

Advisory Council of Maltese Living Abroad appointed

In a press release issued on 22 July 2012, the Government of Malta announced the establishment of the Council of Maltese Living Abroad, which is a new advisory body set up under legislation that was unanimously approved by parliament late last year.

This Council was founded for the first time with representatives from Maltese communities living abroad. The setting up of this council fulfils a promise made by the Government during the Convention of Maltese Living Abroad that took place in Malta in March 2010.

The Council will be presided by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Tonio Borg, and consists of representatives appointed following consultation with Maltese communities from the following countries and regions:

- Victoria and New South Wales in Australia
- Other States in Australia
- United States of America
- Canada
- Europe (other than the United Kingdom), and
- United Kingdom.

The Council also includes five people who have significant experience working with Maltese communities living abroad.

The Council represents these communities in meetings with the Government of Malta and every other public authority. It monitors the standard of living of such communities and strengthens the links between them and the political, cultural, economical and social aspects of Malta. It protects the rights and interests of these communities, while also upholding their Maltese cultural and linguistic identity and promotes Malta's immigration history and culture overseas, in particular the learning of the Maltese language.

The Council will advise the Government on every legal bill that may impact the interests of Maltese living abroad as well as every administrative measure that is of particular interest to Maltese communities.

The Council has the responsibility of keeping a registry of non-governmental organisations overseas established by Maltese communities. Keeping a registry of prominent Maltese citizens that have distinguished themselves abroad is another responsibility of the Council.

Council Membership

The members of this Council are as follows:

- Mr **Lawrence Dimech** and Mr **Gaetano Pace** from New South Wales, Australia
- Prof **Maurice Cauchi** and Dr **Edwin Borg-Manché** from Victoria, Australia
- Mr **Frank Scicluna** from other states in Australia
- Mr **Larry Zahra** u Mr **Louis Vella** from United States of America
- Mr **Joseph Scerri** from Canada
- Mr **Bernard Scerri** from United Kingdom
- Mr **Franklin Mamo** from Europe

The five Maltese community experts living abroad that were chosen by the Prime Minister after consultation with the Opposition are:

- Dr **Roderic Bovingdon** (Australia)
- Fr **Alfred Vella** (Migrants Commission, Malta)
- Mr **Joseph Muscat** (Gozo)
- Ms **Carmen Galea** (Canada)
- Ms **Rosalie Rivett** (United Kingdom)

The Secretary of the Council is Ms **Doris Zammit**.

The first meeting of the Council of Maltese living abroad will be held this year. The law stipulates that this Council meets at least once a year in Malta. Such meetings may also be held via video or audio conferencing.

In its press release, the Government of Malta expressed its appreciation of the Opposition's cooperation in the selection of the committee members and in supporting the law during its passage through Parliament. ✠

New MSSP Superior General elected



Newly elected Superior General **Fr Mark Grima**.

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The President's Column

The Maltese language spoken in Australia

The results of a recent Australian census which have just been published, show us the pattern of change within the Maltese-speaking community in this large continent. In an age when interest about the Maltese Diaspora has seen a considerable increase, it would be of interest to those in the home country to have some idea of these findings.

To start with, and to the surprise of many living in Malta, there are still over 34,000 persons in Australia who speak Maltese as their main language at home. In some suburbs like Greystanes in NSW, 3.4% of the population speak Maltese.

It is to be expected that most of these persons were born in Malta and are over 60 years of age. What is more surprising is that 27 per cent were actually born in Australia, indicating that being born outside Malta is not an irrevocable sentence leading to loss of language maintenance.

Another interesting aspect is the fact that most Maltese speakers (86.6 per cent) had Australian citizenship, a proportion which is actually slightly higher than that of the Australian population as a whole (84.9 per cent)

Where Maltese speakers differ from the average population is in their stated average income as well as their educational achievement. In effect this reflects the level of these characteristics in post-war Malta, seeing that the vast majority of Maltese speakers are Malta-born.

Other sociological characteristics include marital status, which shows a considerable difference between Maltese speakers and Australian born. The number of Maltese-speaking persons recorded as being 'married in a registered marriage' was 67 per cent compared to the Australian average (49 per cent). This could possibly be due to the fact the Maltese speakers are, on average, much older than the average Australian population, with mores which they brought with them from home. More difficult to explain is the fact the one third of Maltese speakers (30 per cent) are not married

Over one-third of Maltese-speaking families (38 per cent) were childless. Of those with children, the majority (53 per cent) had only one child, with another third (31 per cent) having two children. This is not significantly different from the average Australian family.

One outstanding difference between Maltese and Australian families is the proportion of Maltese-speaking households who own their own house outright, which, at 68 per cent, is double that of the corresponding Australian average (32 per cent). Again one can explain this on the proportion of older persons speaking Maltese, but also on the tendency of the average Maltese household to put so much effort and significance on owning their own house.

Interpreting statistics is always a hazardous occupation. One has to realise that analysing parameters using characteristics such as language spoken can introduce certain distortions which have to be kept in mind. Most important of all is the fact that removing the vast majority of children from the group, because most of them do not speak Maltese, results in obvious skewing of the population. The vast majority of Maltese in Australia today were not born in Malta, and do not speak Maltese, and would therefore be excluded from these statistics.

However, these data are important in giving us a picture of the current status of those who left Malta a generation or two ago, as well as a picture of what will happen to the Maltese language in the next couple of decades.

Prof. Maurice Cauchi
MCCV President

President Abela leads team of volunteers on a mission in Peru



Dr George Abela with one of the locals in Peru.

On 14 July President of Malta Dr George Abela leading a team of about 60 volunteers arrived in Peru where they were given a warm welcome by a crowd of parishioners from MSSP parishes. The President and his group carried out missionary work in Arequipa. Dr Abela and his volunteers worked hard to complete their voluntary projects during their 2-week stay in Peru. The efforts of Maltese President were also recognized by the Mayor of Cayma who declared Dr Abela as a magnificent visitor.

Earlier this year, the President called on people interested in volunteering to join the mission particularly construction workers, health professionals and teachers to join the team. He appealed for donations including bathroom tiles, sinks, showers, rubber matting, television screens, stationery, educational material, books in Spanish, outdoor equipment, used prescription glasses, medicine, toys and cements. He appealed to agents and to the Spanish embassy to help as much as possible.

The President pointed out that all people on the team, including himself, will be paying for the trip, which was not a holiday. Volunteers were required to pay €1,500 each but those aged between 18 and 30, who are not in full time employment, were required to pay a subsidised rate of €750 each. The subsidy was paid from the Malta Community Chest Fund.

