



The Voice of the Maltese

(driven by the voice of its readers)

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The Clay slopes at Għajn Tuffieħa



L-attivitajiet tal-għaqdiet Maltin fl-Awstralja jintlaqu mill-virus u jħabbru pawsa

Fost l-attivitajiet li kienu ppjanati mill-għaqdiet tal-Maltin fl-Awstralja u li ntlaw mid-deċiżjonijiet biex jiġu mħassra halli b'hekk jiġi mħares il-pubbliku mill-imxija tal-coronavirus, kien hemm il-kunċerti li l-kantant Malti Ludwig Galea kellu jagħti fil-Wentworthville Leagues Club fit-22 ta' Marzu, u l-iehor ieħor fiċ-ċentru George Cross fi Cringilla NSW.

Ludwig kien wasal NSW fit-13 ta' Marzu u diġà kien beda jhejji ruħu għall-kunċerti li kienu qed jiġu organizzati mill-Għaqda Kulturali Maltija ta' NSW. Imma wara diskussjoni bejn il-membri tal-kumitat u klabbs involuti, b'mod unanimu ittiehdet id-deċiżjoni li l-kunċerti jithassru. Ma' Ludwig kienet se tiehu sehem ukoll, il-kantanta popolari żagħżuġha, Maltija/Awstraljana, Natasha Vella.

Il-President tal-MCA, Charles Mifsud qal lil *The Voice* li ma kienx hemm alternattiva oħra u biex tiġi salvagwardjata s-saħħa ta' kulhadd, l-attivitajiet ta' Ludwig kellhom jiġu mħassra u l-kantant halla Sydney fis-17 ta' Marzu biex jirritorna lejn Malta.

Huwa mifhum li skont miżuri li ha l-Gvern Malti għal dawk kollha li jaslu Malta minn barra l-pajjiż fl-aħħar jiem, kif wasal Malta, il-kantant kellu jibda josserva perjodu ta' ġimagħtejn kwarantana mandatorja.

Għall-istess raġuni tal-coronavirus, iċ-ċentru Malti La Valette ta' Blacktown ħassar ir-*Respite Service* ta' kull nhar ta' Hamis, filwaqt li ħassar ukoll il-programm tal-Gimgha Mqaddsa. Sakemm jidher avviz ieħor, iċ-ċentru mhux se jkun miftuħ. Għal kull taġġir ieħor wiehed għandu jċempel 02 9622 5847.

L-istess japplika għaž-żewġ ċentri l-oħra, il-Hamrun Club ta' Marsden Park u il-George Cross Falcons ta' Cringilla.

Il-Maltese Welfare (NSW) ħabbru wkoll li l-*information seminar* li kien se jsir fit-22 ta' April gie postpost għal data oħra, filwaqt li l-grupp tal-Maltin anzjani li ssoltu jiltaqqu fil-ghodu fi Greystanes, Fair-

field u Landillo wkoll ikkanċella l-laqqgħat tiegħu. Thassru wkoll il-festi ta' barra tal-Gimgha l-Kbira f'Horsley Park.

F'Melbourne, il-MCC ta Victoria ħabbar li iċ-ċentri ta' Parkville u Sunshine jinsabu magħluqa sakemm jidher avviz ieħor (*ara iktar dettalji fil-paġna 17*) filwaqt li kwazi l-għaqdiet Maltin kollha f'Victoria ipposponew, jew hassru għal kollox il-laqqgħat solti tagħhom.

F'Victoria gie mħassar ukoll is-Social Night li s-St Sebastian Seniors Association kellha torganizza fil-Green Gully Social Club fil-21 ta' Marzu li għadda.

Fost aktar kanċellamenti hemm ukoll l-attivitajiet ta' San Bastjan, Santa Helena, Hobsons Bay bil-festa tar-Redintur, Stella Maris, l-Għaqda Rabat Malta, u t-Tarxien Social Club. Tal-MUSEUM ukoll hassru l-laqqgħat tagħhom, filwaqt li ġew imħassra wkoll il-provi tas-soltu tal-MMG Concert Band.

Żgur li minhabba l-istess raġunijiet se jkun hemm attivitajiet oħra li se jithassru, għalhekk jekk wiehed ikun jinhtieg aktar taġġir kurrenti għandu jċempel lill-għaqdiet li s-soltu f'dawn iż-żminijiet, jorganizza l-attivitajiet.



Ludwig Galea



Uħud mill-istandardi tal-għaqdiet Maltin fl-Awstralja

L-akbar diżappunt għal Destiny



Destiny

F'Malta wkoll ġew imħassra hafna attivitajiet li kienu ppjanati. Fost dawn, għalkemm sakemm ġejna biex nippubblikaw ma kienx għadu thabbar, imma ċertament li se jkun hemm partijiet mill-programm taċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet ta' Jum il-Helsien, fil-31 ta' Marzu. Minn kmieni giet imħassra biex x'aktarx issir aktar l-quddiem, ir-regatta li dejjem tkun mis-tennija, ta' Jum il-Helsien (*Ara paġna 20*).

Forsi fost l-aktar diżappuntati hemm il-kantanta żagħżuġha Destiny Chukunyer li kienet qed thejji, biex wara li rebhet l-*X-Factor* kisbet id-dritt li tirrappreżenta lil Malta fil-*Eurovision Song Contest* li kellu jsir f'Mejju li ġej f'Rotterdam, l-Olanda, tiehu sehem quddiem udjenza televiżiva ta' madwar 200 miljun

spettatur. Il-kantanta b'hekk tilfet l-akbar esperjenza li kienet qed tittama li jkollha fil-karriera tagħha s'issa, u li tant kienet herqana għaliha. Imma hekk hu d-destin!

F'Malta bħal wara kollox kif qed isehh f'hafna partijiet tad-dinja, ġew imħassra wkoll l-attivitajiet sportivi u spetakli tal-massa li kien ilhom li ġew ppjanati. Inghalqu wkoll b'ordni, ir-ristoranti, hwienet tax-xorb u postijiet oħra ta' divertiment, bħaċ-ċinema. Thassret ukoll il-festa ta' San Guzepp fir-Rabat u l-Knisja waqqfet il-funzjonijiet fil-knejjes, bħall-quddies, żwigiġiet u funerali.

Wiehed irid jew ma jridx, jinhtiegħu jaċċetta u jammetti li dawn huma miżuri meħtieġa biex il-coronavirus ma jibqax jinxtred. Wiehed ukoll jittama li l-popli madwar id-dinja joqogħdu għall-pariri li qed jingħataw (*ara paġna 3*) mill-gvernijiet u l-awtoritajiet tas-saħħa, għax b'hekk biss nistghu nirbhu lil COVID-19. Jekk kulhadd ikun solidali u juri responsabbiltà, NIRBHU ŻGUR.

Coronavirus: What is COVID-19?

How to protect yourself and your loved ones

Unless you've been living in a bomb shelter for the past two months, it's unlikely you've not heard of COVID-19, commonly referred to as coronavirus. Forget all about social media and heed what the medical experts are saying. Below is their information and advice.

Since emerging from its epicentre in Wuhan, China, in January, it has spread to 189 countries and territories around the world on six continents, and become a pandemic.

As the pandemic spreads, countries across the world struggle to contain the outbreak and protect their economies.

Up till the time of publishing this article, 341,337 were confirmed cases worldwide. There have been 14,746 deaths with 3,270 of them in China, where it all started. At the last count Italy has had 5,476 deaths, Spain 1,813, and Iran 1,685. There has been 99,040 recoveries.

COVID-19 is a 'novel' coronavirus, meaning it is a new strain and has not been previously identified in humans. It is named for the fact the scientists that first looked at the virus under a microscope (back in 1968) thought that it resembled a "solar crown", the ring of gas that surrounds a sun.

Genetically, the new virus is 80% similar to SARS, which spread rapidly in 2002 and 2003 and killed 800 people.

We have seen a rapid escalation in social distancing measures, like closing schools, cancelling sporting events and other social gatherings.

