



# Maltese e-Newsletter

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora



No. 316 April 2020

A free, non-political and bilingual electronic letter - [maltesejournal@gmail.com](mailto:maltesejournal@gmail.com)

This picture was sent to the Times of Malta by a nurse at Mater Dei Hospital



COVID  
19



Easter  
2020

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Not all heroes wear capes - some wear masks and face shields.  
Thank you to our healthcare workers

Mgr. Charles Scicluna kissing the Cross



**We are all in the same boat**

Christians in Australia adapt  
to Easter in a pandemic

# We shall overcome this - Carmelo Abela



These last weeks have shown how important it is for a government and a country to have its systems in place. The importance of investing resources and finances in calm

times in order to prepare for a stormy day has been amply highlighted in this past month.

We are led by a responsible government that relies on the guidance of experts but also knows what it means to lead a society and its people. It is a sensible government that doesn't let pride come in the way of adapting measures which are in the long-term best interest of our people, communities and society.

The opposition has criticised the government's handling of the situation. On the other hand the WHO has highlighted Malta as a global case of good-practice in addressing this pandemic. We will leave it to our people to judge us, when the time is right. Now is the time for action and decisions.

Before shifting to life after this dark period, I would like to make one point about our industrial relations. Let's make it clear; this is a time where the government needs to intervene to help business owners and the self-employed, in a nutshell, to help people. However, this is surely not the time for anyone to take advantage of the situation. The government will come down like a tonne of bricks on those who attempt to claim more funds than they are entitled to. There will be fines, exclusions from future aid and also a name and shame policy. We will not let a sleazy few come between us helping those who most need our support in this hour of need.

With regard to the relationship between employers and employees, I want to see a sense of understanding developed. Co-operation and goodwill will take us a long way.

The Department of Industrial and Employment Relations, which is part of my ministerial portfolio, will assure that employers treat

employees with the respect they deserve. Changes to work contracts and wages are not allowed if not with the written authorisation of this department.

*Changes to work contracts and wages are not allowed if not with the written authorisation of the Department of Industrial and Employment Relations*

On the other hand, I call on all employees to collaborate with their employer whenever the requests are sensible and aimed at safeguarding their employment.

Everyone agrees that the new normal at the end of the coronavirus debacle will not be the normal of a few weeks ago.

Children will have understood the reality of home schooling, with its positive and less appealing elements. Teachers will understand first-hand the capabilities of remote education and the extent of its use, including the drawbacks. The older generation might be more at ease when using video-calls and ordering purchases and services online.

Employees will demand that the new norm of telework, in many work streams, remains in place also post-coronavirus. The flexibility of this arrangement will no longer be seen as an abuse or an extraordinary perk. Employers would have realised that, potentially, some of their employees do indeed perform better from home rather than at work.

We will have understood that our local produce is a gift that we should protect and value. We can truly count on our fruit and vegetables in times of lockdowns and closed borders. We should increase our appreciation of our agriculture and fisheries industries and now is the time to rethink the future of these sectors in order to guarantee their future.

We will have better understood the dependence of our supply chain mechanisms: how our importers link up to our distributors, to our shops, franchises, the efforts involved in having the ingredients for your pasta dish, the video camera for your video call, your hand sanitiser for hygiene and protection.



Hopefully we will have also assimilated that our livelihood depends on the efforts of the majority and not on the detached life of the individual.

I hope that those who we today call our heroes will always be treated with the respect they deserve.

Our cleaners, the Department of Environmental Health, our doctors, our nurses, our pandemic specialists, our delivery services, our government employees, our police, our army, our civil protection personnel ... each one of us that delivers a service, especially those who until recently we used to take for granted.

Not to mention the larger picture: our open spaces, nature, the Earth. I truly hope that we will have understood the need to protect and conserve

**CURRENT AFFAIRS**

our nature, our nation and our planet. The signs of a new lease of life to our flora and fauna that we have witnessed in these weeks need to open our eyes even further; we need to stare at the stark reality that has come to our attention.

Humanity will soon be unleashed again on our planet; let's show that we learnt our lesson. Let's hope the kindness, hope and unity experienced in these months will make for a better Malta and a better world, after we see the back of this dramatic period in our lives.

*Carmelo Abela, Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister*



## **Watch: Our talented Archbishop reminisces about his youth**

In a message to children during Holy Week, Archbishop Charles Scicluna played a musical instrument.

In a video, Scicluna returned to his younger days and rekindled those memories by mentioning three things that reminded him of his youth. .

Among these is a mouth organ he used to enjoy playing. Despite the passing of time, Mons. Scicluna still remembers how to play it and he decided to let the children have a listen to its sweet melody.

On a light and touching note, Mgr. Scicluna recalled that when he was a young boy his mother would tell him that he was doing her head in, but as a boy he simply loved experimenting with music.

Our Archbishop's talents do not begin and end with music and it seems that in his childhood the Archbishop loved experimenting. The second item he recalls is a candle holder that he made himself when he was 11 years old. Although it may be chipped in parts, Msgr. Scicluna still uses it to light candles. When he was young he loved to light that very candle in front of a statue or crucifix.

The last item that is reminiscent of his childhood is the Rosary bead which Mons. Scicluna always carried in his pocket after his First Holy communion, as a reminder of prayer and of the protection the Lord provides.

Finally, Mgr. Scicluna passed on a message to children that during this time of Holy Week they should remember that Christians must be a shining light in the darkness. He urged children to stay in their homes at this time because of the spread of COVID-19 and to call their grandparents and tell them how much they loved them and also to follow the functions of Holy Week through the media. His final appeal was that despite schools being closed should still find time to study and even lend a hand at home.



## Christians in Australia adapt to Easter in a pandemic

© Thomson Reuters A woman wears a protective face mask next to a Lourdes Virgin image while a priest blesses from a van during Easter Saturday, as the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) continues, in Santiago, Chile April 11, 2020. REUTERS/Ivan Alvarado Easter is a starkly different one today for

Christians, who are adapting to celebrate their most important festival amidst social distancing restrictions.

Instead of bustling church attendance, worship bands and communal meals, many will sit in front of a screen at home to quietly remember a momentous gathering about 2000 years ago.

On the first Easter, Jesus' 12 disciples were huddled in fear and sadness after seeing their leader killed on a cross.

At this gathering, the bible says the resurrected Jesus appeared to the disciples. Christians believe Jesus died for the sins of the world and rose to defeat death, giving hope for a new life with God.

In Melbourne's inner north, Merri Creek Anglican church pastor Peter Carolane sat in his living room and delivered an Easter message via Facebook Live.

While in-person church gatherings offer formality and structure Reverend Carolane has chosen a different style on camera. "We've tried to tone down the energy levels to try to make it more intimate," Rev Carolane aid.

He has upped his technology skills in the last few weeks to improve his offering, such as skyping other people into the stream and adding pre-recorded video.



Some church members videoed conference in small groups for morning tea afterwards.

© Thomson Reuters Pope Francis leads the Easter vigil Mass in St. Peter's Basilica with no public participation due to the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) at the Vatican, April 11, 2020.

Remo Casilli/Pool Rev Carolane was encouraged by a large online audience on Good Friday, including those who are not ordinarily church-goers.

"I feel like, as people are realising they're not in control of their own lives like they thought they were, and western liberal democracies have not got all the answers, that

people are thinking about what really matters in a new kind of way," he said.

Not all church leaders have found it easy to adapt.

Anglican parish priest Steve Weickhardt in Port Lincoln, South Australia said he felt a "really deep grief" about Easter this year. "Easter day is a real blow," he said. "That's our DNA."

He did not provide an online service for his 40 elderly congregants, but has pointed them to online services run by other churches.

Instead he rang the church bell at 9am and they knew he is sitting down to pray for them.

Catholics in the Sandhurst diocese of regional Victoria were able to tune in online to a service livestreamed out of a church building.

Chair of the Bendigo Interfaith Council and retired priest Monsignor Frank Marriot told AAP the viewing numbers of online mass so far had been pleasing. At 82, Monsignor Marriott said he'd done well to navigate the Zoom video conferencing program for church meetings.

In his Easter message on Friday, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said Christians should live out their faith by abiding by social distancing restrictions and looking after their community and loved ones.



## President's kitchen provides meals to

### Mater Dei hospital's staff

Posted On April 11, 2020 - Updated 11 April, 2020 9:53am

Photos: Facebook: George Vella

The President's Office is showing solidarity with Mater Dei hospital's staff who are currently working long and unlimited hours to meet the demand of patients during the current Covid-19 pandemic. The President's Office is preparing and sending an amount of cooked meals from the Sant'Anton Palace kitchen to employees at Mater Dei working in various wards at the hospital.

On the occasion of Easter Sunday, the President's kitchen also prepared Easter confectionery items to the staff at Mater Dei hospital.

Meanwhile, President George Vella last month decided to give a personal contribution by offering his monthly salary to be used by the Government in necessities during the current unique circumstances.

At the same time, the President's Office said that social assistance by the Malta Community Chest Fund continued with the persons in need who qualify for the assistance.

A further initiative by the President is that billboards formerly used for MCCF aims have been placed for the Health Department's use for information messages connected with Covid-19.



