

# MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Journal for Maltese Living Abroad

Editor: Frank L Scicluna OAM(Aust) MQR(Malta)

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Happy Christmas to all our Readers



Il-Milied Hieni lill-qarrejja taghna

## CHRISTMAS MESSAGES



**Robert Abela**  
Prime Minister



**Mgr. Charles Scicluna**  
Archbishop of Malta



**Alex Borg**  
Leader of the Opposition



**Ian Borg**  
Minister



**H.E. Matt Skelly**  
Australian H.C.



**Anglu Farrugia**  
Speaker



**Charles Gauci**  
Bishop of Darwin



**Somers Farkas**  
US Ambassador





## A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

**Frank Scicluna OAM**

It's been an amazing experience being the editor of this free, bilingual, and non-political journal. It's incredible to see how quickly it's spread worldwide! In just a few years, this Australian-based publication has become available in every state and territory here and also reaches Maltese communities globally – the Maltese Diaspora.

Since \*The Maltese Herald\* closed some years ago, this is now the only journal for Maltese living abroad in Australia and the world. Our journal has become the primary digital magazine for Maltese people living abroad, helping our communities stay connected to Malta's language, history, culture, and heritage, and also with each other.

We even print and distribute it to residents in various Aged Care Facilities, schools, and members of Maltese associations in Canada, Australia, and the USA. Our journal is also archived in museums, libraries, schools, and community centres for future generations, and shared on websites, Facebook pages, and LinkedIn.

I've made friendships with people like you, whom I may never meet in person, yet we're connected. As the Maltese Diaspora, we stand united, no matter where we are or who we are. So, thank you, dear reader! Thank you for taking the time to read and appreciate our journal.

We thank and appreciate the leaders of Malta showing interest and caring enough to send us such inspirational messages. Thank you for sharing your perspectives and feelings with us during this festive season. **I take this opportunity to everyone to wish a joyous and blessed Christmas and a wonderful and peaceful New Year 2026, your family and your loved ones. And remember Jesus is the reason for this season and remember - Jesus is the reason of this season.**

## HON DR IAN BORG – DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND PRESIDENT – COUNCIL FOR MALTESE LIVING ABROAD



We have reached the end of another year, and with humility we reflect on the challenges we have overcome together. This year reaffirmed the importance of unity, hope, and care for every member of the Maltese family. I share this message with you, the Maltese diaspora, so that you may continue to uphold and transmit the values that define us as Maltese wherever you may be found.

The Maltese family has long been known for resilience and a deep bond with Malta. Though spread across the four corners of the world, our community has preserved its identity at heart. To strengthen this connection, from January the Working Holiday for Youth of Maltese

Descent scheme will come into force, opening new opportunities for Maltese descendants to work, study, and rediscover their roots in their ancestors' land.

I extend sincere thanks to every Maltese individual, association, and organisation serving our communities overseas, whose dedication also enhances Malta's international standing. This year Malta contributed further by assuming, for the fourth time, the Presidency of the Council of Europe, advancing equality, solidarity, and respect for human rights. I convey this message of encouragement to all members of this global community and wish you and your families a joyful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

*Thanks Dr. Borg for sending this meaningful message to the Maltese Living Abroad.*

**MESSAGE BY PRIME MINISTER OF MALTA DR. ROBERT ABELA****TO THE READERS OF THE MALTESE JOURNAL**

Dear Maltese citizens,

As we come together to celebrate the joy of this Christmas season, I extend my warmest and most heartfelt greetings to you all, both as individuals and as Maltese communities living across the world. This time of year embodies unity and reflects the values that shape our identity. Though many miles may separate us, the spirit of Christmas draws us closer, reminding us of the profound ties that bind us as one Maltese family scattered across the globe. We look back on this past year as one in which we continued to drive forward meaningful reforms and strengthen our nation for the benefit of our people. Malta has remained at the forefront in

advocating for peace through our various contributions within the international community. Our efforts extended well beyond our six-month Presidency of the Council of Europe, reaching other shores where we championed dialogue as the true path to peace, particularly within our Mediterranean region, but also far beyond it.

Our commitment to global peace will remain steadfast. I am confident that Malta's voice will continue to be heard on vital issues: from promoting peace and mediation to strengthening diplomatic ties across continents. The identity of our nation is built on resilience, respect, and compassion, values that endure wherever Maltese people call home.

We take great pride in being Maltese, a pride that extends far beyond our shores. I am deeply moved by every citizen who continues to honour our traditions while living abroad.

To all Maltese communities living overseas, we express our sincere gratitude. Your dedication ensures that the Maltese identity continues to thrive. You serve as a bridge between generations and between nations, strengthening our diaspora and reaffirming the enduring bonds that define who we are.

Christmas is a time to reflect on these bonds. To reconnect with family and friends and to celebrate the values that unite us: love, respect, and solidarity. I wish each and every one of you a blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with prosperity, good health, and peace.

**CHARLES J SCICLUNA – THE ARCHBISHOP OF MALTA****To the readers of the Journal for Maltese Living abroad and all members of the Maltese Diaspora**

I would like to greet our friends, our brothers and sisters, migrants in Australia, at this season where the Lord became flesh and dwelt among us. May we grow to be close to him and to each other. May our distances become means of trying to build bridges and may we also show compassion to people in need. I would also like to greet our Australian brothers and sisters as they mourn the tragic events at Bondi Beach. May the Lord give comfort to those who grieve and feel the loss of their loved ones, and may the Lord grant harmony

and protection to all our friends in Australia and all over the world.



**HON. DR ALEX BORG = LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION – MALTA****TO THE READERS OF THE MALTESE JOURNAL**

Dear Maltese and Gozitans living abroad,

As we celebrate this festive season, I extend my warmest Christmas greetings to all of you who, although far from our shores, continue to hold Malta and Gozo close to your hearts. Christmas reminds us of unity, peace, and the value of family. Even if life has taken you to different parts of the world, your ties to our islands remain strong. Your contributions to the communities where you live and your enduring love for our country are a source of pride for us all.

In this spirit, I wish to express my deep appreciation for the way you keep our culture, identity, and traditions alive, wherever you may be. Your connection to Malta enriches both the places

you call home today and the nation you will always belong to. I wish you a blessed Christmas filled with health, hope, and joy. As the new year approaches, may it bring renewed opportunities and a continued strengthening of the bond between Malta and its diaspora. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**MARION ATKINSON (OF DOUBLET(T) AND INGUANEZ DESCENT – QUEENSLAND, AUSTR.**

Dear Frank and all family, I want to thank you most sincerely for all the wonderful editions of the Maltese E-Newsletter you have produced not over the last 12 months but for all the years you have been giving so much to so many through your newsletter. I have only been on your list for the last few years but I am so glad and privileged that I am receiving these newsletters. You deserve to be highly commended for all the hard work you do – for all the amazing topics you write about – for the colour and interesting stories – for connecting all of the Maltese people throughout many countries – not just here in Australia. How lucky we all are to receive these newsletters. I want to thank you so much for allowing me to be one of oh so many recipients of the newsletter. Here's to more of the same in 2026. Now, I would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year and best wishes for all that is good to come your and your family's way in 2026. Kind regards and sincere thanks,

**CHEV. JOE M ATTARD – RABAT – GOZO**

Minn qalbi nixtieqlek kemm lilek kif ukoll lis-sinjura Milied hieni u qaddis u sena ġdida kollha risq, saħħa u paċi. Nawguralek li tkompli tagħtina din inewsletter mimlija tagħrif, storja, folklor, sports u mitt haġa oħra li bla dubju jinteressaw lil dawk kollha li jhobbu l-Ilsien Malti. Il-letteratura Maltija hija għanja hafna u hafna huma dawk il-kitttieba li kontinwawwnt qed ikomplu jiktbu u jagħtuna poeżiji, essays, stejjer, drawwiet u materjal ieħor ta' interess. Jalla l-Mulej jissokta jzejnek bl-ghomor u s-saħħa biex tkompli żżomm l-apuntament tiegħek ma' tant qarreja mferrxa mal-globu li jieħdu gost jaqraw dak kollu li tipprovdilhom. Ad Multos Annos.