During their stay in Peru, the volunteers will, among other work, build bathrooms and finish and furnish two child centres and staying at the mission of the MSSP. Fr Louis Mallia, from the MSSP said there were around 10 Maltese priests in Peru where they tried to create a sense of community. He described this as a "marvelous but tough experience". ✠

Contributions to MCCV News

The MCCV News is published by the Maltese Community Council of Victoria every two months to inform the Maltese community about activities, news and information that would be of interest to it.

Contributions should be forwarded to the Editor either by email at pro@mccv.org.au or alternatively by post to:

The Editor—MCCV News
Maltese Community Council of Victoria
477 Royal Parade
PARKVILLE VIC 3052

Contributions must be submitted by the following dates:

- Sep-Oct 2012 Newsletter: **Friday 28 Sept 2012**
- Nov-Dec 2012 Newsletter: **Friday 30 Nov 2012**
- Jan-Feb 2013 Newsletter: **Friday 1 Feb 2013**



Notes from MCCV Council Meetings

JULY 2012

The following items were discussed at the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 4 July 2012:

MCCV Constitution. It was confirmed that the Constitution as registered on the 5th June 2003 is the current version. Changes to the MCCV constitution are being explored and will be discussed at a future Council meeting.

MCCV Board Room Fire. Work on repairs to the boardroom following the fire in April are well under way. All the plasterboard on the walls and ceiling has been replaced and the electrical wiring completed. The floor tiles and windows will also be replaced and a new reverse cycle air-conditioner / heater and lighting fixtures will be installed. The boardroom table, chairs and the room contents at the time of the fire will be replaced under the insurance claim. The antique sideboard will also be restored.

MCCV Community Awards 2012. A number of nominations for these awards were received. These will be discussed at the next Executive meeting when the successful nominations will be selected. An award presentation ceremony will be held at the Maltese Centre on 11 August 2012.

Bishop Joseph Grech Memorial Fund Luncheon. The Fund Committee will be organising a fund-raising luncheon at the Maltese Centre in Parkville on Sunday 22 July 2012 between 1.00 pm and 4.00 pm. Singer and composer, Ms Joan Drago, and comedian Vince Calleja, will be providing entertainment. Nominations have also been received for the Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Scholarship 2012. The selection committee will decide on the successful applicant. The presentation of the scholarship award will also be made at the reception to be held on 11 August 2012.

Maltese Team of Cyclists visiting Melbourne. The MCCV received a request to provide the main hall of the Maltese Centre for a team of cyclists from Malta to spend the night of Tuesday 6th November 2012 during their upcoming tour to Australia. They will be cycling from Brisbane to Melbourne to raise funds for the hospital in Malta. The Council agreed to provide as much assistance as possible.

MCCV Home Visitation Program. The program is now fully functional. The MCCV President met with the group of Home Visitation volunteers who have agreed to participate in the program as visitors. There is also a list of people who have expressed a desire to be visited by the volunteers. More people are expected to join the program. Affiliated associations are urged to publicise this new service that the MCCV provides to elderly members of our community.

Immigrant artefacts storage project. Dr Helen Light advised that the grant that she applied for, to set up a storage place for the safekeeping of artefacts donated by immigrants, has been approved. The MCCV can now start to collect these items from whoever wishes to make the donations and these will either be forwarded to the Migration Museum in Malta or passed on to Helen Light for storage. Anyone having Maltese migration related material of interest should contact the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville.

Keilor Downs Parish Priest appointed Monsignor. The MCCV congratulates Fr Charles Portelli on his appointment as Monsignor of the Pope for his work on 'Domus Australia' in Rome and the beautification and renovation of churches in Australia.

Visit by new MSSP Super General. Fr Agius informed the meeting that the Chapter of the MSSP was held during the last three weeks in June. Fr Mark Grima was chosen to be Superior General for the next 6 years. Until his appointment, Fr Mark Grima has been working at the MSSP mission and at the Theological College in the Philippines. He will be visiting Melbourne in early August. Three Councilors, Fr Martin Galea, Fr Mario Micallef, and Fr Frankie Cini, were elected to assist him in the administration and will be travelling with him.

Free public talk. Rev Dr Victor Shields also arrives in Melbourne on 13 July and will be delivering a public talk on Migration and Cultural Grief on Wednesday 15 August at 7.00 pm at the Maltese Centre in Parkville.

Low attendance at Bingo. As the number of attendees at Friday Bingo have really dwindled, the activity is being run at a loss. It was suggested that the MCCV should consider serving food again on Friday evening to encourage more to attend as well as increasing the prize money. ❖

AUGUST 2012

The following items were discussed at the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 1 August 2012:

MCCV Reception. The MCCV Community Award and the Bishop Joseph Grech Scholarship will be presented on Saturday 11 August 2012 at the Welcome Reception being held at the Maltese Centre in Parkville for Fr Mark Grima mssp, the recently elected new MSSP Superior General.

Appointment of the Council of Maltese Living Abroad. The meeting congratulated Prof Maurice Cauchi and Dr Edwin Borg-Manché on their appointment as representatives of the State of Victoria on the newly appointed advisory Council of Maltese Living Abroad. The first meeting of this new statutory body will be held in Malta in the coming weeks. Affiliated associations are invited to bring to the attention of any of the two representatives, preferably in writing, any matter affecting Maltese living in Victoria which they feel needs to be discussed at the advisory Council meeting in Malta.

Maltese Language Accreditation. The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) wrote to the MCCV about the status of the Maltese language subject. Unless there is a sufficient number of students around Australia taking the subject, fifteen being the minimum, the subject would no longer be offered at Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) level and other equivalent levels in the other States. According to the letter, VCAA agreed to remove the threat of suspension for the next year as the minimum number had been achieved in 2011 but the situation will be reassessed in light of the numbers in the next year.

The meeting was advised that the situation is not good this year, as there are no students in Victoria and New South Wales, and possibly South Australia, taking Maltese. As a result, the Maltese language exam will not be held this year. The situation will be reviewed again next year. If there are no students in the next two years, accreditation of the Maltese language subject will be lost. So far, indications are that there will be at least four students in Victoria. Council agreed that more work is required and associations are urged to encourage young and adult Maltese to take up the study of the language. The introduction of the Maltese language course by distance education earlier this year, which is open to anyone wishing to learn the language, is a step in the right direction.

