simplicity - the King of Kings born among the poor. The shepherds were considered lowly people and yet they were the first to receive the news of the Nativity. This painting is found within the Parish Church of the Assumption in Qrendi.

Camilleri Cauchi's painting within the 1.50 stamp focuses on the visit of the Magi from the East who were guided by the Star of Bethlehem to the birthplace of the newborn Christ - symbolising that Jesus' birth was a message to all nations. On arrival at the stable, they knelt and worshipped Him and presented gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. This splendid painting is found within the Parish Church of Sacro Cuor in Sliema. Photography of the paintings was done by Mark Micallef Perconte. **Date Of Issue:** 20 Nov 2025 **Designer:** Photography: Mark Micallef Perconte Paintings: Paul Camilleri Cauchi-

, “QUINTESSENTIAL GOZO 2025: 100 PROPOSALS FOR THE GOZITAN ISLANDS,” DR. RAYMOND XERRI



Our very dear friend, Dr. [Raymond C. Xerri](#) (Malta's former Consul General to Canada & former Deputy High Commissioner to Australia and the Philippines) invited us to an important event here in Gozo tonight.

It's always an honour support his important work. Raymond literally knows all the power players in Malta, and has the respect of everyone from the Prime Minister to the President to the Leader of the Opposition to Malta's EU representative and beyond. His career spans over thirty years across diplomacy, diaspora leadership, education, and international policy. He has represented Malta in seven countries, held major roles in Europe,

Australia, and the Commonwealth, and continues today as Head of the Gozo Diaspora & International Office. Recently he received the Gozo Rotary Club's Pride of Gozo Community Service Award, a reflection of his impact both locally and internationally. Tonight we attended the presentation of his latest project, “Quintessential Gozo 2025: 100 Proposals for the Gozitan Islands,” a new vision for the island's future.

One proposal in particular is of special interest to us - positioning Gozo as a regional hub for film production! It's something we discuss often, especially as we plan on bringing filmmakers and their projects here to collaborate with local talent. Seeing it formally included in his development plan is wonderful! On a personal level, Raymond has been an important part of our journey here in Malta from helping us navigate residency, to guiding us to local services as parents of a young adult on the autism spectrum, and just generally opening doors and connecting us to the community. As relative newcomers here (2 years) it was a privilege to be included in this event. It was a meaningful evening with someone whose work we deeply respect (and whose friendship we truly value!) Looking forward to a Christmas dinner with Raymond and his amazing wife [Marlene Xerri](#) later this month.

[Tracy Lamourie](#).



We are Roaming Malta! The Jolly Hoppers Christmas Route 2025 Mark Your Calendars: Where to Find The Jolly Hoppers this Christmas The holiday season is here, and The Jolly Hoppers by Tikka Banda are hitting the streets once again!...

Mark Your Calendars: Where to Find The Jolly Hoppers this Christmas The holiday season is here, and The Jolly Hoppers by Tikka Banda are hitting the streets once again! Get ready for roaming live music, festive cheer, and

unforgettable Christmas energy as we pop up across Malta, from shopping complexes to Christmas markets and town squares.

CATCH US LIVE!

Here is where you can join the fun and see The Jolly Hoppers in action:

Event list updated on 20/11/2025

- **Saturday, 29/11/2025 • Miled fil-Pjazza • Birżebbuġa Square • 7:30p.m. – 9:00p.m.**
- **Wednesday, 03/12/2025 • Valletta Waterfront Christmas Express • Valletta Waterfront, Floriana • 7:45p.m. – 9:30p.m.**
- **Friday, 05/12/2025 • Mercury Tower • St Julian's • 6:30p.m. – 8:00p.m.**
- **Friday, 05/12/2025 • Valletta Waterfront Christmas Express • Valletta Waterfront, Floriana • 7:45p.m. – 9:30p.m.**
- **Monday, 08/12/2025 • Christmas in the Capital • Republic Street, Valletta • 11:00a.m. – 2:00p.m.**
- **Wednesday, 10/12/2025 • Valletta Waterfront Christmas Express • Valletta Waterfront, Floriana • 7:45p.m. – 9:30p.m.**
- **Friday, 12/12/2025 • Għeruq iż-Żwieten • Ġnien l-Għannejja (Ġnien San Girgor), iż-Żejtun • 7:00p.m. – 8:30p.m.**
- **Friday, 12/12/2025 • Valletta Waterfront Christmas Express • Valletta Waterfront, Floriana • 7:45p.m. – 9:30p.m.**
- **Saturday, 13/12/2025 • Christmas in the Capital • Republic Street, Valletta • 12:30p.m. – 3:30p.m.**
- **Saturday, 13/12/2025 • Woodland Christmas Market • Oak Tree Circle, Ta' Qali National Park • 3:30p.m. – 5:00p.m.**
- **Saturday, 13/12/2025 • Qrendi Square • 7:00p.m. – 8:30p.m.**
- **Wednesday, 17/12/2025 • Christmas in the Park • Salini Park • 6:30p.m. – 7:30p.m.**
- **Wednesday, 17/12/2025 • Valletta Waterfront Christmas Express • Valletta Waterfront, Floriana • 7:45p.m. – 9:30p.m.**
- **Friday, 19/12/2025 • Valletta Waterfront Christmas Express • Valletta Waterfront, Floriana • 7:45p.m. – 9:30p.m.**
- **Monday, 22/12/2025 • Anton Agius Rabat Primary School • Valletta Waterfront, ir-Rabat, Malta • 9:30a.m. – 11:00a.m.**

What to Expect

Every stop is packed with live music, crowd interaction, and Christmas sparkle. Whether you are dancing in the streets or watching the show with your family, The Jolly Hoppers deliver a festive experience you won't forget.