**ANGLU FARRUGIA SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE MALTA**

Christmas Message to the Maltese Community in Australia

Dear members of the Maltese community in Australia,

Dear families, elders, and young people who carry Malta in your hearts,

As the Holy Season of Christmas approaches, I extend to you and to your loved ones my heartfelt greetings from Malta — a land that, though distant in geography, remains deeply close to you in spirit, memory, and identity.

Christmas is a moment that invites us to pause. It invites reflection, not only celebration. In a world that moves too fast and speaks too loudly, this season gently calls us back to what truly matters: peace, love, compassion, and responsibility towards one another. Peace today is a word often spoken, yet rarely lived. It is not merely the absence of war or conflict. True peace is the courage to respect

human dignity, the willingness to listen rather than divide, and the commitment to build bridges where walls are easier to erect. Peace begins in our homes, in our communities, and in the way we choose to treat those who think differently from us.

At this time in history, when too many parts of our world are marked by violence, displacement, and fear, peace demands more than hope — it requires conscience. It requires us to remember that silence in the face of suffering is never neutral. It asks us to remain human, even when humanity is tested.

Love, too, is not an abstract idea. Love is action. It is patience, understanding, and sacrifice. It is most needed where it is least visible: among the forgotten, the lonely, the poor, the elderly, the displaced, and those whose pain remains unseen. Love is not confined to sentiment; it is expressed through care, solidarity, and the quiet decision to stand by one another.

The celebration of the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ reminds us precisely of this truth. Christ was born not in comfort, but in humility. Not amid power, but among the vulnerable. His birth is a message that greatness lies in service, that strength is found in compassion, and that hope is born even in the darkest of circumstances.

If Christmas means anything for us today, it is this: that faith must translate into kindness, belief into responsibility, and tradition into living values. It is a call to remember those who cannot celebrate, those who suffer in silence, those whose Christmas will be marked by loss, hunger, fear, or exile. Our joy gains meaning only when it is shared, and our celebration becomes complete only when it includes compassion.

To the Maltese community in Australia, I wish to express my deep appreciation for the way you have preserved your heritage while contributing with integrity and generosity to the society that welcomed you. You have carried with you not only customs and language, but values — of family, hard work, and solidarity — that continue to honour Malta abroad. May this Christmas strengthen the bonds within your families, renew your faith in one another, and reaffirm your commitment to peace and understanding in your communities. May the message of Christmas — simple yet profound — guide us towards a more just, compassionate, and humane world.

I wish you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas, and a New Year guided by hope, wisdom, and unity.

With sincere regards,



## HIS EXCELLENCY MATT SKELLY – AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER



I would like to extend my warmest regards to all of the readers of the *Journal* during this Christmas season. I write this message at a sombre time as Australians, united against hate and violence, recover from the horrific 14 December act of antisemitic terrorism at Bondi Beach. Like all Australians, my thoughts are with the families and friends of those that tragically lost their lives and with those who were injured during this incident, and all of the Australian Jewish community.

This marks a sad end to a busy year. The Australian High Commission in Malta has continued to work with Maltese partners, colleagues and friends throughout 2025 to explore and implement new ways of deepening our bilateral relationship and working together on global issues – always made easier by the close ties between our two countries. This year we have been able to collaborate

and share experience in areas as diverse as:

- Skills governance: with our Deputy Skills Commissioner, Megan Lilly, presenting to Malta's 2025 Skillscape conference on how Australia's development of a new Skills Taxonomy responded to global economic challenges;
- Climate change: sharing Australian experience on the impact of climate change on agriculture and marine ecosystems; and
- Support for international law and multilateralism: including through close involvement with the Malta-based International Institute for Justice and Rule of Law. The IJJ aims to support criminal justice practitioners to address terrorism and related transnational criminal activities within a rule of law framework, with December's attack in Sydney sadly demonstrating the ongoing value in such international collaboration.

As the year draws to a close with this traditional season of generosity and kindness, I hope that all the readers of the *Journal for Maltese Living Abroad* have a peaceful and safe Christmas. L-Isbaħ Xewqat.



**CHARLES GAUCI – BISHOP OF DARWIN – NORTHERN TERRITORY, AUSTRALIA***To the readers of the Maltese Journal*

At Christmas we celebrate the incredible Love of God . God creator of all that there is became truly one of us in the man we know as Jesus . In Jesus the creator becomes one in an intimate bond of love with creation.

At Christmas we celebrate that Jesus is truly God as well as being truly one of us .

Baby Jesus grew up to be the man Jesus who thought us how we can best be who we are meant to be. Being Christian , as the followers of Jesus are called, is about being truly human , truly our true self , our most authentic self . Indeed it is so suitable , so truly appropriate to celebrate at Christmas these realities . Family and other gatherings are part of so many cultures including our Maltese culture. I have fond childhood memories of my extended family gathering on Christmas Day , New Year's

Day and on the feast of the Epiphany. These were times of feasting and enjoying each other's company. However Christmas mass and indeed New Year's mass as well on the epiphany were seen as essential and integral to the whole experience.

In Malta and Gozo so many windows displayed cribs, statues of baby Jesus as well as Christmas trees ! You were left with no doubt as to why we were celebrating.

Our incredible union with God in Jesus is still and always will be at the heart of Christmas !

**H.E. SOMERS FARKAS - EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES IN MALTA**

During this blessed Christmas season, I extend my warmest wishes to you readers of the Maltese journal, and your loved ones. Christmas invites us to more fully reflect on the miracle at its heart: the birth of Christ, whose message of hope, redemption, and love has guided generations in both the United States and Malta.

President Trump has consistently emphasized the central role that faith and respect for religious traditions - all religious traditions - have in American identity. "To bigotry no sanction", the opening phrase from George Washington's 1790 letter to the Hebrew Congregation in Newport, Rhode Island, is a perspective which resonates strongly with our President and also with Malta's deep-rooted Catholic heritage, highlighting the shared commitment both societies place on religious freedom and values.

No matter where you are, or which Faith you observe, the spirit of this important archipelago in the Mediterranean, remains alive in your hearts and in the traditions you keep. Your contributions enrich the communities in which you live and continue to strengthen essential bonds between our nations.

