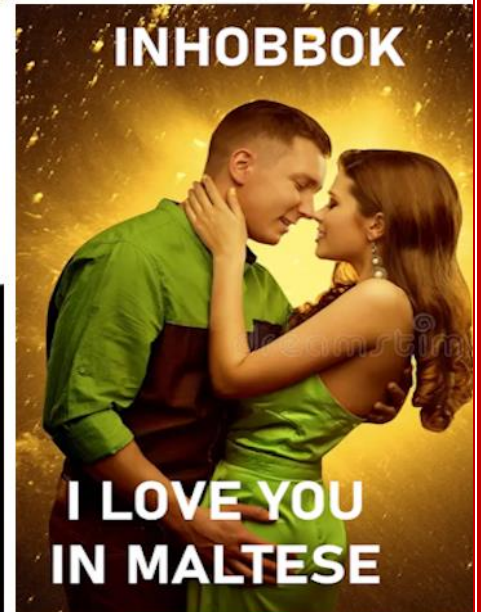


Maltese Newsletter

Editor
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★ MALTA ★ INDEPENDENCE DAY

Malta has been
dominated by foreign
powers for nearly
3000 years

PHOENICIANS
C 7000- 218 BC



CARTHAGINIANS
C 480 - 218 BC



ROMANS
218 - 395 AD



ARABS
870 - 1091



NORMANS
1091 - 1530



KNIGHTS
1530 - 1798



FRENCH
1798 - 1800



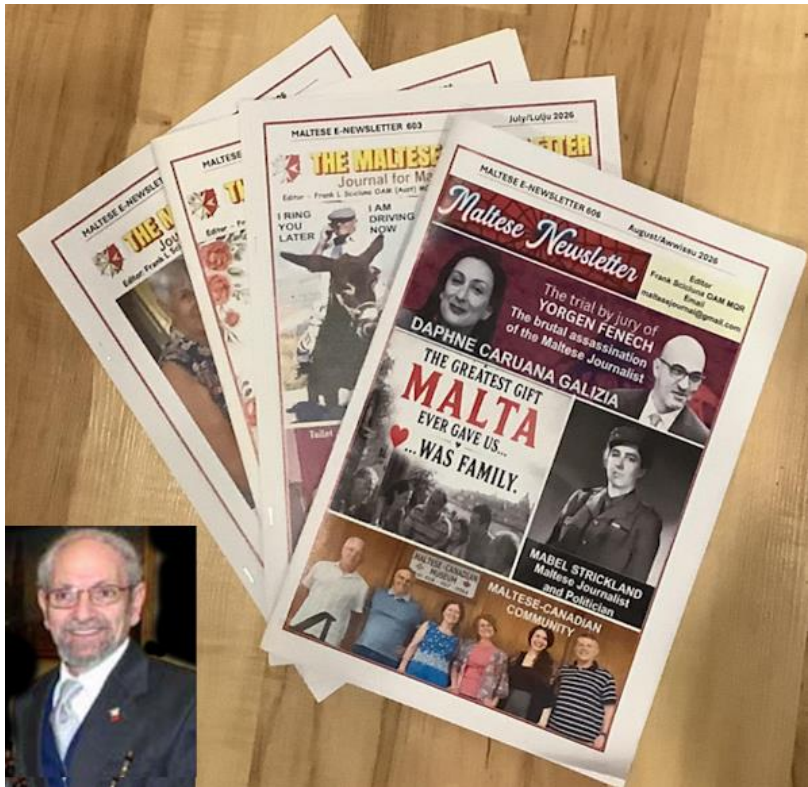
BRITISH
1800 - 1964



INDEPENDENT
1964 -



THE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER POPULAR IN GOZO



THE LAST INTERNATIONAL VOICE OF GLOBAL MALTA AND GLOBAL GOZO

Chev. Dr. Raymond Xerri

The Maltese eNewsletter is the last international voice of Global Malta and Global Gozo.

The Maltese eNewsletter is more relevant and needed more than ever before to inform and continue to unite Maltese and Gozitans around the globe.

I wholeheartedly thank Frank Scicluna and his great team for their sterling work in putting together the eNewsletter consistently. I bind the the Maltese Journals copies into a volume for my library and other libraries, I look forward for more editions in the future.

Hundreds of copies of the Maltese eNewsletter are printed purposely and delivered to places where returning Gozitan migrants frequent in Gozo, like bars, clubs, restaurants, complexes and homes for the elderly. It is read by many returns Diaspora and also Gozitans who have never migrated, many times out of curiosity and/or wanting to learn about our heritage locally and internationally. These copies are passed on to one another, from one person to another and from room to another in homes for the elderly. Yes, circulation of the Maltese eNewsletter is very high in Gozo.

“Let us be a proud nation, proud of our people wherever they may live on this planet, every person is an ambassador of our Global Malta and Global Gozo.”

Thank you, Frank for uniting global Malta and global Gozo into one.