The World Health Organisation has issued

new clinical guidance, with specific details on how to care for children, older people and pregnant women. Its key message is: test, test, test.

The symptoms

This new virus can, in more severe cases, cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome and kidney failure.

Standard recommendations to prevent infection spread include regular hand washing, covering mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing, thoroughly cooking meat and eggs. Avoid close contact with anyone showing symptoms of respiratory illness such as coughing and sneezing.



Australia introduces tough new rules

The total number of confirmed cases, based on a tally of numbers provided by health authorities in each state and territory, now stands at 1,353 and the number of deaths has risen to seven.

The latest figures also indicate that 46 have recovered, while two are in a critical condition.

This has led the Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison to introduced tough new rules for places where Aussies gather in a bid to halt the spread of the deadly coronavirus.

A raft of businesses is to be closed. They include pubs and clubs, gyms, casinos and cinemas.

He said that restaurants and cafes would be restricted to takeaway or home delivery only, while indoor sporting venues, gyms and churches and places of worship will also close.

He confirmed schools would remain open until the end of term and would reopen after the break, pending medical advice.

The worst hit in each continent are:

Africa: Egypt: 327 – 14 deaths, South Africa: 274, Algeria 201 – 17 deaths.

Asia: China: 81,093 – 3,270 deaths, Iran – 21,638 – 1,685 deaths, South Korea: 8,961 – 111 deaths.

America: USA: 35,0 – 457 deaths, Canada: 1,470 – 20 deaths.

Europe: Italy: 59,138 – 5,476, Spain 29,909 – 1,813, Germany: 24,873 – 94 deaths

Oceania: Australia: 1,709 – 7 deaths, New Zealand: 102.

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Message from the Consulate General of Malta in NSW

Residents currently in the state of NSW Australia requiring the assistance of the Maltese Consulate are encouraged to reach out through the following contact details: Telephone: (02) 92629500

Email: maltaconsulate.sydney@gov.mt. For emergencies only: +61 430402177.

Basic protective measures against the new coronavirus

Most people who become infected experience mild illness and recover, but it can be more severe for others. Take care of your health and protect others by doing the following:

Wash your hands frequently

Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water.

Maintain social distancing

Maintain at least 1 metre (3 feet) distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.

Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth

Hands touch many surfaces and can pick up viruses. Once contaminated, hands can transfer the virus to your eyes, nose or mouth. From there, the virus can enter your body and can make you sick.

Practice respiratory hygiene

Make sure you, and the people around you, follow good respiratory hygiene. This means covering your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the used tissue immediately.

If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early

Stay home if you feel unwell. If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention and call in advance. Follow the directions of your local health authority.

Stay informed and follow advice given by your healthcare provider

Stay informed of the latest information on the COVID-19 outbreak, available on the WHO website and also through your national and local public health authority on how to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

The latter will have the most up to date information on whether COVID-19 is spreading in your area. They are best placed to advise on what people in your area should be doing to protect themselves.

Learn more about COVID 19 from: www.who.int/COVID-19

Charles Jacob-first Maltese free settler to arrive in Australia

by Paul Calleja

Museum Victoria and Wikipedia have Antonio Azzopardi as being the first free Maltese settler to Australia having immigrated to Victoria in 1839. Both are wrong. I wrote and said so with historical evidence to back my claim.

It is difficult to communicate with both of these institutions, particularly if you are from Western Australia. They probably think the state is outside Australia or another planet.

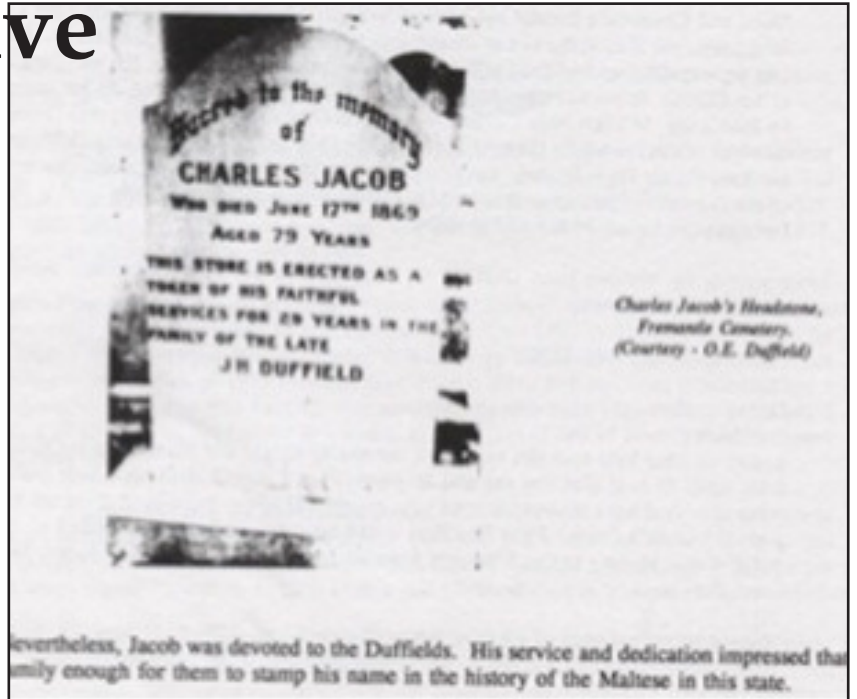
Nevertheless, Charles Jacob deserves the honour of being the first Maltese to arrive at Fremantle with the Duffield family in 1831. His surname is not Maltese but that is probably explained by one of the Duffield descendants' suspicions that Jacob had a few brushes with the law so he changed his name to make a new start.

The history of a Western Australian pioneer family "The Duffield's of Bicton, 1776-1974" describes Jacob in a number of sections as a Maltese servant.

To quote:

"Charlotte and the children brought with them their Maltese servant, Charles Jacob, when they sailed from London on the barque Egyptian (359), William Lilburn being the Master of the vessel, and arrived at Fremantle 28 December 1831.

And later —



"John and Charlotte's faithful old Maltese servant, Charles Jacob, lived on until 17 June 1869. He died at the age of 79 and was twenty-nine years with the family. He was a great old man and the Duffield grandchildren all loved him. He was buried in the Skinner Street cemetery at Fremantle.

"A headstone was placed on his grave by John's son, William Duffield. When the Skinner Street cemetery by order of the Fremantle Council in November 1899 (now the playing fields of the John Curtin High School) the headstone was transferred to the Pioneer Section of the Fremantle cemetery."

Charles Jacob was born in 1790 and joined the Duffield family as a servant in 1802, aged 32. When he arrived at Fremantle with the Duffield's he was aged 41 years old and remained serving the Duffield family until he died in 1868, aged 71.

Melchiorre Cafà statuette added to Heritage Malta's national collection

Heritage Malta has added a statuette gilded in bronze and silver, depicting Santa Roža by Melchiorre Cafà to its national collection and exhibited at MUŻA in Valletta.

The work of art that was purchased by

Heritage Malta some months ago during an auction has raised great interest among history, arts and cultural heritage enthusiasts. Acting chief executive Noel Zammit explained that the statuette, that was purchased from a private collection has now joined the works by renowned sculptor Melchiorre Cafà, who was well known for his precision work and excelled in Maltese baroque works. It was sculptured in Rome.

The statuette is considered as Cafà's most beautiful piece. He reproduced the original statue of the first woman saint of the Americas for her beatification in

April 1668.

According to Professor Keith Sciberras from the University's Art and History Department Cafà completed the great marble statue three years before the saint's beatification.

He went on to say, "What is wonderful is that the statue was sent from Rome on its way to Peru – imagine at that time sending a statue from Rome to Seville in Spain, then towards Cuba, to Panama and then to Peru. Many statues of Santa Roža were sculptured for the occasion, this was a celebrity".

Melchiorre Cafà was born at Birgu. He went to Rome at the age of 22. He was to be the artistic protagonist of the saint's beatification, however he died tragically at the age of 31, seven months before the event.