I know you will join me in reminding others the intrinsic values that unite us - faith, family, service, and compassion—and continue to support one another across continents. May the joy of Christ's birth bring you peace, comfort, and renewed hope this Christmas. On behalf of the U.S. Embassy and our entire diplomatic team, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a joyful New Year.

GOD Bless President Donald J. Trump, the United States of America and the Republic of Malta. IL-MILIED IT-TAJJEB U S-SENA T-TAJBA!



A MESSAGE FROM THE

## Premier and Minister for Multicultural Affairs



### TO THE MALTESE COMMUNITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

We extend our warmest wishes to you and your community for a safe, joyful and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

This festive season invites us to pause, reflect, and extend goodwill to all people. It's also a time to gather with family, friends, and neighbours to celebrate, share joy and create lasting memories.

Across our vibrant and multicultural state, the spirit of Christmas reminds us of what truly brings us together: compassion, warmth, and the joy of giving and supporting one another. Whether you celebrate Christmas, observe another faith tradition, or simply enjoy traditions of the festive season, this is a time to be thankful for the strength we draw from our diversity. As we welcome the New Year and look to the future, let us continue to build a state where everyone belongs, where respect, understanding, and opportunity are shared by all. We wish you, your family and community a Merry Christmas and a happy, peaceful, and prosperous 2026.

Yours sincerely

**Peter Malinauskas**  
Premier of South Australia

**Zoe Bettison**  
Minister for Multicultural Affairs

**CHEV. CHARLES FIGALLO OAM OSJ**



To the Maltese Community, I send my very best Christmas wishes to each one of you.

May this festive season be filled with joy and quality time with your families, whether you are celebrating in Australia or internationally.

Thank you for your continued support of our Maltese community.

Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2026

[www.novafastholdings.com/](http://www.novafastholdings.com/)

### CHARLIE MIFSUD – ADLEAIDE – SECRETARY - MALTA SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION



It is my pleasure to send you and the readers of this beautiful journal my best wishes for the coming Christmas Season and for a brighter New Year 2026.

I always look forward to receiving the Maltese e-Newsletter as I find it so informative and keeps us connected to Malta, other Maltese and with the culture and history of our homeland.



**MARY VELLA GOMEZ – PRESIDENT MALTESE AMERICAN SOCIAL CLUB OF SAN FRANCISCO**

To Frank Scicluna, Editor and readers of the Maltese Journal  
On behalf of the Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco, I wish you a bright and joyful Christmas surrounded by family, friends, and holiday cheer. May you celebrate this Christmas season with Christ's blessings in your homes. Wishing you good health, happiness, much-needed peace, and His grace throughout 2026.

**MALTESE WELFARE (NSW) INC. – LAWRENCE GATT - PRESIDENT**

Established 1977 PO Box 5332, Greystanes LPO, NSW 2145



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Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/www.maltesewelfare.com.au>

On behalf of the Committee and Members of the Maltese Welfare (NSW) Inc I wish you all a Holy, Joyous Christmas and a Prosperous, and healthy, New Year 2026. Our association looks forward to next year to continue our work and serve our community. Stay safe and enjoy your family and friends.

**GEORGINA AND JOE CHETCUTI – ADELAIDE AUSTRALIA**

We extend our heartfelt wishes to you and your family for a Blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year. Please continue your excellent work with the Maltese Journal for Maltese Living Abroad. We consistently find pleasure in reading it, particularly when you feature articles and photographs of Saint Paul's Bay, my birthplace, which evoke many cherished memories. We eagerly anticipate seeing you

and Josephine in the upcoming New Year 2026.

**NINA ABELA – PRESIDENT -THE MALTESE GUILD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.**

Dear Members of the Maltese Community,

As we approach this joyful and sacred season, the Maltese Guild of South Australia extends heartfelt greetings to you and your loved ones. Christmas invites us to pause, give thanks, and celebrate what truly matters — faith, family, friendship, and the bonds that unite us as a proud and caring community. It is a time to reflect on our blessings, to share kindness, and to open our hearts to others in the true spirit of

Maltese hospitality. Throughout the year, our community has once again shown great strength, compassion, and resilience. Whether gathering to share a traditional meal, celebrating Mass, or lending a helping hand to those in need, we continue to embody the values that have long defined our Maltese heritage — love, faith, and unity/As we look ahead to a new year, let us carry these values forward with renewed hope and purpose. May we continue to preserve and share our rich culture and traditions, ensuring that the Maltese spirit remains alive and strong for generations to come. May the beauty of this holy season fill your hearts with peace, your homes with laughter, and your days with joy. On behalf of the Maltese Guild of South Australia, we wish you all a Merry Christmas (Il-Milied it-Tajjeb) and a Happy New Year (Is-Sena t-Tajba). With warm regards and blessings.



# CONGRATULATIONS

## *Certificate of Recognition*

*presented to*

## Maltese Journal for Maltese Living Abroad

(Established in 2013) for its

## 580<sup>th</sup> Edition in 2025

Heartfelt Congratulations to the Founder and Editor Mr Frank L Scicluna OAM, volunteers and community members who have contributed to the Maltese Journal for Maltese Living Abroad on reaching the milestone 580th Edition of the Journal. Thank you for your wonderful efforts promoting the history and culture of Malta in South Australia.

*Thank You for Building a Better Community and  
Strengthening Multicultural South Australia!*

  
**The Honourable Jing Lee MLC**

Member of the Legislative Council  
Leader of Jing Lee - Better Community



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### LILIAN AND JOE CAMILLERI – ADELAIDE AUSTRALIA

We wish you and the readers of the Maltese Journal a holy and prosperous Christmas and prosperous New Year 2026. Thank you for your informative and excellent Newsletter.



### A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF NSW

On behalf of the Maltese Community Council of NSW (MCC), the Executive Committee extends heartfelt wishes to our beloved Maltese community this festive season. Christmas is a time to gather with loved ones, reflect on our blessings, and to celebrate traditions that unite us. At the same time, we also pause to remember with affection those dear members of our community whom we have lost during this past year. Their memory lives on in

our hearts and in those traditions they helped to nurture. May the joy of Christmas bring peace, happiness, and blessings to you and your families, and may the New Year ahead be filled with prosperity and joy.

We thank you for your continued support of MCC events and those of our Maltese associations. Your commitment to keeping our Maltese culture and heritage alive here in Australia is very much appreciated. **Miriam Friggieri - President**

### NANCY SERG NEE BORG OAM - SYDNEY

Frank - Grazzi u prosiť hafna bl'informazzjoni li tippublika fil 'The Maltese Journal' minn South Australia. Dejjem niehu gost naqra kull pagna. Prosiť hafna Frank. Nixtieq inselli ghalik hafna u ghal qarrejja kollha ta' dan il-gurnal. IL-MILIED IT-TAJJEB 2025

## ALL WE WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS LOVE AND PEACE WORLDWIDE AND STOP THE WARS



### LOUIS PARNIS – PRESIDENT – GEORGE CROSS FALCONS COMMUNITY CENTRE - CRINGILA NSW

On behalf of the Community in the Illawarra, we would like to thank Frank Scicluna for producing the weekly Journal full of information and stories of interest. We wish Frank and all the readers a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year

### HARRY AND MARY BUGEJA – ADELAIDE – AUSTRALIA



Dear Frank and Josie and family, May the sweet magic of Christmas not only fill your heart and soul but also spreads to your dears Wishing you a holy Christmas filled with love and joy and may the new year be prosperous and blessed with good health

THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER YEAR OF HARD WORK AND DEDICATION

**JOHN CALLEJA JP / REGIONAL COMMITTEE CMLA - ADELAIDE**

Merry Christmas to you, Josie, Family and to all the Maltese e-newsletter readers. Grace and I, wish you good health and may God continue to give you strength and continue your great work into 2026.