THE JOURNAL THAT IS UNIFYING THE MALTESE DIASPORA

We wish to express our heartfelt gratitude for the exceptional editions of the Maltese E-newsletter that you have published not only over the past 12 months but throughout these last 13 years. You have dedicated your time and expertise to enriching the lives of countless individuals through your newsletter. Although we have only been subscribed for a few years, we feel fortunate and honoured to receive these newsletters. You truly deserve high praise for your tireless efforts – for the fascinating topics you cover – for the vibrant content and engaging stories – and for uniting the Maltese community across various countries, not just here in Australia. We are all incredibly fortunate to benefit from these newsletters. I sincerely thank you for including me among the many recipients of this valuable resource. **A and J Hamilton - Canada**



PHOENICIANS AND CARTHAGINIANS

Malta has a rich past, with its earliest beginnings going back to Neolithic farmers from Sicily around 5000 BC, followed by temple building peoples some 1500 years later. Some of the ancient structures they created pre-date even the Pyramids of Egypt. Given its strategic position, Malta was colonised by the sea-going Phoenicians and then ruled by their principal colony, Carthage. The island's name derives from a Phoenician word for 'shelter' or 'haven'.

ROMAN RULE

After Rome's victory in the Punic wars, Roman rule was established over Malta. St. Paul, the Apostle, was shipwrecked on Malta in 60

CE, and converted the inhabitants to Christianity. Malta fell within the jurisdiction of the province of Sicily.

BYZANTINE AND ARAB CONTROL

After the fall of the Roman empire in 395 AD, control of Malta was taken over by the eastern rulers of the empire based in Constantinople. Malta was invaded by the Arabs in 870. Over the course of over 200 years, the Arabs influenced the development of the Maltese language. In addition, they introduced new irrigation techniques as well as certain fruits like figs, along with almonds, spices, and cotton to the island.

THE NORMANS AND THE SPANISH

In 1091, the Normans conquered Sicily, and Malta became part of the Kingdom of Sicily. As a result of the Norman takeover, Catholicism again became the country's religion. Over the ensuing centuries Malta passed under the control of several European feudal dynasties, lastly the Spanish for over 200 years. Ultimately the Spanish King Charles V gave the island to the Knights of St John for the protection of Catholic Europe against the continuing threat from the Ottoman Empire.

THE KNIGHTS OF MALTA

Who were the Knights? In 1048, some Italian merchants founded an order of monks called the Order of St. John of Jerusalem to care for sick travellers who had gone on spiritual pilgrimages to Jerusalem. Christians were also fighting the Crusades against the Muslims at that time. The Order of St John took

on a military aspect as they began to fight Muslims in addition to caring for sick pilgrims, and so became known as the Knights of St John.

The Muslims drove the Christians out of the Holy Land in 1291, and Knights of St John moved their base of operations first to Cyprus and then in 1310 to Rhodes. However, the Turks captured Rhodes in 1523 and the Knights were left without a home. In 1530, the Spanish King Charles V ceded Malta to the homeless Order of the Knights of Rhodes. He granted the Knights a perpetual lease on the island for which they had to pay a yearly tribute of one Maltese Falcon. Malta built up its fortifications under the Knights' grand master Jean de Valette, and subsequently withstood the Ottoman siege of 1565. The next year the new capital city of Valletta was founded, and it became a showplace of beautiful architecture and splendid palaces as well as strong defensive fortifications.

The Knights of Malta ruled the country from 1530 until 1798. Their 250-year rule left a dramatic historical imprint on the country. From its symbolic white eight-pointed cross to the rich architectural heritage and artworks produced during their rule, the Knights endowed Malta with an extraordinary cultural wealth. In keeping with their original mission, they also made Malta medically renowned by building the Sacra Infermeria in 1574, Europe's foremost hospital at the time.

FRENCH OCCUPATION

In 1798 French army officer Napoleon Bonaparte, en route to his expedition in Egypt, captured the island. The Maltese rebelled against the French and called for assistance from Britain to free them from French control. Although the French were unpopular, they did abolish slavery and eliminated the dreaded Inquisition.

By the middle of 1800 British troops had arrived. The French held out in Valletta for three months before they surrendered.

BRITISH RULE AND WWII

The British Throne took over Malta after the French defeat. In the 1814 Treaty of Paris, the other European powers recognised Malta as a British colony.

Malta was subsequently part of the British empire for 150 years. English became an official joint language with Maltese for the country.

During World War II, Malta suffered extreme bombing and hardship. Impressed by the bravery of the Maltese people, British King George V awarded the entire island his George Cross in 1942. This award remains part of the national flag. Independence and European Integration Malta became an independent nation in 1964, ending the long period of British rule. Malta's striking historical heritage and architecture gained it recognition in 1980 as a UNESCO World Heritage site, honouring the city of Valletta, the country's Megalithic Temples and the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum. Malta joined the European Union in 2004 and adopted the euro as its currency in 2008.

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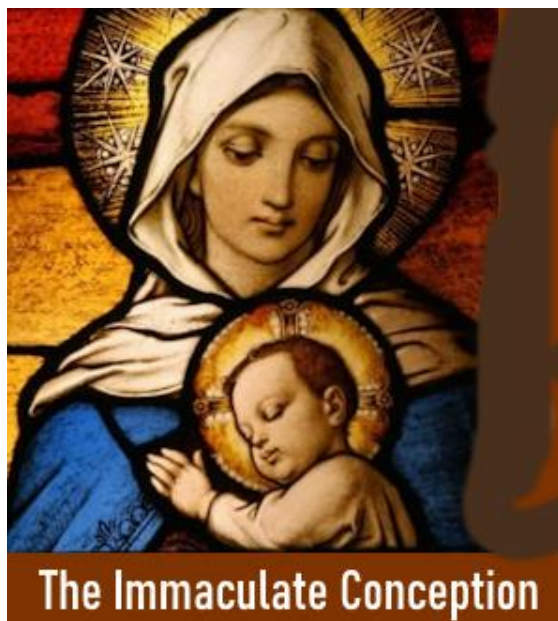
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Name - Frank Scicluna

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L-IMMAKULATA L-ISBAH ĠAWHRA

Qiegħed nagħmel hilti kollha
Sabiex nikteb Poeżija
Lil din l-Omma Immakulata,
Illi tnisslet mingħajr htija!