Plan Your Christmas Magic

All shows are free, fun, and open to the public, perfect for families, friends, and anyone wanting to make this festive season extra special.

Arrive early, grab a good spot, and let's celebrate together!

Follow Us Follow us on social media for updates, stories, and behind-the-scenes moments as we hop through the holidays!

Put together by Tikka Banda x Afterglow Events

THE NUNS CELEBEBRATE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR PROFESSION

Maltese Franciscan sisters of the Heart of Jesus, who have contributed greatly to service to God and the church, celebrated 60 years as religious nuns.



Sr Vittoriana and Sr Rita celebrated 60 years as Religious sisters on Tuesday 2nd December, 2025 at St Patrick's parish, Port Kembla south of Wollongong, NSW. We give thanks to God for their daily commitment and pray for their health and happiness.

Photo - Sr Vittoriana (middle) Sr Rita (right). Lawrence Scerri



FRAK MILL-ISTORJA

Harsa minn taht



EVARIST BARTOLO

Fragments from History

'Frak mill-Istorja – Harsa minn taht' (Fragments from history – As seen from below) by Evarist Bartolo will be officially launched in Gozo.

SKS Publishers said that it has been asked to launch the book on Gozo as it has aroused a lot of interest among Gozitans who want to learn more about their island and its people.

Gozitan historian Michael Refalo will speak at the launch and Evarist Bartolo will read some excerpts about Gozo. Meeting Vitor tal-Qanfuda, the brilliant self taught master mason who at Chambray built the first married quarters for the British troops in Malta. Getting to know about the 16th century Gozitan woman accused of being a witch, a pimp and teaching a false Catholic doctrine.

Discovering that the Gozitans were the first to rise against the tyrant feudal lord Gonsalvo Monroy and suggesting that Gozo should be like Tobago when naming the Maltese Islands.

All this and more will be discussed at the Banca Giuratale on Friday, the 12th of December, at 6.00pm.

Entrance is free and book lovers will have the opportunity to meet the author Evarist Bartolo who will be happy to sign copies of the book. *Photo: SKS Publishers*

IL-BAMBINA U L-MILIED ZEWG FESTI MARBUTIN MA XULXIN

. Matul l-aħħar xahar ta' kull sena niċcelebraw żewġ festi kbar, festa akbar mill-oħra iżda żewġ festi marbutin sew ma' xulxin. Fit-8 ta' Diċembru nifirħu bit-Tifkira tat-Twelid bla tebgħa tal-Verġni Marija:

Int twelidt hielsa mill-ħtija

Xejn ma jassrek x-xitan;

Għaliex int l-Immakulata

Dana kien ta' Alla l-pjan.

Ftit jiem biss wara, nagħtu bidu għan-Novena li twassalna għat-Tifkira ta' twelid ieħor – Twelid speċjali li seħħ f'Betlem, art ta' Guda, ftit iktar minn elfejn sena ilu. Ma jistax ikun għalhekk, li aħna ma nħarsux b'ċerta hrara u heġġa lejn il-wasla ta' Diċembru, la darba dan huwa l-isbaħ żmien tas-sena.

Reġa wasal l-Milied –

Mhux hekk tisma' d'dawn il-jiem!

Festa li kulhadd jistenna

Għaliex dan hu l-isbaħ żmien.

Milied ieħor reġa' magħna;

Xewqat sbieħ kulhadd itenni

Għax Twelid il-Bambin ċkejken

Lill-qlub kollha żgur iħenni.

Il-ġrajja ta' Betlem ma kenitx waħda komuni. Għalkemm f'għar nieqes minn kollox, hemmhekk twieled ir-Re tar-Rejjiet, hemmhekk f'nofs il-lejl ta' bejn l-24 u l-25 ta' Diċembru twieldet it-tarbija Divina li kellha tiffidna minn dñubietna. Ma jistax jonqos għalhekk li l-messaġġ ta' fidwa u hena ma jibqax imnaqqax f'qalb il-ġnus tul il-medda tas-snin.

Tilmaħ inti ferħ u paċi

F'dan iż-żmien fuq wiċċ kulhadd

Għaliex dak li ġara f'Betlem

Ma jintesa qatt u qatt.

in il-ġrajja illi seħħet

Issa 'l fuq minn elfejn sena

Tibqa'mnaqqxa f'qalb il-bniedem

B'messaġġ mimli kollu hena.

Naturalment, il-ferħ u l-paċi tal-Milied mhumieq dawk li taf tagħti d-dinja. Il-ferħ tad-dinja hu xi haġa tal-mument, bħal duħħan ta' sigarett li jgħib maż-żiffa wara ffit tal-ħin. Mhux hekk hu l-ferħ li jgħibilna Gesu' Bambin. Veru li t-twelid ta' tarbija jgħib ferħ kbir, aħseb u ara fil-kas tagħna. Tasew li fil-Milied jitfaċċaw rigali, hlewriet, u divertiment bil-kwantita'; iżda rridu noqogħdu attenti li ma nħallux lil dawn tal-aħħar jgħorrana warajhom u jnessuna l-veru ferħ u ġenwin li jgħib miegħu l-Milied.

