



JOURNAL FOR MALTESE AROUND THE WORLD
MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

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**Br Edward Galea's
100th birthday**

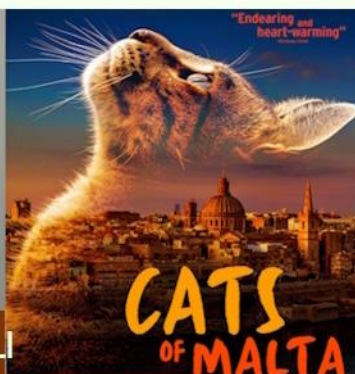
THE ITALIAN TENORS TO ENCHANT MALTA
at the Mediterranean Conference Centre Valletta



**Saturday
21 December
2024**



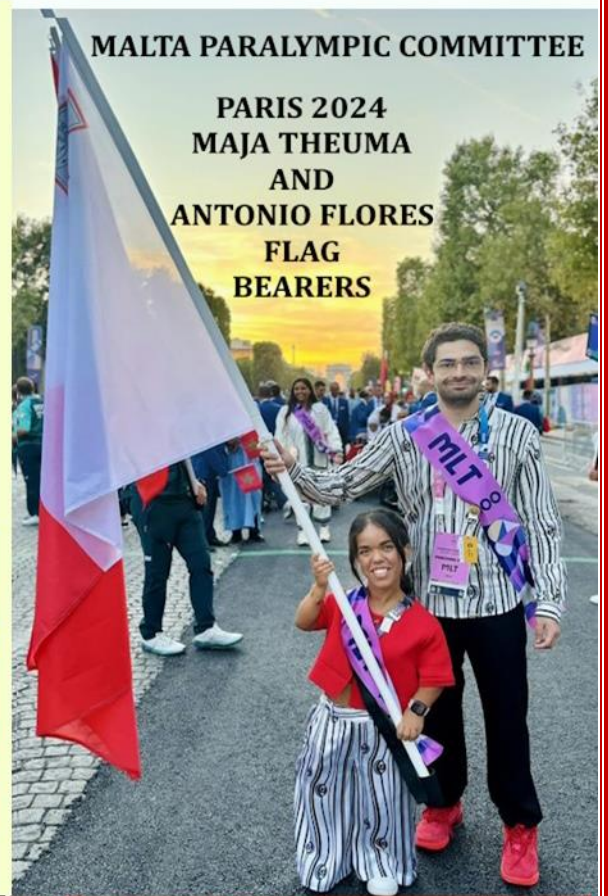
IVAN MALEKIN - SARAH JAYNE PORTELLI



**CATS
OF MALTA**

MALTA PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE

**PARIS 2024
MAJA THEUMA
AND
ANTONIO FLORES
FLAG
BEARERS**



MALTESE LIVING ABROAD
**TOGETHER
WE THRIVE**



DUDLEY WILLIAM MASON GC and the SS OHIO



Dudley William Mason is fondly remembered by the Maltese as the 40-year-old brave captain who mastered the SS *Ohio*, that large and fast Texaco tanker built in just seven months, which played a pivotal role in Operation Pedestal – also known as the Santa Marija Convoy – during World War II. Captain Mason was awarded the George Cross

medal in September 1942.

On 10 August 1942, a convoy of fourteen merchant ships, including the tanker SS *Ohio*, laden with 12,000 tons of oil, passed Gibraltar en route to Malta with vital supplies (Operation Pedestal). From the 11th the convoy and its escorts were under continuous attack from enemy aircraft and submarines. On the 12th, while approaching the Skerki Channel between Sicily and Tunisia, the *Ohio* was hit by a torpedo from the Italian submarine *Axum* and her steering damaged. On the 13th she was bombed and her boiler room hit. A German bomber then crashed on her, breaking her back. She was taken in tow, but the lines parted. Lines were reattached. She eventually entered Grand harbour, Valletta, lashed between two destroyers on 15 August. Only five of the fourteen ships had reached Malta. Of these the *Ohio* was the most important and one of the most heavily attacked. Their arrival was crucial for the island's ability to hold out and play a significant strategic role in the 8th Army's campaign against Rommel in North Africa.

Citation

The KING has been graciously pleased to award the GEORGE CROSS to Captain Dudley William Mason, Master, s.s. "Ohio." During the passage to Malta of an important convoy Captain Mason's ship suffered most violent onslaught. She was a focus of attack throughout and was torpedoed early one night. Although gravely damaged, her engines were kept going and the Master made a magnificent passage by hand-steering and without a compass. The ship's gunners helped to bring down one of the attacking aircraft. The vessel was hit again before morning, but though she did not sink, her engine room was wrecked. She was then towed. The unwieldy condition of the vessel and persistent enemy attacks made progress slow, and it was uncertain whether she would remain afloat. All next day progress somehow continued and the ship reached Malta after a further night at sea. The violence of the enemy could not deter the Master from his purpose. Throughout he showed skill and courage of the highest order and it was due to his determination that, in spite of the most persistent enemy opposition, the vessel, with her valuable cargo, eventually reached Malta and was safely berthed. (The award is dated 4th September, 1942.) *Third Supplement to The London Gazette of 4 September 1942. 8 September 1942, Numb. 35695, p. 3911*

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THE ITALIAN TENORS IN MALTA

Hailing from the heart of Italy, The Italian Tenors, will perform for the first time in Malta at the prestigious Mediterranean Conference Centre, following the resounding success of their sold-out European tour. Luca Sala, Sabino Gaita, and Evans Tonon, the triumphant trio, are set to

connect with their classically inspired origins in their highly anticipated 2024 World Tour. This enchanting journey will showcase the brilliance of their renowned arias, beloved Neapolitan classica, captivating 'popera', and a delightful array of surprises that promises to leave the audience in awe.

Accompanied by their talented live band, the evening guarantees a mesmerising musical tapestry, weaving together passion-filled vocals and unparalleled entertainment excellence. Get ready for a night of pure entertainment as The Italian Tenors transport you to the soul-stirring realms of their musical mastery



Maltese Drummer Performs In South Africa For 10,000 People

By [Ana Tortell](#)

Maltese drummer Daniel Said has just smashed a headline set in South Africa for 10,000 adoring fans.