Your hard work continuous to bring joy and smiles when I visit the Maltese Seniors and Guild in SA – copies of the latest e-newsletter is always made available and much appreciated

For me as well as many e-newsletter readers, your input provides not just news across Malta and Maltese Living Abroad – it provides us all education, refresh our Maltese history /culture and more. The ANZAC sports once it was published back in 2018, many of your journal readers continue to send me private emails and their connections to Malta during WWI. I am pleased with the support of your journal , the Malta ANZACs sports will take place annually in Malta during April and you would be proud to know your e-newsletter past editions has become a tool for education to my travellers and sporting groups that come to Malta. Amazingly, I now have bookings from different sporting codes with Australia and NZ: Rowing, Soccer, AFL, AFLW all booked through to 2028 to come to Malta and others such as Cricket, Cycling have also expressed interest to be part of future ANZAC sports in Malta – recognition of Malta's contribution during WWI. A great opportunity for any sponsors who wish to come on board and be part of future ANZAC sports. [callejajohn@tpg.com.au](mailto:callejajohn@tpg.com.au) /[malta.anzacs@gmail.com](mailto:malta.anzacs@gmail.com)

**JOHN MANGION – TREASURER - MALTESE SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION -ADELAIDE**

I am always thrilled to receive the Maltese Journal and also collecting a printed copy of the newsletter every Friday at the Maltese Senior Citizens Luncheon, Kilburn. The journal is printed by Multicultural Aged Care (SA) and distributed free of charge to the members. I collect all the editions and so far I have enough journal to keep me going and read them at my leisure whenever I have time. They should be collated in a book for future generations. I would like to thank Frank Scicluna, the auditor and trustee of our association, for supporting the association and for his assistance and advice. On behalf of my dear wife,

Doris, and the Maltese Senior Citizens Association of SA say thank you and wish you and all the readers of this beautiful magazine a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2026.

**MARY J ROBINSON – USA**

Hello Frank Pray you and your family are well. I have been thinking of sending you a message of thanks for a long time. I enjoy reading the Maltese Journal, which has interesting and informative article. Good journals should be shared! So i tell my friends about it.! Your dedication is much appreciated. Wishing you and your family a Holy Christmas and a Blessed New Year

**JOHN AND MARY DEBONO – CANADA**

Christmas is a magical time. It brings memories of family gatherings and wonderful traditions that have been passed down through the generations. Christmas carols, gift exchanges and family feasts are just some of the enduring traditions that make the season one of the world's favourite celebrations.

Christmas means something different to every person and family. And whilst all those traditions are delightful and evoke great enjoyment, the true meaning of Christmas will not be found under a Christmas tree.

My Christmas wish for each of you is the precious love of your family, the bond of true friendship and the hope for a brighter future. Let the Christ child enter your hearts and find



the true meaning behind this special time. On behalf of my husband and myself, I wish you a blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous new year to all the readers of the Maltese journal.

**PROF STEPHEN GATT – NSW AUSTRALIA**

My wife and I extend our best wishes for a happy Christmas to the Editor and readers of the Maltese Journal p the Journal for Maltese Living Abroad

**From the President and Committee of MCCNSW**

**GEORGE STAGNO NAVARRA – MALTA**

Thanks again for the latest issue of newsletter that sees its twelfth year from first publication.

I am truly happy for you, knowing that over 12000 copies are distributed and read every

time that a new issue is dished out. I happen to be one of the lucky recipients and

I always thank you for adding my name to your mailing list. My I take this

opportunity to thank you for your kind Christmas Greetings and reciprocate to you

and all our family, same thoughts and wishes to the forthcoming festive season.

**ALEX ZAHRA SYDNEY AUSTRALIA**

Dear Frank and all your crew,

Thanks so much for your above and beyond efforts to keep us all informed and entertained by your exceptional Maltese Journal!!!! Truly it is clear how much work is involved, by the content and variety of your articles and the speed at which they continue to be sent out.

Congratulations and blessings to you all for your dedication and commitment in everything that you do. With every best wish for Christmas and may your New Year be Happy and Bright!

Kind regards.

**DORIS SAMMUT**

Dear Frank, Thank you for the beautiful magazine which is full of interesting information. My kids and I wrote an article about their father who retired after 56 years of practice as a medical doctor. There is a pdf and word version attached. If you think it's of interest we would like to publish it in the Maltese journal. Wishing you a merry Christmas and all the best for the new year. **Regards**

**TONY PACE-FERAUD SECRETARY MALTESE CULTURAL ASSOCIATION (NSW)**

Hello Frank, On behalf of the committee of the Maltese Cultural Association of

**THE MALTESE CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF NSW** NSW, I thank you for the great service you provide to the Maltese diaspora by the regular publication of the Maltese Journal. We wish you and the world wide readers of your journal a Merry Christmas and a joyous and healthy new year filled with peace and prosperity. Kind regards,

**JIM BORG – NSW AUSTRALIA**

My family would like to wish all Readers and Maltese all **over** the World a Holy and Happy Christmas and All the Best for 2026 ! We also thank you for your support throughout the year.

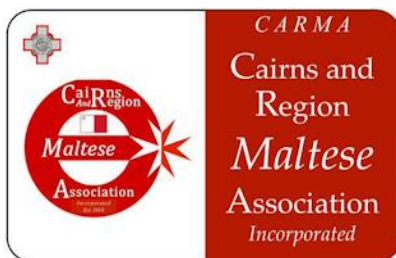
**DANIEL MALLIA – GREYSTANES NSW**

First of all thank you for the huge effort that you do put into this lovely journal. I do enjoy reading it and so do my mates to whom I do forward it to.

Frank, I don't know if you have heard but one of the most hard working persons amongst the Maltese community here has passed away. Mark Caruana has really integrated with emigrants here and will be greatly missed. We use to work together at the Evans Laboratory down in Valletta back in the late sixties / early seventies before we met here in Australia. Mark has really worked hard here helping emigrants of any nationality especially Maltese settle down. Let us keep his memory in our hearts. Regards and best wishes for Christmas

**MARYANN BELLI**

Min qalbi nawguralek Milied Qaddis u sena ohra ta gid li zgur qed taghmel b'din il gazzetta tant fiha taghlim ghal ghaqda bejn il Maltin huma fejn huma. God bless you

**CAIRNS AND REGION MALTESE ASSOCIATION (CARMA)**

The Committee and members of the The Cairns and Region Maltese Association (CARMA) wish you all a very joyous and Holy Festive Season. Happy Christmas to all. CARMA (Cairns and Region Maltese Association Incorporated) was established in February 2018 to enable gatherings where Maltese culture is shared and celebrated

**BETTINA AND CHRISTIAN LAUNER - GERMANY**

The Maltese German Association wish all readers of the Journal for Maltese Living Abroad a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and brighter New Year. We also thank the Editor Frank Scicluna and team for supporting us and othet Maltese communities globally.