Ma ninsewx li din mhix festa

Biss tal-ħelu u r-rigali

'mma fuq kollox hi t-tifkira

Ta' Twelid, Qaddis, speċjali.

Ta' Gesu' ċkejken tarbija

Feddej tagħna, midinbin

Illu twieled ġewwa grotta

Għax tant haħbhom lill-bnedmin.

Irridu niftakru li l-fidwa tal-bniedem minn ħtijietu giet wara dan it-twelid. Sa mill-bidu, Kristu ried juri l-imħabba kbira tiegħu lejn l-umanità' billi jitwieled fil-ksieħ, għan-nifs bati ta' baqra u ħmara gwejdin. Il-mistednin fit-twelid tiegħu ma kenux l-għonja u l-għorrief, iżda r-raġġa bil-merħliet tagħhom. Lil dawn l-ixxurtjati hu ried iħennihom bid-dehra tat-twelid tiegħu li kellha tfawrilhom qalbhom b'ferħ li ma jiffissirx. Lilna l-bnedmin tas-seklu wieħed u għoxrin, li ninsabu tant medhijin u mitlufin wara l-hwejjeġ ilellxu tad-dinja hemm bżonn li kontinwament irrodu ħajr lil Alla li baġħtilna lil Ibnu l-waħdieni ġewwa Betlem biex iktar tard jissallab għalina biex jeħlisna mill-jasar tad-dñub u b'hekk mill-ġdid igħibilna l-paċi u l-hena fil-qlub.

Jeħtieġ mela illi aħna

Tas-Seklu wieħed u għoxrin

Quddiem moħħna nżommu dejjem

Kemm kien magħna, Alla ħanin

Meta baġħat fid-dinja tagħna

Lil Gesu' Ibnu l-waħdieni

Biex jeħlisna minn dñubietna

U 'l kull midneb jaġħmlu ħieni.

Ix-xewqat tagħna f'dan il-Milied u fi kwalunkwe Milied ieħor ma jridux ikunu indirizzati biss lill-familjari, qrafa u ħbieb tagħna, imma anke' lil dawk li ma nafuhomx, lil dawk li ma jaqblux magħna, lil dawk li forsi xi darba setgħu naqsuna, u anke' lil dawk li aħna naħsbu li ma jaħmluniex. Altrimenti nkunu nkunu qed nagħmlu biss bħal pagani. Dawn iroddu ġid b'ġid lil min biss jagħmlilhom il-ġid.

Ta' nsara li aħna, irridu nagħrfu nagħdru, naħfru u nħennu u nħobbu anke' lill-istess għedewwa tagħna. Mhux faċli, iżda l-Imghallem tagħna divin, hu stess tana l-eżempju fuqhiex nimxu meta minn fuq is-

salib tal-ghuda, talab il-maħfra lil dawk li kienu għadhom kemm ħaqruh u sallbuh. Jekk nagħmlu hekk, żgur li l-Milied tagħna jkun tassew mimli b'ferħ qaddis u f'qalbna ngarrbu hena liema bħalha.

**Ejjew ħbieb Milied mill-isbaħ
Lil xulxin ilkoll nixtiequ,
Kemm lill-ħbieb, kemm lill-għedewwa
Minn htijietna b'hekk infiequ.
Hekk Milied qaddis ikollna
Mimli hlewwa, kollu benna
U minn din id-dinja nduqu
Kif ikun il-ferħ tal-Genna.**

Kav Joe M Attard Rabat - Għawdex



"GZEJER F'KONTINENT": A NEW BOOK WHICH EXPLORES HOW EUROPEAN UNION MEMBERSHIP SHAPED MALTESE IDENTITY

"Gzejjer F'Kontinent" is a new publication launched by European Services in Malta (SEM) together with Europe Direct Valletta, offering an artistic and reflective exploration of Malta's journey within the European Union.

Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi, Minister for European Funds and the Implementation of the Electoral Programme, was present for the announcement of this publication, and praised the initiative for encouraging deeper public awareness and dialogue about the EU.

This fourth collaboration between SEM and Europe Direct Valletta brings together seven stories written by established Maltese authors, edited by Clare Azzopardi and illustrated by Julian Mallia.

Unlike earlier publications targeted at younger readers, this edition is intended for adults and delves into how EU membership has shaped Maltese identity on both personal and societal levels.

Themes include youth opportunities, ageing in a European context, women's evolving roles, multiculturalism, integration, and the everyday impact of EU funding. SEM Chief Executive Rodrick Zerafa highlighted the book as an invitation for citizens to reflect on Malta's past, present, and future within the European community.

The book is available in public libraries, residential homes, community centres, and as a free copy from SEM, with a digital version accessible online.