Said is currently the full-time and exclusive drummer of British artist Myles Smith and they're on a world tour, playing for tens of thousands of screaming fans all across the globe. Their most recent stop on the Slightly Less Lonely Tour was

South Africa, headlining in both Johannesburg for ParkLive Festival and Cape Town headlining at GrandWest Arena.

"Johannesburg THIS WENT OFF! DYING to be back out here!! Till next time," Said wrote on social media about Saturday's concert.

Lovin Malta was able to sit down with the musician for an [exclusive interview](#) not long before he set off on tour. He opened up about the challenges, rewards, and incredible moments he's experienced amid this dream of a journey.

Next up, the band will travel to Canada and the United States where they're set to play over 30 shows between September and the start of November before moving on to Australia and New Zealand tour shows in Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, and Auckland.

In 2025, the band will be back in the US in January before traveling to Europe for the We Were Never Strangers Tour until April.

The band also performed on the [Today Show](#) live on CBS in New York and they featured on [Vevo](#) – the world's leading music video network for another exclusive interview.

DISTRICT UNITES TO CELEBRATE BR EDWARD GALEA'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

The District of Ireland, Great Britain and Malta united in celebration on Saturday August 17th to honour Br. Edward Galea on his 100th birthday.

Br. Edward, who is part of the De La Salle College Community, is truly a legend throughout Malta and beyond as he continues to devote his time, energy and wisdom to help inspire the young people entrusted to his care.

While Br. Edward will turn 100 on August 16th, the official celebration took place on Saturday, 17th with a concelebrated Mass of thanksgiving led by Mgr. Charles J. Scicluna, Archbishop of Malta. For the mass, a number of priests, most of them former students of De La Salle College, were in attendance. The Mass was held at the parish church and sanctuary of Our Lady of Graces, Zabbar - the village where Brother Edward was born and the parish church where he received Baptism.

This was followed by a reception at De La Salle College, where Brother Edward spent most of his life, which is situated not too far from Zabbar.

Born as Anthony on August 16th 1924 in Zabbar, in May 1939 he left Malta with another 11 aspirants and travelled to the Juniorate at Avignon, France. Despite the outbreak of war in September 1939 he stayed in France and was given the religious name of Tiburce Marie and when in Malta in 1945, he started being called Edward.

In 1940, he started his novitiate at Pibrac, near Toulouse and in 1942, he moved to St Maurice L'Exile and was given a special ID card allowing him restricted movement. He and the other Maltese Brothers were almost discovered by the Nazi due to their British passports and they decided to flee from St Maurice L'Exil. Edward headed to the Immaculate Conception Boarding School in Beziers where he started his first teaching practice in an elementary class.

At the end of August 1944, since much of France had been liberated, he returned to St Maurice L'Exil to finish his studies and eight months later when the war was over, they were all sent back to Malta.

Since then, Brother Edward has been teaching and helping in the administration at De La Salle College for over 70 years. He was Director (1963-1968), Sub-Director (1968-1971), Director (1971-1974) and Teacher (1974-1975). After a Renewal session (1975-1976) in Sangre, he was again appointed Director (1976-1978), Deputy Head Junior School (1978-1980), Sub-Director (1980-1983), Sixth Year Master (1980-1985) and Director of Novices (1986-1990).

In 1990, Brother Edward was Head of Junior School and throughout the years he has always led by example making sure to encourage every student with his optimism and enthusiasm. In the new millennium when a lay Head took over the educational running of the Junior School, he took over the role of Mentor.

He continued to teach religion, take part in school assemblies, organise prayer meetings for both students and staff, animate Mass for the different year groups, attend all meetings, and contribute to the running of the school.



LANDLORDS TO BE FINED UP TO €10,000 IF CAUGHT RENTING TO MORE THAN 10 PEOPLE

The law, which does not apply to families, will take effect at the end of October 2024



[Daniel Ellul](#)

Overcrowded flats have been a recurring issue in Malta's rental market. Anyone caught renting property to more than 10 people will face a fine of up to €10,000, according to a new legal notice.

The new law comes amid reports of overcrowding in properties, with foreign workers paying cheap rent

to sleep in rooms crammed with bunkbeds. In the legal notice, the number of occupants allowed in an apartment is based on the number of bedrooms and bathrooms it has.

A maximum of two tenants can occupy a single-bedroom apartment, a maximum of four can reside in a two-bedroom residence and six people can share a three-bedroom dwelling.

Four-bedroom and five-bedroom accommodations must have two bathrooms to house eight and 10 residents, respectively.

The law, which does not apply to families, will take effect within two months, at the end of October. Those in violation of the law are subject to a fine ranging from €2,500 to €10,000 and can also be prosecuted in court. It comes after Housing Minister Roderick Galdes announced plans for new rental regulations in March.

Existing planning regulations already limit occupancy to six people per dwelling but these regulations carry no penalties. Overcrowded apartments have been a recurring issue in Malta's rental market. On Tuesday, *Times of Malta* reported that a policeman was renting out a cockroach-infested three-bedroom house in Sliema to 16 tenants, each paying €250 a month.

A former tenant described how he was attracted to the property by its low rent and "no deposit policy" but soon found the conditions at the house "really difficult".

"I did my best to keep the place clean but there were 16 people... I should have been able to come home and relax but I was sad," he said.

Last year, *Times of Malta* also revealed how a Sliema apartment was housing 40 tenants, with up to nine people sleeping in a single room.

Most are foreign workers, who struggle to find affordable housing and are often discriminated against. Last month, a housing agent advertised a property with the warning "no Pakis, Indians, Arabs and Philippines" after accidentally publishing a landlord's "restrictions" for prospective tenants.

KATEL DELIA "MALTA - TUNIS - MARSEILLE"



THE MALTESE IN TUNISIA

Born in 1975, Katel Delia lives between Malta and Paris. She creates installations combining photography, sculpture, sound and writing. She is interested in the traces of the past and how they are reflected in the present, especially in the context of migration. In 2021, she was awarded the CAP Prize, a prize for contemporary African photography. In Malta, she had two solo exhibitions at the Spazju Kreattiv art centre, then in a private gallery. Her work has been presented in various photo festivals and group exhibitions in France, Malta and Switzerland and soon at the 13th Festival Circulation(s) in Paris.