**CHEV. JOE BAJADA KHS – GOZO, MALTA**

To you, Editor Frank L. Scicluna, and to all the readers and followers of this Maltese e-newsletter,



As we celebrate the birth of Jesus and look forward to the coming New Year, may your hearts be filled with hope, peace, and joy. May your Christmas be enriched with magical moments, and may the New Year ahead open the door to endless possibilities.

As you gather around the table of love and share the feast of togetherness, may your Christmas be a banquet of heart-warming moments. May God shower His choicest blessings upon you and your



families during this holy season. As we embrace the festive season and step into the New Year, may you be blessed with joy, good health, and success in all areas of your lives. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with blessings, prosperity, and abundance. May you be surrounded by love and warmth during this special time, and may you continue to shine with the joy of blessings and love.

#### MARTHESE KEHOE, SECRETARY - MALTESE QUEEN OF VICTORIES BAND OF SA INC



"Il-kumitat eżekuttiv tal-Banda Queen of Victories tas-South Australia, nixtiequ nibdew dan il-messagg billi niringrazzjaw lill bandisti tal-banda tas-sagrificji kbar li jghamlu matul is-sena kollha sabiex jattendu l-kuncerti kull nhar ta' Erbgħa u l-programmi li l-banda tigi mistiedna fihom sabiex ikompli jirraprezentaw l-banda u l-kommunita Maltija tas-South Australia.

Għan nom tal-President u kumitat eżekuttiv tal-Queen of Victories Band tas-South Australia nibghatu x-xewqat sbieħ tagħna għal Milied Hieni u s-Sena Gdida mimlija risq u barka lill membri kollha, kumitat, bandisti u l-familji tagħkom. Niehdu wkoll din l-opportunita u niringrazzjaw lilek Frank u nixtiequlek kull saħħa u prosi mill kbir sabiex tkompli tipproduċja din in-Newsletter tant popolari, mixtieqa u mistenija għal gid tal-Kommunita Maltija. Lilek, martek Josephine u l-familja tiegħek, lis-Socjetajiet Maltin u lill Kommunita Maltija imxerda madwar l-Awstralja kif ukoll lill hutna Maltin u Għawdxin kollha nixtiequlek l-isbah xewqat u paci għal Milied u s-Sena l-Gdida mimlija risq, hena u kutentizza. Grazie Yours sincerely.

#### BERNADETTE BUHAGIAR – PRESIDENT – ST CATHERINE SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA



The President and Committee of Saint Catherine Society would like to send a Merry and Holy Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year 2026 to all the members, helpers and their families. Also to you Frank and your wife Josie and family.

#### BERNADETTE BUHAGIAR AND RON BORG – MALTESE PROGRAM ON EBI 103.1 FM



Bernadette and Ron from the Maltese Community Radio would like to give a Happy and Holy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year 2026 to all the listeners and their families. Also to you Frank and your wife Josie and family. You may listen to the Maltese Program on Saturday afternoon at 5.00 pm and Sunday morning at 7.00 am

#### MICHELLE OLLIFFE

Dear Frank, We wish to send you, your family, staff and all the readers of the "Maltese Journal" the Very Best Wishes for A Happy and Holy Christmas and the coming New Year 2026. May Blessings and Health be upon us all. **Thank you for your publication, it is most valuable to us migrants and families.** Kindest regards,

#### CHARLES AND VIVIAN BARTOLO – MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA

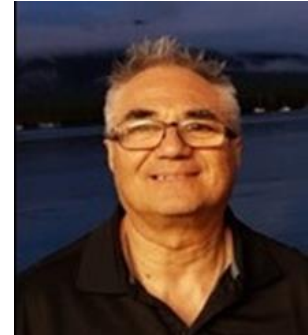
Dear Frank and Maltese Community throughout the world. Wishing you all a very Holy and Blessed Christmas. May the light and Peace that the birth of Jesus has brought into the world will be with you and your families during this Holy Season and throughout the New Year 2022.

I take this opportunity to thank Frank Scicluna for the wonderful Newsletter that he graciously sends us. HAPPY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND A BRIGHT NEW YEAR 2026.

#### GODWIN GAUCI – PRESIDENT OF THE MALTESE SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION OF SA



On behalf of my committee, volunteers, and members of the Senior Citizens Association of South Australia, I extend our best wishes to the Editor of the Maltese Journal for Maltese Living Abroad and all its readers in South Australia and around the world for a peaceful and happy Christmas and a New Year 2026 filled with happiness, God's blessings, and peace. I also want to thank Frank Scicluna for providing this valuable journal, which Multicultural the Multicultural Aged Care print and distributes to

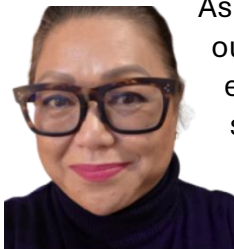


*Godwin Gauci*

our members with each publication.

This year has been very successful for our club, with a significant increase in membership. Our functions, luncheons, and bus trips remain popular and well-attended, thanks to our hardworking committee and numerous volunteers. look forward to the new year, 2026, with hope and pray that God keeps us all healthy and allows us to enjoy each other's company. It's also encouraging to see the second generation of Maltese joining and supporting our society.

#### MARIA JOHNS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER MULTICULTURAL AGED CARE (MAC)



As we approach the end of 2025, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our members, partners, stakeholders, and communities for your continued engagement and collaboration with MAC throughout the year. It has been a significant year of reform, consultation, and collective advocacy in aged care, and your participation has been central to ensuring that the voices of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) older people continue to be heard and represented.



**15 PEOPLE SHOT DEAD  
AT BONDI BEACH NSW  
AUSTRALIA - 4 DEC. 2025**



# MALTA NATIONAL ANTHEM DAY IS OFFICIALLY 27<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER



Malta's National Anthem Day is officially **December 27th**, commemorating the first performance of [L-Innu Malti](#) (The Maltese Hymn) in 1922; the date was established by a unanimous parliamentary vote in December 2025, making it a new national observance for Maltese culture. During a video conference with local influencer Valentina Rossi, Owen Bonnici, the Minister for Culture, Lands and Local Government, along with Alison Zerafa Civelli, the Parliamentary Secretary for Local Government, announced that December 27th will be recognized as the official day of the Maltese National Anthem.

This announcement followed a radio suggestion made by Valentina Rossi to the Prime Minister, who then reached out to Bonnici and Zerafa Civelli to initiate action on the proposal. The two officials contacted Rossi to share the exciting news, informing her that she will now be a part of Maltese history for initiating this significant change. Valentina shared her motivation, expressing a desire to stay connected to her Maltese roots, reminiscing about how she frequently heard the anthem during her school days, but less so afterward. The date was selected because on December 27, 1922, the anthem, penned by Dun Karm Psaila and composed by Robert Samut, was performed for the first time.

This initiative is part of a broader legislative effort currently underway in the House of Representatives, aimed at advancing two proposed amendments to the Constitution of Malta, which seek to establish a Maltese National Anthem Day and to enhance the constitutional status of Valletta.