Youth Committee. Rita Catania and Rita Ellul attended the meeting and presented the new logo and family of logos which have been set up for Generation Australian-Maltese (GAM). Several GAM activities have been planned and will be advertised on the group's Facebook page and the MCCV website. The first event will be to organise a group to attend at the Malthouse Theatre for the play "Angela's Kitchen" which is the story of a Maltese grandmother migrating to Australia as told by her grandson. The youth committee will be working together with *Nisġa*, an independent group in their event *The Maltese Cook Off* scheduled for 15 September 2012 at the William Angliss Institute in Melbourne. A GAM dinner is planned at the restaurant St Catherine, also in September to coincide with Malta Independence Day (21 September).

The Future of 'The Maltese Herald'. The Maltese Herald published on 10 July 2012 included an article by its editor, Lino Vella OAM, in which he announced his decision that if by December 2012 income from advertisements does not improve, the Christmas edition of the newspaper will be the last one to be published. According to the article, apparently the Maltese community, particularly some of the associations, prefer to publish their notices free of charge on other media and this is having its effect on the viability of the newspaper.

The meeting urged all MCCV-affiliated associations to consider supporting the only Maltese newspaper in Australia by placing paid advertisements to help keep the paper running. During the discussion, it was suggested that the predicament in which the newspaper find itself is part of the broader issue of the future of the print media generally. It was also commented that it is a pity that the newspaper has no plans to go electronic in order to continue to be the voice of the Maltese living in Australia using modern means of communication. ❖

New MSSP Superior General elected

On Friday 22 June the Missionary Society of St Paul elected Fr Mark Grima mssp as the new Superior General of the missionary order at the General Chapter being held in Malta. Fr Grima has been serving as a missionary in the MSSP Philippines mission that was established in 1999.

On behalf of the General Chapter, Fr Frankie Cini mssp published the following message to the MSSP laity on the MSSP Facebook page:

"Under the auspices of our Lady of Ta' Pinu, whose feast is celebrated on this day, the Missionary Society of St. Paul today elected its leadership for the next six years. Fr. Mark Grima, accepted the mandate of the General Chapter which chose him as the new leader of the MSSP.

"The vote which ushered Fr. Mark into this ministry of leadership and service to the Missionary Society of St. Paul, was in itself a show of the togetherness, and unity which has characterised this Chapter of the Society.

"Fr. Bernard Mangion, the outgoing Superior General took the opportunity to thank the members present and his leadership team for the way they have journeyed together in the past six years.

"Fr. Mark then made a formal profession of faith and was embraced by Fr. Bernard and all those present. We then vowed obedience to our newly elected Superior General. Simple, poignant and solemn moments of a group knit together the hard way: through toil and risk and a vulnerability to let God truly speak to us.

"In his first address to the Chapter as Superior General, Fr. Mark stated, for all of us: our gratitude can't even compare with the graces that the Lord has already bestowed on us in these 3 weeks. Yet we humbly pray with Mary – The lord looked on us his servants in our lowliness, And he has done great things for us.

"Later during the day of Friday, the Chapter elected the other three members of the new General Administration in this order: Fr. Martin Galea, Fr. Mario Micallef, and Fr. Frankie Cini. These three members will form the team which will help and assist the new Superior General in his task of



The MSSP newly elected General Council (from left): Fr Frankie Cini , Fr Mario Micallef , Fr Mark Grima and Fr Martin Galea.

leading the Society in its task to discern the present moment and plan for the future.

"At 10.20 am, the Gozo contingent in the Chapter , led by Fr. Victor Zammit and Fr. Giovanni Cefai took over for a moment of prayer to our Lady of Ta' Pinu, at the time traditionally associated with the call of Our Lady to Karmni Grima. Joining in prayer, right in the middle of our elections, was in itself an act of faith as we entrusted this moment of grace to the Mother of God, as our protectress.

"The Chapter continued with its schedule in the afternoon, and will go on till Tuesday 26th June, with a final session on the 30th June, the 102nd' Anniversary of the Foundation of our Society by the Servant of God, Joseph De Piro.

"In all this, we felt contained by your prayers. As our close friends, collaborators and bigger MSSP family we thank you for surrounding this Chapter with your prayers and goodwill."

On behalf of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria and its affiliated associations, the MCCV President and Executive Committee members congratulate Fr Grima on his election as Superior General and extend their best wishes to him and to the new General Council team. ✠

Brief Profile of Fr Mark

Born in Tarxien, Malta, Fr Mark Grima is an Old Boy of St. Paul's Missionary College, and holds degrees from the University of Malta, All Hallows, Dublin, and the Gregorian University in Rome. He has worked mostly in the field of formation in religious life, and for the past five years was responsible for setting up the International House of Formation which the Missionary Society of St. Paul has in Manila, the Philippines.

Fr Mark Grima was awarded the degree of Master of Arts in Pastoral Leadership in 1998 by the All Hallows Missionary College in Ireland. The topic for his dissertation presented as part fulfilment of the degree was *A Pauline Mission Spirituality* which is published on the MSSP website.

As Fr Grima states in his introduction, his dissertation offers "a rather tentative study, emphasizing the missionary dimension in Paul, which happened to be his motivating factor, and proposing him as a source of inspiration and direction for those involved in the ministry of evangelization."



Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Fund Luncheon

On Sunday 22 July a luncheon was held at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville as part of the ongoing process of raising funds for the Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Fund. The committee, under the aegis of the MCCV, has been active over the past year to set up this fund to encourage young persons of Maltese background to maintain their Maltese culture.

The President of the MCCV, Prof Maurice Cauchi, addressed the sizeable number of persons attending the luncheon on the aims of the Fund. This was followed by entertainment provided by well-known personality, Vincent Calleja, who, in a lighter vein, produced a series of funny stories and jokes which kept everybody laughing.



The second part of the entertainment consisted of a concert given by the inimitable Joan Drago (pictured above), who started with the serious but well-known songs, continued in a folkloristic fashion, joined by many of those who were present. It would appear that many Maltese, particularly the elderly ones, appreciate this sort of entertainment, compared with the more vigorous dinner dances that have been the standard over the years.

Our thanks go to the organisers, George Saliba (who was also the MC) and Lina Saliba, Guy and Mary Deguara, and several other helpers on the occasion. 🇲🇹

NISGA officially launched

The official launch of the new Maltese Australian community organisation in Melbourne, NISGA, was held at the RSL Club in Williamstown on Sunday 17 June 2012.

Grooving to the tunes of new group *Bustamento* and front man Nicky Bomba, new "group on the block" NISGA launched officially and it couldn't have been a better gathering – a fusion of all ages, all with a common factor – proud to be Maltese Australians!