Maltese immigration to North Africa, and then to a large extent to France after the independence of Tunisia and Algeria, is very little known, even in Malta. However, it is indeed a massive immigration on the scale of this small country. All immigrations are unique, but they share an attachment to a territory and very often wounds related to what we have to leave. A country can one day be the one that welcomes and then decades later the one that must be left for various reasons and vice versa. Being aware of this helps us to have more empathy for people who are fleeing their countries.

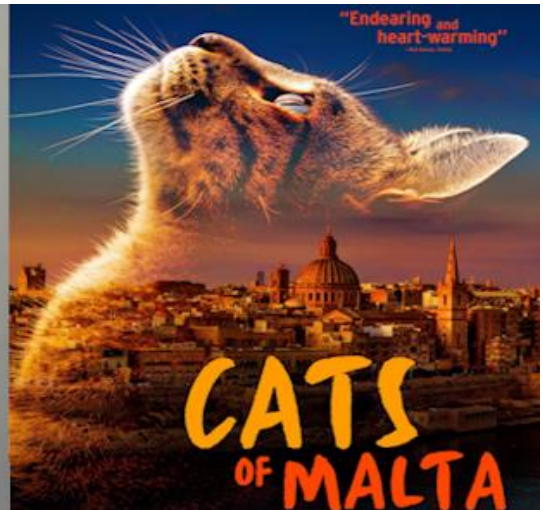
Book launch by Katel Delia "Malta - Tunis - Marseille"

Congratulations to Katel Delia on the presentation of her book, at the Valletta Design Cluster on August 23. A book that takes us on a journey to Malta, Tunisia and Marseille, through time and under the prime of migratory paths.

In addition to Katel Delia's contemporary photos, the book compiles archives of Maltese migrations to the former protectorate of Tunisia, common in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Katel said "I established a connection with the places and the streets of Tunis, La Goulette and Le Khram. I reclaimed them, together with the memories giving them a universal sense. What did I inherit from this period, from the 1930s to the 1960s? More than a century ago, Maltese fled poverty to join Tunisia, a land of promise for a better future, today crossing is the other way...

Katel said "Because of my Maltese father's origins, who settled in Tunisia at the beginning of the 20th century until 1961, I feel a deep attachment to this country, even though I've never lived there. To explore the traces of the past, I've been to Tunisia several times. In addition to Katel Delia's contemporary photos, the book compiles archives of Maltese migrations to the former protectorate of Tunisia, common in the 19th and 20th centuries in partnership with Klabb Kotba Maltin." Buy the book: <https://www.midseabooks.com/.../malta-tunis-marseille/>



Cats of Malta | Media Release September 2024

Nexus Production group's Maltese feature-length documentary celebrating Malta's cat culture, *Cats of Malta* premieres on PBS from October 26th, 2024 across the U.S.

"Malta is gorgeous, and the scenery alone was wonderful, but of course the real stars are the cats and the people who look after them." – Sarai Porretta, *Cats of Malta* funder

Cats of Malta is a family-friendly documentary that gives a voice to the island's stray cats and cat-culture, told through candid interviews with charismatic local feeders, artists and volunteers. Although *Cats of Malta* is a cat-centric movie it's also about the power of community and the strength of the human-cat connection.

Nexus Production Group is a Maltese film production company owned and run by prolific Australian filmmaking couple Ivan Malekin and Sarah Jayne Portelli, with Ivan credited as *Cats of Malta's* producer/editor and Sarah Jayne as producer/director.

Individually, the filmmakers each have fifteen years of experience producing, writing and directing short and feature-length independent films in Europe and Australia, including *Daughter* (2016), *Friends, Foes & Fireworks* (2017), *In Corpore* (2020) *Machination* (2022), *Cats of Malta* (2023) and *No Woman is an Island* (2023).

On location in Malta, the filmmakers visited popular cat colonies, cat cafes and sanctuaries, and talked to artists and feeders to source stories from locals and business owners about their favorite felines. They compiled all the heartfelt stories into an informative documentary.

The film stars members of Malta's local cat community, all as themselves, such as Roza Zammit Salinos, Isaac Muscat, Karmen Colerio, Matthew Pandolfino, Salvu Gilson, Michelle Degura, Polly March and Nikki Micallef.

Since *Cats of Malta's* late 2023 release via streaming platforms across North America, Australia and Europe, plus the various limited public screenings in Australia and the US, including Hawaii, and representing Malta in the AFI European Showcase, plus securing festival screenings in Australia, the USA and South Korea, the film has been spreading joy and making audiences feel a rainbow of emotions with each screening.

Looking forward, *Cats of Malta* will reach millions of viewers with a national PBS broadcast when it premieres on October 26th, just in time for National Cat Day on October 29th. Program dates and times will be announced through the *Cats of Malta* website, social media pages and exclusively through the Cats of Malta newsletter. Find out more, join the newsletter and watch the Cats of Malta trailer here: <https://www.catsofmaltafilm.com/>

To get in touch, please contact NPG directly: Email: Sarah Jayne Portelli

sj@catsofmaltafilm.com

Phone/WhatsApp: Sarah Jayne Portelli - +385 99 847 5054 www.CatsofMaltaFilm.com



L-Università
ta' Malta

MALTESE AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

www.um.edu.mt

Università ta' Malta - University of Malta

The courses at University of Malta (UM) at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels are designed to produce highly-qualified professionals in multiple disciplines. To pursue their studies at UM, local students require the Matriculation Certificate awarded by the MATSEC Board while international students require equivalent qualifications.

The language of instruction at UM is English. Applicants who have completed their secondary education overseas must satisfy UM's English language requirements by presenting a Secure English Language Test (SELT) result.

A basic Foundation Studies Course enables international high school students, who have completed their secondary or high school education overseas, but who do not have the necessary entry requirements, to qualify for admission to an undergraduate degree course at UM.

Another opportunity provided by UM to apply for a course at undergraduate and taught postgraduate level is through the Recognition and Accreditation of Prior Learning (RPL).

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

What does it mean to be neurodiverse? Do my genes make me who I am? Are robots the way to the future? Can I control the Large Hadron Collider? Find out this and more at the Science in the City 2024 Festival!

On 27-28 September, the Triton Fountain area in Valletta will be abuzz with dozens of interactive stands and hands-on activities for a brand new edition of Science in the City. Nearby at Sala San Duminku, a variety of enchanting indoor performances and workshops will be sure to spark curiosity and creativity. The festival will emotionally engage citizens while empowering them with the knowledge and skills necessary to take action locally and globally via informed decision-making. Accompanied by pre-festival events and post-festival content, Science in the City is an experience you won't want to miss.