## GOZO BUSINESS CHAMBER AND THE AUSTRALIAN MALTESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Dear Frank,

Allow me to thank you for producing the vital "Maltese Journal". Without doubt it provides a massive link amongst the Maltese Dysphoria around the world. I wish you and yours a safe and happy Christmas **Kind Regards** *Chevalier Joseph Borg (GCSJ)* **AMCC National Vice-President Australian Maltese Chamber of Commerce Inc.**

### THE SIGNING OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE GOZO BUSINESS CHAMBER AND THE AUSTRALIAN MALTESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



The Australian Maltese Chamber Commerce Inc. (AMCC) is pleased to announce the formal signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Gozo Business Chamber (GBC) and the Australian Maltese Chamber Commerce Inc.

The signing took place on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November in Gozo and was signed by President Michael Galea on behalf of the Gozo Business Chamber, and by the National Vice-President Joseph Borg on behalf of the Australian Maltese Chamber of Commerce.

Present at the ceremony was the Australian High Commissioner to Malta, His Excellency Matt Skelly. The signing of the MoU provides a framework and a mutual co-operation between the two organisation and is an important step towards collaboration and partnership building. This was a momentous occasion for our two organisations.



THANK YOU

**Your small donation keeps this journal alive**

Bank - Commonwealth (Australia)

BSB - 065106

Account No. - 00502597

Name - Frank Scicluna

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## CHRISTMAS AT LA TROBE VALLEY



Maltese Christmas celebrations in Morwell are centred around the **Latrobe Valley Maltese Museum and Community Centre**, which hosts an annual Christmas event and dinner for its members and the wider community.

### Maltese Community Events in Morwell

The Latrobe Valley has a significant Maltese population, and the local community centre serves as a vibrant hub

for cultural festivities, including Christmas celebrations.

- **Annual Christmas Events:** The Maltese Community Centre typically organizes a Christmas break-up lunch or dinner to bring members and friends together. These events feature Maltese cuisine, music, dancing, and raffles, often timed to coincide with Malta's Republic Day in December.
  - **Maltese Museum:** Morwell is home to Australia's first and only Maltese Museum, which preserves and showcases the rich heritage and traditions of Maltese migration through various artifacts and historical memorabilia.
  - **Community Connection:** The events provide an opportunity for families to catch up, share traditions, and reminisce about their heritage. The Consul General and local officials have previously attended these functions, highlighting their importance to the community.
- For the most current details regarding specific dates and booking information for this year's events, you can contact the centre directly through their official [Latrobe Valley Maltese Museum & Maltese Community Centre Facebook page](#) or find contact details via the [Latrobe City website](#).

### General Morwell Christmas Festivities

In addition to the specific Maltese community events, Morwell hosts a wider range of general Christmas festivities as part of the "Merry Morwell Festival," which includes town decorations, markets, and various community activities throughout December.





Christmas is very important to the people of Malta and its sister Island of Gozo. Most people on Malta are Catholics and go to a Midnight Mass Service. Usually the churches are full with people.

In Maltese Happy/Merry Christmas is 'Il-Milied it-Tajjeb'. [Happy/Merry Christmas in lots more languages.](#)

The Churches are decorated with lights and [nativity](#) cribs, 'Presepju', built by the

church go-ers. The cribs are decorated with figurines, called 'pasturi' (representing figures like [the shepherds and angels](#)). Today some of the cribs are mechanical and the figures in them move! The figure of the baby Jesus is put on the main altar at midnight on Christmas night. At Epiphany it is traditional to put the three figures of the Magi (Wise Men) in the crib. There is a group on Malta called 'Friends of the Crib' who help to keep the Maltese crib tradition alive.

Cribs were first introduced into Malta from [Italy](#) by rich noblemen. They were not popular at first and most were burnt. The first true Maltese crib is believed to have been made in Malta in 1617 and was displayed in the Dominican Friars Church in Rabat. In St Peter's Monastery in Mdina, there is a crib dating back to 1670. This is treasured and looked after by the Benedictine Nuns who live in the monastery. At about the same time, another Maltese man made a crib with moving parts powered by water! As cribs became more popular they also became more 'Maltese' with people replacing the Italian looking buildings and trades people with local ones. (Flour windmills were and are still popular buildings to feature in a crib scene.) The first imported Italian 'pasturi' were very expensive and most people couldn't afford them. So people started making their own 'pasturi' from rough clay and plaster. Some of these figures still exist today. (Modern pasturi are now often made of plastic.)

By the early to mid 20th century, cribs were thought of as old fashioned and no longer that popular. To stop the decline of Christmas, in 1907, a priest, (now Saint) George Preca founded a children's catechism society called 'MUSEUM'. In 1921 he started a tradition of having a Christmas Eve procession with a life size statue of the Baby Jesus being carried at the head of the procession. At sunset on Christmas Eve in 1921, Fra Diegu Street in the town of Hamrun was crowded with children and adults ready to take part in the first procession. In those days, street lighting was very poor in Malta and so many people brought lanterns with them to help them see their way during the procession and to shed light on the statue of Baby Jesus carried shoulder-high by four boys. The different types of lamps included, gas powered bicycle headlamps, oil lamps used on farmers carts, colored paper lanterns, Venetian lights, palm fronds and olive branches. The idea became very popular with people of all ages and so the very special Maltese traditional started. These processions are still popular today and form part of the Christmas Eve celebrations.

In 1986 the 'Friends of the Crib' society was formed and now they have over 500 members. Every year, in the weeks running up to Christmas, the Friends put on a exhibition of about 100 cribs of all shapes and sizes.

Maltese houses are often also decorated with cribs with 'pasturi' (which are small plastic or clay figures representing figures like the shepherds and angels). Large figures of the baby Jesus are sometimes put behind windows or in balconies and lit at night. Houses are also decorated with Christmas wreaths, [candles](#) and all sorts of other decorations. Every





household also has a [Christmas Tree](#) decorated with light bulbs, tinsel and Christmas decorations.

It is traditional to sow wheat, grain and canary seed, 'gulbiena', on cotton buds in flat pans five weeks before Christmas. These are left in dark corners in the house until the seeds produce white grass-like shoots. The pans with the fully-grown shoots are then used to decorate the crib or the statue of Baby Jesus.

One Maltese Christmas tradition is the 'Priedka tat-Tifel' which means 'the preaching of the child'. A boy or a girl, normally aged 7 to 10, does the preaching of the sermon at the midnight mass instead of the priest! The children learn the sermon by heart and start learning it four or five weeks before they preach on Christmas Eve.

The parents are also very excited and nervous about the performance, as they would have helped the children to learn the sermon. The boy or girl tells the story of the [birth of Jesus in Bethlehem](#) and is encouraged to give their sermon a personal delivery which will touch the hearts of the church-goers.

George Sapiano delivered the first known Christmas Eve sermon by an altar boy in 1883, in the parish church of Luqa. It has also become common for local churches to organise a mini-pageant with children dressed up as shepherds, Joseph and Mary carrying a baby doll (representing Jesus) acting out the story of the Nativity. This re-enactment starts at 11pm and is followed by High Mass at midnight.