TRADITIONAL MALTESE CHRISTMAS CAROL

**Ninni la tibkix iżjed
(Maltese)**

Rit:

Ninni la tibkix iżjed
Ninni Ġesù bambin
Halli għalina l-biki
Għax aħna midimbin

Ejjejjew ejjejjew ja anġli
Mis-sema mija mija
Araw lil min ħalaqkom
Bambin ġewwa l-fisqija
Rit:

Ejjejjew taraw b'għajnejkom
Dan Alla Kbir tal-ħniena
Bambin sabiħ u ħelu
Ininni ġol-benniena
Rit:

Hallu ja rgħajja hallu
Il-merħla tan-nagħgiet
Tibżgħux min jindukrahom
Hemm l-anġli tas-smeww

**Sleep, Don't Cry Anymore
(English)**

Refrain:

Sleep, don't cry anymore
Sleep baby Jesus
Leave it to us to cry
Because we are sinners.

Come, come angels
From heaven by the hundreds
See who created you
Now a baby inside the manger.
(Refrain)

Come see with your own eyes
This Great God of mercy
Now a beautiful and cute baby
Asleep in the cradle.
(Refrain)

Leave you shepherds leave
Your flocks of sheep
Don't be afraid for them
The angels will watch over them.
(Refrain)



Rowena Jones

PANTOMIMES IN MALTA AT CHRISTMAS 2025

Discover the enchanting world of Christmas pantomimes in Malta for 2025/2026. These vibrant, interactive theatre productions are a beloved holiday tradition, offering family-friendly entertainment with comedy, music, dances, and audience participation. Whether you're searching for English or Maltese-language shows, planning a festive outing in Valletta, Sliema, or Gozo, or exploring unique Maltese theatre as an international visitor, this guide covers everything you need: schedules, venues, casts, ticket prices, and booking links. Pantos typically run from early December to early January, lasting 2-3 hours with an intermission, and are suitable for ages 3+. Tickets sell out fast—book early to secure your spot for these magical holiday events!

Why Attend a Christmas Panto in Malta?

Pantomimes (or “pantos”) in Malta blend British theatrical traditions with local Maltese humor, often incorporating current events, songs, and slapstick comedy. They're perfect for families, tourists, and theatre enthusiasts looking for affordable, joyful holiday experiences. With historic venues like Teatru Manoel and innovative twists like sensory shows, Malta's pantos offer something for everyone. If you're visiting Malta during Christmas, these shows provide a cultural immersion alongside festive lights, markets, and cuisine.



Dive deeper into each show with casts, directors, ticket prices, and tips for the best experience. These details help you choose based on language, location, or special features like accessibility.

SNOW WHITE (ENGLISH)

A fresh twist on the classic tale, packed with magic, laughter, and festive fun. Features stunning sets, fabulous costumes, and vibrant choreography. Key cast: Alan Montanaro (Dame), Melissa Mercieca, and more.

Venue: Teatru Salesjan, Sliema | **Dates & Times:** Dec 23 (20:00), 26-30 (15:00 & 20:00), Jan 2-4 (15:00 & 20:00), Jan 5 (20:00) | **Director:** Stephen Oliver | **Cast:** Alan Montanaro (Dame), Melissa Mercieca, Sarah Jane Zrinzo, Noel Zarb, Karl Bartolo, and more | **Ticket Prices:** €25-€37.50 (adults), €20.50-€30.50



ALI BABA – THE PANTO (ENGLISH)

An adventure where Ali outsmarts the Forty Thieves, with toe-tapping music, comedy, and a tap-dancing camel. Directed by Anthony Bezzina. Key cast: Malcolm Galea, Joseph Zammit, Katherine Brown.

Venue: Teatru Manoel, Valletta | **Dates & Times:** Dec 21-23, 26-30 (15:00 & 20:00), Jan 2-5 (15:00 & 20:00) | **Director:** Anthony Bezzina | **Cast:** Malcolm Galea, Joseph Zammit,

Katherine Brown, Gianluca Mifsud, Martina Cuschieri, Chrissy Despott, Max Dingli, Hannah Gatt, David Ellul | **Ticket Prices:** Vary; 10% early bird discount available.

**ALICE, F'DAL-PAJJIŻ TAL-MERAVILJI (MALTESE)**

The Maltese pantomime tradition continues with this Wonderland adventure at the MCC (moved from Floriana). Special pricing for kids and seniors. Directed by Bryan Muscat, with Rodney Camilleri Gauci and more.

Venue: MCC, Valletta | **Dates & Times:** Dec 26-29 (14:30, 16:00, 19:30), Jan 3 (times vary) | **Director:** Bryan Muscat | **Cast:** Rodney Camilleri Gauci and others | **Ticket Prices:** €25-€45 (adults), €20-€35 (children under 12), €25-€40 (seniors 60+) +

ROBIN HOOD AND THE BABES IN THE WOOD (ENGLISH)

A rock 'n' roll panto full of twists, laughs, and epic riffs. Actor-musicians encourage audience participation. Key cast: Edward Mercieca (Dame).

Venue: Teatru Astra, Gozo | **Dates & Times:** Dec 26 (15:30), 27 (18:30), 28 (15:30), 29 (18:30), 30 (15:30) | **Cast:** Edward Mercieca (Dame) and actor-musicians | **Ticket Prices:** Early bird available until Oct 31;

IČ-ČKEJKNA SIRENA U T-TAĦWID TA' TAHT IL-BAĦAR (MALTESE)

A Maltese underwater adventure pantomime, bringing festive chaos and fun to the stage.