This year's festival activities include interacting with humanoid robots from the University of Malta Cottonera Resource Centre, using 3D modeling to understand the role of microbes in the intestine with The BioArte Limited, virtually exploring shipwrecks, plane wrecks and other underwater locations around Malta thanks to Heritage Malta, and so much more!

The festival will also feature entertaining performances from local and international performers Braintastic! Science, Ringroad Theatre, The Bad Boy of Science, Diccon Cooper and Buddies' Experiments, answering questions such as, "What does it mean to be neurodiverse?", "Do my genes make me who I am?", "How do mathematics and DNA help with movement and music"? and "Can I control the Large Hadron Collider?"

J.E.D.I. is this year's festival theme, which stands for '**JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION**'. As the world rapidly undergoes monumental changes, especially to its environment, security, and health, research is vital to address major challenges

14 SEPT

IL-VITORJA CELEBRATION

Victory Day BBQ
Sep 14, 2024, 7:00 PM – 11:00 PM
Rain or Shine
The Maltese Center,
2720 Hoyt Ave S, Astoria,
NY 11102, USA

7:00 PM

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60TH

ANNIVERSARY OF
MALTA'S INDEPENDENCE

#MALTADAY2024

SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2024
EVENING @ NIAGARA FALLS
DETAILS T.B.C

SUNDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2024
THANKSGIVING HOLY MASS @
ST PAUL THE APOSTLE CHURCH
MORE INFO TBC

I WANT TO THANK ALL THOSE
WHO KINDLY SENT A DONATION
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COMMONWEALTH BANK
BSB: 065-106 Account Number: 0050 2597
NAME: Frank Scicluna

**THE MALTESE SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**
Annual General Meeting
Friday 27 September 2024
at Progressive Hall
LeHunte Street KILBURN
at 1.00pm

We should be thanking and praising people while they are still alive. Go up to someone who deserves credit and tell him/her 'thank you'. You would be surprised at how much it is appreciated. For friends and family, share stories of their kindness, devotion to others or their sense of humor.

Don't wait until they are in a coffin.

MALTESE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MEETS THE NSW GOVERNOR



Happy to see engagement at senior levels supporting our strong Maltese-Australian partnership. The Governor of New South Wales, Margaret Beazley AC, KC, met with the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Malta, Dr Anglu Farrugia, to discuss key bilateral issues and the longstanding relationship between and . Discussions highlighted the Maltese community's important

contributions to the growth and prosperity of the New South Wales region, as well as Australia.

Embassy of Malta to the United States of America



Yesterday evening, the Embassy of Malta held an event for the Maltese Diaspora living within the vicinity of Washington, D.C. This event steered away from our usual ones, whereby the Embassy screened the film, Simshar (a Maltese original film), and brought the remarkable Ms.Rebecca Cremona to speak about her journey in directing and producing this film. The event was then followed by a mini reception where attendees had the opportunity to taste some scrumptious pastizzi, bigilla, gbejniet and hobz biz-zejt thanks to our hard-working staff who prepared some of these mouthwatering Maltese dishes.

Today marks the end of a busy week for the Embassy of Malta to the US in San Francisco, together with Hon. Consul Louis J. Vella's continued support



It was a pleasure to directly serve the Maltese community in San Francisco, whereby a total of 120+ appointments took place within the time span of 6 days.

Consul Petra Grech also had the opportunity to visit the Maltese Club in San Francisco last Sunday, where she got to meet many of the dedicated members as well as volunteers and eat some mouthwatering pastizzi. Furthermore, the club showcases a piece of Maltese history thanks to Hon. Consul Louis J. Vella and other volunteers, which is one of the granite

laurel wreaths that used to decorate the facade of the old City Gate in Valletta.



BIRGUFEST is the annual national event of the city of Birgu, organized by the Birgu Local Council. It is spread on two days on the second weekend of October, Friday and Saturday. Birgufest hosts the famous event of Birgu by candlelight, an unforgettable night and experience where the streets of Birgu are switched off from every street light and lit only by candles. Thousands of candles light the streets of Birgu while professional musicians play around the streets of Birgu. Concerts take place in churches as these open their doors for visitors. Museums and other historical sites are opened to the public at a low fare. Traditional food is served by local voluntary organizations. Exhibitions take place in various public buildings around Birgu. A short film festival also takes place during the event on Saturday, between the colorful lit bastions of Birgu. Birgufest also includes an artisan market and other activities during the whole night.



150 ANNIVERSARJU
 Niċcelebraw il-150 Anniversarju tas-Soc. Filarm. VILHENA - A.D. 1874

KUNĊERT STRUMENTALI MILL-BANDA VILHENA
Taht il-Bakketta tas-Surmast Direttur
 Mro. George Debono LLCM, ALCM, A(Mus)LCM, MSc
 Jipparteċipaw mal-banda t-tenur Brian Cefai u l-Amadeus Chamber Choir

Il-Hadd 22 ta' Settembru
Fis-19:00
Teatru Manoel

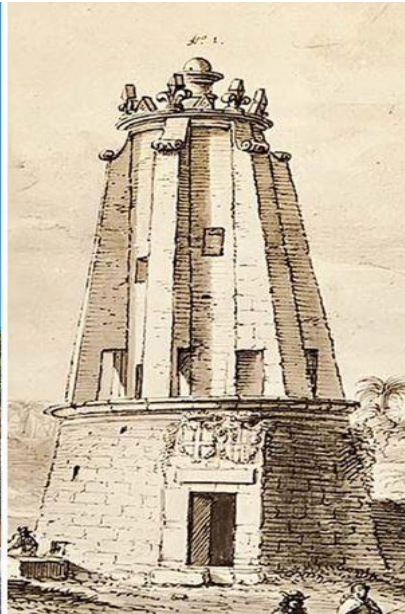
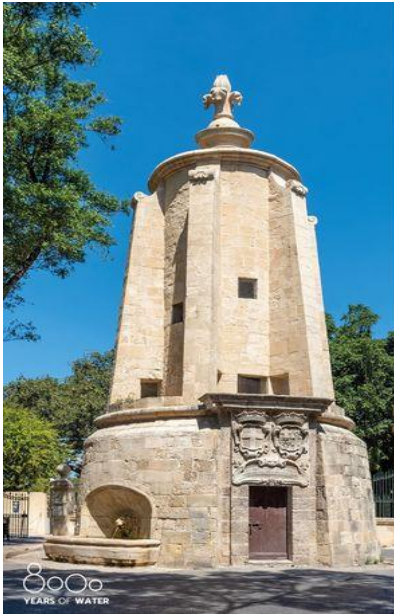