NISGA, an incorporated not-for-profit organisation, aims to act as a platform to pass on the Maltese identity by holding various cultural events and festivals, and thus strengthening a sense of an Australian-Maltese identity among the current and upcoming generations.

"In Maltese, *nisga* refers to a weave, and by weaving together the different colours, textures and threads that tell our stories, we hope to foster greater strength of relationship with Malta and her people" said Sandra Mooney, President of the NISGA committee.

In a congratulatory note, Consul-General for Malta in Victoria, Mr Charles Mifsud, who was at the time in Malta, wished NISGA all the successes that it can bring about to foster, cultivate and spread the Maltese culture, traditions and language.

Earlier on this year, NISGA hosted World Figolli Day at the Maltese Centre in Parkville, where about 70 participants, spanning 3 generations of Maltese in Australia, were shown how to make figolli.

NISGA are currently working towards the next event, the Maltese Cook-Off being held on the 16 of September 2012 at William Angliss Institute in the city of Melbourne. Following last year's massive success, the Cook-Off returns, this time hosted by NISGA. Applications are now open for 10 teams made up of 3 members of one family to cook 3 Maltese dishes to feed over 250 hungry guests and, of course, to win the Cook-Off Trophy sponsored by the Consul-General, Mr Charles Mifsud.

For information about how to become a member of NISGA, email nisga.org@gmail.com, call 0499 077 920 or visit www.nisga.org.

Below: Nisga Committee at the launch. (Photo: Nino Xerri)



Pope honours Maltese Parish Priest serving in Melbourne

On 9 May 2012 Pope Benedict XVI honoured Rev. Mgr. Charles Portelli, the Parish Priest of St Mary of the Assumption (St Mary MacKillop) in Keilor Downs/Kealba, two suburbs north-west of Melbourne, with the title *Chaplain to His Holiness* for his work on 'Domus Australia' in Rome and the beautification and renovation of churches. The appointment was announced on 1 June 2012.

On behalf of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria and its affiliated associations, the President and members of the Executive Committee congratulate Mgr. Portelli for the prestigious honour conferred on him by the Pope.

Mgr. Portelli was among four Melbourne priests honoured by the Holy Father. The others were the Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, Rev. Mgr. Greg Bennet VG, honoured with the title *Prelate of Honour to His Holiness*; and two former Masters of Catholic Theological College, Rev. Mgr Terence Curtin, Parish Priest St Bridget's, Greythorn and Episcopal Vicar for the Eastern Region, and Rev. Mgr. Gerard Diamond, Parish Priest Ss. Anthony and Aloysius Glenhuntly/Caulfield, both honoured with the title *Chaplain to His Holiness*.

Mgr. Portelli was born in Mosta, Malta, the youngest child of Joseph and Josephine Portelli, and brother of Sam and sister Vicky. He came to Australia in 1960.

Mgr. Portelli was ordained priest in Melbourne on 17 August 1985. He was appointed to serve as Assistant Priest at Grovedale in 1985, Melton in 1986, Ascot Vale in 1987, Geelong in 1990 and St Patrick's Cathedral in 1993. In 1996 he was appointed Administrator of St Augustine's, Melbourne, returning to St Patrick's Cathedral where he was Master of Ceremonies to then Archbishop George Pell (now Cardinal of Sydney).

On 17 January 2001 Mgr. Portelli was appointed Parish Priest of Keilor Downs Parish and on 20 January 2007 of the newly formed parish of St Mary of the Assumption (St Mary MacKillop), Keilor Downs/Kealba.

Among his other responsibilities, Mgr. Portelli is Chaplain to the Catholic Regional College, North Keilor and Board Member of the Federation of Catholic Regional Colleges in Melbourne with campuses in St Albans, Melton, North



Monsignor Charles Portelli

Keilor, Sydenham and Caroline Springs. He is also Parish Priest to St Paul's Primary School Kealba and St Mary MacKillop Primary School.

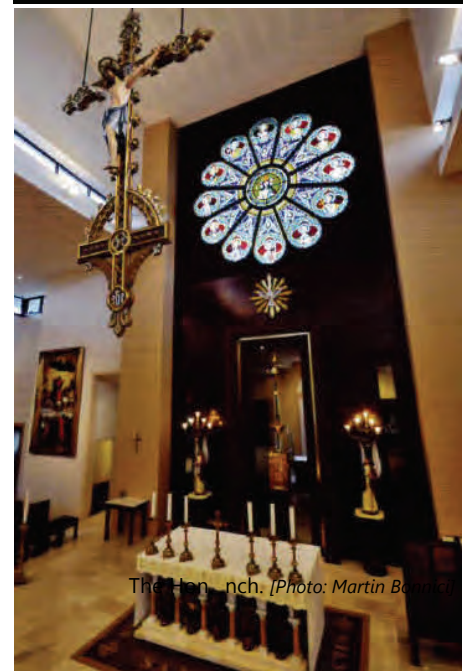
Mgr. Portelli has been involved in restoration and improvement works at many Churches and Chapels throughout Australia- St Augustine's Melbourne, St Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne, Corpus Christi Chapel Carlton, Rosary Home Chapel Keilor Downs, St Dominic's Church Melton, St Patrick's Church Mentone, St Paul's Church Kealba, Australia Catholic University Chapel Melbourne and the inspiration behind and responsible for the construction of the beautiful Church of St Mary MacKillop Keilor Downs, to name but a few.

Mgr. Portelli was also heavily involved in the development of a Chapel for His Eminence George Cardinal Pell in Sydney and of the 'Domus Australia' in Rome for His Eminence George Cardinal Pell.

Mgr. Portelli is involved in a number of Committees within the Archdiocese of Melbourne. His advice is continually sought by Bishops, Priests and parishes throughout Australia on matters of liturgical practice, church space, religious sculptures, pictures, statuary etc.

Mgr. Portelli has a vast knowledge in matters of Art and in particular in matters of religious art and has many contacts throughout Australia and around the world for such items. ✠

Images of Faith



*Though uncompromisingly contemporary in design, the church of St Mary MacKillop in the parish of Keilor Downs and Kealba is rich in Catholic imagery—and it is not there just for decoration, writes **Christopher Akehurst**.*

"Catholic faith is not only a set of propositions to which we give assent in the mind, it is a visual faith, a faith of images that illustrate what we believe." In these words Mgr Charles Portelli, Parish Priest of Keilor Downs and Kealba, explains the principle that has guided him in building and furnishing this striking church, St Mary MacKillop, one of the most remarkable in the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

He tells an anecdote of several primary school students he overheard looking at a painting of the Assumption newly hung in the church. "Who's that in the middle?" asked one. "That's Mary going up to Heaven," said another. "And who's the old guy up on the cloud?" "That's God." "I get it. So Mary went up to God when she died."