Venue: Teatru Dun Mikiel Xerri, Haz-Zebbug | **Dates & Times:** Dec 5-7 (~4:30 PM & 7:00 PM)

IS-SEBĴĦA U L-ĠURDIEN (MALTESE)

A charming Maltese take on beauty and mischief, perfect for family holiday entertainment.

Venue: Theatre St. Vincent De Paul, Hal-Luqa

| **Dates & Times:** Dec 12-14 (~10:00 AM, 5:00 PM, 7:00 PM)

**TINGIŻA PREĊIŻA (MALTESE)**

A magical Maltese story with precision and whimsy, scripted by Trevor Zahra and directed by Eunice Saliba Dimech.

Venue: Teatru Skola Sekondarja Zejtun | **Dates & Times:** Dec 20-21 (~6:00 PM)

Korps Brajd – Pantomima (Maltese)

A lively Maltese pantomime showcasing community talent and festive joy. **Venue:** Teatru San Alwigi, Birkirkara | **Dates & Times:** Dec 30 (18:00), Jan 2-4

(18:00) |



The Ministry for Environment, Energy, and Public Cleanliness is pleased to announce the fifth edition of the "Christmas in the Park" event. Building on the great success of previous years, this year's edition promises to be even more enchanting and environmentally conscious! Situated in the heart of Salina Park, in St Paul's Bay, the village will be open from the 12th to the 21st of December, 2025. It will provide a Christmas experience like no other, fun and entertainment for all

ages.

One of the most captivating features of the Christmas in the Park is the Illuminated Pathway, a path showcasing endangered species, each decorated with vibrant.

Experience festive live music performances that will fill the atmosphere with holiday cheer, where families can create lasting memories. Visitors will also be treated by a diverse range of food stalls, including those offering traditional Maltese and Christmas delicacies.

Various exciting activities for our young visitors including sustainable crafts, face painting, puppet shows and train rides, ensure that endless fun-filled adventures await children at Salina Park.

When visiting the village, make sure to take a stroll through artisanal craft stalls and discover unique, handcrafted ornaments for the perfect holiday gifts.

Several entities within the Ministry will be present throughout the event providing attendees with information related to sustainable and environmentally conscious lifestyle.

Christmas in the Park is more than a seasonal celebration, it's an event that blends the magic of Christmas with a commitment to sustainability for a greener future.



PORT REGION WILL BE THE MALTESE REGION OF CULTURE FOR 2026



Monday, 24 November 2025, 17:41
Last update: about 7 hours ago

The Port Region will be Malta's Region of Culture for 2026, the Parliamentary Secretary for Local Government, Alison Zerafa Civelli, announced.

The Port Region is made up of the following localities: The Three Cities, Kalkara, Xgħajra, Żabbar,

Fgura, Paola, Tarxien, Floriana, and Valletta.

Zerafa Civelli made this announcement beside the President of the Port Region Council, Paul Farrugia, the President of the Local Councils' Association, Mario Fava, and the Director General of the Local Government Division, Emile Vassallo.

It was explained that the aim of having a Region of Culture is to promote the roots of Malta's traditions and culture. This initiative was launched in 2022, meaning that this cycle has reached its fourth year. This year's Region of Culture is the Region of Gozo.

Zerafa Civelli said that the Port Region has one of the most beautiful ports in the world, archaeological remains that go back before Christ, ramparts and fortifications that have survived centuries and many wars, as well as culturally rich churches, museums, auberges and palaces that go back hundreds of years.

She observed that the Port Region is made up of 11 localities, some of which are small compared to others, though despite that, all localities within this region are all rich in their own different ways. The Parliamentary Secretary stated that unlike just a few years ago, "tourist activity in the localities of this region has increased significantly," partially thanks to commitment of the respective local councils. She added that this presents them with an opportunity to beautify their localities to ensure that their identities are not lost.

The junior minister said that with this announcement, the number of activities hosted by these respective local councils over the coming year shall be increasing. Zerafa Civelli concluded by thanking the Gozo Region, which has managed to display the island's religious activities, folklore, and Gozitan gastronomy in its successful programme.

The Director General of the Local Government Division, Emile Vassallo, said that being named as the Region of Culture for 2026 is an opportunity for the localities within the Port Region to honour the roots and traditions that have shaped them, while involving their own communities to participate in this celebration.

Port Region Council President Paul Farrugia announced that the motto for the next year's Region of Culture is, "Where history and waves guide us." He said that this presents an opportunity for all Port councils to become more resilient while raising the value of their localities amongst Maltese and tourists alike.

A JOURNEY BACK IN TIME

A RARE LOOK INSIDE MALTA'S OLD WINDMILLS

Malta once had the highest density of windmills anywhere in the world - one in every 5km - that's even more than Holland!

Think of windmills and you immediately think of Holland. But there was a time when Malta had more windmills per capita than the Netherlands, with each one visible from the other. Machinery has now made the miller's manual labour obsolete, but the mills remain as a testament to what was once the lifeline of the country.

You may be wondering where all the mills have gone. They're still there, some of them, but don't go looking for any sails. Most of the old mills have now been converted into private residences, and the only remaining feature of their past lives is the distinctive square shape. Many have lost their round tower, which would have supported the mast, and wings, along with which we've lost a whole raft of mill-specific vocabulary.

However, there are two windmills which are still in full sail and are open to the public, thus keeping the miller's tradition alive.