Q. I am planning to retire in two years' time. I am currently very concerned seeing the share markets go down so hard in the last couple of weeks. I am unsure whether to leave all the money in my super fund as is or whether I should ask to have some of my growth investments transferred into more defensive funds. Can you help?

A. The share markets worldwide are going through this very volatile period. If you had to sell your growth assets now and move into defensive funds you will be crystallising losses. It would be like selling your growth assets at a sale price. We normally advise our clients to buy in gloom and sell in boom. Therefore now would be a time for buying rather than selling. Hope this helps but as I do not know your situation I am just giving you some food for thought..

Q. My husband is turning 66 in a couple of months and while he enjoys his full time work, he may decide to retire soon. He has six months of long service leave and about seven weeks of holiday pay which he has not as yet taken. If he does not take the leave while he is still working, they will pay him a lump sum. Have you any suggestions of whether he should take the long service leave as a lump sum payment or whether he should take it as leave?

A. You mentioned that your husband enjoys working full time. I would therefore suggest that he should take some of the long service leave now prior to handing in his resignation. This will allow him to learn whether he can adapt to being retired or whether he

would become too frustrated with himself not being at work.

If he finds that he has enjoyed being at home and doing other things apart from working, then when he returns back to work he could hand in his resignation. Quite a number of people who are workaholics fall into depression if they find they have too much time on their hands. I believe this would help him decide whether to continue to work a few more years or whether to retire.

Q. I was planning to invest around \$30,000 in superannuation as I am now 55 years of age and trying to build my super. Should I wait before I invest as the share markets may drop further or should I go ahead and invest now?

A. One cannot time the markets. It is "length of time in the markets" that is important. If you invested your \$30,000 you are investing while the share markets are reasonably valued which is much cheaper

This is a monthly service offered by The Voice of the Maltese in which Marie Louise Muscat from the Fiducian Financial Services helps our readers understand the complexities associated with financial planning. If you need more advice send an email to Marie Louise via: maltesevoice@gmail.com.



than what they were a few weeks ago. They may drop further or the markets may turn around, but when the turn happens it normally happens very fast.

Q. My mother has just turned 90 years of age. She has just moved into an aged care home as she is becoming very lonely on her own seeing that she cannot drive anymore and thus is confined to her home.

She needs to pay a Refundable Accommodation Deposit (RAD) of \$625,000 and of course she does not have this much money. We will need to sell her home worth about \$800,000 to pay for this, but we are concerned that she may want to move back home if she does not settle in this facility. Can you offer some recommendations?

A. Changing your home at age 90 can be very strenuous. However you may find that she will settle in quite quickly, making new friends and having people to talk to. Let the person in charge at the facility be aware of what you plan to do so that they will allow you to pay via a Daily Accommodation Payment (DAP) to start off with. You may decide to sell the house then or rent it out and with the rental income you can pay the DAP. You have at least 28 days to decide on how you wish to pay.

Q. I am 40 years of age and have been making contributions of \$500 per month into a managed fund. I am investing in growth funds. Should I now change to something more defensive or should I continue to invest in growth funds?

A. If you were receiving so many units when you invested your \$500 in the month, now that the unit price has dropped, you will be purchasing a larger number of units for the same amount of money. In your case by the share markets correcting, you will receive more units while the markets are down. So continuing to invest in growth funds would probably continue to be a good idea.

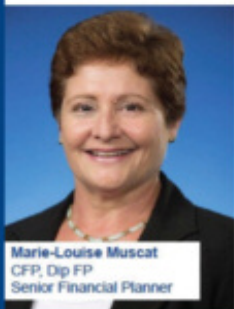
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Passion for fashion and design

Our choice for Personality of the Month this time is a woman whose determination has helped her to reach heights that she must never have thought she could. After her schooling was interrupted when she was still only 14, her family decided to migrate to Australia. Antonia Camilleri is currently the vice president of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria. After retirement, along with husband Joe, they take time to enjoy visiting elderly residents in nursing homes.

Antonia Camilleri

Antonia Camilleri (nee Xuereb) was born in Malta during the war years, in 1942. Both of her parents were born in Tripoli, Libya in North Africa, where Antonia's father and grandfather owned a dockyard where they built and repaired tall ships.

Just before World War II, Antonia's parents left Tripoli and back headed to Malta, where their roots were from. During the war, her father served in the armed forces. At that time they lived in Barbara Street, Hamrun.

Antonia was the third child. She was born at the St Venera Hospital. Once the war was over Antonia and her family shifted to Spencer Hill in Blata l-Bajda.

When Antonia was 12, she commenced her secondary school education at Mdina, but her studies were interrupted after just two years when her family decided to migrate to Australia.

Antonia and her family arrived in Melbourne in 1956. At first, they lived in West Melbourne, but eventually settled in a new home in Albion, in the western suburbs of Melbourne.

Although she loved going to school, at the age of 14 it was time for Antonia to join the workforce and she commenced working at Liberty, a manufacturer and designer of brassieres and corsets. Taken under the wing of two ladies, her ambition was quickly spotted and was soon introduced to the design department.

PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH OF THE WOMAN

That was the first time that Antonia had been introduced and was allowed to develop her skills in design and pattern making. She cherished the opportunity and from the outset knew that this is where she wanted to be and make a career. So she returned to study at a night school.

At the age of 17, Antonia married Joe Camilleri who by coincidence was also born in Tripoli and he and his family eventually moved back to



his parent's homeland.

Joe's father was from Bormla and his mother from Senglea. His family also migrated to Melbourne, Australia in 1956. Antonia and Joe initially lived in Kensington until they built their own home in Taylors Lakes in 1985 where they still live today.

At age 20 Antonia gave birth to her only son, Joseph Vincent who eventually gave her three grandsons and two great-grandchildren.

While she enjoyed motherhood, her passion for fashion and design did not wane, so she enrolled in the Emely McPherson College and studied fashion design and returned to work for Glorowin who manufactured ladies and children's sleepwear and underwear.

She was then encouraged by her employer to further her education at RMIT in Melbourne and as such, studied couture design, draping, and life drawing.

Antonia stayed at Glorowin for the next 20 years, until they were bought out by Speedo Australia. She continued to work for the new owners for a further three years. She was promoted to second in charge to the Managing Director until she was headhunted to work for Kortex Australia, a division of Solomon Lou.

Antonia later moved on and furthered her career at CHL Apparel where they designed and marketed for the Hilton and Kayser Brands. The group also designed and manufactured for the Coles Myer Group, David Jones, and Woolworths and specialised boutiques.

In her role, Antonia travelled around the world and visited a number of countries, until in 2007, at age 65 she eventually decided to retire.

On retirement, Antonia and her husband Joe got involved in the Newport Maltese Association and Seniors Group and the Maltese Community Council of Victoria (MCCV). Antonia is currently the vice president of the MCCV.

She enjoys her volunteer work with her husband Joe in particular when they visit elderly residents in nursing homes and spend quality time with her extended family across four generations.

Antonia is a very creative person; her home is filled with her own artwork. She has a great interest in embroidery and designs all her own patterns. She is also an avid piano player and of course barracks for Collingwood.



Antonia with her husband Joe

Il-Festa popolari ta' San Girgor

Waħda mill-festi tradizzjonali Maltin li l-poplu Malti kien minn dejjem ifittex hi dik ta' San Girgor, fir-raħal pittoresk ta' Marsaxlokk. Illum issir fl-ewwel Erbgħa fuq l-Għid, imma fl-imghoddi din il-festa folkloristika Maltija kienet issir fit-12 ta' Marzu.

Kien biex ma jkunx hemm min jabbuza fil-jiem tar-Randan li l-Isqof ta' dawk iż-żminijiet qatagħha li tibda ssir fl-ewwel Erbgħa fuq l-Għid, u hekk għadha ssir illum.

Fl-antik din il-festa kienet popolari hafna, imma mbagħad battiet fil-popolarità sakemm donnu li f'dawn l-aħħar għoxrin sena reġgħet hadet volta 'l quddiem u reġgħet saret popolari, l-aktar man-nies tal-irhula.

Għad hawn hafna mill-irhula li jerħulha għal Marsaxlokk, kemm għall-ewwel għawma minn xi zghazagh avventurużi minkejja li jkun għad fadal għall-istaġun tal-għawm, kif ukoll biex hdejn il-baħar jilagħbu t-tombla, jisimghu l-ghana u jieklu xi ikla tajba f'nofsinar.

L-għeruq ta' din il-festa huma l-purcijsjoni tagħha, waħda penitenzjali li magħha hemm marbuta wegħda li kienu għamlu l-Maltin fil-qedem wara l-ghajnuna li sabu minn San Girgor fi żmien is-saram u l-ghawg. Fil-fatt, għalkemm differenti hafna minn kif kienet issir fl-antik, il-Kapitlu tal-Katidral tal-Imdina għadu jiehu sehem f'din il-purcijsjoni.

Habib tiegħi llum mejjet, Karmenu Muscat, li kien il-mazzier tal-Katidral kien qalli li dari l-Monsinjuri kienu jil-taqgħu fl-erbgha ta' filghodu hdejn il-Bieb tal-Imdina u jehduha bil-mixi saż-Żejtun. Tul it-triq kien isir xi talb u l-litanija t-twila tal-qaddisin. Karmenu kien jiehu sehem bħala abbat tal-Katidral.

Minbarra l-Monsinjuri tal-Katidral kienu jiehdu sehem ukoll fil-purcijsjoni, fratelli u kleru ta' kull parroċċa li, bl-istandardi tagħhom u l-poplu. Kienu jerħulha bil-mixi għaž-Żejtun, għall-Knisja ta' San Girgor, qrib hafna Marsaxlokk. Magħhom kienu jingħaqdu wkoll xi karettuni jew karozzini għal min ma kienx jiflah jimxi t-triq kollha.

Irid jingħad li l-istoriċi ma jaqblux bejniethom meta fil-fatt bdiet issir din il-purcijsjoni u għal liema raġuni kienet saret il-wegħda ma' dan il-qaddis.

Skont il-Konti Ġan Anton Ciantar (1696–1778) din il-purcijsjoni kienet ilha ssir sa mill-1400, filwaqt li Ġan Frangisk Abela, li kien Kanċillier tal-Ordni ta' San Ġwann, ħalla bil-miktub li din il-festa bdiet wara l-pesta tal-1519 bħala ħajr talli f'din l-epidemija tal-biża' l-Maltin ħelsuha b'wiċċ il-ġid.

Xi kittieba oħra jgħidu li din il-wegħda saret fl-1429 meta gemgħa ta' tmintax-il elf Tork ħabtet għall-gzejjer Maltin u l-Maltin ħelsuha bis-sliem.

Imbagħad kien hemm ukoll li Monsinjur Duzzina, il-Viżitatur Appostoliku, li meta żar Malta fi Frar tal-1575 u sar jaf b'din il-wegħda, xtaq aktar tagħrif dwarha u talab iressqulu quddiemu xi xjuħ biex jgħidulu x'jafu dwar il-bidu tal-wegħda lil San Girgor.

Fil-fatt, it-tagħrif li Mons. Duzzina kiseb mingħand ix-xjuħ kien, li din il-wegħda kienet saret għaliex huma il-Maltin ħelsu mit-Torok li kienu se jahbtu għal Malta.



Fl-imghoddi hafna mill-gemgħat ta' nies ta' diversi rhula kienu jingabru l-ewwel f'Rahal Gdid, u minn hemm kulhadd ihejji għall-purcijsjoni tal-wegħda wara li kienu jingraw l-ismijiet tal-parroċċi halli kulhadd jimxi bl-ordni.

Hawnhekk, mhux l-ewwel darba li ngala' l-ghawg minhabba li xi parroċċa kienet timxi qabel jew wara oħra, għalhekk fl-1925, l-Isqof Dom Mauro Caruana kien talab biex il-parroċċi ma jibqgħux jiehdu sehem f'din il-purcijsjoni u din issir biss mill-Monsinjuri u xi fratelli.

Xi snin ilu, jiena kont akkumpanjajt lill-Fratellanza ta' San Ġużepp tar-Rabat biex flimkien mal-Monsinjuri tal-Katidral, irhejnielha lejn iż-Żejtun għall-purcijsjoni ta' San Girgor. Naturalment, morna b'vannijiet tal-kiri. L-ewwel inżilna fil-Kappella ta' San Klement li fil-periferija taż-Żejtun, u minn hemm bdiet il-purcijsjoni, l-ewwel għall-Knisja Parrokkjali.

Minn hemm il-purcijsjoni dahlet għal xi mument fil-knisja ddedikata lil Santa Katerina, b'kant u xi antifona. Wara, flimkien mal-Arcisqof, il-Monsinjuri, il-klaru u wara dawk prezenti, il-purcijsjoni ssoktat lejn il-Knisja ta' San Girgor.

Fil-purcijsjoni tkantat għal tliet darbiet il-'Misericordia'. Ftit wara li wasalna fil-knisja antika ta' San Girgor bdiet il-quddiesa tal-okkażjoni.

Iżda li semmejt hi biss il-parti reliġjuża ta' din il-purcijsjoni penitenzjali għax f'it 'il bogħod, max-xtajta ta' Marsaxlokk, ikun hemm festa shiħa ta' divertiment.

Fl-imghoddi hafna, l-aktar l-ghalliema u t-tfal tal-iskola, kien ikunu għadhom bil-btajjel tal-Għid.

Naturalment, f'Marsaxlokk nhar San Girgor, minbarra d-diveriment kien ikun hemm bejgħ ta' ogġetti u l-ikel, fosthom xi fenkata biz-zalza.

Illum li r-raħal huwa miżgħud bir-ristoranti jarmaw l-imwejjed fuq barra u jipprezentaw l-aħjar ikel, fosthom hut frisk, mill-baħar tal-qrib, xi spagettata marinara u magħhom l-inbid u l-birra. Il-barranin ukoll saru jattendu bi għarhom għal din il-festa folkloristika jekk ikun temp sabiħ u xemxi, ix-xena tkun tassew pittoreska.

Għalhekk wiehed jista' jgħid li fi żminijietna, San Girgor ma jfissirx għajr jum ta' btala hdejn il-baħar ta' Marsaxlokk. Xi Maltin qajla jħabblu moħħhom biex iżuru l-Knisja ta' San Girgor fiż-Żejtun jew tal-inqas ifittxu biex isiru jafu x'hemm wara din il-festa.

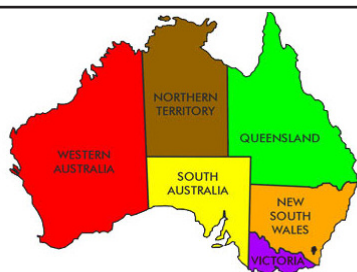


In-nies jiffestegġjaw il-festa ta' San Girgor f'Marsaxlokk



Il-purcijsjoni mmexxija mill-Arcisqof

Have your say/Xi trid tgħid?



The Voice of the Maltese

fortnightly magazine

This is a bi-lingual (in English and Maltese) fortnightly magazine that specifically targets all Maltese living abroad with emphasis on the Australian and Maltese scenes.

The magazine can also be read in flipbook format online. A pdf copy is also sent via email on request.

If you require a printed copy we can also oblige.

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Letters for publication in *The Voice* magazine, either in Maltese or English should include name, e-mail address and residence of the writer, and be e-mailed to: maltesevoice@gmail.com.



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Your letters/ L-ittri tagħkom ...

We must obey all instructions Coronavirus can be defeated

Sam Sammut from Sans Souci NSW writes:

Thank you for sending me every issue of *The Voice* magazine. I like in particular the news pages as you deal with the news in a very different way. They are always brief, and factual. That way there's no need for me to surf the net.

I write to appeal to my fellow Maltese to listen and to obey the Government and the health authorities regarding this terrible

coronavirus pandemic that is spreading all around us.

I know that there is not much information being provided by the authorities in our language; therefore, it is up to each one of us to be vigilant and to observe whatever instructions we are meted out.

One important advice that we must all heed is, that there's no need to panic. With God's help, we will get over this black period.

Heed the warnings Coronavirus no joke

Noel Scerri from Brisbane, QLD writes:

I have been trying to convince a 70-year-old friend to heed the warnings and to cancel a proposed cruise he has been planning along with his wife for the coming weeks. Up till now he is found to be stupid enough to go along with his plans.

The cruise ship industry is reeling. The outbreak of the new coronavirus has made the basic fundamentals of the business medically inadvisable to the point that a number of governments have issued a warning to would-be travellers – chief among them the elderly – to stop taking cruise ships until the threat has passed.

And yet, even as thousands of people have found themselves stuck on ocean liners, in close confines with others suffering from a deadly virus, not everyone is ready to bag their cruise ship getaway.

Indeed, while some shudder at the prospect of enduring severe flu-like symptoms and a 14-day quarantine, others see the vacation deal of a lifetime materializing before their eyes. Don't be stupid I say.

Look after yourselves

Paul Debono from Fairfield, NSW writes:

In the wake of the dreaded COVID-19 virus (aka Coronavirus) pandemic, as a 70-year-old, who is still full of life, I wish to advice the older generation in particular, to take the situation very seriously. We must try to care about our health and well-being, both immediately and in the long term! We must protect ourselves.

Remembering Victor Borg at Parkville in Victoria

Joe Gatt from Brighton, Victoria writes:

Although I have not seen this news officially, I am informed that following pressure from the President and members of the MHA the main hall in the Maltese Centre in Parkville has now been named the "Victor G Borg Hall".

Maybe a note in your journal to this effect would be appreciated.

As most people know, Victor was by far the moving force in establishing and building the Centre and has done more than anybody in ensuring that it serves the needs of the Maltese community in Victoria.



Dr Hugh McDermott MP State Member for Prospect

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Hajr ta' ahbarijiet ġusti, imparzjali u veritieri

Mario Griscti minn Ta' Xbiex jikteb:

Naghtikom hajr ta' *The Voice of the Maltese*, ħarġa numru 223 li rċevajt bhas-soltu. Hadt pjaċir naqra fuq il-kittieb Gużé Mifsud Bonnici u l-artikli l-oħra ta' interess.

M'ghandniex xi nghidu, naqra l-ahbarijiet li tippubblikaw b'dehwa kbira għax ikunu ġusti, imparzjali u veritieri.

Sincerament, -inqas li nara huma l-avviżi tal-attivitajiet varji li jsiru fl-Awstralja, ovvjament, minhabba li ma nistax nattendihom għax ngħix Malta.

Beating the virus; beating boredom

Taking to crafts is a healthy pastime

An avid reader of *The Voice of the Maltese* magazine from St Albans in Victoria, Sandra Borg, has suggested that on occasions we should give advice to the readers on how they can spend their free time by taking to crafts that in the end allows them to enter an immersive state of balance between skill and challenge. With people now advised to stay at home resulting from the coronavirus outbreak, crafts could help one feel good. Crafts would give one a purpose in life.

Sandra says that a few years back if anybody tried to push her into a crafting routine she would have been a bit intimidated. For one, she didn't even know where to start, what projects to do or where to go to get the materials, let alone how to do those projects.

But after eventually, after getting into crafts she has become more relaxed and has even started to promote the idea with kids as it could improve their coordination, help them express themselves and make them more creative and productive. Crafts could also help them develop other skills, inspire them to think critically and even help them to socialize.

Sandra even quoted advice given by experts that through arts and craft, children learn to value and appreciate artifacts and images across cultures and times. Experience in design, art, and crafts enable them to reflect critically on their own work and those by others. They learn to act and think like designers and artists, working intelligently and creatively.

Sandra is suggesting that anybody who loves to make recycled crafts or simply want to save some money, should consider starting this hobby, by creating these recycled egg carton bowls.

These bowls are tiny, so one can use them to store small items like jewellery and buttons. They can also help one to organise different kinds of beads.

Egg carton crafts may not seem classy or sophisticated, but the project in question really breaks the mould. Readers, especially old people who may have a lot of time on their hands, should try something new and create a project that they'll want to show off to everyone.



Materials List

- Egg carton-paper
- Small bowl or cup
- Large bowl with a cup of water
- School glue or tacky glue
- Food colouring or acrylic paint
- Plastic bag for lining of small bowl
- Lace for decorating (optional)
- Paper bag to cover table or work space
- Egg carton -paper
- Small bowl or cup
- Large bowl with a cup of water
- School glue or tacky glue
- Food colouring or acrylic paint
- Plastic bag for lining of small bowl
- Lace for decorating (optional)
- Paper bag to cover table or work space

Instructions

1. Take egg cartons and break into small pieces and place in large bowl with water.
2. Let it sit for around 10 minutes.
3. Then mix well into it to become soft and like a paste.
4. Put gloves on and add food colouring and glue (school glue and tacky glue). Use about 4 table-spoons of each and mix it well.
5. Take small cup or bowl and line it with a piece of plastic bag. Cut plastic bag large enough to fit bowl and that it also extends out of cup.
6. Place mixture into bowls and start shaping with your fingers go around until you have a smooth shape of a bowl.
7. Place in a sunny spot and let dry for around 12 hours then carefully take plastic off, turn it upside down and let it dry for one day.
8. When dry your piece will be hard.
9. You can decorate it and paint it.

Kuxjenza

Fiz-żmien meta hafna jsostnu li l-flus spiċċaw haġġitna; li n-nies ta' kuxjenza sparixxew; li spiċċa ż-żmien meta xi hadd isib xi haġa fit-triq u maljar jmur l-ghassa tal-pulizija biha... xorta jidher li għad hawn min il-kuxjenza tniggżu.

Dan deher meta sid ta' hanut f'Tas-Sliema rċeva ittra mingħand klient li aċċidentalment waqqa' u kisser presepju minn fuq xkaffa u ħarab il-barra mill-hanut bla ma qal b'dak li seħħ lis-sid tal-istabbiliment.

Il-klijent li baqa' anonimu sqarr li dakinhar iddejjaq u telaq 'il barra mill-hanut. Issa skuża ruħu ma' sid il-hanut u tah il-flus mal-ittra (*fug*) biex jikkumpensa għall-hsara li kkaġunala fl-inċident.



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Perspettiva

A version of this series in English may be found in the author's blog at:
<https://ivancauchi.blogspot.com>

Kitba ta'
IVAN
CAUCHI



Religjon jew etika?

Dik hija l-mistoqsija. Din mhix xi diskussjoni dwar il-litteratura Ingliża, imma riflessjoni fuq mistoqsija diretta li saritli l-gimgha l-oħra. Naf li din il-mistoqsija ssir ukoll lil eluf ta' ġenituri Awstraljani kull sena.

Il-kuntess huwa wiehed komuni. Ridt nikteb lit-tfal tiegħi biex jibdwu l-iskola primarja s-sena d-dieħla, fi skola pubblika, jiġifieri waħda tal-gvern. Kont qed niddiskuti l-applikazzjoni tiegħi mal-kap tal-iskola, mara simpatika li inzerat kienet Maltija-Awstraljana bħali, u wasalna f'punt fejn staqsi jekk irridx lit-tfal tiegħi jidher li huma r-religjon jew l-etika.

Komplet tghidli li jekk nagħzel ir-religjon, ridt nagħzel waħda mir-religjonijiet preskritti, li mill-memorja kienet dik Kattolika, l-Islam, il-Buddiżmu u l-Hindu.

Din is-sitwazzjoni ġejja mil-liġi ta' NSW (l-istat fejn ngħix), għax l-Att dwar l-Edukazzjoni tal-1990 jgħid li f'kull skola tal-gvern għandu jkun hemm hin allokat għall-edukazzjoni reliġjuża ta' kull religjon. Ukoll edukazzjoni fl-etika jista' jkun offruta bħala alternattiva sekulari għall-edukazzjoni reliġjuża.¹

B'din l-għażla kollha, kulhadd għandu jkun kuntent. Allura għalfejn jien m'iniex?

Semplici ħafna. Għalfejn għandi nagħzel? Għalfejn it-tfal tiegħi m'għandhomx jidher li huma kemm ir-religjon u kemm l-etika? U jekk jidher li huma r-religjon, għalfejn għandhom jidher li huma religjon waħda u xejn fuq l-oħrajn?

Hemm limitazzjoni Prattika, li l-lezzjonijiet ikunu ta' nofs siegħa l-waħda, u l-lezzjoni tar-religjon isseħħ fl-istess hin ta' dik tal-etika. Student ma jistax ikun f'żewġ postijiet f'salt, mhux hekk? Mhux jekk ikunu wara xulxin.

U l-lezzjonijiet tar-religjonijiet isiru minn organizzazzjonijiet marbutin ma' religjon partikulari, li naturalment jgħallmu dik ir-religjon biss. Jekk tinkiteb għal religjon partikolari, titgħallmu dwarha biss tista'.

Ma jistax il-hin allokat jinqasam bejn ir-religjonijiet, għallinqas dawk maġġuri, darba waħda u d-darba ta' wara l-oħra?

Jien naraha tal-għażib li fis-seklu wiehed u ghoxrin, għadna naħsbu li hija ideja tajba li nifirdu lill-ġenerazzjoni futura minn età żgħira, li forsi diġà huma bħieb, fuq bażi tar-religjon jew



Klassi fi skola Awstraljana: mhux kulhadd jidher li huma r-religjon jew l-etika.

hemm, jekk hemm ir-rieda, u din trid tkun rieda politika għax il-problema ġejja mil-liġi.

Is-soluzzjoni tkun li:

- ikun hemm suġġett wiehed jismu Religjon u Etika, u s-sessjoni tkun ta' siegħa bħal ma hemm previst fil-liġi llum. L-iskop tiegħu hu li l-istudenti jiġu mgħallma l-prinċipji tar-religjonijiet ewlenin u dawk oħra rilevanti għall-istudenti fi klassi, flimkien ma' kun-siderazzjonijiet etiċi f'ambjent sekulari;
- l-istudenti jattendu kollha flimkien, halli llum jisimgħu dwar il-qafas tat-twelmm tagħhom, u għada dak tal-ħbieb tagħhom;
- ikun ċar li l-iskop tas-sessjoni huwa wiehed edukattiv u informativ, mhux ta' konverżjoni, biex jassigura lill-ġenituri.

Jien konvint li b'dan il-mod, l-istudenti jidher li huma l-ewwel haġa l-baži tat-twelmm mhux biss tagħhom imma ta' shabhom li huma 'differenti', it-tieni jindunaw li fil-fatt hemm iktar x'jgħaqquadna milli x'jifridna, u t-tielet jirrealizzaw li huwa possibbli li jgħixu flimkien fid-diversità mingħajr il-bżonn ta' kunflitt, probabbilment l-iktar tagħlima importanti fiż-żminijiet tal-lum.

Din il-proposta mhix daqshekk ta' barra minn hawn. F'Victoria, dan it-tip ta' tagħlim ilu liġi f'dak l-istat mill-2006,² u jidher li hu l-uniku stat Awstraljan li ha dan il-pass. Tgħid għad insib xi politikant fi NSW li lest iressaqha proposta simili fil-parlament?

Referenzi

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Two languages, multiple realities - insights into a study on language use

A research study recently carried out by the National Literacy Agency (NLA) of the Ministry for Education and Employment in Malta has revealed that most early childhood educators in Malta believe in the promotion of bilingualism with young children.

The same research concludes that bilingualism in early childhood education contexts in Malta has to be interpreted in light of the language attitudes and ideologies that are associated with language use.

Questionnaires were distributed among 450 early childhood educators (teaching in Kindergarten 1 and Kindergarten 2 classes), and an ethnographic study based



on classroom observations and interviews with educators was carried out in five schools.

The study illustrates ways in which educators promote Maltese and/or English in their classrooms. Despite believing in the importance of bilingualism, there were mixed beliefs about how this can be translated into practice.

The National Literacy Agency was congratulated on its work and the intensive study it conducted in order to showcase the present scenarios within classrooms at kindergarten level in Malta.

At the same time, the authorities stressed upon the importance of bilingualism and the need to keep improving the Maltese and English language standards and to provide the necessary training and professional development in the Maltese schools.

It was stated that the Maltese language is important to the Maltese people because it gives them an identity, but English too is equally important, as nowadays it is also needed within the digital and technology

sectors. The importance of learning a third language to widen one's abilities has also been pointed out.

Maltese educators are clearly aware of the importance attached to bilingualism in Maltese society. The study sheds light on certain practices that revolve around structured teacher-led activities, which focus on the alphabet and numer-

acy, with little time dedicated to communicative activities and play.

Meanwhile, Professor Charles Mifsud, the chairman of NLA believes that bilingual education in Malta is strong, however one needs to continue concerted efforts to sustain it and to improve upon it. He said that, "knowing two languages and more is a huge asset for us and we need to maximise this".

The study highlights the fact that there is awareness among educators about the importance of bilingualism in the early years. However, it recommends that all stakeholders must examine their beliefs and practices to ensure that they are truly enabling all children to develop their bilingual competences.

Educators comment on the fact that children are aware of these attitudes from a very young age and can translate these into practice. This highlights the pivotal role of parents, who are children's first language teachers, to communicate positive attitudes towards Maltese, English and other languages.

A need for us to use at-home time wisely

We're living in unsettled times. But eventually, this will pass. This crazy situation we all find ourselves in is a global one. It may be a while until most of us can connect in person again. So we need to use our at-home time wisely.

There's this story about Sir Isaac Newton who, as it happens, did his best thinking and produced his most influential work while sequestered at his home during the Great Plague of London in 1665.

Happily, we needn't immerse ourselves in theories of physics and optics to make our practice of "social distancing" productive (unless you want to, of course).

There are all kinds of ways one could use this downtime to start exploring ideas you've always been curious about. Consider those hobbies you never make time for, or try and learn a new language. There are things that perhaps you've never thought of before, so now is a great time to consider exploring your best options.

Our point is: While it's easy to let glumness settle over your world...we hope you won't. We hope, instead, that you'll use this unsettled time as an excuse to try some new things that help you to get those creative juices flowing.



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Roundup of News About Malta



PM Robert Abela announces €1.8 bn rescue package for Malta's economy



Prime Minister Robert Abela (centre), flanked by Edward Scicluna (left) and Silvio Schembri

In view of the coronavirus pandemic, the government announced a rescue package worth €1.8 billion intended to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 on the economy and help companies retain their workers in employment.

The package with several measures also aimed at improving liquidity for companies in this hour of need was announced by Prime Minister Robert Abela, Finance Minister Edward Scicluna and Economy Minister Silvio Schembri.

The Prime Minister called on business and company owners not to lay off workers or close down their business and promised to review these measures again if they are found to be insufficient to alleviate the problems facing the companies. "There is no need to lay off workers," he said.

Describing the measures

as generous the Prime Minister said that this isn't a time for a holiday and anyone who is able to attend work should report for work unless there are other directives from the health authorities. "This is a time for discipline," he said.

Finance Minister Edward Scicluna described the government's package as a "mini-Budget" that would readjust the government's financial targets in the current situation. He said that Malta had strong a GDP growth that would help it to weather the crisis.

Business owners and self-employed people whose trade has been most affected will have all tax and social security payments due for March and April postponed and be deferred to a later, as yet undefined date.