"The painting," says Mgr Portelli, "illustrates a doctrine that, purely intellectually, might not be so easy to comprehend."

Images are an essential part of catholic culture, but, says Mgr Portelli, catholic culture is something younger generations are disconnecting from, even in a parish of largely European-descended families such as Keilor Downs. Filling the church with sculpture and art, some of it antique, much of it of great beauty, is a way of asserting traditional catholic culture in the hope that people in the parish will find they can relate to it.

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Images of Faith

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The 19th century eagle lectern in brass

St Mary MacKillop was completed (though there are still a few additions Mgr Portelli wants to make) in 2004. It is a large, unashamedly contemporary building, steel-framed with concrete infill, almost industrial in the simplicity of its structure. Yet its plan represents a return to tradition. After several decades of new churches planned like fans with pews on three sides of the altar, St Mary MacKillop is on the basilican plan with nave and side aisles. Its only structurally decorative elements are the internal columns with their capitals modelled on those designed for Coventry cathedral in England in the early 1960s and a rose window six metres in diameter high above the altar. The budget to build St Mary's was \$2 million. "For that," Mgr Portelli was told, "you can have an outside or an inside, not both." He opted for the inside, so that when you pass through the porch the interior of the church speaks to you in a language quite different from the unadorned functionalism of the exterior. Works of art of Baroque and Gothic richness glint and glow against the plain background of the walls, which act as a foil to their beauty.

Behind the main altar is a Lady chapel with pews running lengthwise in what is called collegiate style. A tall Gothic-detailed free-standing tabernacle stands in an arch linking the chapel with the main church. It has two sets of doors: one at the front facing into the main church; and at the back, facing into the Lady chapel, a second set that open to reveal a built-in monstrance used frequently for Adoration.

This is a 'personal' church, in that it reflects the interests and taste of its priest ("a frustrated architect").

Mgr Portelli is an indefatigable retriever of ecclesiastical art, much of it removed from churches and chapels during 'reorderings'

The stained glass rose window with images of the Apostles and Christ the King.




here and overseas. Among the treasures acquired for St Mary's is a small timber altar in the Lady chapel that belonged to the Empress Eugenie of France, a set of eight superb Gothic candlesticks from the Good Shepherd Convent in Abbotsford, and a vast hanging crucifix originally brought from England for the Anglican cathedral in Bendigo but never installed. Also from an Anglican church is a fine 19th-century eagle lectern in brass.

The 1930's font in a restrained Art Deco style was retrieved from a presbytery garden where it served as a birdbath. Stained glass in the rose window—12 roundels with images of the Apostles—was rescued from a monastery in Sydney.

Not all the art in St Mary MacKillop is old. The stations of the cross and several sta-

ues of saints are modern Italian and Spanish. Perhaps the most striking sculptural works are six panels in bas-relief depicting the Passion and Resurrection, sculpted by Italian artist Augusto Rannochi. They are in the slightly 'brutalist' style popular in the 1960s yet are subtly beautiful in their texture and use of light and shade.

These have been set into the new main doors of the church, which were dedicated at Pentecost.

St Mary MacKillop is at 152 Odessa Avenue, Keilor Downs, 3038. The parish, established in 2007, incorporates the former parishes of St Mary MacKillop, Keilor Downs, and St Paul's, Kealba. 

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The interior of St Mary MacKillop church.

Ir-Rabat Malta Senior Citizens Association torganizza il-wirja annwali ta' l-Imnarja

Minn Emmanuel Brincat

Hawnekk f'Melbourne ghandna ghaqda li tinteressa ruhha fil-wirt kulturali taghna.

Nhar il-Hadd, 10 ta' Gunju, fiċ-Ċentru Malti Kulturali ta' Albion, Melbourne, kif isir kull sena giet organizzata din il-wirja minn din l-ghaqda, Rabat Malta Senior Citizens Association Inc.

Is-sur Paul Zahra, u martu Mary membri attivi ta' din l-ghaqda jorganizzaw kull sena din l-attività. Paul, li twieled u ghex il-Buskett, Malta, (fejn issir kull sena din il-festa), jaf sew l-attivitàjiet li jsiru f'din il-festa.

Paul u Mary hadmu hafna biex din il-wirja tkun varjata u nteressanti u bil-kooperazzjoni ta' l-esebituri kien hemm għadd kbir ta' ħxejjex, ċitru u varjeta ta' frott, flimkien ma' hafna 'craft' li nhadmu kollha mill-esebituri stess kif ukoll oġġetti ta' knitting, bizzilla, u mudelli varjati t'oġġetti tal-injam, li fosthom kien hemm mudell ta' mithna antika li

f'Malta fl-antik kienu jintużaw biex jithnu l-qamh, li għal wirja kienet qed taħdem bl-elettriku. Kien hemm ukoll riratti antiki ta' Malta u varjeta ta' ghasafar.

Il-bieb kellu jinfetħ f'nofs in-nhar imma hafna nies kienu hemm qabel. Meta jien u marti Mary Anne dhalna fiċ-Ċentru kien qed jintwera video film ta' l-Imnarja ta' Malta. In-nies tal-kċina kienu mhabbtin sew għax billi hafna kienu hemm qabel nofs in-nhar kienu bil-guħ. Ċensu, Charlie, Jane u l-voluntieri l-oħra tal-kċina u l-bar ma naqsux li jaqdu lill kulhadd.

Imbagħad wasal il-hin li nintroduci lill-ghannejja u l-kitarristi, dawk li jiltaqgħu kull nhar ta' Hamis f'dan iċ-Ċentru.

Kellna tlett sessjonijiet ta' għana u dawn tawna mill-aħjar tal-folklore Malti. Fl-ewwel u t-tieni sessjoni hadu parti erbgha ghannejja mal-kitarristi u fit-tielet sessjoni hadu parti sitt ghannejja mal-kitarristi, u nistghu nighidu li l-folklore taghna għadu haj sewwa u dan iċ-Ċentru ipproduca l-aħjar.

Hawn nixtieq insemmi dawk li hadu sehem: l-ghannejja Salvu Zerafa il-Kampanjol, Ġanni Camilleri il-Balus, Frank Camilleri il-Mosti, Fredu Cassar l-Ghawdx, Fredu Cachia il-Fra, Toni Lia il-Bigilla, Zeppi Fenech il-Kahla, Anglu Vella il-Mazza, u l-unika mara li hadet sehem is sinjura Mary Zammit.