Xarolla windmill

[Xarolla windmill](#) in Zurrieq is one of four that used to work in this small village on Malta's south western coast. It was first constructed in 1724 during the reign of Grandmaster Antonio Manoel de Vilhena, who commissioned five mills around the island. The majority of windmills were built by the Knights of St John between 1663 and 1773, but there is evidence that there was a windmill in Malta already back in 1530.

Every windmill was within sight of its neighbouring mills from the tower, so that the miller could see if others were working or not. This also made the mills' location critical as a means of communication or defence.

Once the government's monopoly on windmills ended in 1838, many took it upon themselves to build their own, but by 1900, most mills were already relics as steam driven mills took over. The Xarolla windmill was the last one still in use in Malta was still grinding grain up till 1940. The last miller there was Gian Battista Sammut, and today, the windmill is still fully functional today, almost 300 years after it was first built!

"The miller would blow on a conch shell in the morning to announce the start of production for the day, and he would blow once more in the afternoon to let the villagers know the flour was ready for collection," explains George, as we admire his grandfather's conch shell on display at the mill. His great-grandfather's conch will be used in an exhibition of traditional Maltese musical instruments to be held later this year.

The modest residential unit on the first floor of Xarolla was built 67 years after the ground floor. The kitchen displays a range of cooking stoves from the stone *fuklar*, which George's grandmother would use to fuel the stove which could fit only one pot. A cane cage hanging in the top corner of the kitchen was used to store and dry homemade cheeselets, a kind of primitive refrigerator of sorts. The miller's wife would keep her loom in one of the rooms to supplement the family income, especially when the weather was not favourable for the windmill to operate.

Adriana Bishop - George Sammut explains the various types of cooking stoves used over the years in the windmill

But the real star of the place is, of course, the mill mechanism, which still incorporates the original grinding stones and parts of the original wooden machinery. The steep climb up 50

circular steps to the top of the 15 metre high tower must have kept the miller quite fit! Deriving its name from *Ix-Xaghra L-gholja* in reference to its hilltop location, the Xarolla windmill was built on top of ancient catacombs and happens to be situated on the axis of one of the oldest roads known to Malta, linking Roman settlements in Zurrieq to the Northwest and South of the island.

Ta' Kola windmill

Also built during Grand Master de Vilhena's time, [Ta' Kola windmill](#) in Xaghra, Gozo is one of just a handful of windmills on the sister island, and the only one in Gozo left in functioning order. The name refers to the nickname of its last miller, Guzeppi Grech who was popularly known as *Zeppu ta' Kola* (Joseph, the son of Nikola). The mill houses the largest collection of milling tools, some of which were made by Zeppu himself.



Your Must-Visit Christmas Event: Villaġġ Tal-Milied Fil-Mosta

Mosta's beloved Christmas Village is back, and this year's Villaġġ tal-Milied promises an unforgettable weekend filled with festive cheer, community spirit and magical moments for all ages.

Taking place on Saturday 6th December from 10am to 10pm and Sunday 7th December from 10am to 6pm, the event will transform

the heart of Mosta into a warm and vibrant Christmas wonderland.

Visitors can stroll through a charming array of stands offering festive treats, mulled wine, imbuljuta, bake sales and Christmas games for charity. Families will also enjoy a host of lively attractions, including mascots, face painting, and hands-on activities run by local organisations, all contributing to the joyful atmosphere.

The entertainment line-up is packed with talented local performers.

Saturday's programme features the Little Isouards' Music Kids Club & live band musicians, the Shalom Choir, Marie Busuttil & Shailey Giusti, the Mosta Scouts Band, Andreana Debattista, Edel Pace and Jean Paul Galea.

On Sunday, the stage will welcome the Full Joy Group, Lara's Ballet Lady Immaculate School, and the Tikka Band. Adding extra excitement, Mosta's Got Talent will take place on Sunday between 11.45am and 3.15pm, showcasing some of the most promising performers in the community.

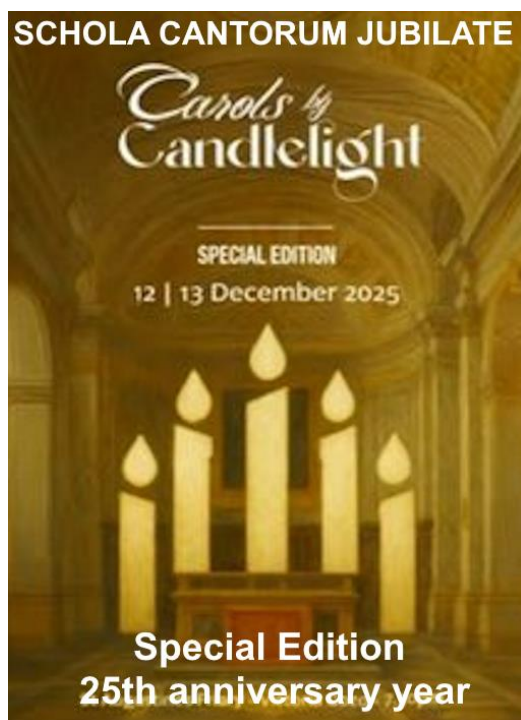
Among the event's highlights is the Live Crib, offering a beautiful and meaningful portrayal of the Nativity. Visitors can also enjoy Movie Nights fil-Mosta, with all donations from this initiative going directly to L-Istrina. A detailed schedule and booking form are available online for those wishing to reserve their spot. Several local groups, including the Mosta Youth Empowerment Centre, will also be hosting games and activities throughout the weekend, with proceeds in aid of L-Istrina.