## 'Cuqlajta' in Haz-Zebbug clackers on to an empty piazza on Coronavirus Good Friday

Rebekah Cilia - independent.com.mt

The sad clack of the rotary wooden mechanism known as 'cuqlajta' echoes through the deserted, narrow, streets of Zebbug, on Friday, as the Coronavirus crisis has forced people to stay indoors.

Catholic traditions are a staple of Maltese culture, but Holy Week marks one of the most celebrated occasions of the year. The village of Haz-Zebbug is synonymous with its stately Good Friday pageant, with crowds of devotees and tourists alike flooding to the village square to experience the procession.

But today, all that was heard in the winding streets and the big void of the piazza, was the sad sound of this wooden instrument. The cuqlajta is usually used from Maudy Thursday until Holy Saturday. This instrument replaces the joyous sounds of the church bells with the sadder, droning, sound it produces, to mark the passion and death of Jesus Christ, represented on Good Friday.

This year, however, the sadness echoing through the Maltese villages is being associated, by many, with the difficulties and hard times brought about by the virus.

This wooden instrument has been used since the Middle Ages to replace church bells, during the holy week. It is used in several other localities on Good Friday.

The original function of bells was original to ward off evil, according to Anna Borg Cardona in her paper 'The Cuqlajta during Holy Week'. In fact, she notes, that it was not unusual for the older church bells to be inscribed with the words "Daemones Expello Tempestates Que Sereno" (I expel devil and calm the tempests). Instruments such as scrapers and clappers were also considered to have similar purifying powers.





## **“A summer without feasts hurts me a lot – I will greatly commemorate my father next year”**

[tvm.com.mt](http://tvm.com.mt)

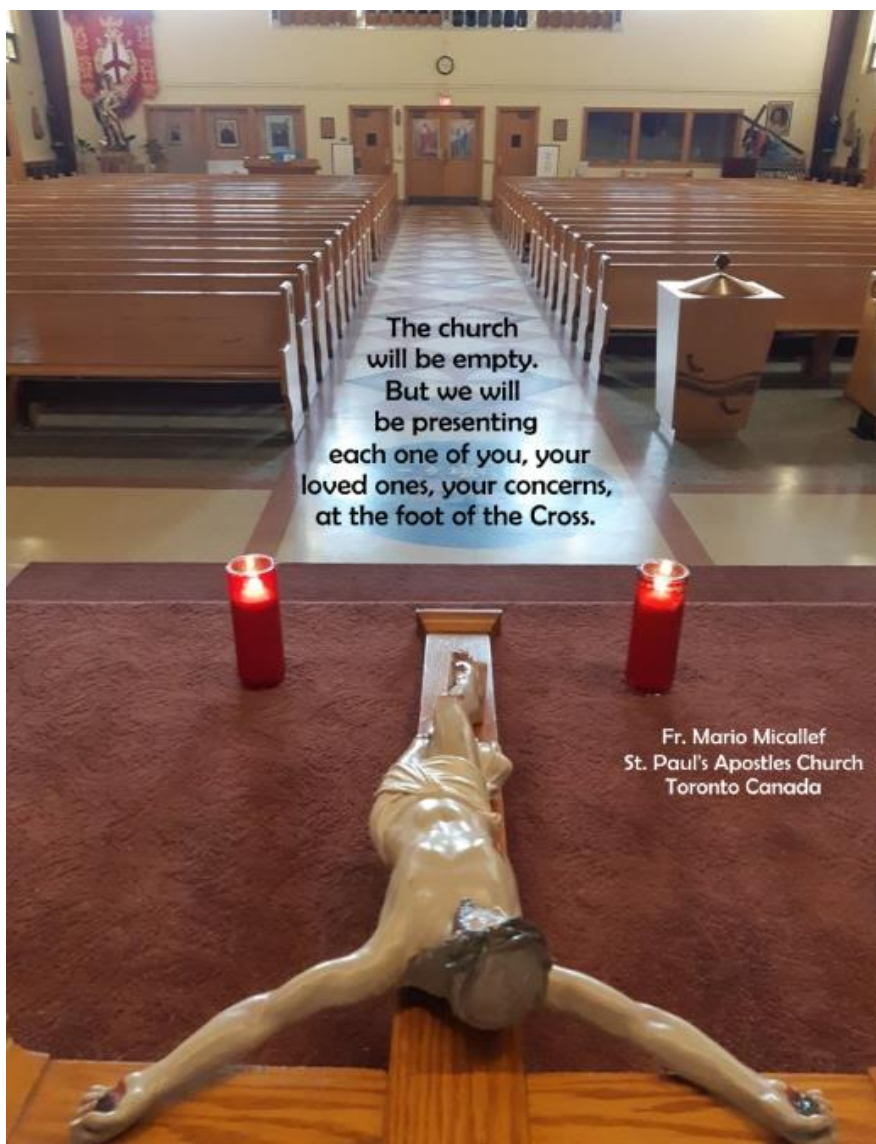
The feasts season in the Maltese islands traditionally brings a lot of joy and merriment among feast enthusiasts who, year after year, look forward for the locality's 'festa'.

However, this year in the wake of the Covid-19 spread, many feast enthusiasts will be denied of the days of merriment following the Curia's recent decision to cancel all feasts in Malta and Gozo.

Aaron Mifsud, a tailor, is one of these enthusiast. Speaking to [tvm.com.mt](http://tvm.com.mt), Aaron said that his father, who died four years ago, was also a brilliant tailor, who spent 40 years dealing with clients and tourists alike in Cospicua.

Aaron proceeded by taking over his father's trade and also started working on the feast's decorations, such as saddle cloths, flags and pavilions – preparations which were announced during the last series of the program 'Malti Pur'.

Aaron therefore hit two birds with one stone. In the wake of Covid-19, Aaron said that the absence of feasts merrymaking will be greatly missed this summer – a fact which hurts him a lot. However, the tailor said that the work he carried out during the past year will be left for next year, once everything is back to normal. This will also serve as a commemoration to his father.



**We urge the readers of our e-Newsletter to keep in touch with our Maltese sisters and brothers To read online the main journals and magazines published in Malta and Gozo**

**TIMES OF MALTA  
L-ORIZZONT  
MALTA INDEPENDENT  
GOZO NEWS  
MALTA TODAY  
LOVINMALTA  
TVM.COM.MT  
INEWS MALTA  
VISIT MALTA  
VISIT GOZO  
HERITAGE MALTA  
And many more**

## Prime Minister's wife Lydia Abela becomes patron of coronavirus support platform

**MALTA TOGETHER provides access to online services for coping with disruption - <https://www.maltatogether.com/>**



Lydia Abela, the Prime Minister's wife. Photo: Malta Together.

The Prime Minister's wife, Lydia Abela, has become the patron of an online platform allowing people to access services to help them cope with disruption caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

The non-profit [Malta Together](https://www.maltatogether.com/) initiative consists of a one-stop website with information on helplines, counselling, online services, as well as online classes to keep people

occupied while at home.

Dr Abela, endorsing the initiative, said it would go a long way towards helping people who were currently alone due to the social distancing measures in place.

Malta Together said Dr Abela would also be actively involved with the platform to identify community initiatives providing support and help in Malta during these challenging times.

"Social distancing prevents the spread of the coronavirus but unfortunately it leads in many cases to loneliness, boredom, frustration and sadness. For some of us, this leads to solitude and in some cases also triggers or accentuates certain problems," Dr Abela said.

"Malta Together is an ideal tool to help people cope with the new realities and day-to-day situations. Furthermore, this online tool will help to fill these peoples' lives with hope, optimism and positivity whilst at home. We strongly believe that we can create a temporary life within our home and in the context of this new social reality."

Dr Abela encouraged everyone remain fit and active and communicate remotely with their loved ones and others. "We need to learn, teach, interact, and do positive activities to use this time at home in the best possible way. In this new reality, Malta Together is a perfect platform, to help us get through these difficult times," she said.

Malta Together is a non-profit initiative, currently staffed by employees of the Iniala Group in Malta, brought to you by 'The Academy of Givers', an association created to unite and inspire social giving among the business community. *Printed in The Times of Malta*

## ONE WORLD:TOGETHER AT HOME – GLOBAL CITIZEN, WHO AND

### LADY GAGA LAUNCH ONE MASSIVE EVENT



The World Health Organisation, and Global Citizen have teamed up with Lady Gaga, who is co-curating a historic event taking place on the **18th April** online.

One World: Together at Home will be an event in which Lady Gaga will be joined by

Andrea Bocelli, Alanis Morissette, Billie Eilish, Elton John, John Legend, Lizzo, Paul Mc Cartney, Stevie Wonder, and many more.

David Beckham, Idris Elba and Priyanka Chopra Jonas will also be making an appearance at the event which will be hosted by Jimmy Fallon, Jimmy Kimmel and Stephen Colbert.

The 'One World: Together At Home' global special will air on Saturday, 18 April 2020 in celebration and support of healthcare workers, and it will feature real experiences from doctors, nurses and families around the world.

Internationally, *BBC One* will run the program on Sunday 19 April 2020. Additional international broadcasters include *beIN Media Group*, *MultiChoice Group* and *RTE*. The virtual broadcast will show unity among all people who are affected by COVID-19 and will also celebrate and support brave healthcare workers doing life-saving work on the front lines.

Hugh Evans, Co-Founder and CEO of Global Citizen, said "As we honor and support the heroic efforts of community health workers, 'One World: Together At Home' aims to serve as a source of unity and encouragement in the global fight to end COVID-19. Through music, entertainment and impact, the global live-cast will celebrate those who risk their own health to safeguard everyone else's."



## Supporting catechists in sharing their faith

*By Elizabeth McFarlane  
Catholic Outlook –  
Parramatta NSW*

Standing in front of a class of 20-40 students in a state school, sharing your faith and love for God with the children, can be a daunting task. But for

many catechists in the Diocese of Parramatta, it's less of a task and more of a passion.

Cecilia Zammit is the new Director of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD), succeeding Paul Worthington who retired in December last year.

Part of Cecilia's role will be supporting these catechists or Special Religious Education (SRE) teachers by providing opportunities for their own faith formation and for curriculum training.

"Most people are so modest. They think, 'What do I know?' But it's not about having a theology degree. We are relaying to children the unconditional love of God through Scripture and personal faith, and a lot of people can do that," she said.

For Cecilia, her work in the Diocese has come full circle.

From being a teacher in state schools for 18 years and at St Agnes Catholic High School for six, she has also had experience as a catechist and was part of the Spiritual Formation Team and Religious Education Team at the Catholic Education Office (CEO).

While working for CEO, Cecilia liaised closely with the Institute for Mission (IFM) for the accreditation of teachers. In 2012, she became the Acting Director for IFM before joining the Chancery in the area of Parish Support and Development.

As Director of CCD, Cecilia is entering the classroom again through her support of the catechists and believes her experience will help in this new role.

"Working with teachers has given me a greater appreciation of the commitment of the volunteers and also an understanding of their frustrations," she said.

"I have always believed that you start with the person, the teachers themselves, feeding them and nourishing them so they can give. It's a shared experience; I learn from them and we journey together."

Cecilia intends to visit parishes across the Diocese to hear from catechists about their experiences.



Another part of the role of Director of CCD is to liaise with the CCD Coordinators in other dioceses and to keep abreast of NSW Government guidelines and comments regarding Scripture in state schools.

"We need to defend the right of children in state schools to religious education and make sure that classroom teaching standards are maintained," Cecilia said.

In the Diocese of Parramatta, we are grateful to the 900 mature SREs and the 450 secondary student SREs who pay witness to their faith daily in state schools from Granville to Katoomba.

"They are all very different but what they share is a belief in the importance of passing on their faith. They feel strongly that every child should have the opportunity to learn about God," Cecilia said.



## New Heritage Malta chairperson appointed

Arts and culture minister José Herrera with new Heritage Malta chair Anthony Scicluna (right).

Anthony Scicluna has been appointed chairperson of Heritage Malta by the minister for national heritage, the arts and local government José Herrera.

He succeeds Anton Refalo, now minister of agriculture.

Herrera said the appointment comes at an important time when Heritage Malta is looking into further expanding its operations and remit into new areas such as underwater heritage.

"Heritage Malta has over the past years successfully managed to transform its position from being an operator of heritage sites and museums to actively focusing on delivering an exceptional heritage experience to its visitors", remarked Herrera, noting that during these unprecedented times, the entity had managed to expeditiously deliver an initiative whereby the public can still experience the museums and heritage sites through online platforms.

Scicluna, who served as deputy chairperson of Heritage Malta since 2016, joined Bank of Valletta in 1984 and held positions within the bank's branch network, finance and internal audit. He was appointed chief officer for human resources and ethics in 2016. Scicluna is a certified public accountant and holds a practicing certificate in auditing. He is a Fellow of the Malta Institute of Accountants and also holds an honours degree in Business Management from the University of Malta.

Lawyer Graham Busuttil has been appointed Heritage Malta deputy chairperson.





## Keeping Connected for Maltese Seniors

*Marie-Louise Marisa Previtera Delegate- Council of Maltese Living Abroad*

<https://www.facebook.com/malteseseniors/>

The need to stay in touch with my Seniors Groups and to help them get through this Corona Virus Pandemic was the only motivation I needed to do something, anything I could to continue my welfare work within the Maltese community of Sydney.

Then I also thought, why stop with the Maltese seniors of Sydney, what about other areas, other States, and indeed throughout the Maltese Diaspora. So I wanted to help these seniors stay connected with their own groups, and to learn what other Maltese seniors group around the world do and to learn about what functions and activities they have.

I would like to encourage all groups to send in videos, pictures and stories of what they do when they meet. How do they connect with each other. The one thing we all have in common is our country of birth, Malta.

How do we stay in touch with our traditions and customs through our activities? Do we celebrate L'Imnarja? Do we go to Festas? I'm hoping that this page will grow so that all groups from the Diaspora will contribute in some way so we have the opportunity to 'escape' our enforced isolation during this unprecedented time of global pandemic that has changed our lives as we knew it. Gone are the familiar family Sunday long lunches, social get togethers at clubs and indeed meeting up with friends for a coffee!

I want to try to bring to this new page, information on what is happening in our countries as well as trying to keep the social aspect of our normal lives going albeit via Social Media. This page is a community page where anyone is welcome to contribute their posts so that all can stay well informed and hopefully entertained to allow us all to keep our minds active and to feel connected to each other through our links with Malta.

To the Maltese Diaspora, stay safe and well and we will get through this together!



## MALTESE CENTER NEW YORK CITY

**The Maltese Center Chaplain – Fr. Anthony Saliba**

The Maltese Center is fortunate to have a chaplain to provide religious services to our community. Our chaplain has served for special masses, memorial services, blessings, celebrations and confessions here at our center. We are very grateful for the time that Fr. Anthony Saliba offers at the Maltese Center. He is currently an associate pastor at St. Raphael Parish located in East Meadow, New York.

Dearest brothers and sisters of the Malta Center,  
We go through this year's Holy Week in the midst of this terrible pandemic that is plaguing all humanity. The

past few weeks have shown us the devastating effects of this virus and the days before us are filled with fear and uncertainty, not only here in New York but also in our beloved islands of Malta and Gozo. Pope Francis, in his extraordinary moment of prayer some days ago, invited us, like the disciples in the boat during the storm mentioned in the Gospel, not to allow ourselves to be overcome by fear but to trust fully in Jesus. During this Holy Week, so different from all others we have celebrated, let us make our homes a sanctuary and place of refuge. Let us also implore the mercy of God, our Heavenly Father, for ourselves, for our loved ones and for all humanity. We are in this together! Therefore, we continue to celebrate as we gather together in unity with the whole Church at the beginning of this Holy Week. And we join our hearts, so that as partakers of the Cross, we may have a share also in his Resurrection and in his life. God Bless!

## Exploring the area of Wied il-Bassasa in Zurrieq

By Martina Posted in Nature, Walks & Treks



I love exploring. It's like my personal challenge to find places in Malta that I've never been

even spent a night! I consider myself to be adventurous, but the days when I used to sleep outside without the tent are long gone.

Vincent Van Gogh once said 'If you truly love nature, you will find beauty everywhere.' I couldn't have said it better. He expressed exactly how I feel each time I go trekking.

I mean look at these photos. Sometimes when I get lost in places like this I can hardly believe that I'm still in Malta. It's beautiful, refreshing and recharging. It also gives me hope, that despite the over-development in some areas, Malta still have a chance of surviving this crazy boom.

Some say that 'freedom is a state of mind' and I truly believe it. And as Mark Aurelius once said 'Our life is what our thoughts make it.' Free your mind, free yourself.

This is the perfect place. Let the sea take away all your worries and for a moment don't think of anything and just enjoy this pure, simple moment. Only you and the elements. Feel the sea spray on your skin. The breeze in your hair. And just let go. Continuing our little trekking adventure and taking this narrow path to discover even more beautiful natural creations. For me, this is the best time of year to go trekking or simply enjoy the greenery and blooming flowers. As winter in Malta is like another spring.

How cool is this limestone window? I love it! Really wonderful creation. We couldn't resist to stop for a while and take numerous photos. Very photogenic area. And if you look behind me you can see Blue Grotto in the distance.

I'm sure that you can tell from our smile that we had absolutely amazing time hiking! Me and Elena are very similar and we love the simple things in life. Trekking for couple of hours fills us with this pleasant feeling lasting for couple of days. Do you feel the same?

I had to stop and take a picture of this quarry. The depth of it is mind-blowing and the cars and heavy machinery look like toys from up here! Really impressive! I just couldn't figure out how the vehicles get in and get out. Didn't have an obvious entrance. Does anyone know?

before. This time I checked out the area of Wied il-Bassasa located in the outskirts of Zurrieq. Have you been to Zurrieq before? Did you know that the Xarolla Windmill in Zurrieq is the only windmill on the Maltese Islands that is functioning until today? It's actually a very interesting attraction to visit.

Now let's go and explore the outskirts of Zurrieq. This time I didn't go alone, but with my friend Elena. We parked the car at the end of the street of 'Wied Ganu', just before the quarries. I never realised how many quarries are actually located in this area. I'm not a big fan of these places, but in a way they really fascinate me. The depth of the quarries, the size of the machinery used and the 'architecture' of the control buildings. There is something intriguing about them. This natural or artificial but still beautiful arch connects two quarries. We left the car in front of them and decided to walk through a small path rather than taking the dusty road, which you can see in the top left corner of the above photo. We actually used this road to get back to our car as it was far more comfortable. The trek we chose turned out to be perfect for mountain goats! Very steep.

This was our beautiful view of Wied il-Bassasa from above. It doesn't look as steep as it was. We didn't find a better path so we were just 'jumping' from one stone / rock to another, avoiding the grass as that can be tricky and you could easily end up stuck in between stones. Now thinking about it, we should have walked along side the dry stone wall as that would have been probably more comfortable.

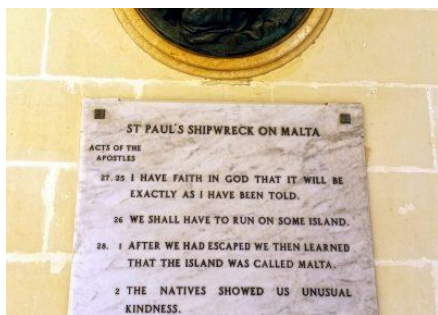
The weather wasn't the best. It was cold, cloudy and windy, but that didn't stop us from having a great time. And while walking down the hill we came across this cool cave. First it didn't look big, but when we got closer it was actually a decent size. Can you spot me in the photo?

There was also a fire ring, which suggests that someone made a fire in that cave not long ago or



# THE MYSTERY OF APOSTLE PAUL'S SHIPWRECK REVEALED BY MARK GATT

Posted by [Flora](#) <https://exploring-malta.com/>



**Those who arrive for the first time at St Paul's Bay can wonder: why this name?**

**This is a story that goes back to 60 A.D.** At that time the shores of St Paul's Bay, a Northeast village of Malta have testified something historically important. In fact, **a big ship of Alexandria** loaded with Egyptian grain was sailing along the Mediterranean **destined for Rome**.

However, because of the "**mare clausum**" (a latin terminology to indicate the closed season to shipping due to possible rough seas), the ship wrecked losing the precious cargo of grain.

**How about the passenger?**

Fortunately, all the 276 crew and passengers survived. Among them, there were the Apostle Paul, who was a Christian prisoner, with his companion Apostles Luke and Aristarcus.

At the beginning of the 1900, St Paul's Bay was inhabited by a small fishing community, settled near the St Paul's Shipwreck Chapel, situated in front of the Gillieru Hotel. In fact, close to the hotel there is still the little "il-Menqa" harbour used by fishermen to launch their colourful boats called "**Luzzu**". Bugibba and Qawra were mostly inhabited by a few families who cultivated the fields around. Considering all the buildings and hotels that abound in this area, it is amazing to think that not even fifty years ago there were mostly open fields!

**So why the village was called St Paul's Bay?**

It was widely believed that **the place where the shipwreck happened was on the shores in front of the Chapel of Saint Paul's Shipwreck**, see pictures below. St Luke in the Act of Apostles referred that the shipwreck happened in "**the place where two seas meet**". Therefore, the Pauline tradition considered **the little islands in front of the Gillieru as the spot referred to by St Luke**, so the islands were named St Paul's Islands or in Maltese, Il-Gzejjer ta' San Pawl.

A curiosity about the St Paul's Shipwreck chapel. According to tradition, **the Chapel stands on the site where the Maltese lit a fire so that San Paul and his companion could warm themselves up after the shipwreck**. This is why it is also known as **the Shipwreck Chapel or the Chapel of the Bonfire**.

In the **famous painting by Cassarino** is visible a particular scene: **the fire and the snake who bit the Saint**. Actually the Apostle Paul was immune to the venom and he didn't have any consequences. The people perceived it as **the first miracle of Paul who consequently removed the venom from the island's snakes**.

There is another scene of the life of St Paul in Malta that is represented in one of the three paintings. **Paul healing Publius' Father from dysentery**. Publius was the Governor of Rome in Malta and he welcomed the Apostle in his villa, that is the actual **chapel of St Paul's Milqi** in Burmarrad. Notice that the word "**Burmarrad**" means "**a swampy area**", so it is more than possible that Publius' Father got the dysentery and then was healed by Paul.

If you are curious to know why the Governor Publius was living in Burmarrad,

This little chapel has a great story to tell! In fact, **Grandmaster Wignacourt** decided to demolish it and re-build it, enlarging it with 3 arcades, on each side. There have been many debates about which is real location of the shipwreck of the Saint. However, **rescue diver Mark Gatt, introduced me to a different theory about the possible Shipwreck site with a compelling proof**.

**Mark:** "I really believe that the location of the shipwreck was in **Salini Bay, in Qawra (St Paul's Bay)**, for these reasons: On Sunday 24th April, 2005, at a depth of 36 metres outside Salina Bay I found a Roman period anchor with the inscription of two Egyptian gods, "**Isis and Sarapi(s)**". The anchor is two metres and thirty centimetres long, made of lead and estimated to weigh some 700 kg, It is on display at the Maritime Museum in Birgulin the same location off Qawra Point, in the early 1970s, was also discovered the largest anchor ever discovered in the world weighing 4 tons. It is showed at the same museum and close to the Isis Sarapis anchor.

**In Roman times Egypt was the main provider of grain for the Roman Empire. Isis and Sarapis were Egyptian gods revered also by the Romans.** Seafarers were always very superstitious and these gods were

believed to invoke protection. **It is possible that the anchor was one of the anchors of the ship of Alexandria sailing on the trade route between Alexandria and Rome.** Possibly the one Apostle Paul was sailing in! Diving in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s, **Comm. Salvino Anthony Scicluna** mapped various artefacts discovered around the Maltese Islands. **He knew of a concentration of artefacts discovered outside Salina Bay. He believed that this could be the shipwreck site.** This is documented in his famous "**Scicluna Notes**" which also include maps showing where various artefacts were discovered".

**Flora:** "Actually I was wondering **how the passengers, who had already spent 14 days and 14 nights drifting in a violent storm and a night spent to lighten the ship,** could then have had the strength to swim and get out of the water from the rocky coast near the St Paul's Shipwreck chapel".

**Mark:** "**While St Paul's Bay's shores are rocky, Salina Bay in Qawra was a safe sandy inlet, so it was easier for the survivors to swim ashore.** Especially if you consider that the **Gregale waves were hitting them from behind.** I've tried myself to swim in Salina Bay in quite rough seas, trying to see what the chances would have been for the survivors, and **thanks to the Gregale, it was easy in Salina Bay to make land safely**".

**In the pictures below, Qawra Point and Salina Bay with Knights Salts Pans.**

**Flora:** "So Mark which is the place described by San Luke as *the place where two seas meet*"

**Qawra Peninsula and Salina Bay, the place where two seas meet.**

**Mark:** "I believe that the sailors on Apostle Paul's ship would have found themselves very close to Qawra Point, so it's more likely that **St Luke was referring to Qawra Point (instead St Paul's island) as the place where two seas meet**". To confirm this, in his famous research work **James Smith** wrote that **2000 years ago the land was more elevated and so the Qawra peninsula would have extended farther to the northeast where**



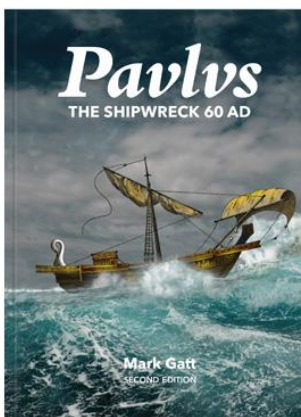
**the sea is shallow.** The sea level was higher, so the result would be that **Qawra Point would have been more than a reef or isthmus**". Salina and Burmarrad were not yet silted because the Salini (salt pans) were built by the **Knights of St John in the 16th century** and hence **Salina Bay would have been much larger, with the sea going in as far as we now have the parish church in Burmarrad**".

As you can see in the map (left) (courtesy of Tonio Farrugia) the Salina Bay could have been reaching the **Burmarrad plain as a big Romans port area.** This actually confirm the tradition that **Publius welcomed the Apostles in his Villa in Burmarrad.**

At the end of my meeting with Mark Gatt I was really excited about his discoveries that I went to the Maritime Museum to see the anchor. It's really

incredible how the captain had managed to bring the ship close enough for all on board to make it safely to shore. Maybe because there was someone on that ship who had a mission to carry out and that not even a violent storm could stop him. **Was it divine providence that brought Paul to Malta? The Maltese certainly believe so.**

**One thing is sure:** Luke describes in the Act of Apostles (XXVIII) that they found an "**unusual kindness**" among the local people, I believe that the same it is still present **in the friendliness of the Maltese.**



Thanks to **Mark Gatt** for this fascinating interview!

To know more about **Mark Gatt's discoveries** you can read his book "**PAVLVS, The Shipwreck 60 A.D.**", Allied Publication – 2009. The book is available for sale at **Heritage Malta shops** in every Museum and at the Malta Aquarium souvenir shop. It is also available in a 52 min. **DVD documentary film, produced by Mark.** Interesting to see for its detailed information and for the exciting reconstruction.





## SOPRIZA. Jew?

Victor V. Vella M.A.

Milli jidher kienet sorpriza għal ħafna sew għal min xtaq li se tkun, iva, li l akkużat għandu jibqa l-ħabs u wkoll għal dawk li kienu jemmnu li hu innocenti u gie meħlus. U f'salt wieħed bil-preparazzjoni u l-entuzjażmu ta l-Għid imnaqqas ħafna imħabba il-virus giet l-aħbar li il-Kardinal Pell mhux ħati ta dak li gie akkużat li għamel u gie meħlus minnufih wara 404 ġurnata li għadda il-ħabs bħala ħati.

Iva hawn min gerger kontra l-liġi u l-process tagħha u wkoll għax l-akkużat u hu min hu. Hawn min faħħar il-process tal-liġi għax wara process twil ħareġ liberu. U Hawn minn gerger l-izjed għax wara li għadda bħala ħati minn ġuri allura il-process kien messu jieqaf hemm u d-decizzjoni kellha tibqa. Imma billi' għall-erwieh, aħna qegħdin ngħixu taħt Sistema demokratika l-process legali għandu ħafna tirgħien u wkoll is-sistema għandha bħala il-motto tagħha li jgħid hekk 'beyond reasonable doubt'.

Jiġifieri li nkunu żguri u mingħjar dubju. U allura il-process hu twil bħal ma hi jew kif taħdem id-demokrazija.

Tinsewx li hawn pajjizi fejn is-sistema tal-qrati tista tiddependi fuq bniedem wiehed li jista jiddeciedi fuq il-ħajja jew mewt jew ħabs ta ħati. Dan ġara fl-istorja u għadu jiġri fil-preżent. Hemm is-sistema l-oħra li il-gvern jista itella u jagħzel imħallfin u maġistrati li jaqblu mhux biss mal-politika tiegħu għax jaqbilla ħali jkun jista jhawwad u jagħmel li jrid. . Aħna fl-Awstralja bhal ħafna mill-pajjizi demokratici għandna dak li jissejjah 'separation of powers' li l-liġi qegħdha f'idejn nies li huma imlaħqin mil-Gvern imma imbagħad iżommu ruhhom u joperaw independentment mil-gvern.

U kif tafu hemm ukoll jew għandna is-sistema tal-ġuri, li ilha ħafna fis-sistema legali Ingliza, dik ta tnax min-nies kwalunkwe li jiddeciedu huma, naturalment wara li jisimghu il-favur u kontra tal-każ u jgħarblu il-każ fil-qorti. Issa l-membri tal-ġuri huma minn huma imma avolja ikunu fil-kaxxa l-kbira fil-qorti, jibqgħu bnedmin li mhemmx għalfejn noqgħod imfisser x'jiġifieri. Fil-każ ta Pell kien hemm żewġ processi bil-ġuri differenti. L-ewwel wiehed ma akkużawhx għax ma qablux...u tat-tieni wiehed qablu u Pell spicca l-ħabs. Tajjeb li insemmi wkoll l-effett tal-medja li tant kienu kontra Pell li kien hemm minn ssuġġerixxa u kiteb u qal li l-membri tal-ġurija tant saru jafu fuq il-każ u fuq nahha wahda tal-każ li l-ġurija f'dan il-każ ma setgħetx tkun independenti. Dawn kazi li graw bhal kaz kontra Andrew Bolt li qal xi haga fuq ir-radju u kiteb xi kritika fuq l-aborigini u l-aborigini

ipprotestaw bi ħġarhom u fgaw il-qorti. U l-qorti iddecieda kontra Bolt avolja għad hemm iddubju kemm id-decizzjoni tal-qorti kienet indipendenti. Kien hemm każi wkoll li meta il-medja tindahal bhal maindaħlet iżzejjed bhal fil-każ ta Pell li il-process waqaf għax kien hemm i- dubju kemm kien hemm cans li issib 'twelve honest men and true' biexjoqogħdu bħala ġurati. Imma dan il-punt ma tantx tqajjem rigward dan il-każ. L-izjed li tqajjem kien il-process innifsu u kif il-High Court ta l-Awsralja ħa il-passi li ħa. Wara li Pell gie ikkundannat bil-ġuri unanimu Pell spicca l-ħabs.

Baqa jgħd u isostni li hu innocenti u allura daħlet l-idea jew l-akkuza li kien hemm xi ħaga mhix sewwa. U appella s-sentenza li hi wara kollloxi parti mil-process legali. Dan ġara kemm il-darba li wiehed jiġi meħlus. Avukat qal fuq it-T.V. li gara f'20 fil-mijja tal-kazi. Kellna il-każ ta Azalea Chamberlain li wara li għamlet kemm il-sena il-ħabs giet meħlusa fuq skuza li kien hemm dak li insejħulu 'miscarriage of justice.' Biex inkompli fuq il-process ta Pell, appella is-sentenza, il-każ u il-verdett ta l-akkuza giet ezaminata minn tlett Imħallfin tal-High Court l-iktar Qorti għoli ta l-Awstralja u l-aħħar vot kien ta tnejn kontra wiehed. U dak li vvota kontra jiġifieri li kien tal-fehma li kienhemm dubju kif intlaħaq il-verdett ta ħati hu wiehed mill-aqwa imħallfin ta l-Awstralja. Kiteb u spjega għaliex ivvota kontra il-verdett għax sab numru ta anomaliji fil-process u fis-sentenza. B'hekk infetaħ l-process li issa sab li Pell hu innocenti għax ma setgħax għamel dak li kien akkużat li għamel fil-ħin u fejn gie akkużat li għamlu.



Is - seba' Imhallfin kollha qablu li makiex hemm bażi u provi biżżejjed u cari u bla dubju li Pell għamel dak li gie akkużat li għamel.

Tista tħobbu jew tobghodu, tista tkompli takkuzah jew tissuspetta fih għal dak li għamel . L-importanti mhux li tbiddel jew iżżomm l-fehma li għandek jew li kellek. Dik bicca tiegħek. Imma almenu issa għandek xi haġa konkreta u fatti fuq x'hiex tiddeciedi. L-importanti hu li ma tikkritikax l- process legali fil-vojt imma li jkollok il-fatti jew ftit fatti f'idejk qabel matiddeciedi u titkellem u tfahhar jew tikkundanna.



As part of our commitment to support those in need, we have teamed up with our partners, Versilia Solutions, and made donations of food products from our onboard Menu Range to the Franciscan Sisters of the Heart of Jesus. These will help the community they serve, during this precarious period. If you would like to support the congregation, please visit [www.fcjmalta.org](http://www.fcjmalta.org)



**MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER**  
Journal of the  
Maltese Diaspora

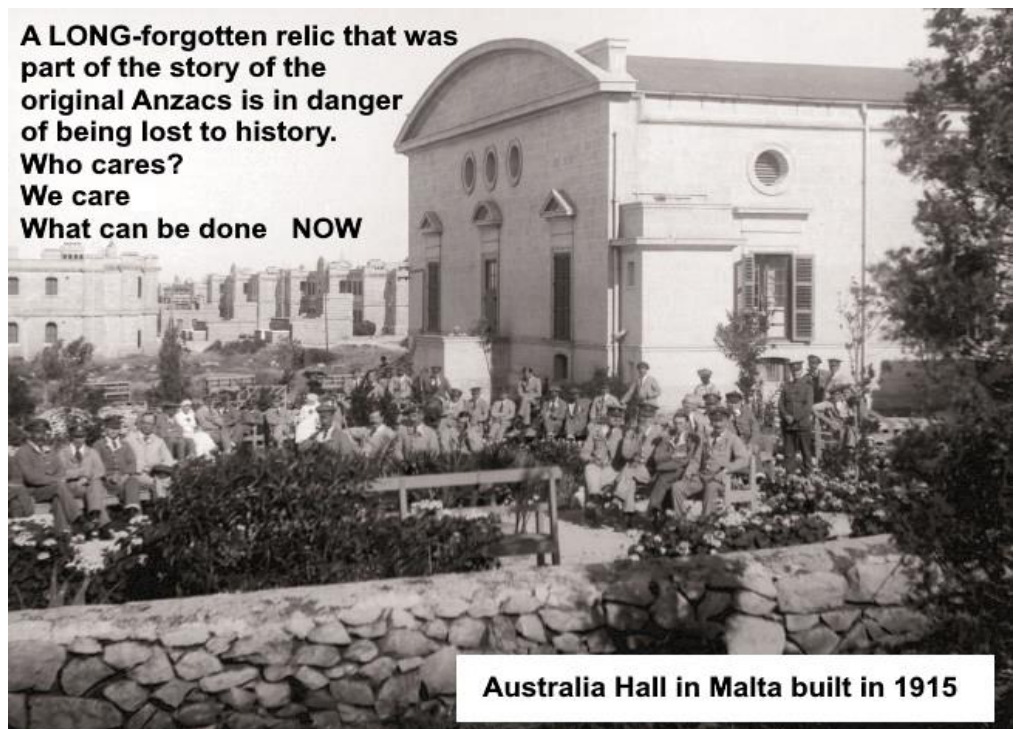
First Issue 2013  
Editor: Frank Scicluna  
OAM MQR  
Free, non-political,  
bilingual and  
cultural magazine  
distributed to Maltese  
living in Malta and  
abroad

Email:  
[maltesejournal@gmail.com](mailto:maltesejournal@gmail.com)



I KEEP  
ALL THE  
ISSUES  
OF THE  
JOURNAL  
ON MY  
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STICK  
AND  
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AND  
AGAIN

A LONG-forgotten relic that was part of the story of the original Anzacs is in danger of being lost to history. Who cares? We care What can be done NOW



Australia Hall in Malta built in 1915

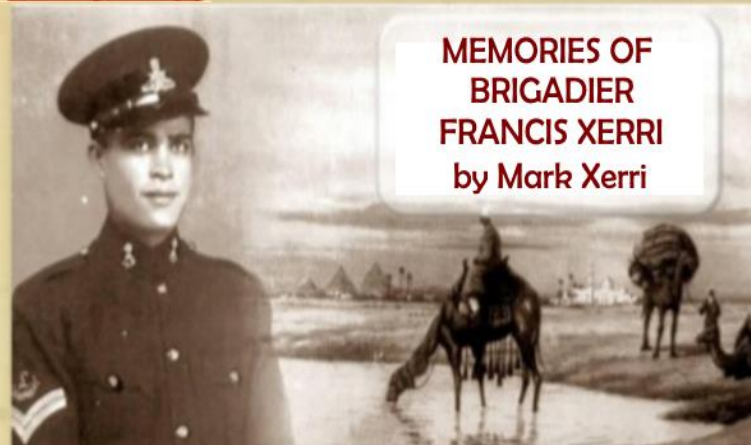


## MALTESE IN EGYPT – C 1940



## SDGT. FRANCIS XERRI

3/11 Regt. RMA(T)



MEMORIES OF  
BRIGADIER  
FRANCIS XERRI  
by Mark Xerri

*My late father Sgt. Francis Xerri served with the only Maltese army unit to serve outside Malta during WWII. He served in Egypt in 1940 under Capt G.C. Micallef Eynaud, who later became Colonel of the 3LAA Regt. RMA. My father used to recount how his unit left Malta for Egypt on Tuesday 7 May of 1940. Under the command of Major JV Abela, more than 200 men from the 5HAA Battery were given a very big farewell as they marched down to Grand Harbour, Valletta to board the SS Strathmore for Alexandria. On arrival in Egypt the Battery, with their 3.7 Heavy guns, was positioned at Aboukir. From about August of that year, there were several German air-raids on Aboukir and Alexandria with some direct hits and several casualties. At that time General Wilson, the British C-in-C visited the Maltese Battery. My father also recalls the help received from the Maltese community of Alexandria. About Christmas time that year, the Maltese soldiers received the bad news that Malta was under siege and was suffering from shortage of food. Several food parcels were organised by the Maltese Battery and sent to Malta. My father Sgt Francis Xerri returned to Malta with his Battery in March 1943 and passed away on the 22nd of December, 2007.*



*The Officers of 5th HAA Battery RMA at one of the anti-aircraft sites near Aboukir, Egypt, 1940.*

*Left to right:*

*2/Lt (later Major) E.J. Axisa*

*2/Lt (later Lt Col) E.J. Gatt*

*Capt (later Lt Col) G.C. Micallef Eynaud*

*Lt Col G.L. Stanley-Smith (Commanding Officer 9th Regiment RA)*

*Major (later Lt Col) J.V. Abela (the Battery Commander)*

*Lt (later Lt Col) R.F. Jacono*

*2/Lt (later Brigadier) G.V. Micallef*

*2/Lt (later Capt) M.P. Mifsud (died in Egypt in 1942)*



**Sgt. Francis Xerri (Centre)  
with two friends  
Egypt 1940**

## MALTESE IN EGYPT

The **Maltese of Egypt**, also known as **Egyptian Franco-Maltese**, are an ethnic minority group in Egypt. Though culturally very similar to the Franco-Maltese of Tunisia and Algeria, most people of Maltese or part-Maltese descent born in Egypt remained British subjects. They are immigrants, or descendants of immigrants, from the islands of Malta, who settled in Egypt largely during the nineteenth and early twentieth

Wikipedia

centuries, and intermarried heavily with Italians, French and other Europeans. Those with a French father assumed French citizenship. Some Maltese had been present in the country as early as the era of Napoleon and his conquest of Egypt. The proximity between the two countries and the similarity between the Maltese and Arabic languages have led

many Maltese to settle in Egypt in the past, mainly in Alexandria.<sup>[1]</sup> Like the Italians who settled in Egypt, the Egyptian-born Maltese constituted a portion of Egypt's Roman Catholic community. By 1939, up to 20,000 Maltese were living in Egypt. Practically all of these were French-speaking, and those with a French parent had French as their mother tongue. In many middle-class families (especially in Alexandria and Cairo) a language shift had occurred, with Italian used as the home language alongside French; a large minority of Egyptian Maltese (for example those of the Suez Canal Zone) still retained Maltese as their mother tongue. This number was greatly reduced by emigration years after, and almost completely wiped out by expulsions in 1956 due to the Maltese being British nationals. Most of the Egyptian Franco-Maltese settled in Australia or Britain, where they remained culturally distinct from immigrants from Malta. Those with French citizenship were repatriated to France. Post-war Malta in general did not accept refugees from Egypt.

Catholic Malta and predominantly Muslim North Africa have had troubled relations since at least the Crusades, when Malta became the final stand against the Turks by the Knights Hospitallers. Malta held, and after the Crusades many attacks against Arab and Turkish coastal towns were launched from it. Not all of the Maltese who joined the Knights in these attacks returned home. Some lost their liberty, settling against their will in North Africa.

The Knights remained in possession of Malta until its seizure by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1798. Bonaparte formed a troop of Maltese--the number of men varies in sources from 400 or 500 to 2000--who went with him into Egypt as part of the Mediterranean campaign of 1798. Many of these men settled in the Eastern Mediterranean after Napoleon's loss at the Battle of the Nile, becoming some of the first Maltese settlers in Egypt. Opportunity for work with the British drew more Maltese into the area thereafter, although there

was an exodus of Maltese refugees back to their native land in 1822, when Alexandria was besieged by the British. Nevertheless, Alexandria, Cairo, Suez, Rosetta and Port Said continued to be a draw for Maltese settlers.

Maltese immigrants joined the many others who flocked to the area for work in 1859 with the construction of the Suez Canal. The Egyptian Maltese community was heavily employed in such construction areas as masonry, carpentry, and smithing as well as in administration and commerce. Many became employees of the French Suez Canal Company. As English was known to some and they were quicker than Europeans to learn Arabic, they proved useful to British employers. Language became a major focus of the Maltese work force. While many had left their homes illiterate, speaking Maltese and usually also Italian, they sent their children to French Catholic schools where they developed fluency not only in French, which became the principal language of the subsequent generations, but also in English and Arabic. This education made them useful both in consular work and to European companies entering the area.

Relations between the Maltese immigrants and the Egyptian population were not always easy. In Alexandria in 1882, a fight between a Maltese immigrant and an Egyptian donkey driver, in which the donkey driver was killed, led the Egyptians to riot. As word spread that the Europeans were killing Egyptians the residents took to the streets. They met return fire from Europeans, Greeks, Syrians and other Christians, with violence continuing until finally the army was called in to intervene.

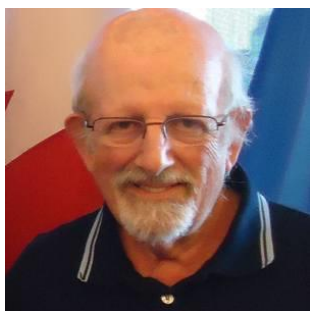
In 1926, there were nearly 20,000 Maltese residents living and working in Egypt. However, the Suez Crisis of 1956, when Malta was used as a point of deployment by the British and French for troops to invade Egypt, was followed by the expulsion of Maltese immigrants, along with many other groups, from the country.



**THE MALTESE-CANADIAN COMMUNITY  
OF TORONTO READS, LOVES AND RESPECTS  
THE JOURNAL OF THE MALTESE LIVING ABROAD**







## Edward Abela Fine Arts

<https://www.edwardabela.com/>

**Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/edsfinearts/>



Whether in the island of Malta, my country of birth or in Canada or in Europe or America, I have sought to interpret the beauty of nature. I am attracted to the effects of light and shadow and contrasting colours. Most of my landscapes incorporate this to some degree. If the viewer looking at my work finds this to be pleasing and exciting, I feel I would have achieved my purpose."

Mainly self-taught, Edward has exhibited in solo and group shows in Canada, England, Germany and Malta and has received a number of awards. His paintings can be found in private homes and offices in Canada, United States and Europe. *"The aim of art is to represent not the outward appearance of things, but their inward significance."* (Aristotle)

**Edward Abela - Markham, ONTARIO Canada**



Born Valletta, Malta 1936 now living in Canada, Edward has been painting since childhood; Whether in Malta, his country of birth or in Canada, or in his travels in

Europe or America, Edward has always been seeking to interpret his environment on paper or canvas. His paintings can now be found in private homes and offices in the United States, England, France, Switzerland, Malta, Hong Kong, New Zealand and Canada.

**Awards:** Edward has received a number of awards and prizes from the Inveresk "International Artists in Watercolours" competition and Saunders and Bockford "Artists in Watercolour" competition, the Society of Arts, Malta, the National Amateur Art Competition, Malta, the Independent Artists' Association, Montreal, the Don Valley Art Club, Richmond Hill Group of Artists, the Aurora 42nd Juried Art Show (First Prize), Markham Group of Artists (Juror's Choice Award) 2019.

**Events:** Edward has run a number of painting workshops and courses, which unfortunately are now on hold because of the Covid19. For more information on his art please email [eabela0527@rogers.com](mailto:eabela0527@rogers.com) Recent

**Exhibitions:** Open Studio House and Art Show at 21 Washington Street, Markham on August 24 2019. Publications: "Markham on My Easel" and "Malta on My Easel" on sale at Amazon.

## MOST PROBABLY THE BEST BREAD IN THE WORLD

by Joseph C. Camilleri



The Maltese market offers a great variety of bread. Some are typically Maltese while others are "imported". The original Maltese bread comes in various forms. There is the flat ring of non-leavened dough called ftira and the qaghqa ta' l-Appostli (a large "Apostles' ring-bread"). But the most popular type of bread is the dark-brown round crusty loaf, known as hobza.

There are several reasons which explain the popularity of the hobza. This loaf is slightly sweet and has a delicious crust. Moreover, it has pure and sustaining qualities. To make it more delicious, some bakers sprinkle the top with sesame seeds.

This loaf is made from locally milled flour. As Maltese agriculture does not produce enough wheat, this important item has been imported since a very long time. At first it used to be imported from neighbouring Sicily. The Knights of St. John built underground granaries to store this important wheat, some of which are found at Floriana (known as il-Fosos) and others at Valletta adjacent to Fort St. Elmo.

Whenever wheat was scarce on the market, a mixed flour used to be produced known as il-mahlut. This consisted of a mixture of rye and wheat.

Another type of hobza is the ftira. it is unleavened bread flat in shape with a crust peculiar taste and moist crumb. Many buy a piece of ftira besides their daily loaf and latecomers find this from of bread has been sold out.

Bread production used to be carried out in every locality. Large urban areas had a bakery or two, sometimes more. Some localities have a street named Bakery Street in memory of a former bakery, such as at Lija and Valletta. The most popular place for bread-making was Qormi. It was referred to as Casal Fornaro (the village of bakers).

It is a documented fact that before the Knights built their bakery at Valletta, their major establishments, such as the auberges, the Grand Master's Palace and hospital, were supplied with bread from Qormi. Some believe that this was due to two major reasons. Qormi was already well known as a breadmaking centre while it was the nearest large locality to Valletta, as Floriana and Marsa were still non-existent.

According to hearsay, Qormi was a place where malaria flourished as it was situated in a low lying position. The health problem was solved by the warm dry air, offered by the ovens. Qormi became one of the most healthy districts in Malta.

The Maltese do not consider a good meal complete without a piece of this crusty bread. They insist on having fresh bread and possibly still warm from the oven. This is why bakers have to start working either late at night or in the early hours of the day, to have a supply of bread ready for an early delivery.

A second bake is made at a later hour. Usually clients come and collect their bread from the bakery themselves. Bakers also prepare a third bake to supply the local market with bread for those who have their main meal late after returning from their place of work.

A word associated with bread is bukkun or kumpanacc. This was used to express the food taken in small proportions with bread. The latter word is a corruption of the Latin word Cumpanatico.

The Maltese considered bread as a special grace of God. This concept made bread to be treated in a special manner. When a person had to cut the loaf, he or she would sign it with a cross before using the knife to slice it.

On the other hand if a person finds a piece of bread on the wayside, he would lift it, reverently kissed it and placed it on a wall or ledge so that it would not be trodden under another person's or animal's foot. Why? The Maltese associated bread with the Last Supper, that is when Jesus Christ instituted the Holy Eucharist.

While you are in Malta ask for a dark-brown crusty loaf. Cut thick slices. Rub the slices with tomato halves, dab them slightly with oil and vinegar, and sprinkle some salt and freshly milled pepper. Add capers, and mint and you can feast on a delicious Maltese "burger".

## Other foods and expressions

Slices of bread "Kisra ħobż" Thick slices of salted fat ("grass tal-majjal"),  
Crude cheeslets ("ġbejniet"),  
Pieces of melons ("bettieħ"),  
Maltese sausages ("zalzett tal-Malti"),  
Croquettes ("pulpetti") made of corned beef ("bulubif"),  
Tomatoes paste ("kunserva"), oil ("żejt") and broad beans ("ful"),  
Cod with white beans ("bakkaljaw bil-fażola").- Herring ("aringa"),  
Anchovy ("inčova") and sop ("tbellil") in oil.

## RECIPE 1 - Maltese Bread (Hobz Malti)

### Ingredients

23 oz (600g) flour  
10g salt  
½ oz (15g) sugar  
½ oz (15g) margarine  
1 oz (25g) yeast  
345ml luke warm water  
1 tablespoon milk

### Method



- Mix the flour, salt and margarine together
- Add the yeast.
- Make a mixture of the luke warm water, sugar and the milk.
- Add on to the flour and knead the mixture well until the dough is white and soft.
- Place in a bowl, seal with cling film and a wet dishtowel, place in a warm place for about 1 hour.
- Work the dough, cut into small pieces (50g)
- Place on a baking tray, paste with egg, cut with a knife and let the pieces rest for about 15 minutes.
- Cook in oven at 450F (230C) for about 15 minutes

**Try making your own Maltese bread while locked in at home. Good Luck**

**A loaf of bread a day keeps the virus away**



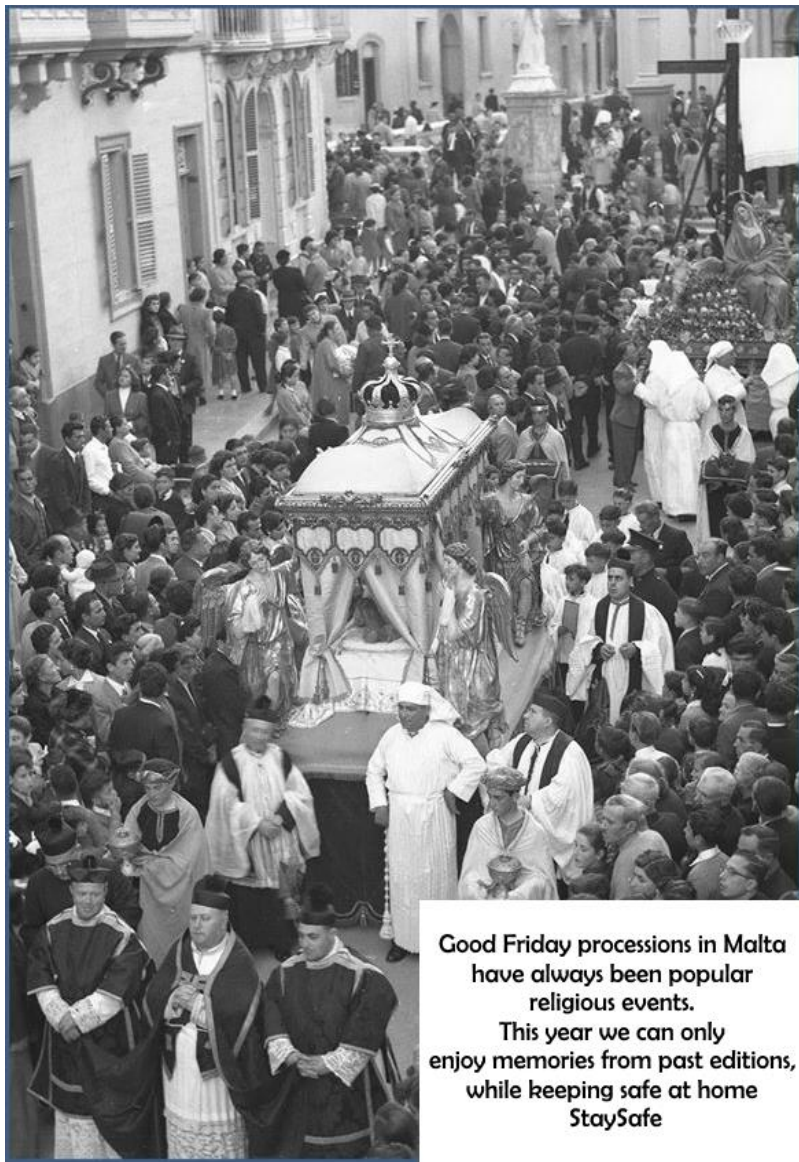


## "Florence, Italy

Monument of the golden turtle near the Palazzo Vecchio in Florence, Italy  
© Vereshchagin Dmitry/Shutterstock

For Renaissance art, there's no better destination than [Florence](#). Home to some of Michelangelo's best-known works, including his *David* sculpture, Galleria dell'Accademia is a must-do, as is the landmark Galleria degli Uffizi where visitors can see masterpieces like Botticelli's *Birth of Venus* and

Raphael's *Madonna of the Goldfinch*. While Renaissance might be the focus, contemporary art fans can get their fix at Florence's Centro di Cultura Contemporanea Strozzi which was dubbed the 'anti-Uffizi' when it was founded in 2007.



Good Friday processions in Malta have always been popular religious events. This year we can only enjoy memories from past editions, while keeping safe at home StaySafe

**Heritage Malta  
Museums and Sites  
are CLOSED  
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

Here is a DIY activity  
while social distancing at home!

StaySafe StayHome  
Heritage Malta



**I would like to thank all  
those readers who send me  
emails, comments, photos  
and articles**



## Malta cannot Solve Such A Human Tragedy By Itself

The Foreign Affairs Minister Evarist Bartolo, the Minister for Foreign and European Affairs has called for international initiative to tackle the problem of migrants crossing the Mediterranean. He said it is "unfair and unrealistic" to expect Malta to solve the problem by itself.

He wrote on Facebook "Over 700,000 people are currently in Libya waiting to cross to Europe, and even a small percentage of those people can fill us up. This wouldn't be the first time that, in a heated issue, the people who suffer most are the ones who deserve it least, and that's what is happening right now."

"Can we blame migrants for the poverty, persecution, corruption and wars [in their countries of origin] that force them to search for better lives in other countries?"

"Can we blame them for the dirty business of human trafficking, which exploits them and profits off them and then leaves them in the middle of the sea without a care for their danger?"

"There should currently be at least a strong humanitarian programme for the Libyans and all those who live there," he said. "Libya has been gripped by civil war and is now also facing the coronavirus. We are in the middle of a huge human tragedy and Malta alone cannot keep up. It isn't fair or realistic to expect Malta to solve such a huge human tragedy by itself."

## Australia in 'good place' to fight coronavirus

Australia has put itself in a "position of strength" in the fight against the coronavirus but must keep up the pressure to beat the disease, Chief Medical Officer Brendan Murphy says.

"There is no place in the world I would rather be than Australia at the moment," he told reporters in Canberra on Sunday. But he said people in the community were still transmitting the virus.

"That is why we have to keep our pressure on and make sure that we don't end up like countries in the world that you have all seen on the news."

"We are in a good place ... but we have to maintain that good place".



© AAP Chief Medical Officer Professor Brendan Murphy.

Treasurer Josh Frydenberg warned it would be "very dangerous and unrealistic" to remove social distancing restrictions too soon. Prof Murphy said there were now 6289 confirmed coronavirus cases in Australia.

Fatalities increased by three to 59 people with the death of a 74-year-old man in hospital in South Australia after contracting the virus on the Ruby Princess cruise ship, the death of a woman in her 70s in Tasmania and the death of an 82-year-old man in Sydney.

The Tasmanian government on Sunday closed two hospitals at the centre of a coronavirus outbreak involving 49 cases in the state's northwest.

All hospital staff and their households, more than 1000 people, will be placed into quarantine for two weeks as a "super clean" of the facilities is undertaken.

South Australia meanwhile reported good news, with no new virus cases recorded for the first time in more than a month.

Mr Frydenberg said restrictions across Australia will stay in place "for as long as it takes".

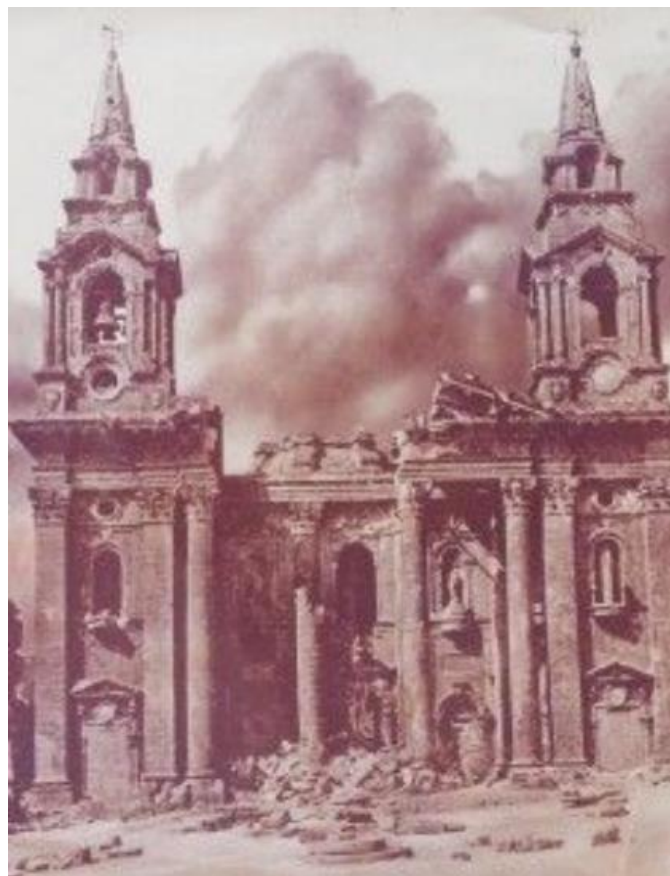
"We have got to take the medical advice," he told ABC television.

"I think it is very dangerous and unrealistic to move ahead of medical advice that has served Australia well."





1949, il-Qanpiena l-Kbira tidher tielgha fil-Kampnar tal-Knisja Parrokkjali ta' Hal Balzan. Avveniment li sehh 60 sena ilu fi żmien il-Kapillan Dun Franġisk Saverio Zahra. Il-qanpiena l-Kbira tiżen 55 qantar u nofs bl-ilsien b'kollox li hija t-tielet l-akbar ta' Malta.



**Photo - Bombed St Publius' church in Floriana Malta. When a church was hit during war, it was tragedy. Not only because people died but also because you realized that not even the house of God was safe from the enemy. WORLD WAR TWO 1939-1945**



**King George VI visits a battered Malta , June 1943 WW2**



**Peace with the Church:  
Dom Mintoff with Archbishop Michael Gonzi**

# Nostalgia - Malta



## IL-PARRUKIER

*noti ta' Willie Debono, parrukkier, il-Gzira, rnigbura minn Guzi Buontempo*

**Hinijiet:** Dari il-parrukkier kien jiftah fis-6.00am u jaghlaq fid-9 pm mit-Tnejn sal-Gimgha. Is-Sibt kien bla hin, ghax gie li kien idum sas -siegha ta' filghodu, u l-Hadd gie li kien joqghod sas-6 am. Kien fis-snin tletin, izda wara giet ligi fejn mit-Tnejn sal-Gimgha jiftah mis-7 am sas-7pm u s-Sibt sat-8pm, u l-Hadd sa nofsinhar. Wara spicaw il-Hdud.

**Prezzijiet:** l-xaghar kien 4 soldi (xi 2c), u il-lehja 2d. Wara hafna, ix-xaghar sar 6d u l-lehja 1d, Min kien irid jabbona biex ihallas kull xhar kien jigih 2s6d fix-xahar, u kien jista jaghmel il-lehja kuljum u qatgha

xhar kull gimgha. (2s6d issa jiswew 12c). Wara l-gwerra bdew jitolghu il-prezzijiet, xelin u nofs, zewg xelini u nofs, tlett xelini, hames xelini u tmin xelini. U illum 18 anqas 10s(=50c), u hawn hafna li jiehd 15s (75c).

**Xfatar:** Il-parrukkier kien isinn il-mus jew l-imqass fuq il-mejlaq, fuq il-gilda jew fuq il-forla. Il-forla hija bicca zokk ta' sagra li issa hadd ma ghadu juzha. Dawk li kienu jqaxxru l-lehja taghhom stess minghajr ma jmorru ghand il-parrukkier, meta l-mus ma jaqtghax aktar kienu jiehd ghand

il-parrukkier biex isinnhulom. Tal-hin kienu jghidulu grazzi. Biex jissinnulu sewwa, il-parrukkier l-kien jghaddi l-imwies u l-imqassijiet lill dawn, kien hemm wiehed min imlaqqam il-Hoxx u iehor Guze' Cicra, li kienu jigu jigbru l-imwies u l-imqassijiet biex isinnuhom u jirritornawhom wara gimgha.

**l-caghqa:** Aktar fl-antik, meta ghand il-parrukkier kien imur xi wiehed maghlu hafna biex iqaxxar il-lehja, biex wiccu jitla' ftit, il-parrukkier kien ipoggilu caghqa go halqu li kienet tinzamm barra d-dras taht il-wicc u b'hekk tmur il-hofra u t-tikmix, u l-lehja tinhadem ahjar,

**Xoghol imhallat:** Il-barbier, f Ghawdex, kien jaghmel ftit minn kollox ,kien "jack of all trades", fost affarijiet ohrajn kien ukoll jaghmel il-hjata. Sal-bidu ta' dan is-seklu, fl-irhula kienu wkoll mhux biss jaghmluha ta' hajjata izda xi drabi ta' dentista wkoll jaqalghu xi darsa,

**Nota ta' l-Editur** Il-qejlag kienet tkun xi gebla, aktarx bicca huffiefa, li kienu juzawha biex isinnu xfatar. Kienet tintuza hafna wkoll, il-huffiefa, fid-djar juzawha biex inaddfu l-bramel u l-kzazel tal-metall, u ghadha kultant tintuza minn dawk li jaqtghu il-hgieg, biex jisolhu x-xifer tal-hgiega biex ma jaqtghax, l-aktar jekk ser ikun wicc ta' mejda.

Il-ferla hija haxixa li tikber fix-xaghri, mir-razza tal-busbies u tal-karrotti, tikber gholja xi metru u nofs, u taghmel fjuri rqaq li jiffurmaw qishom umbrelel sofor, l-aktar f'Mejju. Taht il-hamrija bejn ix-zokk u l-gherq, huwa iebes hafna meta jinxef, ghalhekk tajjeb biex isinnu fuqu. Il-gilda li jsinnu fuqha, kienu jghidulha wkoll il-Kwejra jew Kwejru, gejjja mit-Taljan *cuoio*. Minbarra ic-caghqa li il-parrukkier kien ipoggi f' halq minn ikune qed iqaxxar il-lehja, gie li kien juzaw ukoll xi gewza.

Kien ikollom bhal skutella li fuq genb wiehed kien ikollha fejn tpoggi c-caghqa jew gewz.

**Stay home - Be safe - Save lives**