Xellug:
Paul Zahra ma' prodotti tiegħu.

Lemin fuq:
Il-kitarristi u l-ghannejja.

Lemin isfel:
Parti minn dawk prezenti.

Ritratti minn
Emmanuel Brincat

Il-kitarristi li hadu sehem kienu Fredu Cachia, Toni Camilleri, Joe Grech, u Fredu Cassar.

L-organizzatur ta' l-ghannejja u l-kitarristi għas-sessjonijiet kollha kien is-sur Paul Magri.

Bejn sessjoni u oħra il-president tar-Rabat Malta Senior Citizens Association, is-sur Charlie Vassallo u l-organizzatur tal-wirja is-sur Paul Zahra jppreżentaw ċertifikati lil dawk kollha li hadu sehem f'din l-okkażjoni.

Is-sinjura Emma Vassallo u membri tal-kumitat tar-RMSCA tellghu raffle biex itaffu ftit mill-ispejjeż għax kull ma sar kien kollox bla ħlas, barra l-ikel u x-xorb.

Is-sur Charlie Vassallo u l-kumitat tiegħu stednuni biex inkun l-MC tagħhom għal din l-okkażjoni u jiena aċċettajt u ta' dan niringrazzjahom. Nixtieq ukoll niringrazzja lill-president taċ-Ċentru Malti ta' Albion, is-sur Peter Muscat, u s-segretarju is-sur Joe Zammit, u l-kumitat li għal darb'ohra laqgħu lili u l-marti Mary Anne u l-folla kbira li gew tal-merħba kbira li tawna.

Il-president tar-RMSCA, is-sur Charlie Vassallo, l-organizzatur tal-wirja is-sur Pal Zahra u l-kumitat kollu jixtiequ jiringrazzjaw lill dawk kollha li hadu sehem u nistghu nighidu li l-wirja ta' din is-sena kienet ukoll success kbir. 🇲🇹



From left Mrs M Zahra, Mr P Zahra, E Brincat (MC) Mr C Vassallo, and Mr T Vassallo, receiving certificate for his mum Mrs Emma Vassallo



Il-Festa ta' San Sebastjan iċcelebrata f'Melbourne

Minn Emmanuel Brincat

Nhar il-ġimgħa l-1 ta' Ġunju kien il-bidu tal-festi li saru f'Melbourne al-unur ta' San Sebastjan. Dawn il-Festi ġew organizzati mis-San Sebastian Association ta' Melbourne.

Il-Festi bdew b'Quddiesa li ġiet iċcelebrata ġewwa l-Knisja ta' St Martin DePorres fis-subborg ta' Avondale Heights. Il-Quddiesa kienet iċcelebrata minn Dun Tony Kerin, il-Kappillan ta' din il-Paroċċa. Waqt l-Omelija, Dun Tony tkellem fuq il-hajja ta' San Sebastjan. F'din il-Quddiesa, Dun Tony kien meġhun mis-Sur Luigi Bucciarelli u s-Sur Mario Genuis. Ha sehem il-Kor Wyndham Maltese Choir taht id-direzzjoni ta' l-organista is-Sinjura Kathleen Borg. Is-Sinjura Carmen Gatt qrat ittra ta' tifhir mill-Kapillan Dun Joseph Buhagiar tal-Parroċċa ta' San Sebastjan f'Hal Qormi Malta. Dehra mill-isbah kienet l-istatwa ta' San Sebastjan imżejna għall-okkażjoni mis-Sur Joe Cutajar.

Is-Sibt 2 ta' Ġunju sar il-Ballu tal-Festa fil-Lakeside Banqueting and Conference Centre ġewwa Taylors' Lakes. Mistieden ta' L-Unur kien il-Konslu Ġenerali ta' Malta fil-Victoria, is-Sur Charles Mifsud. Is-sinjura Mifsud kienet skużata peress li tinsab barra l-pajjiż iżżur lill-binhom Bernard.

Inghataw diskors mill-Konslu Ġenerali Charles Mifsud, mill-President tas-St Sebastian Association is-Sur Ray Gatt. Dun Tony Kerin għamel it-talba ta' qabel l-ikel. Lejn nofs is-serata itellgħet lotterija għal 12 il-riġal li offriet is-St Sebastian Association. L-Ballu kien suċċess kbir u l-mużika kienet f'idejn DJ Dominic. Lejn l-aħħar tas-serata il-Maltese United Brass Band ferret lil dawk prezenti b'marċi tradizzjonali Qormin. Attendew ukoll diversi Maltin minn Sydney permezz ta' coach organizzata mis-Sur Spedito Zammit u s-Sinjura Catharine Zammit. Il-President, is-Sur Gatt laqagħhom u rringrazzjahom li attendew.



Il-Hadd 3 ta'

Ġunju, jum il-Festa, peress li t-temp ġewwa Melbourne żamm, saret il-Quddiesa fl-istess Parroċċa ta' St Martin DePorres fis-2 pm. Din il-Quddiesa kienet konċelebrazzjoni mmexxja minn Dun Tony Kerin, flimkien ma Dun Rag u Dun Emmanuel Adami MSSP ukoll meġhuna mis-Sur Genuis u Sur Luigi Bucciarelli.

Kien hemm 18 l-Associations li attendew bl-istandardi tagħhom; li kienu esposti madwar l-artal.

Wara l-Quddiesa saret il-Purċissjoni bl-istatwa devota ta' San Sebastjan fil-madwar tal-Knisja. Il-purċissjoni kienet immexxja mill-President is-Sur Ray Gatt u l-Kumitat tiegħu, il-pubbliku li attenda numeruż, l-Associations bl-istandardi tagħhom u l-Banda Maltese Own Philharmonic Society (l-ewwel Banda ġewwa l-Victoria) taht id-direzzjoni ta' Mro George Aquilina. Wara l-



Il-purċissjoni bil-vara ta' San Bastjan

Purċissjoni kullhadd mar fis-Sala Parrokkjali fejn sar kunċert mill-stess Banda u b'sorpriza ta' kullhadd is-Sinjorina Harmony Anne Debono ta 14 il-sena, iddireġit b'abbilta kbira li turi li din iż-zgħażuġha għanda futur mill-isbah fil-Mużika u fid-direzzjoni tal-Banda. Hija ilha 6 snin mal-Banda u taf iddoqq 8 strumenti.