For families, the enchanting Christmas Train Ride is not to be missed – a magical journey that promises to delight younger visitors and help create wonderful seasonal memories.

To make travelling easier, a Park & Ride service will be available from MCAST Mosta to Pjazza Rotunda, ensuring smooth and convenient access to the event.

Villaġġ tal-Milied fil-Mosta is proudly organised by the Mosta Local Council in collaboration with the Mosta Parish, with funding from the Division for Local Government and Visit Malta.

Join us for a weekend full of festive joy, community spirit, and Christmas magic. This is the perfect way to welcome the season – and everyone is invited.



Carols by Candlelight – special edition concludes SCJ’s 25th anniversary year

To mark the end its 25th anniversary year which was filled with celebrations, Schola Cantorum Jubilate (SCJ) said that it is proud to present Carols by Candlelight – Special Edition, a cherished event returning in all its festive splendour.

For a sneak preview of what to look forward to, [please click here](#). This special event will be held on Friday, the 12th and Saturday, the 13th of December.

Held fifteen times in past years, Carols by Candlelight has long been a highlight of the Christmas season for music and Christmas enthusiasts. The event has earned international recognition when in 2010, The Guardian listed it among the top ten Christmas events in Europe.

As in previous editions, the evening will begin with a concert at St Augustine’s Church in Victoria, followed by a dinner in the friary’s cloister. Guests will be treated to a magical atmosphere filled with enchanting carols, evocative literature and beautiful lighting effects, leading into an exquisite dining experience in the historic cloister, specially decorated for the occasion.

The concert repertoire will include classical and lesser-known Christmas carols, featuring works by Tallis, Adam, Gruber, Berlioz, Labaky, Rutter and arrangements by Willcocks and the choir’s resident composer Paul Portelli, along with some delightful surprises that add the exclusive signature of SCJ. The concert will be under the direction of Marouska Attard.

Following the concert, guests will enjoy a banquet-style dinner prepared by Ogygia Caterers by Vini e Capricci. The choir said that Chef Luke promises a culinary experience rich in festive flavours and crafted with care to complement the evening’s ambiance.

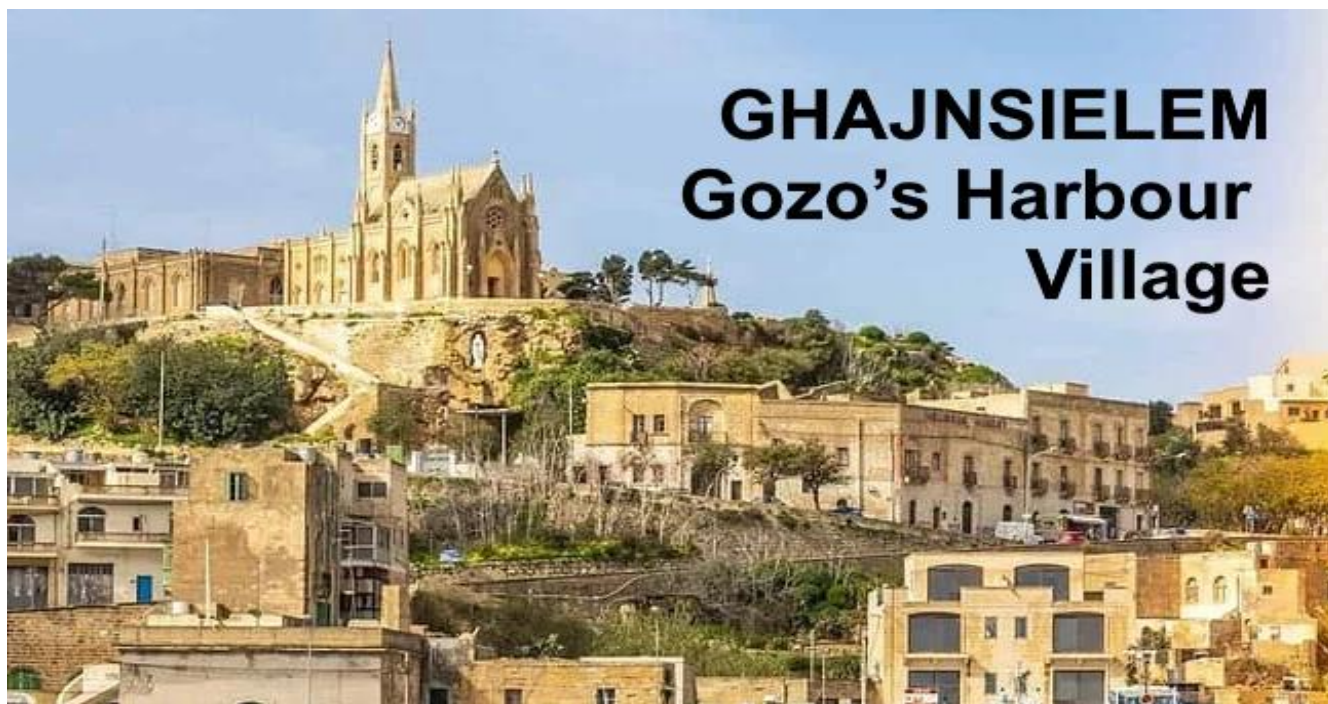
Entrance is by ticket only, available through [ShowsHappening.com](https://www.shows happening.com). Seating is limited, so early booking is highly recommended.