U meqjuma b'għożża kbira
F'din il-Knisja Frangiskana
Fejn ta' spiss niġu fi hđanha
U hienja hawnhekk tarana!

Qatt ma nixba' ħarsti nitfa'
Fuq statwa ħelwa bħal din
Illi Salvu Psaila sawwar;
Kemm int sbejħa. X'wahda din!

U mat-tmienja ta' Diċembru
Bi tbissima fuq spallejna
Ma' treqatna inti toħroġ
W id-dmugħ tislet minn għajnejna!

Nirringrazza lill-Kav. Joe Attard li
dejjem jikteb prozi u poeziji fil-
gurnal tal Maltin ta' Barra -Ed.

U treqatna malajr jilbsu
Mill-maħžen l-ilbies tal-festa –
Pavaljuni, bandalori,
U statwi tal-kartapesta

W il-Knisja tinbidel f'Ġenna,
Gandlieri w damask mill-fin,
Mixegħla, muż'ka mill-aqwa,
Fejn sa ssib ferħ hekk ġenwin!

Ftit tan-nar dejjem ikollna
Għax dil-festa mħawra sewwa;
Hoss il-banda lilna jferraħ
B'armonija tassew ħelwa!

Għalkemm kont quddiem l-Assunta
Meta ktibt dil-Poeżija,
Kienet din l-Omm mingħajr htija
Li spiratni f'din is-siegħa!

Wara kollox ġewwa s-Sema
Hemm Omm wahda tistenniena
Li bil-herqa għalina titlob –
Uljed Kristu illi fdiena!

La tħallix dil-festa tgħaddi
Bla ma nersqu lkoll lejġ –
Inti l-Omm l-iktar setgħana
Illi tridna dejjem hdejk!

U meta t-Tlieta toħroġ
Biex iddur mar-Rabat tagħna,
Fuq fommna nissel tbissima
Biex henjin lilna tarana!

Lill-Qalin u lill-Bormliži
Nixteqilhom festa kbira;
Jiena ċert li ta' dawn hutna –
Din l-Omm safja hija l-mira!

KAV JOE M ATTARD
RABAT – GĦAWDEX 2026

VICTORY DAY AT ST. ANGELO

8 SEPTEMBER

September 8 commemorates two high points in Maltese history – the victorious end of the Great Siege on

8th September 1565, when the Ottoman forces gave up their attempts to take over the Islands after three months of relentless fighting and heavy losses, and the date when the surrender of Fascist Italy was made public in 1943, giving Malta a breather in the Second World War. By sheer coincidence, the birth of the Virgin Mary is also celebrated on this day.

The day will start with mass at the Chapel of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary at Fort St Angelo at 09:30. It will be celebrated by the Archbishop of Malta, Mgr Charles J. Scicluna, together with the Archpriest and Collegiate Chapter of St Lawrence. This mass will be aired live on TVM and will be followed by a small blessing ceremony at the cemetery located inside the fort. The public can also admire the recent restoration of the chapel. Anyone wishing to attend mass is required to have a specific ticket, which can be obtained for free either from the sacristy of the parish church of St Lawrence or from George Agius. The number of tickets is limited.

The day will continue with a commemoration at the Victory of the Great Siege monument, which includes the participation of the 1st Cospicua Scout Group, the Malta Sea Cadets, and the National Festivities Committee.

At 12:00 another mass will be celebrated in St Anne's Chapel in Upper Fort St Angelo.

The afternoon will be enlivened by various local re-enactment groups. The participating groups are Show of Arms, the Malta Historical Fencing Association, and the Historical Re-enactment Group of Malta. The Royal Naval Association Malta will also be participating with several Royal Navy veterans. **REGATTA** - The fort will be open from 09:00 till 19:00, with last admissions at 18:30, allowing the public to also enjoy advantageous views of this year's Regatta contest from 12pm till 18:00pm. Fort St Angelo will again offer its majestic premises at a reduced entry fee, serving as the perfect vantage point (Grunenbergh bastion – port side) from where to witness the rowing activities in the creek nearby, alongside a bar selling refreshing drinks and snacks. The event will include access to the upper parts of the fort which are administered by the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, particularly the crypt. Tickets cost €3 each for adults, seniors, and students. Children up to 11 years of age and Heritage Malta members presenting their membership card will be admitted free of charge. Heritage Malta passports are not applicable for this event. Tickets are to be purchased from any Heritage Malta museum or site.





Science in the City is Malta's National Science and Arts Festival

Science meets creativity, ideas become action. Welcome to Science in the City, Malta's national science and arts festival, where curiosity takes centre stage and communities come together to imagine a better future.

Science meets creativity, ideas become action.

Welcome to Science in the City, Malta's national science and arts festival, where curiosity takes centre stage and communities come together to imagine a better future.