Nawgurawlha futur mużikali mill-isbah. Wara l-Kunċert kien hemm allegrija minn DJ Dominic. Dan kien tmien il-ġimgħa iehor f'ambjent tradizzjonali u kulturali Malti fejn hafna familji iltaqqu u hadu pjaċir flimkien. ✠

Josephine Zammit Cordina tippreżenta Waltzing Matilda għall-aħħar darba

Nhar it-Tlieta 24 ta' Lulju l-istazzjon Malti TVM2 xandar l-415 il-edizzjoni tal-programm 'Waltzing Matilda' li beda jixxandar fuq TVM 18 il-sena ilu fit-28 ta' Lulju 1994.

Is-Sinjura Josephine Zammit Cordina, l-producer u prezentattriċi tal-programm qalet li meta harget bl-idea tal-programm, l-ghan ewlieni tagħha kien li tressaq lill-Malti/Awstraljan kemm jista' jkun qrib il-qraba u hbieb li halla warajh f'Malta u f'Għawdex. Għan iehor kien li turi lill-Maltin f'Malta l-hajja li l-għeżiż tagħhom kienu qed jgħixu fl-Awstralja. Josephine Zammit Cordina qalet li meta tqis in-numru ta' programmi li xxandru u s-snin li ilu l-programm tifhem li altru li ż-żewġ għanijiet imsemmija intlaħqu sewwa.

Skont Josephine Zammit Cordina, kienu diversi l-esperjenzi li gawdiet waqt iż-żjarat spissi tagħha fl-Awstralja biex tiġbor il-materjal għall-programmi tagħha. Hija tgħid li dawn l-esperjenzi gēgħluha tghozz lill-Maltin u l-Għawdxin fl-Awstralja kemm għall-qagħda u l-istejjer tagħhom kif ukoll għall-mod mill-isbah li bih kienet tiġi milqugħa minn għaqdiet u assoċjazzjonijiet; xi haga li żgur tibqa stampata f'qalbha.

Il-programm ta' nhar it-Tlieta 24 ta' Lulju kien l-aħħar wiehed fl-iskeda tal-programmi tax-xitwa u kien ukoll l-aħħar wiehed li hija pproduċiet u pprezentat. Hija jidhrilha li tat



Josephine Zammit Cordina

bizżejjed biex lahqet l-għanijiet tal-programm kif ukoll biex immeritat l-għarfien tal-Gvern Malti u dak Awstraljan.

Josephine Zammit Cordina temmet tgħid li tixtieq tirringrazzja lil dawk kollha li sabet l-ghajnuna tagħhom biex twettaq il-hidma tagħha, lill-dawk li ospitawha u lil dawk li hadu sehem fil-programmi tagħha. Hija tgħid li f'dan ir-rigward thoss li tkun qed tonqos jekk ma' ssemmiex lill-Emirates kif ukoll lil Joe Montebello u Henry Zammit Cordina li gibdu l-biċċa l-kbira tal-filmati fl-Awstralja. Hija issellem u tawgura lill-Maltin u l-Għawdxin kollha fl-Awstralja. ✠

Grand Master of the Order of Malta in Melbourne

By Fiona Power

A Lourdes Mass on 23 May at Caritas Christi Hospice, Kew, was one of the highlights of the recent visit to Melbourne by the Prince and Grand Master of the Order of Malta, His Most Eminent Highness Matthew Festing OBE TD DL.

Fra' Matthew, who is the 79th Grand Master, and the first to visit Australia, arrived in Melbourne after visiting Perth and Albany, which one of his ancestors helped settle from the brig *Amity* in the 1830s. Fra' Matthew was joined at the Mass, celebrated by Fr Gerald O'Collins SJ, a chaplain of the Order of Malta, by participants in the Caritas Christi daycare program, residents, staff, members of the Order of Malta, Sir James and Lady Gobbo and Damian Benson, representatives of St Vincent's Health and the Burke Hall Choir.

Reflecting on the one-day visit, Sir James Gobbo said, "The people were blessed with Lourdes water, the principle being that we can't take our frail people to Lourdes—it's too far—so we bring Lourdes to them ... we give them each a bottle to take home."

The Order of Malta is the world's oldest chivalric order, and will celebrate its 900th anniversary as a lay religious order next year. Known officially as the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta, the order was established to care for pilgrims to the Holy Land.

The order is linked to the Holy See, but is itself a sovereign entity. The grand master is both head of a sovereign state and head of a religious order, and holds his office for life. He has the same rank as a cardinal. He is elected from the approximately 40 professed knights, who have taken the three vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

Fra' Matthew was elected Grand Master in 2008, after serving as Grand Prior of England. He is only the second Englishman to be elected grand master.

Sir James said, "The order has 12,000 members around the world, covering every continent. We are now creating branches of the order in Singapore, Hong Kong and Thailand."

Today, members of the order are primarily dedicated to providing hospitaller and charitable support. The order's inspiring principles are summarised in the motto *tuitio fidei et obsequium pauperum*: defence of the faith and care of the poor.



Above: Damian Benson and Fr Gerald O'Collins SJ.
Below: From left: Fra' Matthew Festing, Dr Peter Sherwen, Mr Keith Skinner (patient), Sir James Gobbo and Stephen Vale, Director of Medical Services, Aged and Community Care.



The Australian Association of the Order of Malta was formed in 1974. Members, male or female, are Catholics. Entry is by invitation. In Victoria, the order's principal activity is as a partner with St Vincent's and Outer East Association in the home-based palliative care organisation known as Eastern Palliative Care. Caritas Christi

is the base for an Eastern Palliative Care nursing centre.

Recent projects undertaken by the Order include the funding of taxi services to bring the 30 infirm and frail elderly to the Caritas Christi day centre, support for a home in a Melbourne parish for asylum seekers and assistance to an East Timorese organisation that provides transport to school for disabled children. ✠

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24 June – 7 July 2012 issue.



Left: Participants in the Caritas Christi day-care program, residents, staff, members of the Order of Malta, representatives of St Vincent's Health and the Burke Hall Choir joined Fra' Matthew Festing at the Lourdes Mass at Caritas Christi celebrated by Fr Gerald

MHA Event — June 2012

Mare Nostrum - Malta and the Mediterranean

By Agnes Cauchi

In a talk at the Maltese Historical Association's monthly event, Prof Maurice Cauchi focused on the role of the Mediterranean Sea in the history of Malta. Ancient civilisations followed wind and sea currents to travel to and fro across the Mediterranean,

Prof Cauchi started by expressing surprise that, out of the thousands of islands in the Mediterranean, none of them has had such an illustrious history as Malta.

Most prominently is the presence of prehistoric temples which are the oldest above-ground buildings in the world. The significance of these mammoth efforts, from a population which could hardly number more than 10,000 persons, is still difficult to explain.

