

Maltese Community Mourns Loss of Bishop Joseph Grech

The Maltese community in Australia was shocked to learn that Bishop Joseph Grech passed away on 28 December 2010 at St Vincent's Hospital in Melbourne aged 62.

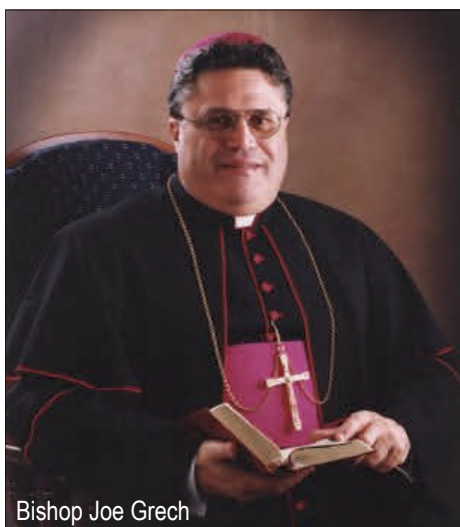
The Most Reverend Joseph Angelo Grech was born in Balzan, Malta, on 10 December 1948. After finishing his first four years of priestly formation at the Seminary in Malta, he arrived in Australia in January 1971 to complete his studies. He continued his studies for the priesthood at Corpus Christ College Glen Waverley and Clayton and was ordained at his birthplace in Malta on 30 November 1974.

Following his ordination, Fr Grech returned to Melbourne to take up parish appointments in Northcote, Altona North, Maidstone and Moonee Ponds and as Parish Priest in Brunswick East. In 1989 the Archbishop of Melbourne sent him to Rome to pursue further studies in Spirituality at the Gregorian University. In 1993 he was appointed Chaplain to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal for the Archdiocese of Melbourne, an office he held until 1996, and in 1997 he was appointed Spiritual Director at the Corpus Christi College Provincial Seminary in Melbourne.

On 27 November 1998 Fr Grech became one of Australia's youngest bishops, when he was appointed Auxiliary Bishop for the Western Region of the Archdiocese of Melbourne. The Maltese community was overjoyed with his appointment as Auxiliary Bishop and packed St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne at his installation on 10 February 1999.

On 8 March 2001 Bishop Grech was appointed Bishop of Sandhurst by Pope John Paul II and on 27 April 2001 he was installed at Bendigo's Sacred Heart Cathedral in the presence of a large number of Maltese who joined a large crowd of local residents in the celebrations.

Bishop Grech was also appointed Bishops' delegate for youth, young adults, migrants and refugees. He had a passion for



Bishop Joe Grech

safeguarding the interests of the underprivileged and related extremely well with young people and recent arrivals from refugee camps, who sought to make their home in Australia.

Bishop Grech was blessed with a very engaging and charismatic personality and people became aware that he was a man with a big heart and a caring nature. He was a person with a great commitment to the teachings of the Gospel and an inspirational speaker who never failed to get his messages across, particularly to the young. He often publicly spoke about the religious values which Maltese migrants brought with them to their country of adoption, the value of the family unit and the importance of observing our religious beliefs. Addressing young people on one occasion he said: 'God doesn't make rubbish! There is good in all of us and we just have to take time to find it.'

Bishop Grech gave great spiritual leadership to everyone, especially the Maltese in Victoria. He maintained a close relationship with the Maltese community and regularly attended religious functions, the last of which was the blessing of the facial sculpture of St George Preca at its installation at the Maltese Community Chapel in Parkville on 20 February 2010.▷

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L-MSSP tiċcelebra ċ-Ċentinarju f'Melbourne

Minn Paul Vella

Din is-sena, s-Socjetà Missjunarja ta' San Pawl, qegħdin jiċcelebraw il-100 Anniversarju mit-twaqqif tas-socjetà tagħhom li giet imwaqqfa minn Mons. Gużeppe De Piro.

Kien fit-30 ta' Ġunju tal-1910, meta Mons. De Piro laqa' l-ewwel żewġ membri tas-Socjetà Missjunarja ta' San Pawl. Fil-21 ta' Ġunju tal-1927, il-Fundatur bagħat lil Joseph Caruana, wiehed mill-ewwel żewġ membri, lejn Ethiopia fejn baqa' jahdem hemm sakemm miet fl-1975.

Kien f'Awwissu tal-1948, meta Fr Augustine Grech u Fr Peter Paul Borda waslu l-Awstralja u minn dak iż-żmien il-membri ta' din is-Socjetà ma waqfux jahdmu fost il-Maltin.

Għalkemm is-Socjetà fl-Awstralja ċcelebraw f'Sydney dan l-anniversarju, issa kien imiss lil Melbourne u ċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet kienu bil-kbir.

Nhar il-Hadd 28 ta' Novembru is-Socjetà Missjunarja ta' San Pawl organizzat kunċert kbir u wara Quddies fil-Knisja Kattolika tal-Kroazji ta' San Leopoldu, Ardeer. Aktar minn 750 ruh imlew is-sala għall-kunċert li beda fis-2 pm. ▷

Tkompli f'pagna 6

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The President's Column

The ageing Maltese Community

We need not be told that the Maltese community in Australia is ageing fast. The majority of us arrived here in the '50s and '60s, when we were young and vigorous, starting a new life in a foreign environment. That was more than 50 years ago, a statistic which is quite apparent whenever we meet at a social function.

According to the latest census, out of a population of just under 21,000 Maltese-born living in Victoria, there are 2,312 over the age of 75. In addition, there are another 4,430 aged 65-74, so that we can say that there are over 6,500 (or 32 per cent) of the Maltese-born population who are aged over 65 years.

As we grow older, our needs multiply considerably. Increasingly we find that we are not able to do what we used to do, including walking, shopping, doing the household work, including preparation of food and a myriad of other chores. These problems are exacerbated when there is only one person in the household and, particularly, when that person cannot drive a car anymore.

The Maltese Community Council of Victoria has always put great emphasis on the welfare needs of the community. Over the years it has endeavoured to provide much-needed services from its offices in Parkville and Sunshine. It has striven to obtain grants to employ trained staff to deal with the many problems that affect any society. It has made use of an army of volunteers to provide advice, entertainment and other facilities. Through its affiliated associations it has encouraged a policy of continuing socialising which is so essential, particularly for the elderly.

As we enter the new year, it is important to emphasize that, rather than getting any less demanding, these needs are, on the contrary, looming larger than ever. It is, therefore, essential that the MCCV, with the help of its affiliated associations, put as much energy as possible in ensuring that the needs of the elderly are effectively met.

Among these needs, one of the most obvious is reducing isolation. As we grow older, we tend to lose friends and relatives, and sooner or later, we find ourselves alone and often lonely. I consider it an imperative to ensure that we seek out older members of our community, who may feel isolated, and provide them with some means of reducing their hardship. One priority is to revive the home-visiting scheme, which involved organising a team of volunteers to visit old persons in their homes, hospitals, or nursing homes.

Affiliated associations can assist in this process by helping the MCCV compile a register of those most in need in order to ensure that they do not fall out of the net. Together we should be able to make an impact and improve the lot of those in need our help, which, one must add, could be you or me in the next few years.

— Prof. Maurice Cauchi, MCCV President

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Maltese Community Mourns Loss of Bishop Joseph Grech



Bishop Grech unveils the face sculpture of St George Preca in Parkville.

All the Maltese youth who were in Melbourne while on their way to the World Youth Day in Sydney in 2008 will recall his invitation to them to join him at the Bendigo Cathedral, when he concelebrated Mass with the Archbishop of Malta, His Grace Paul Cremona.

It is in keeping with his character that only some weeks ago, following his attendance with a group of parishioners in Rome for the canonisation of St Mary MacKillop, he should return to Malta to be part of the ordination of Fr Robert Galea, whom he had mentored while attending at the Seminary in Bendigo.

It is extremely hard to believe that he is no longer with us, but we are all better people for having been associated with him. He has always been a valued member of the Maltese community in Australia. He will be sadly missed but never forgotten. May he rest in peace.

The MCCV and its affiliated associations extend their sincere condolences and deepest sympathies to the Grech family.

— Victor G Borg, Vice-President, MCCV

CONTRIBUTIONS TO MCCV NEWSLETTER

The MCCV Newsletter is published every two months to inform the Maltese community about activities, news and information that would be of interest.

Affiliated associations are encouraged to provide contributions, including notices for forthcoming community events, brief reports and photos on community events that took place since the publication of the previous newsletter and short articles of interest to the Maltese community.

Contributions should be forwarded to the Editor either by email at mccvpro@gmail.com or alternatively by post to:

The Editor
MCCV Newsletter
Maltese Community Council of Victoria
477 Royal Parade
PARKVILLE 3052

Contributions must be submitted by the following dates:

- March-April 2011 Newsletter: **Friday 18 Feb 2011**
- May-June 2011 Newsletter: **Friday 15 Apr 2011**

Sad farewell to ‘exceptional pastor’

By Dr Edwin Borg-Manché

Members of the Executive of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria and representatives from its affiliated associations were among a large contingent from the Maltese community who bid farewell to their spiritual leader, the Bishop of Sandhurst Joseph Grech, at his funeral in Bendigo on Thursday, 6 January 2011.

In a statement issued a week earlier, the President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Archbishop Philip Wilson, referred to Bishop Grech as an “exceptional pastor, who made a tremendous contribution to the church in Australia because of his deep faith and spirituality, which has been shown especially in the zeal with which he dealt with issues of migrants and refugees and his outreach to young people.”

Following a two-hour Requiem Mass that was attended by over 4,000 people from all walks of life, the remains of Bishop Grech were laid to rest in the crypt below the majestic Sacred Heart Cathedral. Among those present in the jam-packed cathedral were Bishop Grech’s family, including his brother Carmel Grech and sister Rosette Saliba from Malta, members of the Sandhurst Diocese community and friends.

Archbishop of Sydney George Cardinal Pell led proceedings as principal celebrant at the Solemn Pontifical Requiem Mass, which was concelebrated with 32 bishops, including Archbishop of Melbourne Denis Hart, and 176 priests from across Australia.

The High Commissioner of Malta H.E. Francis Tabone spoke about Bishop Grech as “a jovial person full of life, a person with a sound vocation”. He said that “although we are saddened by his loss, we are comforted by the legacy of his work among his community and the refugees.” Mr Tabone said that the Maltese are very proud of the significant contribution that Bishop Grech, coming from such a small country, made to the Australian continent. On behalf of the people of Malta and the Maltese community in Australia, Mr Tabone saluted Bishop Grech as “one of Malta’s worthy sons.”

The Most Reverend Giuseppe Lazarotto, Apostolic Nuncio, read out a message from Pope Benedict XVI who was saddened to hear of the popular Bishop’s death. □



The packed Sacred Heart Cathedral in Bendigo attending the Requiem Mass.

Homily by H.G. Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn, at the Solemn Pontifical Requiem Mass for BISHOP GRECH

At three o'clock on the afternoon of 28 December – the hour of the Lord's own death – Joseph Angelo Grech, sixth Bishop of Sandhurst, breathed his last. This was deep in the Octave of Christmas when we were celebrating birth, even though the shadow of death loomed large on the feast of the Holy Innocents on which Bishop Joe died. His passing was peaceful – in fact it was barely observable. Most of us were standing by the bed, but Fr Karmel Borg, wonderful friend and wise guide to Joe for many years, was sitting a little away, watching the monitor that showed the ebbing of life. It was Karmel who noticed the moment of death, rose to his feet, approached the bed and said in a way I will never forget, “Good-bye, Joe”. There was so much in those simple words – words so human, so faith-filled, so loving and grateful: “Good-bye, Joe”. They are words that we echo this afternoon, words of farewell and gratitude as only Christians can speak in the face of death.

Walking away from the hospital, I thought of T. S. Eliot's poem, “The Journey of the Magi”, imagined words spoken by one of the Magi in old age, not inappropriate on this 6 January: “...were we lead all that way for / Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly, / We had evidence and no doubt. I have seen birth and death, / But had thought they were different”. Was it a death or a birth that we witnessed on 28 December? There was a death, certainly; we had evidence and no

doubt. There was no way back for Joe. But there was surely a way forward – a great birth into God, foreshadowed long ago in Joe's baptism.

In Bishop Joe's life, there were many little deaths to prepare him for the death that came last week. I first met him forty years ago when he came to begin theological studies at Corpus Christi College in Melbourne. Archbishop Gonzi of Malta had said to his many seminarians that they could go anywhere in the world to finish their training, work for seven years in the diocese of their choice and then decide whether or not to return to Malta. At first Joe wanted to go to America, but eventually he decided on Australia and came to Melbourne. He settled quickly, showed himself a bright student and fine companion, was ordained in Malta in 1974 and came back to Melbourne to work. After the allotted seven years, Joe decided to stay for life. And what a gain that was for us.

A turning-point for Joe came early in his priestly life when he was touched by the charismatic renewal, and how right it is that the readings of this Mass have spoken of the gift of Holy Spirit. Joe's ministry was in many ways the Holy Spirit's work of art. It had about it a touch of Pentecost, the sense of a new beginning, the roots of which however reached deep into the mighty heritage of Maltese faith. ▽

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Homily by H.G. Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn, at the Solemn Pontifical Requiem Mass for BISHOP GRECH

In earlier times, the charismatic renewal was regarded as something exotic, even a little suspect. Joe was exotic enough being Maltese, but to be Maltese and charismatic meant that he was exotic to the power of two. Looking back now, I can see that Joe Grech's career reflects the way in which the charismatic renewal has moved from the margin of Church life to the centre. Its influence is now found everywhere.

After some years as Assistant Priest, Joe was made Parish Priest of East Brunswick, which became a centre of vibrant Catholic life under the influence of the charismatic renewal. He was then sent to study in Rome, and this added breadth and depth to the charismatic impulse which was becoming stronger in his life. Upon his return from Rome, Joe was appointed full-time chaplain to the Catholic charismatic renewal in the Archdiocese, and this made him godfather to the many prayer groups, especially Italian-speaking ones, that sprang up all over Melbourne and beyond. He also established schools of evangelisation which stirred energy for mission, turning hearers of the Word into heralds of the Word. All of this was a crucial ministry, without which many would have gone elsewhere. It also helped the rest of us to see that the only way forward for the Church is to become more missionary. Yet in some ways it made Joe seem a marginal presence in the Archdiocese, an increasingly exotic figure who was underestimated by some, as he was at different times throughout his life.

A sign that things were changing in the Church came when Archbishop Pell chose Joe to be spiritual director of the seminary, an appointment which surprised some who either didn't know Joe or who underestimated him. The same reaction came when he stood in as Vicar General for a time and even more when he was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne. The seemingly exotic man from Malta had moved decisively to the centre, and that was a sign of what was happening in the Church in this country and around the world. For Joe, it meant leaving behind much that he cherished: was it a death or a birth? His episcopal ordination – which sadly I couldn't attend – was by all accounts an unforgettable occasion. It was a triumph not so much for Joe himself but for all those who had felt themselves on the margin of Church life, especially perhaps those from ethnic communities not belonging to the Anglo-Celtic tribe.

Bishop Joe then moved to the Western region of the Archdiocese for which he seemed so well suited. He clearly thought that there he would spend the rest of his life. He set about planning and building a house in West Footscray – and what a house it was! Known affectionately as Casa Costalot, it was almost finished when Bishop Joe was appointed to the diocese of Sandhurst. He never lived in the house he built, but I did: so thanks, Joe ... much appreciated. The appointment to Bendigo was a bombshell he didn't see coming, and to the day he died, I think, he wondered about it. Was it a death or a birth?

Whatever about his wondering, Joe applied himself to the mission with all his gifts. To the diocese, he brought faith, energy, humanity, enthusiasm, encouragement, simplicity – all gifts of the Spirit. He became a bush bishop, and only because Jesus is Lord. Bishop Joe may have been puzzled by the call, but he heard in it the voice of Jesus. "He has sent me to bring good news" (Isa 61:1): that was his response. So out into the bush he went, to Bendigo and far beyond. The boy from Balzan had come a long way.

Through this time, Bishop Joe was becoming more and more an international figure within the charismatic renewal, and he could have been full-time travelling the world as a preacher and teacher. Invitations came thick and fast, and it wasn't easy for Joe to balance these with his growing commitments in the diocese and the Bishops Conference. At times people forget that all bishops are involved on three levels – local, national and international. Most people see only the local. But some bishops are involved more than others at the national and international level – and Joe Grech was one of those. Here today it's good for us to recall that Bishop Joe's death will be lamented around the world because he was such a servant of the universal Church.

For all his vivacity, there was a darker side to Bishop Joe – especially perhaps after his brush with mortality when his blood condition first emerged. He spoke to me of how that illness had shaken his confidence; he spoke of the burden of loneliness, especially when travelling on his own; he spoke of how stressful he found the conflict that comes to any bishop; he spoke of a lingering weariness – indeed he once went to sleep on me over a meal in Rome. So much for my sparkling conversation. In ways not always obvious, Bishop Joe had to wrestle with the dark angel, alone and

at midnight. Yet many of the best things of Joe Grech came from that struggle. He bore a cross, but it was the Lord's Cross because, far from destroying him, it made him what he was. Was it death or was it birth?

We gather in Sacred Heart Cathedral to say, "Good-bye, Joe". But we also say, "Thank you, Joe: grazzi hafna!" Thanks for so many beautiful and surprising things through your beautiful and surprising life, cut short in a way neither you nor we expected.

When the tubby little guy from Malta arrived in Melbourne forty years ago on this very day, who would have imagined the path that was opening up before him? Who would have thought that we would be burying him as Bishop of Sandhurst? How strange, how surprising it has all been, but how wonderful and how much a gift. That's why our thanks are not just to Bishop Joe but to God who is the One without whom nothing about Joe Grech can be understood, nothing in life and nothing in death.

As I walked from the deathbed out into the sunlight, I thought of the Holy Innocents. I had a merry vision of the baby boys of Bethlehem, now all smiles, taking Joe by the hand and leading him to God on the far side of death and saying to God, "Look who we found". Joe, I'm sure, would have been in his element with the little ones. There was a nice touch of the child in him, and he was always great with the young. God would recognise Joe immediately and say to him simply, "Thanks for all you've done, good and faithful servant, impassioned and joyful witness". And Joe would reply in that way of his, "Praise God".

Joseph Angelo Grech was born on 10 December and died on 28 December; he was ordained priest on 30 November and bishop on 10 February – all in summer time. He was very much a fruit of summer, very much a child of the sun: how often did people call him warm? We pray now, in the faith of Easter, that, beyond the great birth, Bishop Joe will enter the eternal sabbath of God where the sun never sets and where peace is complete, "the peace of quietness", as St Augustine says, "the peace of the sabbath, a peace with no evening" (Confessions). Eternal rest give unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

+ Mark Coleridge
Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn

Ordination of Maltese Priest now serving in Diocese of Sandhurst

On Friday, 5 November 2010, Archbishop of Malta His Grace Paul Cremona O.P. celebrated a Mass at St Julian's Parish Church in Malta during which he ordained **Rev. Robert Galea** to the priesthood. The church was packed to capacity. There were four bishops, including the late Bishop Joseph Grech, and numerous clergy concelebrating, and present was a group of about 80 pilgrims and well-wishers from Australia.

Fr. Galea, who is 28 years old and hails from L-Ibraġġ Parish, commenced his studies in 2003 at the Archbishop's Seminary in Malta. In accordance with his wish, in 2007, the Maltese Bishop of Sandhurst, the Very Rev. Joseph Grech made a request to Archbishop Paul Cremona for Robert Galea to pursue his remaining studies in Australia, just as Bishop Joe had done himself 40 years ago.