Since 2012, Science in the City has transformed the Maltese Islands into a vibrant space for discovery, dialogue, and creativity. What began with 12,000 attendees has grown into a festival welcoming over 33,000 people annually, more than 6% of Malta's population. With the support of 600 volunteers, 90 organisations, 80 researchers, and local and international performers, the festival continues to grow in scale, ambition, and impact.

Every year, the festival is shaped by a unique theme that inspires its workshops, performances, exhibitions, and experiences. In 2025, *Past Forward* explored how science, the arts, and history intertwine, revealing how discoveries from the past continue to shape our present and influence the futures we create together.

In 2026, the 15th edition of this popular festival, we invite you to *Research, Resist, Reimagine*.

This year's theme challenges the idea that research belongs only in labs or lecture halls. Research is part of everyday life. It questions assumptions, confronts injustice, sparks creativity, and empowers communities to rethink the world around them. Interaction and engagement, we will explore how critical thinking and active citizenship can inspire meaningful change.

On the 25th and 26th of September 2026, scientists, artists, researchers, and the community will once again gather to share ideas, ignite conversations, and celebrate curiosity in all its glory.

At its heart, Science in the City is about participation. Every year, we strive to make the festival more accessible, inclusive, and representative of our communities, creating spaces where people from all walks of life can connect with research, creativity, and each other.

This festival would not exist without the passion of our core team, our collaborators, our volunteers, and you.



Join us as we question, create, discover, and reimagine the future together.

**Tell us
Your
story**



MALTA - THE MOST DENSELY POPULATED COUNTRY IN EU

At just 316 square kilometres, Malta is one of the smallest and

most densely populated countries in the world. In recent years, the nation has experienced rapid demographic changes that have placed immense pressure on its infrastructure, environment, and overall quality of life. A significant spike in both permanent residency and tourism has led to an effective population size that far exceeds its geographical and resource limitations.

Between 2013 and 2023, Malta's resident population increased from 425,000 to 552,000 - a 29.9% rise in just a decade. While this growth has been driven by several factors, including economic development and inward migration, it has also raised red flags regarding the island's capacity to sustain such a population boom.

But the strain doesn't end there. When considering short-term visitors, the numbers soar even higher. The National Statistics Office (NSO) reported that Malta's effective population in August 2023 - a peak tourism month - reached a staggering 628,058. This figure includes 75,324 tourists. In contrast, the lowest effective population for the year was 562,591 in December, when only 9,857 tourists were present.

Consequences:

- **Traffic congestion and transport infrastructure**
- **Sewage and waste management**
- **Energy and water demand**
- **Environmental degradation**
- **Housing and cost of living**

Policy and planning: Is Malta keeping up?

Malta is at a critical juncture. Overpopulation - largely a result of importation of labour, as Malta's birth-rate continues to plummet - is not merely a demographic trend but a structural challenge with real social, economic, and environmental consequences. Malta must urgently reassess its growth model and strike a balance between economic development and quality of life. Without strategic intervention, Malta risks continuing to erode the very assets that make it unique: its environment, its heritage, and its social cohesion.

As the effective population continues to climb, the need for a comprehensive, forward-looking policy framework becomes ever more urgent. The question is not whether Malta can continue to grow - but whether it can afford to.



MALTESE COMMUNITY IN SCOTLAND - UK

A very special evening for the Maltese community in Scotland.

The launch of the Maltese Consulate in Scotland was not only an official moment, but a community moment: Maltese people and friends of Malta coming together in Glasgow with warmth, pride and a real sense of connection.

These gatherings remind us how important it is to keep building links between Maltese communities across the UK, while also

strengthening the relationship between Malta and Scotland.

There is clearly energy, goodwill and a desire to stay connected.

Let's keep the momentum going.

What a beautiful evening with the Maltese community in Scotland.

Seeing so many Maltese people, families and friends of Malta gathered together in Glasgow was genuinely moving.

Some people had known each other for years. Others were meeting Maltese people in Scotland for the first time, despite having lived here for so long. There was warmth in the room, pride, conversation, laughter, and that very Maltese instinct to connect and make people feel welcome.

That, more than anything, is what I will remember.

Yesterday was also the official launch of the Maltese Consulate in Scotland at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, where I was formally appointed Honorary Consul of Malta in Scotland by High Commissioner Professor Stephen Montefort.

It was a very proud and humbling moment, made even more special because I could share it with my wife, my children, my parents and my mother-in-law.

But this is not about a title. It is about community.

It is about making sure Maltese people in Scotland feel seen, connected and supported. It is about getting to know one another, celebrating each other's stories, and building something that lasts beyond one evening. Thank you to Professor Stephen Montefort, [Anna Montefort](#), [Nerissa Sultana](#), Bronia Aquilina and the whole [High Commission of Malta in the United Kingdom](#) team for making this possible.

Thank you also to the [Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow](#) for hosting us so beautifully, and to everyone from the College who joined us and made the evening feel so special.

It was lovely too to have [Arts Council Malta](#) with us while they were in Scotland supporting Maltese artists at the Edinburgh Fringe, together with Minister [Malcolm Paul Agius Galea](#) and Dr [Juanita Agius Galea](#), and Executive Officer [Luke Dalli](#). And a very special thank you to [Noel Fenech Photography](#) for so generously taking photographs on the night. These photos will help us remember a very important moment for the Maltese community in Scotland, and I will make sure Noel is credited whenever they are used.

I tried to speak to everyone. If I didn't manage to, please reach out. I really do want to know your story. This feels like the beginning of something meaningful. Let's keep the momentum going.