For more information: visit scjchoir.com, email: info@scjchoir.com or call +356 7945 0950.

Join Schola Cantorum Jubilate for Carols by Candlelight – Special Edition for an exclusive night to remember and a celebration of music, tradition and Christmas spirit.

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**THIS SPACE
COULD BE
YOURS
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YOUR STORY,
POEM, ESSAY
OR
ARTICLE
BE PART OF
OUR HISTORY**



Visitors to the island of GOZO set foot at Mgarr Harbour, the lively gateway that forms part of the village of Ghajnsielem. The harbour's bustling scene blends seamlessly with the village's serene charm, a harmony reflected in its name, which means 'peaceful spring'.

For many, Ghajnsielem is simply the place they pass through on their way to the ferry. Yet those who take the time to explore soon discover that this southeastern village is much more than a crossing point; it is indeed a destination in its own right, rich in beauty, history, and authentic Gozitan life.

As a harbour village, Ghajnsielem has a strong maritime tradition, and typically, families were linked to port activities. Today, the harbour is a busy ferry terminal with a yacht marina and is also a favourite place for dining out, especially along the old harbour jetty. The harbour is flanked on the left by Fort Chambray, originally intended as a fortified city by the Knights of St. John, which today has evolved into a luxurious holiday neighbourhood.

Right in the middle of the village stands the parish church with its soaring and elegant spires and detailed stonework, rising upwards like a serene hymn paying homage to Our Lady of Loreto, the patron saint of Ghajnsielem. Construction of this Neo-Gothic church began in the early 20th century. The project was fraught with many disruptions, including World War II and other dramas, such as the builder falling from the loft. Eventually, it was finished and consecrated in 1989. Visible across the Gozitan horizon, the church is a true landmark at all hours of the day, but especially at night when it glows with spectacular lighting. One of the iconic features of the church is the bell tower. The interior is an ode to the finest of neo-Gothic styles. It is a feast for those who seek notable artworks and statues. Treasures include the Statue of the Virgin Mary of Sorrows, the Crowning of Christ with Thorn, the Virgin Mary of the Rosary, the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Angels, and the Black Madonna. To these, one must add the high altar in marble, the marble pavement, the Via Crucis, and the titular statue of the Virgin Mary, crowned and holding a sceptre, with angels bearing symbols of the Holy House of Loreto.

When August arrives, it's all about the village feast, and the heart of the community beats to the rhythm of festivity, in a feast widely acclaimed for its splendour, spirit and vivid expression of the village's exuberant devotion and joy. One of the feast's most distinctive traditions is the *Balzunetta* march, one of the village's quarters, where the entire neighbourhood dresses in matching patterned fabric chosen for that year. Another much-loved highlight of the feast sees the

statue of our Lady dramatically lifted and gliding across the square on a zipline to the delight of the cheering spectators.

Beyond the parish church, Ghajnsielem is also home to other chapels and churches, the oldest of which is the [chapel of St. Cecilia](#) on the outskirts of the village. This medieval chapel dates to around 1540 and is close to the St. Cecilia Tower. Apart from the [older parish church](#), there is also the Church of St. Anthony connected to the Franciscan friars' convent and the postcard-style Lourdes chapel perched over the harbour. The feast of St. Anthony traditionally marks the opening of Gozo's summer festa season in June. While exploring the village, one can stumble across several religious niches dating from the late 19th to mid-20th century. These niches, funded by local families, testify to the village's deep devotion to the Virgin Mary and to various saints, including Our Lady of Mount Carmel, St. Anthony, St. Francis of Assisi, and St. Andrew.

There are various [scenic walking routes](#) around the village. One particularly panoramic one is the route that leads to Qala from Ghajnsielem along the coast. Other coastal stretches on the other side of the village include the zone of Xatt l-Ahmar, a quiet beach with rugged natural beauty, popular for diving the shipwrecked sites, peaceful swimming, and snorkelling.

Community spirit runs high, and beyond the annual village feast, the people of Ghajnsielem are well-known for other events such as the yearly [Bethlehem f'Ghajnsielem Nativity Village](#). Adding to the festive magic are other showstopper attractions, such as the 60-foot Christmas Tree made of thousands of recycled bottles, shimmering in the main square.

From a practical point of view, Ghajnsielem offers a lot to the traveller. Apart from being a charming point of arrival and departure, it has excellent bus connections to Victoria and other villages, and offers a wide variety of accommodation options (from 4-star hotels near the harbour to luxurious self-catering options). All in all, it is an excellent base for those who enjoy coastal walks, cultural immersion, and mingling in authentic Gozitan village life.



Just a friendly reminder to write a
Christmas message to be published in the
next Special Christmas Edition 2025



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WE THANK THE MULTICULTURAL AGED CARE (SA) FOR PRINTING THIS JOURNAL FOR
THE MEMBERS OF THE MALTESE SENIOR CITIZENS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA