



MCCV News

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OBITUARY

Daphne Caruana Galizia (1964-2017)

By Rev Joseph Borg

The death of Daphne Caruana Galizia, [assassinated at the age of 53 with a car bomb](#), is a profound loss to investigative journalism, democracy, free speech and the honest citizens of Malta. Relieved by it will be those responsible for organised crime, corrupt politicians and shady police officers in the Mediterranean island republic.

Caruana Galizia, the leading light of Maltese journalism, investigated all these subjects in the blog [Running Commentary](#), which she set up in 2008. As a result of her unrelenting investigative journalism, she was chosen by the Politico organisation as one of the [28 people most likely to influence the world in 2017](#).

Her career in journalism started after the Maltese general election of 1987, when the Labour government was replaced after a hard-fought struggle for democracy. Having been thrown into a police cell at the age of 18 for taking part in protests against the government, Caruana Galizia never lost her outrage against authoritarian government. Her activism of the 1980s was reborn in her journalism.

During the 90s she worked as a columnist both with the *Sunday Times of Malta* and the *Malta Independent*. She also served as associate editor of the latter. Colleagues there remember her as meticulous and hard-working, though not always easy to get along with. Until her assassination she was writing a weekly column for the daily and the Sunday editions of the *Malta Independent*.

Her formidable skills took her beyond



Daphne Anne Caruana Galizia, investigative journalist, born 26 August 1964 and died 16 October 2017

political commentary. She was the publisher and editor of coffee-table magazines, such as *Taste&Flair*, that were worlds apart from her gritty reportage. Thus, in any given month you could read her claims about, say, a minister whom she accused of going to a brothel in Germany while on official government business and then learn about the health benefits of the Mediterranean diet and the pleasures of olive picking in the north of the island.

But her most important journalistic contribution was her blog, which she ran single-handedly. It quickly became Malta's most popular independent news website. Her readers, including her adversaries, assiduously followed her crusade against corruption, sleaze and crime. Everybody knew she was that rare creature in *Malta* – a maverick who acted independently of all authorities, political parties or financial interests.

She received more stories and tip-offs than any of the large media organisations.

When Caruana Galizia [broke the story](#) in 2016 about secret Panamanian companies that two top government politicians had set up just days after getting into power, she had reached the peak of her influence. She then reported that a third secret company in Panama belonged to the wife of the prime minister, taking her case to the very centre of Maltese political power.

This was hardly the first time she had challenged power: an acting police commissioner and his son, also with the force, resigned after she exposed their connection with dubious characters.

A Maltese commissioner of the European Union who had resigned under a cloud was exposed for his entanglement with an alleged fraudster

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President's Perspective

An assassination that shocked us to the core

The assassination of Daphne Caruana Galizia just a few hundred metres from her home in Bidnija on 16 October shocked us all to the core, just as it did to everyone in Malta and right around the world. As Fr Joe Borg aptly wrote in his appreciation, reproduced on the cover page of this newsletter, Daphne's death is "a profound loss to investigative journalism, democracy, free speech and the honest citizens of Malta."

Daphne was indeed "the leading light of Maltese journalism". Her life mission was to use her journalistic talents to investigate and uncover instances of corruption and other criminal behaviour in the hope that, by doing so, appropriate action can be taken to clean it up in the interest of good governance and for the benefit of the Maltese nation.

Daphne paid the ultimate price with her own life for pursuing her altruistic and highly admirable mission. It is our fervent hope that, far from being in vain, her untimely death will inspire many journalists in Malta to take up her noble cause for the sake of the Maltese nation by not being afraid of using their own investigative talents in the service of the truth.

On Tuesday 24 October 2017 the Maltese community in Melbourne paid its respects at a mass for the repose of Daphne's soul held at St Paul's Chapel, located next door to the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville. The MCCV organised a condolences book for the occasion. We extend our sincere and heartfelt condolences to Daphne's husband and her three sons and to her parents and family.

Same sex marriage in Australia

Following the overwhelming survey vote in favour of same sex marriage, legislation was rushed through the Senate and eventually passed by the House of Representatives on its last sitting day of the year. The survey result was a great victory for the community. The swift passing of the bill to give effect to the majority's decision deserved the high priority attention it was given.

The shame is that a favourable survey result was predictable and that the passing of the bill could have been achieved some months ago without the survey, were it not for fear of coalition members crossing the floor and causing further division in government ranks. It seems highly wasteful that we had to go to the expense of \$120 million survey for the process at a time when the welfare dollars are shrinking and the needs of the disadvantaged constantly on the increase.

Royal Commission into Banking announced

The Australian federal parliament rose for the summer recess at the end of the first week of December after one of the most unimpressive performances in the nation's history. The dual citizenship debacle, the highly expensive same sex marriage survey and the coalition government's sudden backflip on supporting the establishment of a royal commission to investigate the banking sector were the disappointing highlights of recent political debate.

Suffering badly from disunity, with symptomatic cabinet leaks, the federal Liberal-National coalition government was about to implode under an executive lacking in leadership. The issue of dual citizenship held by some MPs had certainly taken its toll on the government, which was edging towards losing its majority in the House. After the recent High Court ruling on various cases of dual citizenship held by various MPs, a key figures in the government, Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the National Party Barnaby Joyce, had to resign his Queensland seat and regain it in a by-election.

A move in the Senate by the junior Coalition partner, the Nationals, to join with the Greens, Labour and other crossbenchers to force a royal commission on banking, which has overwhelming support within the community, started to gain momentum. Succumbing to pressure within government ranks on this issue and re-assured by an admission in a joint letter from Australia's big four banks to the Treasurer that to restore public faith in the financial system an inquiry is necessary, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and his cabinet headed off the move in the Senate by undergoing a sudden conversion and deciding to support the motion for an inquiry.

Only 48 hours earlier, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Treasurer had openly stated on national television that the government would not have such a royal commission. This sudden change of heart highlighted the government's need to be reassured by the big four banks that it's all ok from their end to call a royal commission. But it was a reluctant backflip. After the government announcement Treasurer Scott Morrison stated that the royal commission is "regrettable but necessary" – not because of any alleged actions by the banking system but because "politics is doing damage to our banking and financial system".

There are some concerns about the royal commission's terms of reference and the 12-month timeframe to complete the inquiry and deliver its final report. The terms also require the inquiry to examine any superannuation fund that employs "members' retirement savings for any purpose that does not meet community standards or expectations or is otherwise not in the best interest of members". Many have interpreted this as yet another attack by the banks on the not-for-profit industry super funds, which, for the past 25 years, have consistently outperformed the retail funds which the banks and insurance companies manage. Some expect that this aspect of the inquiry might well backfire on the government. It remains to be seen what the government's intent really is.

Christmas greetings

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all members of the MCCV Executive, our affiliated associations and our many volunteers who have given much of their time to serve others.

May I extend to members of our community our best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and for every happiness with their families over the holiday period.

Victor Borg
MCCV President

Eighth CMLA annual meeting held in Malta

The Council for Maltese Living Abroad (CMLA) held its eighth annual meeting over two days on 19 and 20 October 2017 at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion in Valletta. The meeting was the first one presided over by Minister Carmelo Abela, as *ex officio* chairman of the Council, who was appointed to the portfolio following the last general elections.

In his opening address Minister Abela welcomed the Council members and spoke about a new reality that exists today in which there are Maltese communities residing overseas for only a number of years, instead of emigrating for good, as used to happen in the past. Their needs must also be taken care of.

Minister Abela said that future CMLA meetings should be planned in a manner that takes this new reality into account with the Council becoming more conscious of the aspirations of the Maltese and alter the way it works.

The Minister referred to four guiding principles of foreign policy that relate to relations with the Maltese diaspora:

- the guarantee of regular and closer consultations with Maltese living abroad;
- the strengthening of political and commercial relations with countries where Maltese reside;
- the encouragement of the role that Maltese living abroad to support the promotion of Malta, particularly its commercial and business facilities;
- the facilitation of the work and activities of the CMLA.

Minister Abela said that the Maltese Government is committed to these



principles and this commitment is reflected in its electoral programme, which mentions the strengthening and broadening of relations with Maltese living abroad through the CMLA and, make sure that in these consultations, there is an increased involvement of youth and children of Maltese migrants in order to create stronger links between the new generations and Malta.

Meeting Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was wide-ranging and covered over 30 topics. Among these were:

- the long delays in the processing of Maltese citizenship applications
- the continuation of Consul-on-the-Move programme
- the digital platform for the teaching of the Maltese language
- the teaching of the history of Maltese emigration in schools in Malta
- the introduction of new words (neologisms) in the Maltese language
- the establishment of a Maltese Cultural Institute

- the effect of the new Maltese planning laws as they impact on Maltese property owners living abroad
- the impact of Maltese income tax laws on Maltese living abroad
- the setting up of registers of organisations and prominent Maltese living overseas
- banking services by Maltese banks for Maltese communities abroad
- the setting of a CMLA website
- applications for funds from the EU for the benefit of organisations supporting Maltese living abroad
- the roadmap for Maltese diaspora relations with Malta
- dual citizenship and eligibility for contesting Australian elections
- proposals for amendments to Act XX of 2011 which set up the CMLA

Below: CMLA members paid a courtesy visit to the President of Malta HE Marie Louise Coleiro Preca at San Anton at the end of the first day of the meeting.



OBITUARY**Daphne Caruana Galizia (1964-2017)**

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in the Bahamas. Police investigations then led to the arraignment of his daughters on money-laundering charges.

Caruana Galizia investigated alleged connections between a bank in Malta, Pilatus Bank, Azerbaijani politicians and the Maltese Labour government's top personalities. The publication of [the Paradise Papers](#) since her death has vindicated her reports, just as did last year's [Panama Papers](#), also leaked through [ICIJ, the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists](#).

Organised crime, particularly oil smuggling from Libya, was a frequent subject for investigation, especially during the last 12 months.

Caruana Galizia's main target in summer 2017 was Adrian Delia, [leader of the Nationalist party since September](#) and subsequently leader of the opposition, whom she accused of operating an offshore client account for the Maltese owner of several properties that were involved in a prostitution racket. He and other politicians instituted libel cases after denying the allegations.

Born in the east coast resort town of Sliema, Daphne was the daughter of Michael Vella, who owned a lift business, and his wife, Rose Marie (nee Mamo). She was educated at St Dorothy's convent school, Mdina, and [St Aloysius college](#), Birkirkara, and later studied as a mature student at the [University of Malta](#), graduating with a bachelor's degree in archaeology in 1997.

I knew her mainly through her writings and once supported her by giving testimony in a libel case brought against her. In my column in the *Sunday Times of Malta* I both defended her and disagreed with her. There were times when her journalism was not accurate and her opinions sometimes swayed her from reporting fairly. Like the title of her first column, in 1987 with the *Sunday Times of Malta*, she too could represent "the good, the bad, and the ugly", but when she was good – and most of the time she was – she produced the very best journalism.

Latterly, Caruana Galizia was not

supported by any organisation or institution. Her independence was the thing she treasured most. Her assassination shocked thousands in her own country and overseas. [The pope showed his solidarity](#). The UN, the European commission, the European parliament and the Council of Europe expressed their harshest condemnation.

The heads of eight of the world's largest news organisations, including the Guardian, [have called for the European commission to investigate her assassination](#) and the independence of the media in Malta. It seems that Caruana Galizia's struggle against corruption and in favour of the free press [will go on after her death](#) with the same vehemence she showed when she was alive.

She is survived by her husband, Peter Caruana Galizia, whom she married in 1985, their three sons, Matthew, Andrew and Paul, and her parents.

Rev Joseph Borg lectures on media at the University of Malta and is a columnist for the Times of Malta.

[Source: [theguardian.com](#)]

Swedish newspaper posthumously honours DCG with 2017 Holme Award

A Swedish newspaper, *Göteborgs Handels & Sjöfartstidning*, has honoured Daphne Caruana Galizia by posthumously awarding her the 2017 Holme Award, an annual prize celebrating bravery and civilised values. In announcing this award on 30 November, the newspaper said that the assassinated journalist had "given her life for the dignity of her profession and people" and remarked that she would be remembered "for her outstanding fight against the crooks of our contemporary world."

The announcement further stated: "Thank you Daphne, you will always be in our heart and may never be forgotten." The prize consists of a diploma and a symbolic award sum of 10,000 Swedish Krona (about €1,000) which, following the wish of her children and husband, will be donated to Dar Merħba Bik Foundation.

Previous winners of the award include Saudi dissident Raif Badawi, Azeri journalist Khadija Ismayilova and NSA leaker Edward Snowden.

The Holme Award is presented annually, on December 1st, commemorating the anniversary of the day in 1955 on which [Rosa Parks](#), an American civil rights activist, by her courage took the fight for human dignity when she was arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a white passenger on a bus in Alabama.

Named after a hero in a trilogy of books by Swedish author Jan Fridegård, the Holme Award is dedicated to people who stand up for human values, at great personal risk.

[Sources: [www.handelstidningen.org](#); [timesofmalta.com](#)]

Pope's condolence for assassination of Maltese journalist



20 Oct 2017

Pope Francis has expressed his condolence for the killing of a Maltese journalist, who was investigating corruption among leading politicians in the tiny Mediterranean island nation. "Saddened by the tragic death of Daphne Caruana Galizia, His Holiness

Scicluna of Malta.

"The Holy Father also assures you of his spiritual closeness to the Maltese people at this difficult moment, and implores God's blessings upon the nation," the Cardinal wrote.

[Source: [Vatican Radio](#)]

Pope Francis offers prayers for her eternal rest, and asks you kindly to convey his condolences to her family," Vatican Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin (pictured left with the Pope) wrote in a telegram sent on the Pope's behalf to Archbishop Charles

DAPHNE CARUANA GALIZIA'S FUNERAL

'We need unshackled journalists' – Archbishop

On Friday 3 November 2017 Malta observed a national day of mourning as the funeral of Daphne Caruana Galizia took place in the Malta's largest church, the Mosta Dome. As her coffin was carried outside, people inside the church filed into the parvis while chanting "justice" and "Daphne". People could be seen queuing up to pay their respects to Caruana Galizia's three children and husband. The crowd erupted into applause several times.

European Parliament President Antonio Tajani attended the funeral Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Charles Scicluna. Present among the congregation were President Emeritus Dr Eddie Fenech Adami, former Prime Minister Dr Lawrence Gonzi and former opposition leader Dr Simon Busuttil.

Notable absentees were top government and opposition figures, including President Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, Prime Minister Joseph Muscat and Opposition leader Adrian Delia as they all said they would respect the family's wishes and stay away.

In his homily this afternoon of Daphne Caruana Galizia, said, "Guard, O Lord, our dear motherland. 'Guard her, O Lord, as you have always guarded her."

At the funeral Mass Archbishop Mgr Charles J Scicluna, delivered a homily, an unofficial English translation of which is reproduced in full below:

"For God alone my soul waits in silence." This verse from Psalm 62 articulates the faith of the Church and of every Christian when faced with the profound mystery of death. Our presence here today is the expression of this faith. "I believe in the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen."

We are gathered here today to offer the sacrifice of the Mass for the repose of the soul of Daphne Caruana Galizia. The prayer of the Church is marked by an insightful realism about the human condition. As time passes, each one of us, with his strengths and weaknesses, draws closer to death. The heartfelt prayer by Saint George Preca: "Have mercy on me before judging me", applies to all of us. As we pray to God to grant eternal rest to Daphne, we will also pray that he will have mercy on her.

In the course of our lives, the dramatic struggle between good and evil occurs repeatedly, as we heard in the Second



Reading from the Book of Revelations: "Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon." The victory of good over evil is well expressed in the name of the Archangel: Michael – 'Who is like God?' On the other hand, the enemy of good is called "the Dragon", "the Devil and Satan," "the deceiver of the whole world," "the accuser of our brethren." He is also called "the Father of lies" and a "Killer."

We are gathered here today to pray for Daphne, the victim of murderous violence that cut short the life of a woman, a mother, a journalist. Our presence must also be a message of solidarity with her husband Peter, with her sons Matthew, Andrew and Paul, with her parents and her sisters, her relatives and friends.

We still do not know who killed Daphne. Whoever took part, in one way or another, in Daphne's murder, I have this to tell you: However hard you try to evade from the justice of men, you will never escape from the justice of God. Repent before it is too late.

To you journalists, Daphne's colleagues, I repeat what I have already told you: do not be afraid. I encourage you never to grow weary in your mission to be the eyes, the ears, and the mouth of the people. Do this without fear and with full respect of the truth. Dear journalists, we need you. We need people in your

profession who are unshackled, who are free, intelligent, inquisitive, honest, serene, safe and protected.

To Daphne's sons, Matthew, Andrew, and Paul, I would like to give a message of courage. As you know, whenever your mother was abroad, she had a habit of lighting a candle in church for each one of you: the silent prayer of a mother for her children. Remember the words of the Gospel proclaimed today: "He who does what is true comes to the light." Your beloved mother died a cruel death by the hidden hand of someone that valued darkness over the light for his actions are evil. See that you will always be the children of the light.

To my fellow Maltese brethren: I tell you to always take care of each other. I pray that the hard and contemptuous words with which we demonise and denigrate each other cease once and for all.

May we enjoy true freedom and prosperity in solidarity.

Hares, Mulej lil din l-art helwa. (Guard, O Lord, our dear motherland). "Hares, Mulej, kif dejjem Int harist." ("Guard her, O Lord, as you have always guarded her")."

[Sources: independent.com.mt; gozonews.com]

EU Parliament debates rule of law in Malta

Malta's state of the rule of law needs close monitoring

In a plenary session debate on the state of the rule of law in Malta held on 14 November 2017, the European Parliament in Strasbourg raised "serious concerns" about democracy and the rule of law in Malta after the assassination of the high-profile investigative journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia.

In a sharply critical resolution backed by two-thirds of MEPs, the European parliament urged EU authorities to open a dialogue with Malta on the rule of law, a formal process the European commission has embarked on with Poland.

"Developments in Malta in recent years have led to serious concerns about the rule of law, democracy and fundamental rights, including freedom of the media and the independence of the police and the judiciary," stated the text of the resolution, which was passed with 466 from 751 possible votes.

MEPs have also accused Maltese police of failing to investigate "several serious allegations of corruption and breach of anti-money laundering and banking supervision obligations", describing this as "a threat to the rule of law in this member state".

European Parliament Press Release

According to the official Press Release published on the website of the European Parliament on 15 November, following the voting on the debate on the state of the rule of law in Malta that took place the day before, the MEPs voting for the resolution urged Malta to prop up its rule of law and the EU Commission to "monitor the country closely to ensure unbiased law enforcement."

The resolution, adopted by an overwhelming majority, asks the Commission to "start a dialogue with the Maltese government on the functioning of the rule of law in Malta". The Commission is also tasked with verifying if Malta complies with anti-money laundering rules and bank regulations.

Parliament notes that the independence of Malta's law enforcement and judiciary may be compromised because the interests of individuals have infiltrated the public decision-making processes to further their own ends. MEPs also want disclosure of the country's programme of selling Maltese and EU citizenship to non-EU citizens. And they call for an independent international investigation, with the full involvement of Europol, into the assassination of journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia.



Malta's worsening track record

The press release referred to numerous reports, from Europol, Reporters Without Borders, and the European Parliament's temporary committee on the Panama Papers, conclude that recent developments raise serious concerns about Malta's governance, freedoms, and illegal activities, facilitated by the weakness of the systems in place.

A major problem underlined in the resolution is Malta's poor record in tackling a number of serious allegations of corruption, breach of anti-money laundering laws and banking supervision, because the police do not carry out investigations and the Financial Intelligence and Analysis Unit (FIAU) is under political pressure.

The resolution also notes that those named in the FIAU reports and the Panama Papers continue in government. MEPs urge Malta's Police Commissioner to open investigations and ask the country's supervisory and judiciary authorities to investigate Pilatus bank's licensing process, a bank facing scathing criticisms in recent months. The work of Nexia BT, a consultancy involved in the citizenship programme and named in the Panama Papers, should also be investigated.

Citizenship against payment

The press release stated that the resolution casts doubts on the practice of granting citizenship of an EU country against payment and asks the Commission to monitor these programmes. In the case of Malta, leaked reports pinpoint possible corruption in the administration and the government is asked to make clear who has purchased Maltese citizenship and how it verifies if these persons

have spent a year in Malta pre-purchase.

"No general concerns" - Timmermans

EU Commission Vice President Frans Timmermans defended Malta's record on preventing money laundering in a parliamentary debate on Tuesday prompted by the murder of an investigative journalist, but a variety of EU lawmakers expressed scepticism.

Vice President Frans Timmermans told European Parliament that the European Commission had carried out an analysis of Malta's compliance with anti-money laundering laws and concluded that there were "no general concerns".

He added however that "improvements could be made on various levels," and said the commission was assessing new information provided by Malta on recent alleged cases of wrongdoing.

EU fighting war on two fronts

According to a news report published in the UK paper ([The Independent](#)), increasing pressure on the Maltese government opens a new front for Brussels in its struggles to maintain the rule of law across the EU, where the European Commission is already threatening to censure the Polish government over a move to centralise judicial power.

The European Parliament motion on Malta came the same day as the European Commission aired "serious concerns" about new proposals by Polish president Andrzej Duda to change the structure of courts in Poland. The [long-running dispute](#) is around plans that would see the ability to appoint supreme court judges centralised in the hands of the government.

[Sources: [theguardian.com](#) [europarl.europa.eu](#); [independent.co.uk](#); [reuters.com](#)]

European Parliament names Strasbourg Press Room after Daphne Caruana Galizia

On 14 November 2017 when the European Parliament in Strasbourg debated a broadly supported resolution questioning the rule of law in Malta and demanding answers on allegations of high-level money laundering made by Caruana Galizia, a ceremony was held to name the main pressroom in the Parliament building after the recently murdered Maltese journalist underlined the pressure the Union's smallest state has found itself under since her murder. The ceremony was attended by Daphne's husband Dr Peter Caruana Galizia and their three sons, and many MEP's and journalists.

In the auditorium used for news conferences the new name above the door would, Parliament President Antonio Tajani said, ensure that from now on "we will not turn our eyes away from what happened in Malta".

Mr Tajani said that Daphne Caruana Galizia was very brave. "She was brutally assassinated because she courageously and fearlessly carried out her job as a journalist." Mr Tajani again called for an international investigation into the murder. "Half a billion Europeans will not accept a journalist being assassinated."

Mr Christoph Deloire, secretary-general of Reporters Without Borders said that Caruana Galizia's name will now be linked to the refusal to accept censorship. He called for more protection for journalists all over the world.

Dr Peter Caruana Galizia then spoke for the first time since his wife's assassination in a car bomb last month at the ceremony. At times choking up, Dr Caruana Galizia described his late wife as a brave investigative journalist with a strong sense of injustice at the rise in criminality in Malta and, on a more personal level, a passion for the beautiful things in life.

The following is his speech in full:

My wife Daphne was an extraordinary woman, but you probably know this already because no one would go to such lengths to silence a woman who doesn't matter. My wife was killed because she mattered, because the powerful were afraid of her and because the criminals were infuriated by her. When all legal means were exhausted and when all threats proved ineffective, there was only one solution left. My wife was executed suddenly, violently and mercilessly a few metres away from the home in which we raised our family.

To say my wife is brave...was brave, sorry, is true, but bravery has little value without a sense of purpose and a sense of injustice and without a capacity for



EU Parliament President Antonio Tajani (left) and Dr Peter Caruana Galizia

outrage. Daphne's investigative work taught her more than anyone cared to know about Malta's underworld and its links to politics, about how laws are bent to favour the powerful and public goods are diverted to private interests.

But Daphne never grew cynical; she grew angrier, more outraged and appalled by the increasingly sordid and frightening facts that emerged from her work. The more frustrated Daphne grew at the state of our country, the more beautiful our garden grew, the more trees she planted, the more books, art, ornaments and curiosities from all over the world arrived at our home. Daphne created, in the words of one of my sons, a parallel world of beauty in a country that slipped further and further away from the European values and norms of behaviour which she held so closely.

Meanwhile, Daphne's work never slowed. With every story she broke, particularly about the money laundering network that links deep and wide connecting many of Malta's political and business elite, her readership grew larger and more loyal.

Daphne never grew cynical; she grew outraged and appalled by the increasingly sordid and frightening facts that emerged from her work.

When Daphne's assets were frozen by the current economy minister in an attempt to silence her once and for all, the funds she needed to continue writing were raised by the Maltese public in under 24 hours. Still, my wife died without access to her bank account. The threats she faced only escalated. There remain 47 libel cases pending against her, including five criminal cases. My sons and I continue to fight 36 of these cases, as the plaintiffs have decided to continue the cases despite

her death and the price she paid. In the past few months alone, my eldest son was sued by the Prime Minister, my middle son was recalled from a diplomatic posting, and our family dog was poisoned and survived only thanks to my wife's care. And then the unthinkable happened.

My family and I, the Maltese people and all of Europe have been forced to accept a new reality - one in which there are no longer any red lines, where the physical elimination of a dissenting voice is possible and where those responsible have every chance of getting away with it. But today I am reminded that no matter what happened to Daphne, no matter how hard certain forces will work to distort her work even in death, she lives on.

Daphne lives on in my three sons who have so much of her strength and integrity, she lives on in the people who choose to protect her legacy rather than manipulate it, she lives on in the courage that some of Malta's journalists have recently found and in the outrage of the most influential reporters in the world who recognized Daphne as one of their own. Daphne lives on in the voices my compatriots have found against the injustices they see in their midst.

And now thanks to all of you and to President Tajani, her memory and legacy will live on in the European Parliament.

Together with President Tajani Dr Caruana Galizia then unveiled the new name of the press room Salle Daphne Caruana Galizia.

[Click here to view video](#) of pressroom naming ceremony.
[Sources: lovinmalta.com; reuters.com]

Australian High Court hands down decision on dual citizenship issue affecting several MPs

On 27 October 2017 the High Court of Australia handed down its decision on the issue of dual citizenship that has plagued the Australian Parliament for weeks. The Court ruled that of seven politicians affected, five were not eligible, under Section 44(i) of the Australian Constitution, to sit in Parliament including Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce.

Independent Senator Nick Xenophon and a former federal Liberal minister, Senator Matt Canavan, were ruled eligible to remain in Parliament, although Senator Xenophon has confirmed he intended to resign in the “next week or so” to contest the South Australian election instead.

British Overseas Citizenship

Senator Xenophon was born in Australia in 1959, the son of a Cypriot migrant who emigrated to Australia in 1951. The Senator was deemed to be a Colonial UK Citizen by virtue of the British Nationality Act 1948, which was in force until 1983. Cyprus became independent on 16 August 1960. At the time of independence every Cypriot lost their colonial UK citizenship status.

According to the Senator’s published official statement, he “would have lost that colonial status as well, if [his] father was living in Cyprus at the time, or in any other country in the world except, according to the then British Nationality Act, these nine countries: Canada, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), India, New Zealand, Pakistan, Union of South Africa, Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), Newfoundland (then a separate dominion, now part of Canada) and Australia.”

The UK Home Office advised the Senator that “this whole scenario is a “rare peculiarity”. Citizens of the UK and Colonies - CUKCs – without the right of abode in the UK, were reclassified as British Overseas Citizens (BOCs) on the 1st January 1983, after British nationality legislation was modernised.”

Senator Xenophon’s case is of particular interest to Maltese dual citizens in Australia, since Malta was a British colony like Cyprus, and the same provisions in the *British Nationality Act 1948* are likely to have applied to any Maltese person living in one of the above list of countries, who would have retained their colonial status when Malta became inde-



pendent in 1964. So, in effect, aspiring Australian politicians of Maltese descent born in Australia with similar circumstances as this Senator’s would face the same predicament.

The High Court found Mr Xenophon was not disqualified from Parliament because this type of citizenship made him a British Overseas Citizen (BOC), which is different to full citizenship. It did not give Mr Xenophon the right to enter or live in Britain and he was not required to swear allegiance to the country.

“Unlike a British citizen, a BOC may only enter the United Kingdom by satisfying the requirements of immigration control,” the High Court judgment said.

“Critically ... it does not appear that Senator Xenophon’s status as a BOC entailed any reciprocal obligation of allegiance to the United Kingdom per se or to Her Majesty the Queen in right of the United Kingdom.

“For the purposes of s44(i), Senator Xenophon was not a subject or a citizen of the United Kingdom at the date of his nomination and election as a senator. Nor was he entitled to the rights and privileges of a subject or citizen of the United Kingdom.”

Italian Dual Citizenship

The High Court also accepted arguments from Senator Canavan’s lawyers that he was never an Italian citizen.

Mr Canavan’s mother believed that she may have registered him as an Italian citizen because of steps she had taken to become an Italian citizen in 2006.

She also gave Mr Canavan forms to fill out if he wanted to become an Italian

citizen at the time but he had never completed these.

Although Mr Canavan was told he was registered as a citizen and his name was on a list of Italians eligible to vote overseas, the High Court decided that the Senator had not taken actions to activate his potential citizenship.

“Senator Canavan has not applied for a declaration of Italian citizenship,” the Court said in its judgment. “On the evidence before the Court, one cannot be satisfied that Senator Canavan was a citizen of Italy.”

The Court held that “Given the potential for Italian citizenship by descent to extend indefinitely — generation after generation — into the public life of an adopted home, one can readily accept that the reasonable view of Italian law is that it requires the taking of the positive steps referred to in the joint report as conditions precedent to citizenship.”

While the Court ruled Senators Canavan and Xenophon were still eligible to sit in Parliament, five other politicians who were found to be dual citizens of other countries were ruled ineligible regardless of whether they knew of their status.

Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce, cabinet colleague Fiona Nash, former Greens senators Larissa Waters and Scott Ludlam and One Nation senator Malcolm Roberts were all found to be dual citizens and ineligible to sit in Parliament. ♦



ECCV embarks on two-year aged care project 'Speak My Language'

The Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV) is partnering with the Ethnic Communities' Council New South Wales (ECCNSW) on implementing the 'Speak my Language' project in Victoria.

What is 'Speak My language' project

The 'Speak my language' project will deliver a structured 6 week aged care radio broadcast program which will be rolled out over two years access in three states (NSW, Victoria, Queensland), and one additional stage (Tasmania or ACT) engaging over 80 ethnic community radio programs in over 25 languages. ECCV will be engaging with 23 ethnic community radio stations within Victoria to deliver the program in 23 languages.

The campaign aims to reach over 150,000 people from non-English speaking backgrounds each year, who

will also have access to several technological based solutions such as live webinars, podcasts and interactive websites to link them to the right information.

Objectives

A significant cohort of culturally and linguistically diverse elderly in communities are unaware of the aged care service provision and support due to isolation, language barriers, cultural barriers, taboos, stereotypes, or poor information flow.

This project will aim to empower culturally and linguistically diverse elderly by delivering key messages and information about aged care services to culturally and linguistically diverse communities in their own language through community radio and broadcasting.

By utilising talkback radio and

language appropriate scripts with guest speakers and aged care specialists the listeners from culturally and linguistically diverse background will learn more about the Australian Aged Care System and be provided with support to navigate a range of aged care services available through My Aged Care.

This will raise awareness amongst the multicultural seniors' population of the importance of planning for their future care needs to support them to be active participants in decisions around the care services they receive.

Project duration

This is a two years project which will be completed in June 2019.

For further information, please contact the Project Officer Matisse Vee, through ECCV office phone number 03-9354 9555 or email myee@eccv.org.au. ♦

MCCV Maltese Language Classes in 2018

Registration for Maltese Language Classes in 2018 is now open. The Maltese Language classes, sponsored by the MCCV at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville are held on Thursday nights. Students pay a nominal enrolment fee. Families pay a heavily discounted fee.

Ms Edwidge Borg, a past President of the MCCV, coordinates the Maltese language classes in Parkville. Other teachers include Ms Laura Schembri and Ms Alexandra Sciberras. Classes provided at three levels: Beginner, Intermediate and Conversation Classes. All tutors are qualified LOTE Victorian teachers and attend regular professional development training in Victoria and interstate.

The MCCV Education Committee overseeing the classes is composed of qualified LOTE tutors, class coordinators as well as an independent advisor Mrs Frances Bonnici.

The Co-ordinator of the Maltese Language classes, Ms Edwidge Borg, is also the delegate to the [Federation of Maltese Language Schools Inc.](#) (FMLS) and President of the FMLS.

She has attended various meetings with interstate Maltese Language schools teachers in Australia to organise and attend professional development for Maltese Language teachers in Australia as well as visited Maltese Language Classes for foreigners in Malta.

Language Classes Schedule

WHEN:

Semester 1 of 2018 –
Thursdays from 8 February 2018 to 21 June 2018

Semester 2 of 2018 –
Thursdays from 19 July 2018 to 22 November 2018

Beginners (B1) Class:

6.00 pm to 7.00 pm

Intermediate (B2) Class:

6.00 pm to 7.00 pm

Conversation (C1) Class:

6.00 pm to 7.00 pm

WHERE:

Maltese Community Centre,
477 Royal Parade, Parkville

Courses are intended to provide participants with a basic knowledge of reading, writing and speaking Maltese. Courses run for one semester.

[Click here](#) to download the registration form for Semester 1 of 2018 and email the completed to admin@mccv.org.au or post a completed hardcopy to "Att: Maltese Language Classes" at the address stated in the form by **Friday 5th January 2018**.

Lessons coincide with school terms. A token fee of \$90 per semester covers some expenses. The tutor will advise student of other resources that are appropriate. The classes run for one hour extended to 0.5 for student queries. Students receive guided self-learning activities equivalent to 1 hour. The total Unit context hours are 2.5 hours per week.

Adults wishing to learn Maltese and require further information should contact the Maltese Community Centre during business hours 9387 8922 and leave a contact phone number or email: admin@mccv.org.au. Children accompanied by adult can attend these classes. ♦

Newport Maltese Association holds its AGM

By Andrew Gatt

On 2nd October 2017 the Newport Maltese Association Inc. held its 2017 Annual General Meeting at the Maltese Community Centre in Parkville, celebrating the 44th year since the club started.

The lunchtime meeting was well attended and after lunch the meeting commenced with the members being updated about the status of the club including finances.

The Association's President, George Saliba, informed the members that, after many years as Executive Committee members, both Joe and Lydia Cole would be stepping aside and that the position of Treasurer would be filled by Gwen Busuttil, while that of Secretary by Andrew Gatt until the next election, which is due in October 2018. ♦



Comedy entertainment for Newport Seniors

By Gwen Busuttil

What can I say, if you missed it, you must have heard about it, plus if you have a Facebook account, you would have seen some of what you missed.

After a delicious roast lunch, followed with cassata, the committee got into action. Firstly, the Heavyweight Boxing Title was on offer, and the challenger entered the room with the background music of ROCKY playing, together with his entourage.... then the current champion entered with his followers. As they entered the ring, the announcer introduced them as Green Butterfly Buzz vs Killer Kong Casa. Miss Lulu heralded the rounds, and stole the show. The Referee had a hard time controlling the event, and got caught up in the act. But ultimately, the heavyweight retained his title. The whisky rub and nip must have done the trick.

Next, with a bit of nostalgia, the Andrews Sisters made their appearance and sang some old time favourites, Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy, as well as Chattanooga Choo Choo.

We revisited the antics of Jessie, Tessie and Bessie, who told a few home truths, and brought back some old memories to many of us, lots of laughs.



The Fantastic Village People

The fabulous four ABBA group sang Mamma Mia, Dancing Queen and Waterloo, to a tumultuous applause, they then joined into the chorus with the Fantastic Village People, who had everyone on their feet, clapping their hands to YMCA, and Macho, Macho, Man.

140 members attended, and wanted to book that day for next year, all those laughs, as well as a few dance breaks, and a luncheon as well, was twenty dollars well spent.

Thank you to my fellow committee members who contributed to this enjoyable afternoon, and also to Mr. Stan Azzopardi, who has assisted us with his expertise. Some OSCARS will be awarded at the Academy Awards Night. ♦



The fabulous four ABBA group

Newport's Merimbula week long getaway

By Gwen Busuttil

Forty Seniors set out for the year end trip which lasted from Friday 3rd November until the following Wednesday. So early in the morning setting off, so George was warned ... 'we need to catch up on some shut eye'. That did not happen, no sooner did we leave the last pick up, Victor Casa was at the ready, with his trusted tongs in hand, started his delivery of all the goodies. Thank you to everyone who did the baking, and supplied the chocolates and lollies ... I owe four kilos to the event.

Dave was our coach captain, and he is such a good driver, very quite, yet good at what he does. The trip is long, and our first stop was for morning tea and a convenience stop. Then onwards on to Bairnsdale.

Although we supplied sandwiches for all, the fact that we stopped near Maccas was too great to resist. Just nearby is St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, and if you are ever in that area, take the time to take a tour, where the history of the Italian artist Francesco Floreani is explained. Leaving Bairnsdale, for those that have never been in this part of Gippsland, the spectacular scenery of Lakes Entrance is simply unforgettable.

Our next stop was Cann River, which heralded that we only had a few more hours to go. Time on the bus was consumed by bingo, games, and jokes, but everyone was looking forward to putting our feet up.

As we arrived in Merimbula, we were greeted by the owners of the Pelican Motel, Michelle and Tom Fife, whom we found to be such great people. The rooms were comfortable, and the Motel was very central. Breakfasts were hot and plentiful. So nobody had any complaints.

The evening dinners were just excellent, no cafeteria dinners, we even had a Chinese banquet one night. Lucky to have visited Eden to coincide with the Whale Festival, so it was a full day of events there. Visiting the Whale Museum was very interesting, and one of the highlights was the Cruise on the Cat Balou ... although we did not pay for a 'whale watching cruise' we were lucky enough to see a mother whale and her calf.

Another lovely day spent was when we visited Bermagui, Bega, and the lovely little town of Tilba, with its quaint little shops.



Melbourne Cup Day was a lot of fun. After a trip to the Oyster Farm, and of course many took to indulging in the produce, that afternoon we had our own carnival, a bbq around the pool area, decked out with hats for the occasion, and everyone participated in the three 'cup sweeps' with all the excitement as we watched the great race. Winners were grinners!

George's awards for this trip went to:

Noisiest	Tony Cassar
Quietest	Mary Bonnici
Comedian	Rennie Busuttil
Romeo and Juliet	Paul and Rose Galea
Most Distinguished Hat	Matilda Borg
Best Camera Person	Eileen Busuttil and Carmen Spiteri
Always on time	Charlie Fenech
Most Helpful members	Committee
Best Driver	Dave

All in all everyone enjoyed a great trip, which unfortunately, was only marred by one mishap to John Sultana, who suffered a nasty fall. ♦

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Are you on the aged pension and planning to travel overseas?

If you leave Australia for less than 6 weeks, there is normally no change to your pension.

If you leave Australia for longer than 26 weeks, your PENSION RATE will depend on your Australian working life residency duration. Anyone with less than 35 years between the age of 16 and age pension age will get a reduced pension AFTER 26 WEEKS.

If you leave to live in another country, you'll get an outside Australia rate, your Pension Supplement will drop to the basic rate, and your Energy Supplement will stop.

You can verify this information on the [website](#) of the Australian Department of Human Services or at Centrelink.

Reskeon Seniors' Annual General Meeting



Photo: Paul Vella

By Paul Vella

Reskeon Maltese Association Seniors Group held their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 4th October 2017. The meeting was held at Merrilands Community Centre, starting at 10 am and was attended by 89 members.

Secretary, Paul Vella, read the Minutes from last year's AGM which was accepted with no matters arising.

Treasurer, Victor Pulis, presented the Annual Financial Statement for

2016/17 which was accepted with no matters arising.

The President, Mrs Salvina Vella delivered her Report. She started by thanking the committee for their work during the year, especially Victor Pulis for taking care of the Finance books every week and a job well done, He is now receiving help from George Topolcsyani with bookkeeping.

Mrs Vella also thanked all members for their participation during the year and her

husband, Paul, for his work behind the scenes. She expressed her special thanks to Madeleine Vella, Melita Magro and Sylvia Dakin for their work in the kitchen, to Therese Cachia at the coffee table and to the other helpers. Finally, she thanked Fred Cachia for his assistance with bingo.

After the meeting was closed, there were two Bingo sessions. Lunch was also served. ♦

Reskeon Men's Bocce Competition 2017 Winners

By Paul Vella

This year's Men's Bocce Competition run by Reskeon Maltese Association Seniors Group ran a bit late, so that trophies were not presented to the winner and runners-up at the Father's Day Luncheon as normal. This delay was due to members being sick or overseas.

While the competition itself finished the day before the Father's Day Luncheon, the trophy presentation arrangements could not be completed in time.

The presentation of the trophies took place at the Senior's Group weekly meeting at Merrilands Community Centre on Wednesday 30th August 2017. President Salvina Vella presented the trophies to the winner Lino Hammett, first runner-up Charles Galea and second runner-up Philip Debono before the 120 members present. ♦



From left: Angelo Farrugia, Competition Organiser; Phil Debono, Second Runner-up; Lino Hammett, Winner; Charles Galea, First Runner-up; Salvina Vella, President.

Photo: Paul Vella

Laqgħa Ġenerali Annwali tal-Grupp Letteratura Maltija tal-Victoria

Minn Paul Vella

Nhar il-Ġimgħa, 24 ta' Novembru, il-Grupp Letteratura Maltija tal-Victoria kellhom il-Laqgħa Ġenerali Annwali, fil-Librerija taċ-Ċentru Malti ta' Parkville. Hmistax-il membru attendew għal din il-laqgħa.

Il-President, Dr Victor Sammut, ta-rappor tiegħu ta' x'ċara matul is-sena. Wara, is-Segretarja, Rosemary Attard qrat il-Minuti tal-aħħar Laqgħa Ġenerali Annwali u t-Teżorier, Ray Anastasi qara' ir-Rapport Finanzjarju. Ir-rapporti kollha ghaddew mingħajr rimarki.

Dr Victor Sammut irriġgazzja lill-Kumitat għax-xogħol tagħhom matul is-sena u lill-membri kollha tas-sappor tagħhom lill-Grupp.

Wara dan kollu, il-Kumitat niżel mill-pożizzjonijiet tagħhom. Joe Lofaro ha l-kariga ta' Riċevituri għan-nominazzjoni jiet. Minħabba li n-numru ta' dawk nominati ma kienx ikbar min-numru ta' pożizzjonijiet meħtieġa, ma kienx hemm bżonn ta' elezzjoni.

Għall-pożizzjoni ta' President kien hemm nominazzjoni waħda, dik ta' Dr Victor Sammut; għal Viċi-President, kien hemm nominazzjoni waħda, ta' Marie Louise Anastasi; għal Segretarju ma kienx hemm nominazzjoni; għal Teżorier, kien hemm nominazzjoni waħda, ta' Ray Anastasi; għal PRO, kien hemm nominazzjoni waħda, minn Paul Vella; għal Segretarja għall-Affarijiet Soċjali, kien hemm nominazzjoni waħda, ta' Salvina Vella. George Portelli għie nnominat għall-pożizzjoni ta' Membru tal-Kumitat u huwa aċċetta u ġie elett.

Is-Segretarja, Rosemary Attard, din is-sena għażiż li ma tinnominax għal dik il-pożizzjoni. Il-President u l-Kumitat u l-membri kollha rrinġazzjawn għax-xogħol siewi li għamlet għal ħafna snin.

Rosemary serviet bhala President snin ilu u bhala Segretarja għal ħafna u ħafna snin. Matul iż-żmien li kienet Segretarja dejjem qdiet il-pożizzjoni tagħha bl-aktar mod professjonal u żgur li se nhossu n-nuqqas tagħha f'din il-pożizzjoni u nisperaw li xi darba terġa' tieħu din il-pożizzjoni.

Grazzi, Rosemary. ♦



Ritratti: Paul Vella

Carers Group visit Aged Care facility



On the 3rd of November 2017 MCCV President Victor Borg and MCCV Assistant Secretary Antonia Camilleri met a the Carers Group at the Sunshine premises in Watt Street, Sunshine. Mr Borg gave a very informative talk, explaining the difference between Aged Care facilities and Retirement Villages.

A week later, Mr Borg and Mrs Camilleri accompanied the group on a visit to the Water Gardens Aged Care facility (Heritage Care), located next to Water Gardens Shopping Centre in Sydenham.

The admission administrator provided details about the facilities and admission requirements. A staff member then explained the day-to-day activities and gave the group a tour around the centre.

The Carers Group were pleased to learn about the facilities, its admission arrangements and what life is like at the Water Gardens Aged Care facility. ♦



News from the Vatican

Pope Francis speaks out

Compiled by Rev. Charles Borg-Manché from Vatican Radio sources

'Take time to think about death'

17 Nov: Pope Francis based his homily on the Gospel reading, where the Lord speaks about the daily lives of men and women in the days before the great Flood, or in the days of Lot – they lived normal lives, eating and drinking, doing business, marrying. But the “day of the manifestation of the Lord” came – and things changed.

The Church, our Mother, wants us to take time to consider our own death, the Pope said. We are all used to the routine of daily life. We think things will never change. But, Pope Francis continued, the day will come when we will be called by the Lord. For some it will be unexpected; for others it might come after a long illness – but the call will come. And then, the Pope said, there will be another surprise from the Lord: eternal life. This is why the Church asks us to “pause for a moment, take a moment to think about death.”

We should not become accustomed to earthly life, as though it were eternity. “A day will come,” the Pope said, echoing the words of Jesus in the Gospel, “when you will be taken away” to go with the Lord. And so it is good to reflect upon the end of our life.

“Thinking about death is not a gruesome fantasy,” the Pope said. “Whether it is gruesome or not depends on me, and how I think about it – but what will be, will be.” When we die, we will meet the Lord – “this is the beauty of death, it will be an encounter with the Lord, it is Him coming to meet you, saying, ‘Come, come, [you who are] blessed by My Father, come with me.’”

The Holy Father concluded his homily with a story about an elderly priest who was not feeling well. When he went to the doctor, the doctor told him he was sick. “Perhaps we’ve caught it in time to treat it,” the doctor told him. “We will try this treatment, and if this doesn’t work, we’ll try something else. And if that doesn’t work, we will begin to walk [together], and I will accompany you to the very end.” Like the doctor, we too, the Pope said, must accompany one another on this journey. We must do everything we can in order to assist the sick; but always looking toward our final destiny, to the day when the Lord will come to take us with Himself to our heavenly home.

'Our churches should be for service, not supermarkets'

Nov 24: Pope Francis suggested watchfulness, service and gratuitousness as three attitudes that can help us keep clean the temple of the Holy Spirit. He made the exhortation in his homily at the morning Mass in the chapel of the Vatican’s Casa Santa Marta residence. The Pope was reflecting on the first reading from the Book of the Maccabees where Judas and his brothers were re-consecrating the temple desecrated by the pagans, and the Gospel reading where Jesus was driving out merchants from the temple, that was transformed into a den of thieves.

Temple of God - our heart. The Pope pointed out that the most important temple of God is our heart, where the Holy Spirit dwells. The Holy Father asked whether we keep watch over this interior temple, and are careful about what happens in the heart, who comes in and who goes out, the feelings, the ideas... “Do we talk to the Holy Spirit and listen to Him?” the Pope asked and urged all to keep watch over what happens within. The Pope then explained how this temple can be safeguarded and cared for through service.

The Pope urged Christians to examine their conscience, whether they come forward to help, to clothe and console those in need. In this regard, he recalled St. John Chrysostom reprimanding those who were making many offerings to decorate the church but were not caring for the needy saying, “This is not good. First service, then decoration.” “Purifying the temple means caring for others, the Pope said, adding, “when we come forward to serve, to help, we resemble Jesus who is inside us.”

The Pope then spoke about how gratuitousness, the third attitude, helps in keeping the temple clean. He wondered, “How many times we sadly enter a temple – a parish, a bishop’s house and so on, not knowing whether we are in the house of God or in a supermarket.” “There we have business, including the price list for the sacraments – nothing is free!” But the Pope argued that God saved us freely, without making us pay.

God's providence. In this regard, he asked whether money is needed to maintain building, priests and so on... And the Pope answered, “You give freely and God will do the rest.” “God will provide what is lacking,” the Pope said wishing our churches be “churches of service, free churches.”

'We will be judged on love'

Nov 26: In his Angelus address, Pope Francis reflected on the last judgement, the subject of the day’s Gospel reading.

He noted that this is the last Sunday of the liturgical year, the day on which the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Christ the King of the Universe. Christ’s kingship, he said, is one “of guidance and service, but it is also a kingship that at the end of time will be asserted in judgement.” The vision of the second coming of Christ, presented in the Gospel, introduces the final judgment, when all of humanity will appear before Him, and Jesus, exercising His authority, will separate one from another, “as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.”

Pope Francis recalled the criteria that Jesus says will be the foundation of His judgment: “What you did for the least of my brothers, that you did on to me.” This sentence, the Pope said, “never fails to strike us, because it reveals to us” the end to which God is willing to go on account of His love for us. God goes so far as to identify Himself with us, not when we are “happy and healthy, but when we are in need.” Thus, the Pope said, “Jesus reveals the decisive criteria of His judgment, that is, the concrete love for our neighbour in difficulty.”

Likewise, those who cursed, in the Gospel account, are judged for failing to aid their brothers and sisters in their need. Pope Francis repeated, “At the end of our life we will be judged on love, that is, on our concrete commitment to love and to serve Jesus in our smallest and most needy brothers.”

The Holy Father reminds us that Jesus will come at the end of time to judge all nations; but He also “comes to us every day, in so many ways, and asks us to welcome Him.”

The Pope concluded his reflection with the prayer that “the Virgin Mary might help us to encounter Him and to receive Him in His Word and in the Eucharist, and at the same time in our brothers and in our sisters who suffer hunger, illness, oppression, injustice. May our hearts be able to welcome Him in the ‘today’ of our life, so that we might be welcomed by Him into the eternity of His Kingdom of light and of peace.” ♦



Problemi fil-widnejn

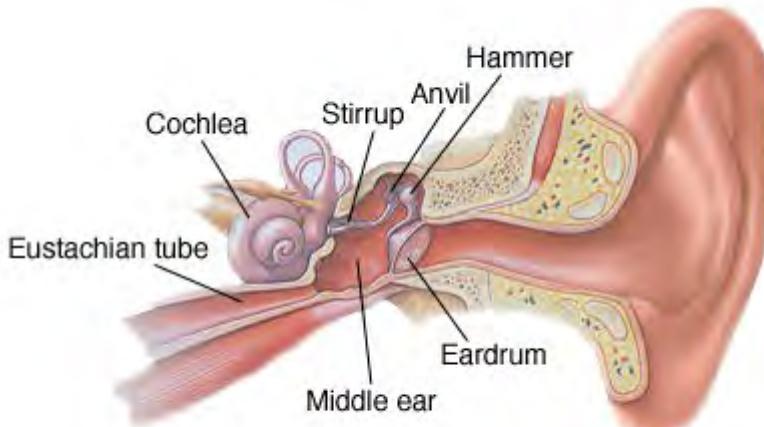
Hemm ħafna problemi li jistgħu jaġġettwaw l-widnejn, sewwa fil-kbar, kif ukoll fis-żgħar. Problemi ta' infel-żjonijiet, ta' wġiġħ, ta' nuqqas ta' smiġħ, ta' sturdament u problemi oħra. Imma biex nifħmu sewwa minn fejn jiġu dawn is-sintomi jeħtieġ li nifħmu ffit kif jaħdnu dawn l-organi speċjali.