INTERVIEWING VICTOR V VELLA FROM NSW



In this edition of the Newsletter, I am pleased to interview Victor V. Vella, a former teacher of English and History in New South Wales High Schools, as well as a writer and broadcaster. Victor has a passion for writing in Maltese, which is something we should cherish, given the language's vulnerable status in its homeland. In light of re-editing some of his radio talks, I deemed it appropriate to conduct an interview with him for this issue of the Newsletter. Therefore, Victor, welcome to the Maltese Newsletter. Could you please update us on

your current activities in your field?

Victor: First and foremost, thank you, Frank, for your invitation. I would like to commend you on your outstanding efforts to maintain the Maltese connection alive and thriving wherever Maltese or former Maltese individuals may be. I believe this is the sole remaining link from abroad that keeps us informed about events both here and there. The use of English broadens the reach significantly, and it serves not only as a record of events but also includes articles on culture, language, and more

So, Vic, could you please elaborate on the project you are currently engaged in?

Victor: As you are aware, I have been involved with Maltese journalism and SBS radio since its inception. Presently, I deliver a weekly talk in Maltese that is broadcast on SBS radio, along with three stations in Australia and one in Malta. Over the years, I have accumulated a substantial collection of these talks. Some time ago, I recorded several of them and released them on a number of CDs. You might recall topics such as: Tfuliti Man-Nanna (My Childhood with My Nanna in Malta after World War II) and the accompanying CD, Tfuliti il-Mellieha (My Childhood in My Village), which includes the games we played and the beginnings of my kindergarten and primary education. This work is a blend of local history and the lifestyle of that era. Subsequently, I presented a series of talks titled The Beauties of Life and another series on 'Those Isms,' which discussed modern ideologies such as Communism and Socialism. My favorite series from a few years back was called 'Criticism and Appreciation.' As you know, the former is quite prevalent, but appreciating art, music, or literature necessitates deeper thought and emotion, which we often find more challenging to articulate. To address your question directly, I am currently in the process of editing some of these talks. As you may understand, some of these discussions naturally fade away as they may only be relevant to specific times or occasions. However, I hope that others remain pertinent, engaging, and interesting for a more extended period. Therefore, I have refined those that possess general appeal and enduring interest to make them accessible to anyone interested in listening to Maltese and, hopefully, gaining a deeper understanding of our culture, history, and life in general.



Vic, I am well-acquainted with the seven books you have published. We discussed them during an interview or perhaps multiple interviews several years ago. I appreciate your writing style and your approach to topics, which avoids deep philosophical exploration and is presented in a manner that is both easy to listen to and comprehend. These works will be featured in my Newsletter for readers.

Victor: They will not be available in the form of CDs, as that format has fallen out

of favor. Indeed, they will be presented to your readers, but in a different format. With each issue of the Newsletter, there will be an offer of two recordings on two distinct subjects, provided FREE OF CHARGE. Interested readers can obtain these by sending me an email to the address that will be displayed in a box titled for that month. We will need to collaborate on some details. I believe this will enhance your publication and contribute to keeping the Maltese language alive, at least audibly, in the ears and hearts of the first, second, and even third generations of Maltese living abroad.

I express my gratitude to Victor for this engaging and enlightening interview. Victor V. Vella is a distinguished Maltese-Australian author, educator, and broadcaster who has dedicated many years to serving the Maltese community in New South Wales (NSW) and throughout Australia. Born in Mellieħa, Malta, in 1939, he moved to Australia in 1968. He established his residence in Sydney, where he emerged as a pivotal figure in the preservation of Maltese language, literature, and culture.



Producer: **Masquerade** Venue: **Main Stage, Teatru Manoel**

Teatru Manoel and Masquerade Theatre Company present *Little Shop of Horrors* – the award-winning musical comedy with music by Alan Menken and lyrics by Howard Ashman. It tells the story of Seymour, a shy and struggling florist working in a run-down flower shop in Skid Row. His life changes when he discovers a mysterious plant he names Audrey II, which turns out to feed on human

blood and grows into a terrifying, talking creature. As Audrey II becomes more powerful and demanding, Seymour is forced into increasingly difficult moral choices. The musical blends humour, horror, and 1960s-style rock and doo-wop music, creating a darkly entertaining story about ambition and consequence. Director: Anthony Bezzina



THE BREAD STRIKE IN MALTA 1977

In February 1977 about 200 bakers of Malta went on an unprecedented strike demanding higher profits and pay. It sent shock waves through the Maltese people who couldn't imagine life without their favourite food... bread. Before long the military was guarding bakeries, the panicked population had created a bread black market and local prisoners were enlisted to bake for the public. With commercial loaves unavailable, many families—especially housewives—revived traditional home-baking methods, sharing recipes through newspapers and television Credit: Noel Buttigieg



HOBŻNA TA' KULJUM

Hobżna ta' Kuljum is a new original play set against the backdrop of Malta's 1977 bread strike, written & directed by Simone Spiteri. Through the story of a family navigating hardship and change, it explores survival, womanhood, memory, and social transformation. Blending fiction with oral history, the play offers an intimate portrait of lives shaped by extraordinary times. A moving reflection on what we inherit, what we endure, and what remains.

The play is in Maltese with English surtitles on Saturday 19 September, Thursday 24 September and Sunday 27 September.

Cast: Daniela Carabott Pawley, Mary Rose Mallia, Lino Mintoff, Magdalena van Kuilenburg, Kristjana Casha, Thomas Camilleri, Rachel Pecorella Genovese, Matthew Dimech Genuis

Music: Luke Saydon

Duration: 2.5hr incl. interval

THE KING OF NORWAY IS A MEMBER OF THE KNIGHTS OF THE ORDER OF ST. OLAV

THE ORDER OF ST. OLAV - NORWAY



IDENTIFYMEDALS.COM

The **Royal Norwegian Order of Saint Olav** (or *Den Kongelige Norske Sankt Olavs Orden*; or Sanct **Olafs Orden**, the old Norwegian name) is a prestigious order of chivalry established by King Oscar I on August 21, 1847. Named after King Olav II, who is venerated as St. Olav, this order honors remarkable achievements for the benefit of Norway and humanity.

In 1904, shortly before the union with Sweden was dissolved in 1905, King Oscar II instituted the Order of the Norwegian Lion. However, no appointments were made by his successor, King Haakon VII, making the Order of St. Olav the sole order of chivalry in Norway for the next 80 years. The reigning monarch of Norway serves as the Grand Master of the order, which has been used to recognize outstanding contributions.

Since 1985, the order has been primarily awarded to Norwegian

citizens, though foreign heads of state and royalty may still be honoured as a courtesy.

Grades and Classes

- **Grand Cross (Storkors):** Awarded to heads of state as a courtesy and, in rare cases, to individuals for merit. Recipients wear the badge on a collar (chain) along with a star on the left chest. If the collar is not worn, the badge may be worn on a sash over the right shoulder.
- **Commander:** This grade is divided into two classes:
- **Commander with Star (Kommandør med stjerne):** Recipients wear the badge on a necklet and a star on the left chest.
- **Commander (Kommandør):** Recipients wear the badge on a necklet.
- **Fraternal Orders & Service Clubs**
- **Knight:** This grade is also divided into two classes:
- **Knight 1st Class (Ridder av 1. klasse):** Recipients wear the badge on a ribbon on the left chest.
- **Knight (Ridder):** Recipients wear the badge on a ribbon on the left chest.

The Order of St. Olav Design

The **collar** of the Order is made of gold and features a series of decorative elements: five enamelled and crowned “O” monograms, five enamelled and crowned Norwegian coat-of-arms, and ten gold crosses bottony, each flanked by two battle axes with silver blades and golden shafts, a design also seen in the coat of arms of the Church of Norway.

The **badge** of the Order is a white enamelled Maltese Cross. For the knight class, the cross is silver, while for higher classes it is gilt. Between the arms of the cross are crowned “O” monograms. The central disc on the obverse side is red, showcasing a golden Norwegian lion holding a battle-axe. The reverse disc bears King Oscar’s motto, “Ret og Sandhed” (“Justice and Truth”), and both discs are surrounded by a white-blue-white ring. The cross is topped with a crown, and military awards include crossed swords between the crown and the cross.

The **star** of the Order for the Grand Cross is an eight-pointed silver star with faceted rays, featuring the badge of the Order minus the crown. The star for the Commander with Star is a silver faceted Maltese Cross with gilt crowned “O” monograms between the arms. The central disc is red with a golden Norwegian lion bearing a battle-axe, surrounded by a white-blue-white ring.

The **ribbon** of the Order is red with white-blue-white edge stripes.

**A MALTESE BOY SELLING MATCHES**

FROM NECESSITY TO REGULATION: A HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF CHILD LABOUR IN MALTA

During the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, child labour in the Maltese archipelago was an entrenched socio-economic reality. Driven by widespread poverty, high fertility rates, and the lack of universal education, working-class households relied heavily on the earnings of minors to achieve subsistence. Children were engaged in both rural and urban economies, their roles largely determined by geographic and industrial demands.

In rural communities, minors assisted with agriculture, animal husbandry, and dry-stone wall maintenance. Conversely, in urban centres and the maritime hub of the Grand Harbour, children constituted a visible segment of the informal labour force. Many worked as street hawkers selling matches, paraffin, and newspapers, while others served as apprentices in masonry workshops, limestone

quarries, carpentry shops, and domestic service. In maritime trades, young boys frequently assisted coal-heavers and carried out auxiliary tasks for merchant vessels and the British Royal Navy.

Legislative intervention began gradually under British colonial administration in the interwar period, influenced in part by standards established by the International Labour Organisation. The Compulsory Attendance Act of 1924 marked an early effort to curb daytime employment by requiring school attendance until the age of twelve, though economic necessity and limited inspection resources hindered uniform compliance. This was supplemented by the Factories' Regulation Act of 1926, which restricted the employment of children in hazardous industries, notably stone extraction, tile manufacturing, dye handling, and night work. Further statutory controls in 1944 and 1946 reinforced the minimum working age and empowered attendance officers to penalise non-compliance.

The post-war era witnessed a unique and contentious dimension of youth displacement through child migration schemes. Between the late 1940s and early 1960s, several hundred Maltese children migrated to Australia. Many of these migrants were subsequently subjected to harsh discipline and unpaid manual or agricultural labour, an episode that has since received formal state apologies and historical re-examination.

Domestically, the trajectory toward total eradication of child labour accelerated in the latter half of the twentieth century. The enactment of the Education Act of 1974 established compulsory education up to the age of sixteen, effectively aligning educational mandates with employment law. Today, under Maltese law and European Union directives—most notably the Young Persons: Employment Regulations—regular employment below the compulsory school-leaving age is strictly prohibited, with limited exceptions restricted to authorised cultural, artistic, and educational activities subject to rigorous administrative permits.

IN MEMORY OF THE WOMEN LOST TO VIOLENCE IN MALTA

Over the decades, dozens of women in Malta and Gozo have been murdered by partners, former partners, relatives and other people known to them.

This list serves as a sobering reminder of the women who lost their lives to domestic violence, gender-based violence and other acts of brutality at the hands of those closest to them.

1930: **Ġuża (Josephine) Formosa** (Domestic violence)
 1939: **Katrin Galea** (Shot dead)
 1951: **Maria Stella Caruana** (Domestic violence)
 1977: **Karen Grech** (Letter bomb)
 1978: **Mary Saliba** (Stabbed to death)
 1981: **Rose Casaletto** (Drowned)
 1983: **Angela Debono** (Stabbed to death)
 1987: **Gemma Fonk** (Stabbed to death)
 1993: **Diane Gerada** (Stabbed to death)
 1993: **Sylvia King** (Burnt alive in her car)
 1999: **Jane Vella** (Pushed off of a cliff)
 1999: **Maria Buhagiar** (Shot dead)
 1999: **Emilia Catania** and her 16-year-old daughter **Jacqueline** (Shot dead)
 2001: **Vanessa Grech** and her 17-month-old daughter (Stabbed to death)
 2002: **Rachel Muscat** (Stabbed to death)
 2002: **Pauline Tanti** (Stabbed to death)
 2003: **Josette Scicluna** (Stabbed to death)
 2004: **Patricia Attard** (Shot dead)
 2005: **Sion Grech** (Beaten to death)
 2005: **Doris Schembri** (Stabbed to death)
 2008: **Charlene Farrugia** (Stabbed to death)

2009: **Lyudmila Nykytiuk** (Pushed into an empty elevator shaft)
 2009: **Theresa Vella** (Stabbed to death)
 2009: **Catherine Agius** (Stabbed to death)
 2010: **Christine Sammut** (Shot dead)
 2011: **Irena Abadzhieva** (Stabbed to death)
 2011: **Karen Cheatle** (Drowned)
 2012: **Yvette Gajda** (Stabbed to death)
 2012: **Margaret Mifsud** (Strangled to death)
 2012: **Meryem Bugeja** (Beaten to death)
 2014: **Lisa Maria Zahra** (Assisted suicide - murder)
 2015: **Silvana Muscat** (Stabbed to death)
 2016: **Caroline Magri** (Slashed throat)
 2016: **Eleanor Mangion** (killed by hatchet)
 2017: **Daphne Caruana Galizia** (Car bomb)
 2018: **Maria Carmela Fenech and Antonia Micallef Sisters** (Stabbed to death)
 2018: **Shannon Mak** (Slashed throat)
 2018: **Lourdes Agius** (Strangled to death)
 2019: **Marija Lourdes and Angele Bonnici** (Killed by a mallet)
 2020: **Chantelle Chetcuti** (Stabbed to death)
 2022: **Paulina Dembska** (Raped and murdered)
 2022: **Rita Ellul** (Strangled to death)
 2022: **Bernice Cassar** (Shot dead)
 2022: **Pelin Kaya** (Car was deliberately plunged into her)
 2023: **Sandra Milena Ramírez Prieto** (Stabbed to death)
 2024: **Nicolette Ghirxi** (Stabbed to death)
 2026: **Charlotte Zammit** (Shot dead)



Invitation

The Missionary Society of St Paul
would like to invite the community, family and friends to
Celebrate the feast of
Our Lady of Victories
(also known as Maria Bambina)

at St Mary's Cathedral, College Street, Sydney.
Sunday 13th September 2026

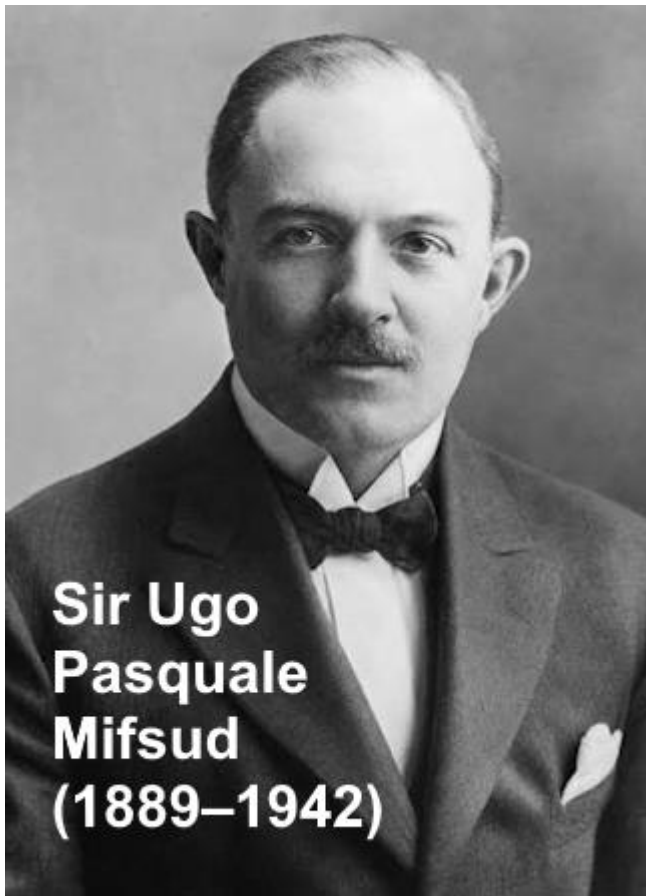
Procession and Rosary will commence at 2.30 pm,
followed by a concelebrated Mass by the Maltese Clergy.
Mass will be bi-lingual.

Main celebrant - Rev Fr Christopher Caruana OP, BA, Ma

Everyone is invited to attend and participate
in this important National celebration.

Rev Fr Tarcisio Micallef MSSP
Chaplain for the Maltese Community in Sydney

Fr Mario Zammit MSSP
0455 912 750 or 02 9380 8398

PRIME MINISTER OF MALTA**SIR UGO SUFFERED A HEART ATTACK IN PARLIAMENT**

Sir Ugo P. Mifsud was born in Valletta on 12 September 1889. He pursued his studies at the Lyceum and at the Royal University of Malta from where he graduated as a Lawyer in 1910. He had a very successful career at the Bar. He contributed papers on international law to leading legal journals, including the London International Law Notes. He was appointed a Member of the International Law Association, set up in Brussels and took an active part in the bi-annual conferences which discussed problems related to international law.

In 1928, he presided over the aerial and radio law committee at a conference in Warsaw; and in 1934 he presided the Trade Marks Committee at a conference in Budapest. At a conference held in Oxford in 1932, he was elected member of the executive committee and vice president. In 1928, he represented Malta at a conference convened in Canada by the Empire Parliamentary Association. Mifsud was Knighted

in 1927. Sir Ugo was elected Secretary of the initial sittings of the National Assembly after Sir Filippo Sciberras had rallied the Assembly to draft a Constitution for submission to the British Government. In 1921, under the Amery-Milner Constitution, Sir Ugo successfully contested the elections as a candidate of the Unione Popolare Maltese (UPM) for the Legislative Assembly. In 1924 Sir Ugo became the youngest Prime Minister in the British Empire.

After the merger in 1926 between the UPM and Dr. Enrico Mizzi's PDN, Sir Ugo became co-leader with Dr. Mizzi of the newly formed Partito Nazionalista (PN). He was re-elected in 1927 and again in the PN landslide victory of 1932, when he held the office of Prime Minister up to 1933, when the 1921 Constitution was withdrawn. In 1932 he formed part of a government delegation to London which submitted to the secretary of state for the colonies, Sir Philip Cunliffe Lister, a Memorandum with a formal request for Malta to be placed under the Dominion Office as an Independent Member of the Commonwealth.

Sir Ugo held several portfolios: Minister of Finance, Minister of Justice, Minister for Industry and Commerce, Minister for Posts, Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries.

In 1939 Sir Ugo Mifsud was elected Member of the Council of Government. On 9 February 1942 as the Council was debating, as a matter of urgency, the British Government's intention to deport several Maltese citizens, Sir Ugo suffered a heart attack as he was delivering a stirring and impassionate speech against the government's intention. Two days later he passed away. He is buried at the Lija cemetery. On the 21st Anniversary of his death a marble monument at Floriana was erected to his memory.

MTARFA WAR HOSPITAL STAFF - MALTA 1915



MALTA GOLF NATIONAL TEAM

JOIN US TODAY

Calling all competitive golfers of Maltese heritage. Join our expanding national teams and development pipeline.



Calling all golfers of Maltese heritage for the opportunity to represent Malta!

REPRESENT MALTA ON THE WORLD GOLF STAGE

Are you a competitive golfer with Maltese heritage? The Malta Golf National Team is expanding, and are looking for talented junior and adult amateur golfers to join their development pipeline. You do not need to currently reside in Malta or hold citizenship to be considered. The Malta Golf National Team is committed to identifying and supporting golfers of Maltese descent, and there may be pathways available to assist with citizenship for those who qualify for our national programs. If you are ready to take your game to the next level and represent your heritage, the team wants

to hear from you. Please email: golfing@maltagolf.org



Parish Feast

Our Lady of Victories

Come and celebrate the feast
of Our Lady Of Victories
with us!

Date: Sunday 20th September, 2026.

Venue: St Francis of Assisi Church,
Cnr. of Flagstaff & Bruce Roads,
Warrawong NSW 2502

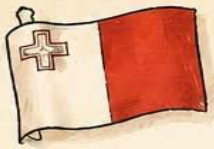
Time: 2:00pm Procession of
Our Lady of Victories, with
parishioners taking part in
praying the Holy Rosary.
Followed by Holy Mass.

Celebrant: Bishop Brian Mascord.

All are warmly welcomed.

(After Mass there will be refreshments
at the George Cross Falcons Community
Centre, 25-27 Lake Ave, Cringila. 2502).





MALTESE PHRASES

We say every day ♥

UWEJJA!

Come on!



AJMA!

Oh my goodness!



MELA!

Of course! /
Exactly!



MISKIN!

Poor thing!



IVA MELA!

Exactly!



ARA VERA!

Really?!



**MA JISTAX
IKUN!**

No way!



X'ĠĠENN!

That's crazy!



TAJJEB!

Alright! / Okay!



Kliemna, il-wirt taghna.