During his formation at the Seminary in Melbourne, Robert had the opportunity to express his musical and vocal talents in order to spread the Good News in



Fr. Robert Galea at his Ordination

Australia, a country described by Robert as being thirsty for the Word of God and even more so, for vocations. In 2008, on the occasion of World Youth Day in Sydney, he was offered the opportunity to sing in the presence of Pope Benedict XVI before an audience of half a million people. Robert also formed part of a group

of contemporary pop singers, who recorded the official song for World Youth Day entitled 'Receive the Power'.

Today Fr. Galea is an internationally acclaimed singer and songwriter of Christian music. His recordings include three CDs: the 'Divine Mercy Chaplet' (July 2010), and the albums 'What a Day' (2008) and 'Closer' (2006). He is currently working on a new album which was due for release in late 2010.

Fr. Robert's passion is to draw others to the heart of God through his music. He believes that music is an important instrument to help God's people understand the need for a relationship with God. Whilst greatly appreciating his gift, Fr. Robert recognizes that before everything he is a follower of Christ, a priest and only then, a musician.

Following his ordination, Fr Robert Galea returned to Australia after his ordination to serve as a priest in the diocese of Sandhurst, Victoria. □

Father Rob's Tribute to Bishop Joe

By Catholic Communications, Sydney Archdiocese

7 January 2011

Newly ordained, Father Robert Galea worked through the night putting together a video to pay tribute to his friend and mentor, Bishop Joseph Grech - or Bishop Joe as he liked to be called.

Like Bishop Joe, Fr Rob - as he is known - was immensely proud of his Maltese heritage and when he was ordained in Malta on 5 November, two months ago, the prelate made a detour from Rome where he had led a group of pilgrims for the canonisation of Mary MacKillop, to attend the ceremony.

"Bishop Joe was always encouraging and was not only gave me pastoral and spiritual support but also urged me to continue writing songs and playing music," Fr Rob said today.

Devastated by the sudden and unexpected death of the 62-year-old Bishop, Fr Rob who has only recently taken up his duties as assistant priest at St Brendan's Parish, Shepparton, says he put together a video of yesterday's funeral along with anecdotes and comments from those who knew and loved Bishop Joe as a tribute for "everyone around the world who knew and loved him."



"I wanted to get the video up and running on YouTube as soon as possible and that's why I stayed up most of the night," he says.

Poignantly the background music used in his video is a song he wrote in July last year, which was a favourite of Bishop Joe's. Called "Letting Go," Father Rob wrote the song for a friend who had lost a loved one.

"I sang 'Letting Go' for Bishop Joe and he was so encouraging and excited when he heard I was recording it and it would soon be out on a CD," Fr Robert says.

Sadly Bishop Joe didn't live long enough to see the release of the song which is now available on iTunes and can be purchased by logging on to the website at www.thatsworship.com.

However Bishop Joe knew the power of music, particularly with young people and constantly encouraged the young seminarian in his musical endeavours.

He was also delighted to learn shortly before his death that Fr Rob was in the studios recording an album of songs to be released on 15 January.

"He was like a father figure to me and will be sadly missed. But his passionate love of Christ, energy and compassion will continue to be an inspiration not only for me but for all who knew him," Fr Robert says. □

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http://www.sydney.catholic.org.au/news/latest_news/2011/201117_1486.shtml

Tkompil minn paġna 1

L-MSSP tiċċelebra ċ-Ċentinarju f'Melbourne

Il-kompers kienu Natalie Penza neé Az-zopardi u Lee Revell li t-tnejn qasmu magħna l-esperjenza tagħhom mal-membri tas-Socjetà.

Michael Lapina u Liz Burrows fethu l-programm b'kanzunetta. Wara li daww prezenti semgħu x'konna qegħdin niċ-ċelebraw, il-100 Anniversarju tal-MSSP, il-Provinċjal tal-MSSP fl-Awstralja, Fr Mario Zammit, ġie mistieden fuq il-palk biex jagħmel diskors tal-ftuh. Imbagħad rajna dokumentarju ta' kwarta fuq iż-żewġ screens kbar li kien hemm, dwar il-ħajja ta' Mons. De Piro.

Mary Farell u Josephine Borg, minn NSW, ukoll qasmu magħna l-esperjenzi tagħhom, kif ghamlet ukoll Sr Majella Tracey FMM. Wara li rajna preżentazzjoni fuq is-servizzi li taw l-MSSP f'dawn l-aħħar mitt sena, kulhadd ġie mistieden biex jiehu kakra te jew kafe' u xi ħaġa tal-helu.

L-ewwel kelliem tat-tieni taqsima kien Fr Mark Grima, mid-dar tas-Socjetà f'Manila, il-Filippini, fejn wara li spicċa, żeffiena Filippini, Gintong Kultura, tawna żfin tradizzjonali tagħhom.

Fuq nota umoristika imbagħad kellna bħal sketch zghir minn tliet żagħżagħ, Nathan, Emily u John fuq direzzjoni ta' Red Lusterio, Youth Minister fil-parroċċa ta' St. James, Hoppers Crossing North.

Hawn, Fr Mario Zammit ippreżenta cheque lil Red Lusterio u Sr Anna Chir-cop, mill-parroċċi ta' St. James u St. Bernadette rispettivament, biex jgħinu jisponsorjaw żagħżagħ għall-'World Youth Day' f'Madrid, Spanja, is-sena d-dieħla.

Il-Viċi President tal-Kunsill Malti tal-Victoria, l-Avukat Victor Borg ġie mistieden biex jitkellem dwar l-armonija li dejjem kien hemm bejn il-komunità Maltija u l-membri tal-MSSP u l-għajjnuna li dawn tal-aħħar dejjem taw lill-komunità.



Xellug: Is-Superjur Ġenerali Fr Bernard Mangion, il-Provinċjal Fr Mario Zammit u Fr Jude Pirota jaqsmu l-kejk ta' l-okkażjoni. Fuq: L-Arcisqof Hart mal-konċelebranti. Taħt: Il-Knisja imballata għall-quddiesa.



Imbagħad indaqqet il-kanzunetta *Sharing His Dream* fuq Mons. De Piro, Din ġiet kantata mill-kompożituri u l-awturi, Belinda Hyland u Judith Camilleri. Wara din il-kanzunetta ġie mistieden fuq il-palk is-Superjur Ġenerali tal-MSSP, Fr Bernard Mangion.

Kellha ssir preżentazzjoni ta' fjuri lil Bev Tessari u Carmen Grech, voluntieri mill-parroċċa ta' St. Bernadette, North Sunshine, li jiehdu hsieb il-programm li jisponsorja lil tfal fil-missjonijiet tas-Socjetà, li ma saritx minhabba li għal xi raġuni ma setgħux jattendu. Il-hlas ta' \$60 fis-sena jgħin biex jieħdu hsieb tifel jew tifla fil-missjonijiet f'idejn is-Socjetà, u jedukawhom. Għal aktar tagħrif dwar dan tistgħu iċċemplu lil Bev (03) 9364 8168 jew lil Carmen fuq (03) 9311 6317.

Saret preżentazzjoni ta' fjuri lil Tess Mijares, li kkordinat dan l-avveniment li vera haqqha prosit kbir għaliex kollox mar sewwa u kollox kien mill-aħjar. Naturalment il-membri tal-MSSP wkoll taw is-sehem tagħhom biex dan l-avveniment kien wieħed ta' suċċess. Fr Jude Pirota wkoll ġie mistieden biex jgħid kelmtajn għall-okkażjoni.

Qabel ma kulhadd daħal fil-Knisja għall-Quddiesa, ħadna sehem f'cerimonja Aborigina, tal-art (hamrija), nar u l-ilma, li giet ippreżentata minn Vicki Clark, *Co-Ordinator tal-Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Team*.

Il-Knisja kienet ippakkjata minn daww li attendew għal din il-Quddiesa li għaliha gew aktar nies u deher li kien hemm madwar 900 ruh.

Il-Quddiesa giet iċċelebrata mill-Arcisqof ta' Melbourne, Denis Hart bħala Prim Celebrant. Koncelebranti kienu il-Vigarju Ġenerali, l-Isqof Les Tomlinson, u l-Isqof Bosco Penha, minn Mumbai, l-Indja, flimkien mas-Superjur Ġenerali tas-Socjetà, Fr Bernard Mangion, MSSP u l-Provinċjal, Fr Mario Zammit, MSSP. Dan barra minn 24 saċerdoti oħrajn, kemm tal-MSSP u Djocesani kif ukoll Brother Pantaleresco, MSSP. Kienet Quddiesa Solenni u sabiha hafna. L-Omelija saret mill-Arcisqof Denis Hart. Wara l-Quddiesa sar riċeviment fis-sala tal-Knisja.

Kien hemm mejda mimlija b'souvenirs u CDs u ġejt imgharraf minn Fr Mario Zammit, MSSP, li għad fadal xi ftit u jekk ikun hemm xi hadd interessat f'dan għandu jagħmel kuntatt miegħu fuq 0403 843 796.

Għal darb'ohra prosit lis-Socjetà għall-mod kif ġie organizzat il-kunċert u l-Quddiesa għaċ-ċelebrazzjoni taċ-Ċentinarju tas-Socjetà tagħhom u minn qalbna nixtiequhom l-isbah xewqat u nofrulhom it-talb tagħna biex ikomplu jahdmu fil-Qasam tal-Mulej, speċjalment fost l-emigranti Maltin. □

Blazing the trail

By Nicole Azzopardi

HE IS A KNIGHT, A RHODES SCHOLAR AND HE HAS EVEN BEEN A SUPREME COURT JUDGE, BUT AT HIS CORE THIS EMINENT ITALO-AUSTRALIAN IS ALL HEART.

Whichever way you look at it, Sir James Gobbo is a trailblazer and an individual.

He will proudly tell you that his parents were responsible for bringing the first espresso machine to Australia just as proudly as he will let you know he was the first person of non-English speaking background to become Governor of Victoria.

For the man whose backdrop to early life was the hustle and bustle of his parents' busy North Melbourne restaurant where his job was to peel potatoes and scrub the linoleum floor, Sir James certainly knows all about humble beginnings and hard work.

Arriving in Australia with his family from Italy in 1938 at the age of seven, Sir James was, and is, the archetypal immigrant in many ways. Like many immigrants, he has felt the 'predictable and painful' sting of being the foreign schoolboy; but the pain of new beginnings has been counterbalanced with the thrill of grabbing the plethora of opportunities that has become available to him over the years.

In fact, the child who turned up to school on his first day not speaking a word of English has seemed to take on every opportunity that has come his way – from work as a postman and a teacher after his time at Oxford University, to later returning to Australia to become a successful barrister and a judge of the Supreme Court.

Now, at 79 years of age, Sir James has lived to see a lot of change take place in Australia and he has something important to say about it. Of course, it is in perfect English, and is delivered with the grace and experience of a true statesman. It can be found in his recently launched memoir, *Something to Declare*.

"The main message of the book is to let people know that those who migrate here have often got very little to declare in terms of assets but have much to declare in terms of aspirations, culture, faith and personal qualities," he says.

"Those qualities are often reflected in family groups that come to Australia. Migrants bring personal qualities and basic skills, which enrich the host society. You need that to make a country grow. In my case, they were the personal qualities of courage and personal endeavour that my parents demonstrated and that rubbed off on their children."

It was this personal endeavour and sheer ambition that have spurred

Sir James on all these years – along with the gratitude he feels to the people who shepherded his journey.

"I have high expectations of myself and others," he says. "This is a precious opportunity and you must live up to it – play your part in the community and give back. Service to the community is a driving force for me – especially in the context of living out gospel values."

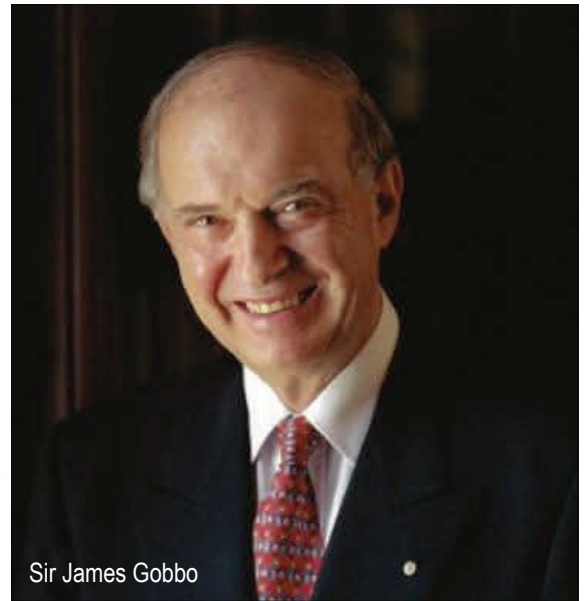
Clearly, service has been a major motivator for the man who in 1982 received a knighthood from the Queen for his work in hospitals, multiculturalism and the community.

In addition to this, Sir James' community service has extended to being the founding chairman of the Australian Council of Multicultural Affairs, president of Australia's largest Italian community organisation, Co.As.It., chairman of the Archbishop's Charitable Fund Bushfire Appeal, and a knight of the Order of Malta.

"The Order of Malta is a 900-year-old religious order with a history for taking care of the poor and the sick," he says of the group whose founding mission was the setting up of hospices, as they were then known.

"I hope I am regarded not simply as an adviser or in a board position but at the work face," he says. "That's where you get the maximum satisfaction. For example, if you are at the bedside of a dying person and you see the lift they get from talking about their lives – that's very fulfilling."

Sir James says he tries to encourage those around him to be in contact with the sick and the aged whenever they can.



Sir James Gobbo

"It's difficult to make that sort of contact," he admits. "Most of us work and live in comfortable surroundings but if you work at it you can find the opportunities. It doesn't have to be every day or even every week but if you do it, it's uplifting for the person you are serving and yourself and it's the good news for the Church."

"We mustn't underestimate the human spirit. I have seen it time and time again – especially when I was Governor. I was full of admiration for the way ordinary Australians did wonderful things in their work and their relationships with others."

You don't need a good education to be a good human being."

After so many years of service, is Sir James now ready to slow down and start enjoying the traditional Italian afternoon siesta?

"No!" he says with a smile. "I've got to keep my mind busy and if I do that, my body will somehow keep up after it." □

Something to Declare by Sir James Gobbo is published by Melbourne University Publishing. For more information, visit www.mup.com.au

[Note: This article appeared in the Kairos Catholic Journal and is reproduced by the kind permission of its Editor, Mr James O'Farrell.]

Maltese Community's contribution to 'L-Istrina' Campaign

In a media release published on 21 December 2010, the Malta High Commission announced that, following the appeal by the President of Malta, Dr George Abela, for donations to the L-Istrina Campaign, the amount collected from the Maltese community in Australia added up to \$8,250.00.

The High Commissioner, H.E. Mr Francis Tabone, thanked all Maltese Associations for their effort in sharing this Christmas with those more in need.

The Maltese Community Council of Victoria was among the organisations that made a contribution. □

Farewell to Gozo Bishop Nikol Cauchi 'who loved a lot'

Mgr Nikol Cauchi, Gozo's seventh residential Bishop, died early on Monday morning 15 November 2010 at Mater Dei Hospital Malta leaving in a state of shock family and friends, who were banking on his recovery after he suffered pneumonia and heart failure on 27 October.

The long funeral cortege, leading to the Cathedral in Victoria, Gozo, on Wednesday 18 November 2010, included several members of the clergy and was followed by President George Abela, who led the congregation, family and close friends, the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, other politicians and dignitaries.

Flags flew at half mast, prayers were chanted, tears rolled and cameras clicked as onlookers, including students, captured their last glimpse of the man who led the Gozo diocese for 38 years.

The Requiem Mass, led by Gozo Bishop Mgr Mario Grech, was concelebrated by Archbishop His Grace Paul Cremona O.P., the Apostolic Nuncio, Bishop Emeritus Mgr Joseph Mercieca and Vicar General Mgr Annetto Depasquale, and over 180 priests. Mgr Alfred Xuereb, the Pope's private secretary, also attended the funeral.

Sitting in the front row in the Cathedral were the late Bishop's brothers, Prof. Maurice Cauchi (MCCV President) and Fr Achilles Cauchi, and his two sisters Terezina and Gemma.



Mgr Nikol Cauchi

At the start of the Mass, Apostolic Nuncio Tommaso Caputo read out a letter from the Vatican's Secretary of State, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone expressing conveying Pope Benedict XVI's condolences. The letter said the Pope prayed for the memory of the devoted Bishop to continue to inspire the community he served during his long episcopate.

In his powerful homily, Bishop Grech said that the nation had lost a man "who had vision and gave vision". Bishop Grech said that Mgr Cauchi's vision was humanitarian, focused on man and everything that formed part of his life, including family and work, adding that he may not have seen the fruit of his contribution to the development of social life in his country.

Bishop Cauchi had a "big heart, hidden in a small man, which loved a lot, working hard and beating fast – probably so much so that it contributed to his death", Bishop Grech said of his 81-year-old predecessor, who had succumbed to cardiac problems.

"The biggest monument to him would be to embrace even some of that vision – in favour of man, centred round Christ, with the help of the Church," Bishop Grech said in his last farewell during the funeral Mass.

Mgr Cauchi was buried in the Chapel of St Ursula, to the right of the Cathedral's altar, in a private interment. He was widely respected as a preacher and communicator, and was known for his intellect and jovial character.

Mgr Cauchi was born in Gharb, Gozo, on 2 March 1929, ordained priest in 29 March 1952, and appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Gozo on 24 February 1967 and Bishop of Gozo on 20 July 1972. He remained popular even after his retirement in 2005, through his regular contributions and appearances in the media.

The MCCV and its affiliated associations extend their sincere condolences and deepest sympathies to MCCV President Prof Maurice Cauchi and his family.

— by Dr Edwin Borg-Manché from news reports published in the Times of Malta

Republic Day Honours 2010

On Republic Day each year, the President of Malta, on behalf of the Government and people of Malta, pays public tribute to a number of Maltese citizens who distinguish themselves in different fields of endeavour, by appointing them to *The National Order of Merit* or to the *Xirka Gieh ir-Repubblika*, or by awarding them the *Medalja għall-Qadi tar-Repubblika*.

The Investiture Ceremony for 2010 took place at The Palace, Valletta, on Monday 13 December 2010. During the Ceremony, two former members of the Maltese community in Melbourne, **Professor Josef Bonnici** and **Professor Henry Frendo** were appointed respectively Companion and Officer to *The National Order of Merit*.

Professor Josef Bonnici K.O.M. was born in Birżebbuġa. He obtained his B.A. (Hons) from the University of Malta and his M.A. and Ph.D. from the Simon Fraser University in Canada specialising in econometrics, macroeconomics and monetary economics.



University in Australia. In 1988 he was appointed Professor of Economics at the University of Malta and in 1991 as expert adviser to the Council of Europe. Between 1988 and 1992 Bonnici served as economics adviser to the Prime Minister.

In 1992 Prof. Bonnici was elected to Parliament. In 1993 he was given the position of Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and in 1995 and once again in 1998, was appointed Minister of Economic Services. In 2004 he became the first Maltese member of the European Court of Auditors, in 2006 was elected member responsible for the declaration of assurance (DAS) and in 2008 was elected Dean of its coordinating group.

Prof. Bonnici (left) lectured in macroeconomics and business finance at Simon Fraser University and was senior lecturer in economics at Deakin

Professor Henry Frendo U.O.M.

(right) studied at the Lyceum and the University of Malta, where he graduated B.A., B.A. (Hons), and M.A. He obtained his D.Phil. from Oxford University and also studied at the University of Perugia.



Prof. Frendo is Professor of History at the University of Malta and has been a visiting professor at various universities in Europe, Australia and the USA.

Prof. Frendo joined the Office of the UN High Commission for Refugees in Geneva and during the seventies and eighties served with UNHCR in Europe, Africa and Asia. He has also been involved in Council of Europe local and regional government affairs since 1994. □