The Vilhena Philharmonic at the Manoel Theatre first time in 150 years

For the first time in its history, the Vilhena Philharmonic Band of

Floriana will be executing a musical programme at the Manoel Theatre, Valletta, the band said. "This programme titled '150 Anniversarju: Kunċert Strumentali mill-Banda Vilhena' is being held on the occasion of the 150th anniversary since the founding of the Philharmonic Band back in 1874. The venue in which this programme shall be executed is significant due to the fact that the Manoel Theatre is named after the Grandmaster de Vilhena, the same Grandmaster after which the Philharmonic Band is named." "The programme shall be executed under the baton of the musical director of the Philharmonic Band, Mro. George Debono, along with the bandsmen, the Amadeus Chamber Choir and tenor Brian Cefai, with the presentation being done by Mr. and Mrs. George and Elisa Cassar. The programme consists of a mixed variety of musical pieces from renowned classic composers, other more contemporary ones as well as pieces which belong solely to the Vilhena Philharmonic. The concerto is going to be held on Sunday 22nd September at 19:00hrs, and whoever wishes to book a ticket can contact one of the committee members or send us an email on societadevilhena@gmail.com. You may also contact us via our facebook page 'Socjeta Filarmonika Vilhena'."

HISTORY OF FLORIANA



The Wignacourt Water Tower in Floriana was built during the reign of the Grand Master Alof de Wignacourt in the 17th century. This tower formed an important part of the aqueduct system which was built by the knight to carry water from Rabat to Valletta.

The turret designed by Bontadini in Floriana just opposite Sarria Church as seen today. More or less intact, though it misses the coronet of delicate stone fleur-de-lys formerly running around its cornice as seen in a drawing by Dutch artist Willem Schellinks (1623-1678)



A RARE PHOTO OF FLORIANA CHURCH -1861

The church of St Publius Floriana Parish Church, the Sarria Church, the Wignacourt Water Tower and the Granaries in the foreground.

The photo was taken from Valletta most probably right after the construction of the naves and the oratory in 1861. Stone debris is still visible on the left of the main door.

Unknown photographer

Private collection.— in [San Miniato](#).

NATIONAL ARCHIVES



It is the 100 anniversary of the death of Dun Ġużepp Diacono (1847-1924). Besides serving as parish priest of various localities in Gozo, Diacono is opened a Casa Industriale for the teaching of young girls and women in various subjects including lace, dressmaking, crochet and painting. A main promoter of Gozo lace, he designed many lace patterns as well as several facades and churches in Gozo. The photo, shot by Michele Farrugia, shows young girls

and women in the lace class of the Casa Industriale. Photo: Gozo Archive [#NationalArchivesMalta](#)



Il-wirja agrarja tal-Imnarja fil-Buskett kienet avveniment ta' kull sena ewlieni f'pajjiżna. Dan hu avviż marbut mal-wirja għall-Imnarja ta' 90 sena ilu (**1934**). Wiehied jista' jinnota il-livell dgħajjef tal-ortografija Maltija minkejja li fl-istess sena (16 ta' Awwissu), il-Malti kien sar il-lingwa uffiċjali ta' Malta flimkien mal-Ingliż. Ritratt: [#arkivjinazzjonalimalta](#)

The Imnarja agrarian exhibition in Buskett was a key annual event in Malta. This is an advert related to the exhibition organised 90 years ago (1934). One may note the poor quality of the Maltese orthography. That same year (on 16 August), Maltese became the official language of Malta, together with English. Photo: [#NationalArchivesMalta](#)





CHEESE PRODUCER AND PROFESSOR JOIN FORCES TO REVIVE THE PRODUCTION OF CHEESE FROM GOATS-SHEEP MILK

Cheese is a product produced from milk, the majority of it coming from cows but also from other animal's milk such as goats and sheep. During time, the number of herdsmen who produced cheese from goats and sheep had decreased with the consequence that products made from milk of these animals also decreased.

TVMnews met with Mark Xerri and Prof. David Mifsud who joined forces to revive the production of cheese through goats and sheep *milk*. *Cheese producer Mark Xerri*. Cheese products have names such as Ġizwita, Fratell, Karmelitan, Frangiskan, Dumnikan and Kapučċin. These names were given to 10 different cheeses produced from milk of Maltese goats and sheep.

The names of these types of cheeses originated from Maltese monastic orders in medieval convents in France, Italy and around Europe. They did not use preservatives but used to preserve cheese of that era, exactly as we are doing by producing it in a scientific and technological way. Xerri told TVMnews that the milk fermentation process applies the knowledge of science and this local cheese is produced without any added substances. Good healthy bacteria are used to ferment the cheese and to give it a particular taste.

The milk for this cheese is produced by herdsmen in Żejtun who rear goats and sheep. If traces of medicine are found in the milk, it cannot be fermented in cheese, however when the milk is pasteurized, the bacteria is eliminated and good bacteria is added to ferment the milk in cheese.

Mark Xerri and Professor David Mifsud have been recently awarded with the 'Premju Ġieħ l-Artiġjanat Malti' for their produced cheese in the category of artisan products.

Press release

Church entities demand immediate release of detained Ethiopian nationals

The Ethiopian nationals who are being detained and facing deportation after having lived and worked legally in Malta for years should be released immediately, the Migrants Commission, the Justice and Peace Commission and JRS Malta urged the authorities.

The two commissions, which form part of the Archdiocese of Malta, and JRS Malta are wholeheartedly condemning the recent arrest of several Ethiopian nationals, who were rounded up, detained and told they will be sent back to Ethiopia.

They called on all Members of Parliament, especially the Social Affairs Committee, to convene and discuss this matter with urgency so that in collaboration with civil society organisations they could find a solution that respected individual rights and safeguarded every member of our society. The three entities also urged the authorities to create realistic pathways to regularisation for these Ethiopians and other individuals.

"We consider these recent actions to be unjust, indiscriminate and cruel and call upon the government to immediately release these individuals and to regularise their position," the entities said in a joint statement. The entities called on the authorities to heed the message of Pope Francis who during his General Audience yesterday dedicated his message to migrants and singled out the good Samaritans who did their utmost to rescue and save injured and abandoned migrants on the routes of desperate hope, in the five continents.

“These courageous men and women are a sign of a humanity that does not allow itself to be contaminated by the malign culture of indifference and rejection – it is our indifference and that attitude of rejection that kills migrants,” Pope Francis said.

The three entities said these Ethiopians were being targeted under the pretext of having come to Malta irregularly to seek asylum, which at the time was not granted. Despite this, most spent years — up to 17 years in some cases — living and working with the knowledge and authorisation of the authorities, who granted them employment licences, and residence permits.

Over the years they have contributed to society and become an integral part of the community, paying their taxes and social solidarity contributions.

“They are valued and trained employees, whose experience will be hard to replace. They are our neighbours, our colleagues, our friends, the people who greet us in the street, who care for our elderly relatives, and cleaned our hospital wards during the COVID-19 pandemic,” the entities said.

These incidents are the latest in a series of raids, which saw the lives of tens of migrants who had made Malta their home upended without warning and locked up, so that preparations can be made to send them to their country of origin.

Beyond the impact such actions had on these persons, it created a climate of fear and insecurity for members of society who over the past years contributed to everyone’s wellbeing. These actions are constant reminders by the State of how easily it can arbitrarily and indiscriminately trample over all the accomplishments these members of society achieved through their hard work and sacrifices.

“Such unjust practices and policies create fear and discrimination, and undermine the very fabric of our communities,” they said.

Quoting Pope Francis’s encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, the Church entities said society should be built on respect, trust, solidarity and an acknowledgement of “the inalienable dignity of each human person regardless of origin, race or religion, and the supreme law of fraternal love”.

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Dear Frank, my name is Carmen Camilleri. I live in Noble Park Victoria First and foremost I would like to thank you for the wonderful service you provide to the Maltese community here and overseas.

I enjoy reading these journals but, the Maltese newsletter no 531 was of a very nostalgic nature for me and my family. My father **JOSEPH MIZZI** was an R.M.A gunner during world war 2 at St. Elmo. I wish now that I was more attentive and had the inclination to write down some of the stories that dad used to tell my two sisters Annie , Sonya and I .

He recalled many instances about the time he and his fellow mates manned the guns during so many air raids and the many close calls they had during the heavy bombing.

He also always remembered with sadness his mates that did not survive. When he was relieved from duty for the day (or night) he would walk home to my pregnant mother in Rabat. My dad was so very proud of his army career, It showed by the way he lived the rest of his life in Australia and he carried that lifestyle till he passed away in 2006.

Carmen Camilleri Victoria, Australia

AN AUSTRALIAN / MALTESE MONUMENT & MALTA'S CHEQUERED HISTORY & LEADERS

Personal memoirs of community work, leading to and following the inception and completion of the 1988 Australian Maltese Bicentennial Commemorative Memorial at Civic Park, Pendle Hill, N.S.W

This book, with memorable pictures, also sequences significant episodes in Maltese History, including WWI and WWII and current political history with some references to Australian events.

A must read for second and third generation Maltese/Australians.



ORESTE (ORRIE) L. AQUILINA

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Personal memoirs of community work, the building of the Bicentennial Australian/Maltese Monument at Pendle Hill, NSW and the Chequered History of Malta and its Leaders as well as the current Inquiries into the murder of journalist Daphne ...

ORESTE L AQUILINA JP

ONE OF THE PIONEERS OF THE MALTESE COMMUNITY OF NSW



Oreste Aquilina arrived in Australia in 1956 at age 19 and had his first job in Sydney working in a haberdashery shop for a few weeks. Coming from a Public Service job in Malta he sat for the Commonwealth Public Service exam and went into the Postmaster General Department and Commonwealth Tender Board. He completed further studies in real estate, computing, accountancy, a four-year course in Personnel Administration, as well as many Defence and ACOA courses as a delegate on the Administrative and Clerical Officers Association and holds a N.A.A.T.I. Gr. 3 Interpreter certificate. During his 40 years' public service, he went from the P.M.G. Department to the Department of Agriculture before working for the Department of Defence for some thirty years. He also worked part time as a subtitler for 18 years with SBS TV and later as an SBS Broadcaster in the Maltese language as well as a part-time Court Interpreter. He served as a Justice of the Peace for NSW since 1982.

Oreste has some unpublished works including an appraisal of promotional aspects of the Australian public service. He also produced a Maltese/English Picture Dictionary for his family. Another unpublished paper dealing with Maltese history, language, religious feasts, Maltese culture, and Maltese migration was prepared during his term as Development Officer at La Valette Social Centre. This was a lecture paper prepared for an educational session for the retirement village and included several Maltese recipes for kitchen staff. Being involved in many associations, he contributed to amending and creating some association constitutions and Rules and Regulations, as well as designing crests and banners for associations. He wrote articles for various magazines and an occasional article in the Maltese Herald in both English and Maltese languages.

Oreste is a life member of the Catholic Club, now known as the City Tattersall's Club and of the South Sydney Junior Leagues Club.

While he is proud to be of Maltese origin, he is also very proud to call himself an Australian citizen. He received his 30 Years public Service Medal, a Bicentenary plaque, and Certificate for his Chairmanship of the Australian / Maltese Monument. In his retirement Oreste took up painting and singing with several choirs, and as a choral singer he is proud to have backed the great Luciano Pavarotti in Stockholm and to have sang at the Opening Ceremony of the Sydney 2000 Olympics.



THE LAST GHONNELLA

Angèle Ann Andrews wrote this article in collaboration with Yvonne Borg.

Under her *ghonnella*, Ċensa's skirt would reach her ankles

If you were to ask any Gozitan about the last *ghonnella*, his or her mind would turn to no other than Ċensa Vella whose *ghonnella* would have been seen meandering the streets of Victoria until early 1991.

The *faldetta* as the *ghonnella* is known in English, was a full-length gown, arching over the head to lend an air of modesty. The irony was that although Ċensa sought no attention, she inadvertently attracted followers of all ages. Hundreds of negatives must have found themselves in dark rooms on an international level, as her solid-black

hooded garment would bloom out of a solution. Ċensa was as delicate as the silk she wore, her gentle ways as appealing as its pleated folds.

Ċensa's father, Vincenzo Vella, had served with the Royal Artillery in World War 1 and was buried in Quebec. Marie-Roz Cremona was Ċensa's mother whose own mother was from Switzerland; known as "il-Mamma-Mi", she had served as midwife to families of the British forces in Chambray.

To mention that the family were devout Catholics would be an understatement.

Ċensa's uncle, Mgr Luigi Vella, is currently in the process of beatification. A monument to him stands proudly in Savina Square, next to the church he had had enlarged, within which Ċensa spent many an 'hour' in quiet devotion to the Holy Eucharist, a practice known as *is-siegħa*, instituted by her very uncle.

The street leading from the monument to Ċensa's house is now named after him.

Ċensa's elder sister, Giorgia, would also attend daily Mass at dawn before going about her household chores and daily cooking. I can still recall her tasty dishes made with fresh eggs laid by hens kept in two lofts.

Meanwhile, Ċensa was only too happy to do shopping rounds, which often included a stop for fresh fish, for which she had a discerning eye (as intimated so nicely by the adjoining photo captured by photographer Daniel Cilia in the 1980s). Ċensa would also buy fish for the many cats that followed her around, as did neighbourhood children, knowing that she always had a kind word for them.

"*Bongu, Ċensa, hoy*" you would hear them call out cheerily from doorways, as well as on brushing past her *ghonnella* in Victoria's quaint alleyways.

Nicknames abound on the island of Calypso, and Ċensa's family has not escaped tradition. The family were known as *Tad-Dubloon*, which refers to Spanish gold coins they possessed, along with several properties in the capital, before the individual houses were sold off as wars came and went. Ċensa, along with her seven brothers and sisters, was brought up in an extensive medieval corner house in the vicinity of the lush Lunzjata valley in Victoria.

Dating from the time of the Great Siege, it has a reconstructed exterior balcony with crescents, carved out of limestone, in its original style.

Trust was the order of the day in Ċensa's time; a large key would have been left in the front door lock. The open courtyard at the entrance gave on to a sweeping staircase while a framed painting by Millet, depicting potato diggers bowing their heads in recitation of the Angelus, used to hang by the landing, reminding guests that they were entering a blessed home – being dedicated to prayer, Ċensa and her sisters were referred to by the locals as *sorijiet tad-dar* or house nuns. These are not to be confused with the religious members of the MUSEUM movement which had its own distinct character; in the latter case, females enrolled in the religious society also wore *ghonnelli* in the early

days but their dress became modified over time. Under her *ghonnella*, Ċensa's skirt, which lay over many petticoats, would reach her ankles.

Little did she imagine that she had become a symbol of the century that was dying away

My recollections are filled with happy memories of Ċensa's spiritual way of life. It was like entering a convent, as the mumbling of the rosary could be heard until sundown, to the rattling tune of lace bobbins or *ċumbini*, as close neighbours and female relatives would lean forward on rattan chairs to rest their lace-making cushion *trajbu* or *mħadda* against the wall or the back of another chair, under the open-arched passageway upstairs. This gave on to a sunny patio brimming with plants, enveloped delightfully in the scent of jasmine.

Ċensa would be working on her *moska* pattern in the open doorway of her adjoining bedroom. The dining room nearby had a decor of antique furnishings, lit sternly by oil lamps before evening prayer and early bedtimes. Frames with biblical pictures served to remind you of your immortality, as images of purgatory warned of Judgement Day. A glass-domed baby Jesus surrounded by minute beaded flowers lay next to effigies of saints in glass pillars on the white marble top of a chest of drawers with sculptures in the shape of a lion's head. A showcase (*vettrin*) solidly witnessed the devotion of the makers of *bizzilla* (lace) in the winter months.

Yet, although Ċensa was surrounded by this solemnity and went about in charmingly simple ways, she sported a sense of humour shared by one of her cousins with whom she had enjoyed many a prank in her younger days. One such incident included the delivery of a letter to Ċensa's sweet-natured elder sister Teresa – only this had originally been intended for Ċensa herself – from an English soldier stationed in a nearby field. So it was that Teresa ended up marrying Frederick Gould instead and thus left Gozo for Norwich, where she had an only child, my bubbly grandma Mary Melita.

Melita, in turn, married a jovial Londoner, William Joseph Tyler, also in the army. So in came another nickname, *Tal-Ġinger*, as my mother's generation and mine would be referred to.

Mum's siblings also adored Gozo, although like their parents, they would all initially settle down in England, with Uncle Patrick moving to Australia. Friends and relatives in Victoria always ask after them whenever I visit Gozo from Greater London, where I myself have settled.

Ċensa spent many an hour in quiet devotion to the Holy Eucharist at the church of the Nativity of Our Lady, better known as Ta' Savina, in Victoria.

Ċensa, on the other hand, only got as far as Malta. She used to visit Sliema regularly at one point when her sister Teresa and Frederick had been stationed at Tigné Barracks.

Ċensa's brothers, on the other hand, doing their part in World War I, went abroad. One of them is buried in Ontario, Canada, another in Wales. Sadly, the war took its toll on the youngest, Mikiel, a blacksmith, who was to suffer from post-traumatic stress after seeing fighting in Gallipoli.

Ċensa and Giorgia treated their brothers with deference: as children, my younger sister, Tanya, and I would be mindful not to disturb our great-granduncles' mealtimes or siesta. We would join Ċensa in her small, quaint room filled with an assortment of Nativity crib figures, knick-knacks and curiosities. I was in my element as Ċensa loved literature and art. Her brother Emmanuel had been a professional photographer and the antechamber downstairs had been his studio. His own nickname, *Tal-Fekruna*, had been earned after he had taken home an injured sea turtle, placing it in a tank in the well room; neighbours would gather around to see it.

of us knew and loved; that she would become part of the folklore of a gem of an island.

Yes, while Ċensa is buried next to my grandparents in Gozo, the memory of her last *ghonnella*, which is cherished by my mother, is precious because the wearer engendered the very values and traditions of its nation. It was worn with humility, love and sincerity.



ANOTHER POSITIVE RESULT AT THE ATHLETICS MASTERS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

NET Newsroom

Another day of the World Athletics Masters Championships being held in Gothenburg, Sweden. After Rachid Chouhal won the bronze medal in the long jump days ago, there is another positive result from Charlton Debono in the 10 kilometers road race.

In total there were 532 participants where in the 40-year category, Charlton Debono got the silver medal. Debono made the distance in 31 minutes 54 seconds. In first place finished

Pedro Javier Vega Ballesteros of Spain in 31 minutes 13 seconds. Debono came in second with a remarkable gap over John Craig of the UK with 32 minutes 21 seconds. In the overall ranking, Charlton Debono was ranked 11th out of 532 participants.



MALTESE COMMUNITY IN DEARBORN, MICHIGAN USA

MALTESE COMMUNITY IN MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA





Daniella - Xempju ta' Ġenerożità u Pożittività

Daniella - a role model of Generosity and Positivity
Apprezzament minn Mary Gauci - *Appreciation by Mary Gauci*



Daniella Zahra ħallietna sena ilu,

Daniella Zahra passed away a year ago, imma l-memorja ħelwa tagħha għada magħna. yet her sweet loving memory is still with us.

Kellha karattru ferrieħi u dejjem lesta li tgħin.

She had a cheerful character always ready to help.

Kienet imwiolda l-Awstralja minn ġenituri Għawdxin

She was born in Australia. Her parents are Gozitans.

Il-mahbub raġel tagħha Shaun, ukoll hu ta' nisel Għawdxin.

Her loving husband Shaun, also has some family roots in Gozo.

Kien u l-Kanada mistednin għal tiegħ, meta Daniella ħassa ħazin.

They were in Canada invited to a wedding, when Daniella felt sick.

Kien mument tqil ħafna għax Daniella propju ħallietna f'it wara.

It was a difficult moment and in fact soon after Daniella passed away.

L-aħbar ta' dieqa xterdet ma' kullimkien l-aktar f'l-Awstralja u f'Malta.

The sad news spread everywhere in particular in Australia and in Malta.

Daniella hi imwiolda Cauchi. Missierha John mix-Xewkija u ommha Mary min-Nadur.

Daniella's maiden name is Cauchi. Her father John is from Xewkija and her mother is from Nadur.

Kumbinazzjoni missierha sekundu-kugin mal-partner tiegħi Anthony Cauchi u ommha hi oħt r-raġel t-oħti.

By coincidence, her father is my partner's second cousin and her mother is sister of my sister's husband.

Jien u Anthony inzertajna konna l-Awstralja, għalhekk attendejna għal funeral tant organizzat tajjeb fejn ġew ħafna nies anki mill-bogħod ħafna.

Anthony and I happened to be in Australia and we attended the funeral which was excellently organised and many people came even from very far away.

Stajna nosservaw aktar mill-qrib kemm Daniella, il-ġenituri tagħha u oħtha Jessica jgawdu rispett - valuri b'għożża kbira lejn il-familja, kollegi tax-xogħol, ħbieb u ma' kull min ikollu kuntatt magħhom.

We could notice more clearly how much Daniela, her parents and her sister are respected... treasuring noble values towards the family, work colleagues, friends and all those who come in contact with them.

Hi trawma kiefra titlef lil uliedek żgħar. Binti Christine ukoll kienet ħallietna ħabta u sabta suldat li kienet għerqet waqt diving l-Imgarr Għawdex.

It is a harsh trauma when your children pass away at a young age. My daughter Christine also passed away. She drowned while diving at Imgarr lx-Xini Gozo.

Hemm ħafna x'nistgħu ngħidu dwar Daniella, per eżempju li kienet tħobb il-wirt storiku Malti u li kienet segretarja tal-Australian Nadur Association.

There is plenty we can say about Daniella but she loved her Maltese heritage and was the secretary of the Australian Nadur Association. Daniella hija mudel għalina u tibqa' mfakkra bħala eroj għall-ġenerożità, mħabba u pożittività. Daniella is a role model for us and she will continue to be remembered as a hero for generosity, love and positivity.

FIL-JUM LI FIH
CENSINA VELLA GHADDIET
GHALL-ĦAJJA AĦJAR

L-aħbar ġriet mar-Rabat kollu
Li Censina għalqet għajnejha,
Mal-Ħallieq marret tiltaqa'
U lil Frances sabet hdejha.

Mietet mart l-ispeċjalista
Ġew qaluli dlonk xi hbieb –
Lil San Gorg sabet fil-Ġenna
Biex jifthilha pront il-bieb!

Imma tgħid qalbek hebritek
Li ma kontx se tibqa' magħna!
Ara ftit f'liema hemm tfajtna
Imbikkija lkoll arana!

Qbadt u tlaqt bla ma għidtilna
F'hakka t'għajn halljetna ltiema
Hsadtna waħda liema bħala
B'qalb imnikkta u sogħbiena!

Kieku s-Surmast għadu magħna
Kien jinsiglek versi sbieħ
Għax ilsienna tant kien jgħożżu
U jhobbu wisq, qatigh!

Jien illum qed nieħu postu
Biex nagħtik l-aħħar tislma;

Ta' kull darba li ltqajt miegħek -
Issellimli bi tbissima.

Il-Parroċċa spiss kont nilmhek
Tadura, tqim lill-Ħallieq
Li għalik kien jiġi l-ewwel –
Il-Verita' il-Ħajja, t-Triq!

Censina halliet jibkuha
Lil żewġha u erba' wlied,
U ma' dawn ġirien u qraba,
Flimkien man-nepputijiet.

Kienet thobb lis-Salezjani
Lilhom tgħinhom bi pjaċir
Biex dak li żera' Don Bosco
Jibqa' miexi bħal harir!

Kollox għadda, tar, sparixxa
Dil-mara għalqilha l-hin
Sabiex issa tmur tingħaqad
Max-Xirka tal-Qaddisin.

Kav Joe M Attard Rabat – Għawdex
Awwissu 2024

Żewġha huwa Speċjalista magħruf tal-
għajnejn Dr Ivan Vella u l-quddiesa
tal-funeral saret fil-Knisja Bażilika ta'
San Gorg Victoria u ma kienx hemm
fejn taqa' labra. jma



**SEND US
YOUR STORY**