A popular Maltese carol is '**ninni la tibkix izjed**'. It means 'sleep and cry no more' and was written by the Jesuit Priest, Fr. Andrew Schembri (1774-1862) from Luqa for Maltese migrants in Tunis.

There is a village on Malta called 'Siggiewi' dedicated to [St. Nicholas](#), who is also known as San Niklaw, of Bari in [Italy](#) and its feast is celebrated on the last Sunday of June.

Children on Malta get their presents from [Santa Claus](#) on Christmas night. Sometimes, Father Christmas comes knocking at doors early on Christmas night delivering presents!

Schools in Malta often hold a Christmas concert. Most of the children take part. It consists of Christmas Carols, plays with a Christmas theme, mimes and poetry recitals, etc. It is enjoyed by the children and teachers alike. Christmas parties are also often held in each class. Sometimes the children bring food which their parents prepare at home and it is shared with every one in their class. Gifts are exchanged and sometimes money is collected which is given to charity.



atmosphere is very happy!

A concert and Christmas party is held every year at the Residential Home for the Disabled in Siggiewi. The residents take part in Christmas plays and carol singing helped by the people who work who work in the Home including Nuns. The Home is decorated and the atmosphere is great. The chapel is decorated with a beautiful crib with Baby Jesus. On Christmas Eve, a procession with the Baby Jesus is held and then Midnight Mass. Relatives of the residents also participate in the Christmas celebrations. Special food is prepared and the



**QAGHAQ TAL-GHASEL  
HONEY RINGS**



**IMBULJUTA  
CHOCOLATE CHESTNUTS**

Voluntary organisations also organise Carol Singing evenings in old people's homes and hospitals, helping to cheer up the elderly and sick with the spirit of Christmas.

Under the patronage of the President of Malta, the Community Chest Fund sets up a tent in Freedom Square in the town of Valletta, where volunteers help to raise donations of cash. The donations are then distributed to charity organisations such as orphanages and other charities, which often rely on donations to continue their work in the community.

Maltese people have a wide range of food at Christmas. Traditionally, the Maltese house-wife kept the fattest capon/rooster, 'hasi', especially for Christmas Lunch, which was roasted at the local bakery in a casserole full of potatoes and vegetables. The traditional dessert served at Christmas was the Treacle Ring, 'Qaghaq tal-Ghasel', and to finish it off, a hot Chestnut and Cocoa Soup, 'Imbuljuta tal-Qastan', which was and is served as a cosy night cap during the cold December days in Malta.

Today the traditional Maltese menu has made way for Christmas Turkey, Christmas Cakes, [Christmas Puddings](#) and [Mince Pies](#), all inherited during 164 years of British rule (1800 - 1964) in Malta. [Italian](#) Panettone has also become a Christmas favorite.

**Maltese Center**  
27-20, Malta Square,  
Hoyt Ave. South,  
Astoria, NY 11102  
tel: (718) 728 - 9883

Join us for a New Year's Eve party at :  
**THE MALTESE CENTER**  
Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> 2025 | 8:00pm  
Adults \$95  
Children Ages 9 to 15 \$25 | Under 8 FREE  
Cash Bar

RSVP BY DEC 26 | LIMITED SEATING | BY RESERVATION ONLY  
TICKETS ONLINE OR 917-807-2874  
IVARONE CATERING | MUSIC | RAFFLE

**I SINCERELY  
THANK ALL  
THOSE WHO  
SENT A  
CHRISTMAS  
MESSAGE FOR  
THIS SPECIAL  
CHRISTMAS  
EDITION**

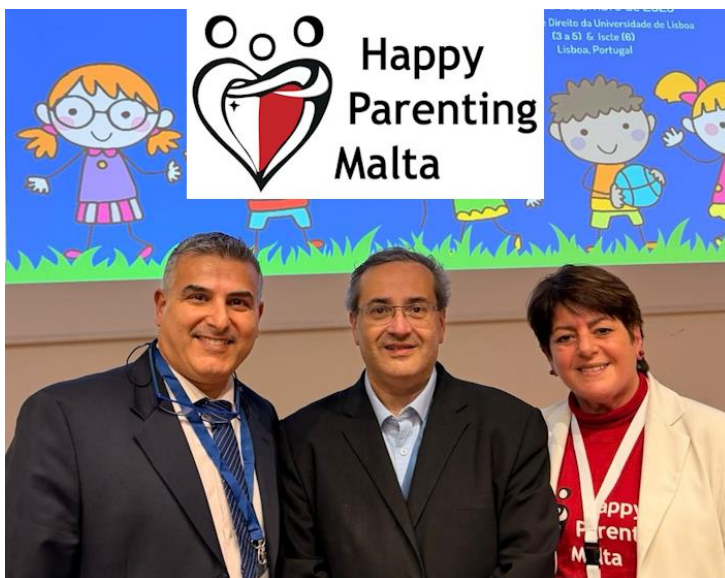


### Nearly 20% of children in kindy and primary schools in Gozo are non-Maltese



while just over 80% are Maltese.

According to a parliamentary reply regarding primary and kindy level schools there are nearly 20% of pupils attending Government schools in Gozo are foreign nationals. Nationalist MP Chris Said asked education minister Clifton Grima to provide the figure for how many students under the age of 12 are not Maltese, out of a total of 1,855 students in Gozo. In kindergarten, there is a total of 421 pupils, of which 75 are foreign nationals. In primary school, there is a total of 1,434 pupils, with 261 of them being foreign nationals. In total, 336 pupils at the primary and kindergarten level are foreign nationals,



***We, the administrators of Happy Parenting - Malta (For Happier Children): Professor Ivan Sammut, me Mary Gauci and Anthony Cauchi visited Portugal during Christmas Time.***

***Similar to previous years, we were speakers at the annual conference organised by the International Council on Shared Parenting.***

***Among others, it was strongly recommended that apart from the legal aspect, the initial point should be that of equal shared parenting. Priority should***

***be given to make efforts to make a paradigm shift towards a 50-50 shared parenting culture, not only after separation, but also in every family since birth. The social aspect is very important, almost even more than the legal one, where everyone gives his share and everyone cooperates. Everyone understands that children need both parents***

Aqra Bil-Malti

Ahna l-amministraturi ta' Happy Parenting - Malta (For Happier Children): il-Professur Ivan Sammut, jien Mary Gauci u Anthony Cauchi żorna l-Portugal f'dan iż-żmien tal-Milied.

Bhas-snin l-imghoddija konna kelliema waqt il-konferenza annwali organizzata mill-Kunsill Internazzjonali għat-trobbija kongunta Fost oħrajn, għe mheggegħ li apparti l-aspett legali li għandu jkollu l-punt ta' tluq għal trobbija ndaq bejn iż-żewġ ġenituri.

Għandha tingħata prijorità li nistinkaw li ssir paradigm shift lejn kultura ta' 50 50 shared parenting mhux biss wara separazzjoni, iżda f'kull familja sa mit-twelid.

L-aspett soċjali hu mportanti wisq, kważi aktar minn dak legali, fejn kulhadd għandu jagħti sehmu u kulhadd għandu jikkopera. Ilkoll nifhmu li t-tfal għandhom bżonn il-ġenituri t-tnejn.