Economy Minister Silvio Schembri said that with immediate effect, Malta

will no longer accept applications for work from unskilled third-country nationals.

Companies that invested in teleworking systems would also be eligible for a 45% refund up to €500 for each worker, he added.

There was mixed reaction from the social partners with many of them criticising the measures as not being enough.

Malta's employers' organisations sought 50% coverage of wages and said that the government should be seeking to invest in keeping economic confidence and avoid the costlier economic crisis, post-COVID-19.

They were joined in their criticism by Nationalist Party, that has demanded help for struggling businesses, arguing that many face collapse unless they are giving some breathing room by the government.

The package

Important measures included in the package include:

- €1.6 billion in liquidity for companies: €700 million in tax deferrals and €900 million in guarantees

- €900 million in government guarantees to companies which are expected to open up the availability of credit and loans to the tune of €4.5 billion that would give companies additional liquidity

- Health authorities allocated an additional budget of €35 million to combat Covid-19.

- Government to pay companies €350 per employee on quarantine leave.

- The government will cover an additional two months leave for a parent who has to stay home to take care of the kids as a result of school closures with an €800 per month benefit.

- A company registering 25% fewer sales would benefit from one day per week for every employee. This would amount to around €37 per week, equivalent to around €147 per month per employee. The measure would be capped at €800 per month.

- A business requested to shut down as part of the Covid-19 measures is to get two days of assistance per week per employee; equivalent to €300 per month per employee. A self-employed person will get the same amount.

- A self-employed who employs others gets three days per week of assistance for himself and two days per week for every employee.

- A Maltese or EU citizen who becomes redundant is to get €800 per month as an unemployment benefit.

- JobsPlus will help to find alternative work to any third-country national who loses his job.

- People who lose their job and live in a rental property and do not qualify for rent subsidy will now benefit from the scheme.

- A company lays off a foreign worker cannot apply for a work permit for a third-country national. Malta will stop accepting new third-country national work permit applications.



Govt. to stay in constant talks with constituted bodies

Since the announcement of the measures, the government has kept in touch and is in constant talks with the social partners.

In the latest meeting, described as cordial, Prime Minister Robert Abela and Economy Minister Silvio Schembri held open talks with a number of leading constituted bodies.

Present at the meeting were representatives of the Malta Employers Association (MEA), the Malta Hotels and Restaurants Association (MHRA), the Chamber of SME's that serves as the small businesses'

voice, and the leading trade unions in Malta, the GWU, UHM Voice of the Workers, FORUM and CMTU.

Discussion centered on the current situation brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic and the challenges facing the country.

The government said such dialogue would be on-going in order for each and every entity to guarantee its efforts for the country to successfully face the global challenge, from the medical and also the economic perspective.



Roundup of News About Malta



Holy Week manifestations cancelled

In line with a decree by the Congregation for the Divine Cult and the Discipline of Sacraments, Good Friday, Easter Sunday and the Our Lady of Sorrows processions have been cancelled.

Auxiliary Bishop, Joseph Galea Curmi, informed all Archpriests and Parish Priests that all Holy Week manifestations have been cancelled. He said that directives are being drawn up for Holy Week that begins April 5 with Palm Sunday and ends with Easter Sunday.

The traditional processions, involving mass participation by Catholics that are held in over 20 localities and are the culmination of the Holy Week activities.

The new directives are being designed following directives the Bishops have received from the Holy See (the Vatican) regarding liturgical rites and the celebrations during one of the most important manifestations of the Catholic Church.



Christ should be held without public attendance, accompanied by special prayers for the dead and the sick.

The Vatican suggested that processions and other manifestations of devotion might be transferred to later dates in the year, such as between September 14 and 15 during the Veneration of the Cross. However, this is left as a prerogative of the Bishops.

Easter Sunday, the most important of the Church's Liturgical Year cannot be transferred to another date. It is being suggested that manifestations on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday take place in cathedrals and churches without the public attending.

The directive also urged the direct transmissions of these manifestations through social media.

The Vatican further said that where possible, on Good Friday the function commemorating the Passion of Jesus



Health Minister Dr Chris Fearne

Schools to stay closed until at least the end of the Easter holidays

The closure of schools in Malta due to coronavirus, stay closed until at least the end of the Easter holidays, a Working Group made up of representatives from all three sectors of education, State, Church and Independent Schools, together with the Malta Union of Teachers.

The Working Group, which has been set up by the Ministry for Education and Employment has been meeting regularly. Its remit is to explore methods of online teaching during this period as well as to explore the impact of the present situation on the curriculum.

It strongly welcomed the commitment, dedication, and hard work shown by hundreds of educators to provide educational material to their students using online means.

Minister announces new, stricter measures to contain coronavirus

Announcing that the number of confirmed coronavirus cases in Malta has reached 90, Health Minister Chris Fearne said that the authorities are determined to treat every single person hit by the pandemic in what is being described as the worst health crisis of a generation with the best means possible. One person is in a stable condition in intensive care, 27 patients have been hospitalised and two persons previously contaminated have recovered.

In efforts to combat the COVID-19 spread, the Minister also announced new stricter measures that came into effect Monday morning intended to reduce contact between people. They are, that non-essential shops and services will be closed, and public gatherings banned.

Supermarkets and grocery shops selling food or medicine (pharmacies), pet shops, banks, post offices, and transport services, as well as telephony and other essential services will not be affected and remain operational.

Other services not affected by the ban include delivery services, stationers, offices and other workplaces, such as the construction sector. "We are not stopping work in the country," he said.

Other retail or service outlets providing services deemed "non-essential" such as clothes and household good stores, hairdressers and beauticians must remain closed, otherwise, they face a €3,000 fine.

When it comes to public gatherings or

meetings anybody breaching the measures would likewise also be liable to a fine of €3,000 for each breach.

Fearne has called on people to remain vigilant and to follow all government and public health updates. He again cautioned against believing baseless rumours.

While most daily reported COVID-19 cases have been linked to recent travel overseas by Maltese returning from abroad, there are also a growing number of coronavirus infections that authorities have been unable to trace to any other known link to the virus. He said that even if travel had been banned from the outset, such Maltese residents would still have had to be repatriated.

Prof Charmaine Gauci said one must remain vigilant and that as tests keep being carried out, the number of confirmed cases is expected to continue to rise. There are also a growing number of coronavirus infections that authorities have been unable to trace to any other known link to the virus.

Chris Fearne praised the cooperation by several sectors of the community. He said that there was a good response, to a call by the health department's procurement wing on Thursday for all hotels or hostels wanting to offer accommodation to health care workers.

Whilst other countries are in more advanced stages and are therefore taking more drastic measures. Dr. Fearne said that we need to proceed according to the situation in the country.



Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn *Ġużè Camilleri*



Il-mishut coronavirus

Ghal mument, bhal dik tad-dinja kollha, il-midja Maltija, insiet (ghalkemm mhux ghal kollox) il-qasam tal-politika u qed tiffoka fuq il-mishut coronavirus li werwer lid-dinja kollha aktar minn kull arma qerrieda li s'issa għet invinata mill-qawwiet tad-dinja.

Filwaqt li l-armi b'xi mod huma taht il-kontroll ta' min jipposedi-hom, dan il-virus jidher li harab lil kulhadd u, tal-inqas s'issa, jidher li hadd għadu ma sab tarfu.