Il-widna tiġib kull ħoss li mbagħad jgħaddi minn kanal dejjaq biex jasal sat-tanbur, li hu magħmul minn rita rqqa strecjata biex tkun tista' tivvibra ma kull ħoss. Minn hawn il-ħoss jgħaddi aktar l-ġew għar-reġjun imsejjah 'il-widna nofsana' ('middle ear'). Minn hawn imbagħad jibqa' jgħaddi għall-widna ta' ġewwa ('Middle ear'), fejn hemm struttura speċjali msejjha il-koklea ('cochlea') li kapaċi tagħraf il-kwalità ta' kull ħoss, u tgħaddi b'nerv speċjali għall-moħħ, fejn il-kwalità u l-qawwa ta' kull ħoss jiġi rregistrat u aħna nisimgħu dan il-ħoss.

Issa, barra minn dan, fil-widna nsibu ukoll organu ieħor li huwa essenziali biex nirregistraw l-ekwilibriju. Dan l-organu jikkonsisti fi tlett kanali li fihom xi ffit likwidu, li ħafna jirreferu għalih bħala 'ilma fil-widnejn'.

X'uħud mil-problemi fil-widnejn

Infezzjonijiet fil-widnejn huma komuni ħafna, sewwa fil-kanal, kif ukoll aktar 'l-ġewwa, fil-widna tan-nofs. Dan iġib uġiġ fil-widna u xi drabi ikun hemm bżonn ta' antibiotici biex nikkontrollaw. Xi drabi dawn l-infezzjonijiet jiż-żviluppaw wara li tkun mort tgħum filma (per eżempju f'pixxina tal-ġħawm), jew jista' jkun ġej minn infel-żjoni fil-gerżuma, però ħafna drabi, diffiċli tagħraf il-kawża ta'



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din l-infezzjoni. Jekk wieħed jittraskura u ma jieħux passi dwar dan, hemm ċans li t-tanbur tal-widna jinqasam, ma tibqax tisma' minn dik il-widna, kondizzjoni li tista' ssir permanenti.

Żanżin fil-widnejn huwa komuni ukoll, u nsibuh aktar komuni fil-kbar, speċjalment f'kondizzjoni msejjha "Meniere's syndrome".

Nuqqas ta' smiġħ huwa komuni, partikularment f'dawk innies li huma esposti għal ħsejjes qawwija iż-żejjed u kontinwi, bħal dawk li jaħdnu b'makkinarju storbużi, jew dawk li jħobbu mużika qawwija ħafna. Nsibu dan ukoll f'dawk li huma avvanzati fl-ġiet. Nuqqas ta' smiġħ insibuh ukoll meta ikun hemm xi problemi fin-nervi u fil-koklea, u xi drabi ukoll f'dik il-parti tal-moħħ li tirregistra kull ħoss.

Semmejna qabel kundizzjoni relattivament komuni, "**Meniere's**", fejn nsibu ħsejjes kontinwi fil-widnejn ('ringing'), u sintomi oħra Semmejna ukoll li mard tal-widnejn jista' jgħib ukoll **sturdament u vertigo** fejn tibda thoss li kollex qed idur madwarek. Dana jkun ġej meta ikun hemm infjammazzjoni tal-kanali li hemm fil-widna li ħafna jirreferu

għalih bħala 'ilma fil-widnejn'.

X'għandna nagħmlu biex nevitaw mard tal-widnejn?

L-ewwel nett hemm bżonn li ma nittraskurawx is-sintomi tal-mard, għax inkella l-mard jidħol il-ġew u jkun aktar diffiċli li tikkontrollah.

Nevitaw ħsejjes qawwija ħafna, partikularment mužika qawwija. Jekk naħdmu f'postijiet tax-xogħol fejn ikun qed jintużaw magni storbużi, allura jeħtieġ li nilbsu proteżżejjon għal widnejn.

It-tfal żgħar xi drabi idaħħlu ogħetti, ngħidu aħna xi zibġa jew ogħetti oħra, u dawn iġibu infel-żjoni. Jeħtieġ li it-tabib jeżamina sew u inehhi kull ogħġett li jkun hemm.

Nevitaw arja, jew li nghumu f'pixxina tal-ġħawm mniġgsa.

U fuq kolloks ma nittraskurawx: Meta inħossu xi sintomi fil-widnejn jeħtieġ li nieħdu passi u immoru nagħmlu eżami għand it-tabib.

Jekk għandek xi mistoqsijiet dwar is-saħħha jew tixtieq aktar informazzjoni dwar kundizzjoni ta' saħħha, ibqħat imejl lil: pro@mccv.org.au.

AFI invites community groups to join in at Australia Day 2018 Parade in Melbourne

Australian Football International (AFI) will be participating in the Australia Day Parade in Melbourne on 26 January 2018, under the banner of the "United Nations of Footy".

People from many different communities in Melbourne will march together under one banner, wearing their different national footy jumpers, to celebrate both our diversity and our harmony: 'We may come from many backgrounds and cultures, but we are all Australians.'

Australian Football International (AFI) is an organisation established for the purpose of growing and developing the Aussie Rules football game internationally, with a focus on Footy 9s and junior development. Its major aim is to empower people and communities through sport. More information about us can be found at www.aflinternational.com.

AFI invites the Maltese community to get involved in the Australia Day Parade, wearing the Malta footy jumper. Jumpers are available for purchase at \$70 plus postage from on the AFI website at <http://aflinternational.com/jumpers>.

AFI is committed to using the sport of Australian Football to break down



barriers between people of different cultures. It is also committed to using the inclusive and fitness aspects of the sport to help combat the growing rise of childhood obesity in many countries.

AFI Malta promotes Aussie Rules among students in Malta

The objectives of AFI Malta include:

- Encouraging participation at the grassroots level, with a focus on youth and community development
- Establishing Footy 9s in the Maltese school sports curriculum at both primary and secondary level
- Introducing Footy 9s as a university sport in Malta
- Providing players with the opportunity to compete in competitions at school and club level in Malta
- Establishing National Teams (men & women) to compete in matches against other countries
- Securing recognition of Footy 9s as an official sport in Malta.



A Christmas Message

21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.
22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,
23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

[Matthew 1:21-23]



**The President and members of the Executive Committee
of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria
wish you and your family a Merry and Holy Christmas
and a Happy and Safe New Year 2018**

MALESE COMMUNITY CENTRE
LATROBE VALLEY INC.
PRESENTS

LATROBE VALLEY
MALTESE FESTA

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH 2018
10AM UNTIL 4PM KERNOT HALL MORWELL

FUN * FOOD * FRIENDSHIP
GREAT ENTERTAINMENT - TRADITIONAL MALTESE FOOD
HEAPS OF FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

MCCV News

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

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