# MILIED SPEĊJALI

Din is-sena dit-tifkira  
tat-twelid ta' dit-tarbija  
qed iggib il-ferh tas-soltu...  
ma' xi ftit malinkonija.

Ghaliex intom tafu daqsi  
b'din l-imbierka pandemija  
illi harbtet dinja shiħa -  
minna għosfrot l-armonija.

Izda dak li ġara f'Betlem  
stampat jibqa' għal dejjem f'qalbna,  
Ġesù, Ġużeppi, Marija  
fuq xufftejna jibqgħu f'talbna.

Ghaliex dik il-ġrajja kbira  
ma nistgħu ninsewha qatt,  
dahlet f'darna sabiex tibqa',  
minn hemm ma joħroġha hadd.

Ta' kull sena l-grotta nibnu,  
fl-għar inqiegħdu lill-Bambin,  
għan-nifs shun ta' baqra u ħmara  
imdawwar b'ragħajja fqajrin.

Il-familja hdejh tingabar  
matul il-jiem tan-Novena,  
tifraħ, tkanta, u tiċċassa,  
b'qalbha tfur kollha bil-hena.

It-tfal kollha tal-iskejjel  
izejnu l-klassijiet;  
ikantaw il-carols hienja,  
jaqbzu fuq il-bankijiet.

Tal-ħwienet bil-gugarelli  
igennu lill-kbar u ż-żgħar,  
u tal-ħelu fil-vetrini,  
kagħak tal-għasel, tondi, kbar!

Tal-Mużew il-purċissjoni  
toħroġ f'lejjiet il-Milied,  
għax Dun Ġorġ xtaq li dan jagħmlu  
mal-irhula u l-ibliet.

U minn fosthom jagħzlu tfajjel  
biex jinsew erba' kelmiet  
dwar dal-Bambin ħelu, ċkejken,  
li għalina bata u miet.

Fid-djar, ċentri u każini,  
dlonk jinbena l-Presepju  
illi niesna tmur iżżurhom -  
tal-Milied dan l-aqwa eżempju.

U l-Għaqda Hbieb tal-Presepju  
tlaqqa' kollha l-membri tagħha,  
tagħmel wirja li f'Diċembru  
il-folol iduru magħha.

Christmas Tree tixgħel u titfi  
u mzejna kif imiss  
tilmaħ f'kull pjazza u wesgħa,  
ljieli ddawwal mingħajr hiss!

U d-drawwa tal-kartolini  
għadha shiħa fost in-nies  
u minn dawn mijiet jintbagħtu,  
flus jintefqu mingħajr qies.

Importanti illi x-xbieha  
tal-ħelu Ġesù Bambin  
tkun tispikka fil-faċċata  
imdawwar bl-aṅġli ħelwin.

Għalkemm dan il-mishut virus  
qerdilna kull armonija,  
Ġesù ċkejken fi ftit ħrieqi  
hu s-sigriet ta' kull tgawdija.

Bambin ħelu, idhol f'darna  
u kun magħna f'din is-siegħa,  
fostna reġġa' t-tbissima,  
eħlisna mill-pandemija.

B'hekk ikollna Milied hieni  
mimli b'paċi u ferh ġenwin  
illi biss jista' jagħtihom  
it-twajjeb Ġesù Bambin.



Il-Kav. Joe M. Attard  
Il-Belt Victoria, Għawdex  
2021





## The Grand Master's Visit to Malta and Gozo

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Maltese Association of the Order of Malta, the Grand Master, Fra' John T. Dunlap, paid a private visit to Malta, accompanied by the Grand Chancellor, Riccardo Paternò di Montecupo, and the Receiver of the Common Treasure, Fra' Francis Vassallo. This significant anniversary marks six decades of steadfast commitment to serving the most

vulnerable and those in need.

On the island, the Order of Malta represents a key reference point within the social and humanitarian fabric, carrying out numerous initiatives ranging from assistance to the most vulnerable to educational and spiritual activities. These include distributing meals to people in difficulty, supporting prisoners, the elderly, and the homeless, organizing pilgrimages, and offering programs for the sick, the elderly, orphans, and young people with disabilities. The Order also provides hospital escort services, operates a residence for single mothers and children, maintains canine units for rescue and first aid, and recently donated a fully equipped mobile clinic to assist migrants rescued off the Maltese coast. It has also collaborated with the NGO "*Children Not Numbers*" to offer medical care to seriously ill children from Gaza.

In Gozo, where the Maltese Association of the Order of Malta works closely with the local community, the Grand Master inaugurated the new premises of the Association's Volunteers. The newly renovated facilities were blessed and handed over to the community as a new operational hub for charitable activities. The new premises will strengthen the existing services for people in need and allow the development of further volunteer initiatives.

The 60th-anniversary celebrations then continued in Valletta with a Gala Dinner at the Grand Masters' Palace, which the President of the Republic of Malta, Myriam Spiteri Debono, honoured with her presence. During the evening, the President emphasized the significant humanitarian work carried out by the Association and paid tribute to the volunteers, professionals, and all those who dedicate their time and energy to serving others.

The Grand Master's visit reaffirmed the profound historical and spiritual bond between Malta and the Order of Malta, as well as the central role of the Maltese Association in translating the principles of faith and service to those in need into concrete action every day.



## STEP INTO A CHRISTMAS WORLD OF WONDER

The Magical Illuminated Trail returns for its 6th Edition – bigger, brighter, and more enchanting than ever!

### Malta's Most Enchanted Christmas Experience

This festive season, Malta's most beloved after-dark attraction returns bigger, brighter & more magical than ever. The Magical Illuminated Trail celebrates its 6th spectacular edition, transforming the Enchanted Verdala Palace Gardens into a glowing wonderland

of light, color, and imagination.

From 5th December to 3rd January\*, visitors of all ages are invited to embark on an unforgettable journey through breathtaking displays, enchanting worlds, and interactive light installations that bring the spirit of Christmas to life.

Stroll through the glowing Coral Kingdom with Nemo and friend tumble into Alice's Wonderland filled with curious surprises, and let the little ones light up the night in the Interactive Magical Forest.

Don't miss the giant sweets in Candy Land and the dazzling Enchanted Creatures waiting to be discovered along the way. But watch out – while Santa is busy bringing joy and gifts, the mischievous Grinch might just try to sneak in and steal the Christmas magic!

With every twist and turn, the trail sparkles with wonder, laughter, and glowing festive moments – all perfect for creating magical family memories.

This event is proudly supported by the Malta Tourism Authority and held in aid of the Malta Community Chest Fund Foundation, making every visit a contribution to a truly wonderful cause. As darkness descends, the gardens come alive with enchanting light, inviting guests to explore the captivating art of illumination during this festive season. Families, individuals, and groups may pre-purchase their entrance tickets online. The trail has been designed to allow guests in scheduled time intervals of 20 minutes to fully enjoy the sights.

Plan for an immersive journey that lasts around 60 to 90 minutes, allowing time to wander through our delightful Christmas Village and savor delicious offerings at the Food Court!

Book your tickets, starting from €9 only

\*\*Children aged 2 years and under enter for free but still require an Infant Ticket from the online booking system.” [Venue address: Verdala Palace, Triq il-buskett, Siggiewi](#)

**Limited Street Parking Available**