Prof Cauchi also touched on Phoenician-Carthaginian business which criss-crossed the Mediterranean, and involved Malta. Again this could be explained by its position half-way between Rome and Carthage, which made it mandatory of the victorious city to control this lynch-pin island.

He then spoke about the difficulties of travel in those days, when one had to depend on wind and current to get anywhere, explaining that what took a few days with a good wind might take several weeks in a bad one. The living conditions of the slaves, who rowed the ships, as well as the sailors



who manned them, could not have been very salubrious. Particularly so, when the sea became infested with slave traders, who considered piracy on land or sea to be a legitimate way of earning a crust.

Speaking about the role that quarantine – always a problem of high priority in an island depending on commerce with all countries around the world – Prof Cauchi said that the *Lazarett* played a very significant role in reducing the risk of plagues being imported into the island.

Finally, he recalled the role that Malta played throughout history, starting with the several sea-battles that occurred around Malta in the middle ages, and ending with the last battle of all, that took place in World War 2. He took the original approach of describing the thinking of the enemy, as has become



MHA President Mrs Frances Bonnici thanks guest speaker, Prof. Maurice Cauchi.

clear through the diary of Galeazzo Ciano, Mussolini's Foreign Secretary (and son-in-law who he eventually had killed). It would appear that by June 1942 it was all but decided that the Axis were to invade Malta: but for a lack of fuel this would have been the case.

The evening came to a close after several members of the audience expressed their views about issues raised in this interesting talk. ☒

MHA Event — July 2012

Ambivalence: Malta And The French Revolution

By Agnes Cauchi

Jonathan Hili was guest speaker at the monthly MHA activity in July. His talk was about the French Revolution that changed all Europe. Napoleon Bonaparte helped spread the change. Up to this day, we adopt some of the French Revolution's ideals, such as equality and liberty.

18th Century Malta had very strong links with France, not only diplomatic, but also cultural, economic and political. The Maltese nobility and middle class spoke French. Many of them were educated in France. They followed French fashion and depended on France for the wealth they enjoyed. So one should not be surprised to find Malta was shaken by the French Revolution. Some were optimistic that the changes offered hope, whilst others were wary.

The Maltese were considered citizens of France even under the Order of St John. In times of economic crises, Maltese depended heavily on the Knights and the Knights on France.



Guest speaker, Jonathan Hili.

Pre-revolution, the clergy did not pay any taxes. However, after a few months of the revolution, the clergy and the nobles were stripped of power and land was confiscated. This was soon followed in Malta. This robbed the Knights of income – the Order lost half of its property. Ordinary Maltese were also hit hard. The blatant attack on the Church irked the conservative Maltese who declared themselves openly anti-revolution.

In the meantime, Malta tried to sign a pact both with England and the United States. It was hoped that Maltese people would emigrate to the States to alleviate the burden of unemployment. However, both pacts did not eventuate.

When Malta, being in a strategic position, decided to aid the anti-revolution coalition, the French Government made sure that the Order remained neutral.

But Malta was so weak, it could not oppose the revolution for another power, but it could surrender. There was a suggestion to give the Island to Spain to keep the English out.

On the death of Grandmaster De Rohan, a Frenchman, Ferdinand Hompesch, an Austrian, was elected Grandmaster. The French suspected that Austria had its eyes on Malta and thus become the power of the Mediterranean. This stirred the idea of an invasion of Malta. Hence Bonaparte was sent to oust the Order and take control. And take control he did! He plundered the churches and carried the loot off in his ship which was sunk in Alexandria (Egypt).

The Maltese were so oppressed and desperate that they too revolted against the French and won. Thus started British rule in Malta which lasted almost 200 years. ☒



Maltese Community Council of Victoria Inc.

Reception to congratulate Fr Mark Grima MSSP

on his appointment as Superior General of the Missionary Society of Saint Paul

Presentation of the MCCV Community Awards 2012

and

Bishop Joseph Grech Scholarship Award 2012

Date: **Saturday, 11th August 2012**

Time: **6.00pm** till 8.00pm

Venue: Maltese Community Centre, 477 Royal Parade, Parkville

Light Refreshments will be provided

For catering purposes please register by contacting Carmen Mamo on **9387 8922** or by email to admin@mccv.org.au no later than **Wednesday 8th August 2012**

Community Events Calendar

For up-to-date and more detailed information, please visit our website at www.mccv.org.au

| Date | Event <i>(click event to go to MCCV website)</i> | Venue | Suburb |
|---|---|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Fri 10 Aug 7.00 pm | St Gaetan's Feast Mass - St Gaetan's Society | St Martin de Porres Church | Avondale Heights |
| Sat 11 Aug 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm | Reception: MCCV Community Awards 2012 Bishop Joe Grech Scholarship and Welcome to Fr Mark Grima, new MSSP Superior General | Maltese Centre | Parkville |
| Wed 15 Aug 7.00 pm | Free public talk on Migration and Cultural Grief by Rev Dr Victor Shields | Maltese Centre | Parkville |
| Sun 19 Aug | Get Together - Reskeon Maltese Association | Maltese Centre | Parkville |
| Fri 24 Aug 7.30 pm | Feast of St Helena - Mass - St Helena Maltese Australian Social Club | St Leopold Croatian Church | Ardeer |
| Sat 25 Aug 6.00 pm | Feast of St Helena - Dinner Dance - St Helena Maltese Australian Social Club | Melrose Receptions | Tullamarine |
| Sun 26 Aug 3.00 pm | Feast of St Helena - Mass - St Helena Maltese Australian Social Club | St Leopold Croatian Church | Ardeer |
| Wed 29 Aug 6.30 pm | MCCV Executive Committee Meeting | Maltese Centre | Parkville |
| Sat 01 Sep | Fathers' Day Eve Dance - Klabb Għannejja Maltin | Klabb Għannejja Maltin | St Albans |
| Wed 05 Sep 7.00 pm | MCCV Council Meeting | Maltese Centre | Parkville |
| Thu 06 Sep 7.00 pm | Feast of Maria Bambina Mass - Reskeon Maltese Association | Maltese Centre | Parkville |
| Sat 08 Sep 6.30 pm - 12.30 am | Feast of Maria Bambina - Victoria Dinner Dance - Reskeon Maltese Association | Firenze Receptions | Fawkner |
| Sun 09 Sep 2.30 pm | Feast of Maria Bambina Mass - MSSP & Reskeon Maltese Association | St Mary Star of the Sea Church | West Melbourne |
| Sat 15 Sep | The Maltese Cook Off 2012 - Nisġa | William Angliss Institute | Melbourne |