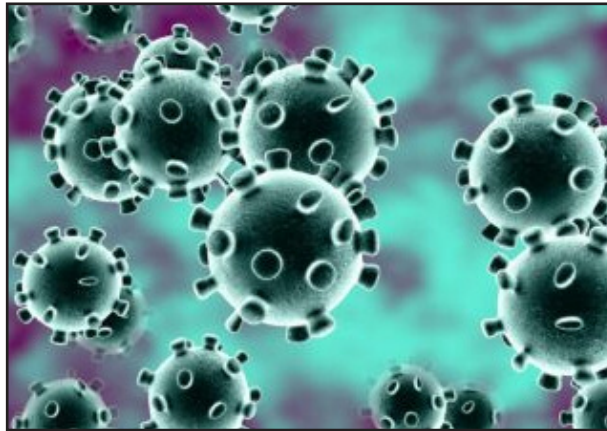
Sfortunatament, ghalkemm forsi wara pajjiżi oħra, Malta wkoll intlaqtet minn dan il-virus. Veru li sakemm qed nikteb l-għadd ta' daww milquta huwa żgħir imqabbel ta' pajjiżi oħra (ara paġna 3) u jidher li dawn il-koll qegħdin fi stat ta' saħħa mhux allarmanti, imma xorta qed niġu mwissja li l-għadd jista' jikber u saħansitra jista' jkollna xi mwiet ukoll. Fuq kollox aħna bhal haddiehor.

Għalkemm, kif ktiibt aktar 'il fuq il-politika f'dan il-każ ingħatat il-ġenb, xorta ma naqsux ċerti battibekki u manuvrar dwar il-miżuri li kien qed jiehu u qed jiehu il-Gvern. Saħansitra fil-Parlament saru dibattiti shan dwar il-kwestjoni, biex ma ngħidx li kien hemm ukoll minn ipprova jirkeb politikament fuq is-sitwazzjoni.

It-temi l-aktar diskussi kienu mhux dwar il-miżuri nnifishom, imma dwar iż-żmien meta ddaħħlu. Kien hemm min sostna li l-Gvern dam ma ha passi biex jagħlaq l-ajruporti u l-portijiet ta' Malta u allura l-barranin baqghu deħlin fil-Gżejjer tagħna bit-turisti jiġru ma kullimkien, u li dam ma għalaq l-iskejjel (ghalkemm għamel dan qabel haħna pajjiżi oħra, eċċ, eċċ).

Imma l-akbar kwestjoni qamet dwar meta kellu jsir lock-down totali - jiġifieri li hadd ma jorhoż mid-dar jekk mhux biex jagħti servizz essenzjali jew f'xi każ urġenti.... xi haġa li l-Gvern għadu ma għamilx għax isostni li fil-mument dan jista' jkun aktar ta' dannu min dak tal-virus innifsu.

Il-Gvern dejjem sostna li qed jimxi fuq il-



pariri mogħtija lil mill-esperti tas-saħħa għax dawn huma n-nies li jafu x'inhu l-aħjar għall-pajjiż.

U nahseb li l-Gvern qed jagħmel tajjeb li jimxi fuq dawn il-pariri għax meta wieħed iħares lejn dak li seħħ s'issa, jidher li l-awtoritajiet tas-saħħa għandhom raġun.

Issa, ġew magħluqa l-ajruport u l-portijiet ta' Malta għall-passiġġieri, ghalkemm hemm eċċezzjonijiet, hemm min qed jistaqsi għaliex dan ma sarx qabel u hekk forsi konna nevitaw li l-virus jidhol f'Malta.

Imma jekk wieħed iħares lejn dak li seħħ isib li l-virus dahal Malta permezz ta' żewġ Taljani residenti f'Malta u l-maġġoranza assoluta ta' daww li s'issa ġew infettati huma fil-biċċa' l-kbira residenti Maltin li b'xi mod ġew lura mis-safar jew kellhom kuntatt ma xi hadd li gie mis-safar.

Issa żgur li hadd minn daww li qed jikkritikaw lill-Gvern dwar id-dewmien tal-gheluq tal-ajruport, mhu se jammetti li kien jew li hu/hi favur li residenti Maltin li nqabbdu barra ma jithallewx jidhlu lura f'Malta. Attwalment anke issa li nġalqu l-ajruport u l-portijiet thalliet toqba biex ikunu jistgħu jsiru titjiriet halli jinġiebu xi Maltin li nqabbdu barra.

Il-hasra hi li xi residenti Maltin, anke wara li l-Italja kienet bdiet timtela b' nies infettati bil-virus, xorta baqghu jsiefru lejn l-Italja

u pajjiżi oħra... u kienu uħud minn dawn li komplew iżidu mal-għadd ta' infettati fil-pajjiż.

Sadanittant jidher li l-biċċa' l-kbira tal-poplu Malti fehem il-gravita' tas-sitwazzjoni u qed joqghod ġewwa bit-toroq diżabitati, inkluzi daww tal-Belt Valletta li ssoltu jkunu miżgħuda bin-nies. Ghalkemm imbagħad kellna għadd ta' nies li ffullaw fis-supermarkets u kaxkru kulma sabu.

Dan seħħ minkejja li wara konsul-tazzjoni ma' tal-ħwienet u l-importaturi, l-Gvern assigura li hawn biżżejjed ikel għal diversi xhur, kif ukoll li l-ajruport u l-portijiet se jibqghu miftuħa għal-ajruplani u l-vapuri bil-merkanzija.

Daqqa lill-ekonomija

Sintendi, dak li qed isehħ qed ikollu ef-fett qawwi fuq l-ekonomija tal-pajjiż, speċjalment meta wieħed jiehu in-kunsiderazzjoni li wieħed mill-ikbar dħul għal Malta huwa mis-settur tat-turiżmu.

Dan bħalissa hu wieqaf għal kollox għax mhux biss twaqqaf id-dħul tat-turisti, iżda anke r-ristoranti, li l-aktar fi tmiem il-ġimgħa, kienu jkunu mimlija bi klijenti Maltin. Malli thabbar l-ewwel każ tal-virus fi ġżiritna mill-ewwel bdew jonqsu u issa waqfu għal kollox wara li l-istabbilimenti li jdaħħlu n-nies bil-qegħda għall-ikel ġew ordnati ma jiftux. Jistgħu jaħdmu biss daww tat-take aways.

Sintendi daww li jhaddmu ma naqsux li mill-ewwel bdew jitolbu għall-ghajjnuna halli jkunu jistgħu jkampaw. Sfortunatament, fil-fehma tiegħi, biex iwasslu lill-Gvern li jgħinhom uħud minnhom bdew jużaw il-possibbiltà li jkeċċu l-haddiema.

Bdew it-talbiet biex il-Gvern iħallas nofs il-paga ta' haddiema li jaħdmu mal-privat; bdew ukoll it-talbiet mis-sidien tal-appartamenti halli l-Gvern jgħinhom halli iħallu lura s-self li għandhom mal-banek. Saħansitra d-djar tal-midja, fosthom tal-gazzetti talbu għas-sussidju ... insomma t-talbiet għall-ghajjnuna ma naqsux.

Fortunatament f'dawn l-aħħar snin il-Gvern bena ekonomija qawwiya u allura issa jista' b'xi mod jagħti għajjnuna, li mill-ewwel wiegħed li kien se jagħti.

Issa għadu kif thabbar li l-Gvern kien se jalloka €1.8 biljun f'ghajjnuna mifruxa fuq diversi sezzjonijiet. (Ara paġna 12)

Imma anke minkejja din is-somma hekk kbira diġà bdejna naraw lil min jgħid, fosthom il-Kamra tal-Kummerċ, li xorta l-membri ma ngħatawx għajjnuna biżżejjed.

(* għal paġna 15)

While visiting Malta Stay at:

The Diplomat Hotel,

173 Tower Road Sliema

Email: sales@diplomat.com.mt

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Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

Is-sehem tal-ħaddiema barranin

F'din il-kriżi ta' bħalissa ma setgħetx ma tqumx il-kwestjoni tal-barranin li jaħdmu f'Malta. Din kompliet tinghata importanza meta l-Ministru għall-Ekonomija, l-Investment u n-Negozji ż-Żgħir, Silvio Schembri waqt seduta Parlamentari dwar il-kwestjoni tal-Coron-

avirus qal li dawk il-ħaddiema barranin (sintendi mhux dawk li gejjin mill-Unjoni Ewropeja għax dawn għandhom kull dritt li jgħixu u jaħdmu f'Malta) li jtilfu x-xogħol tagħhom fi żmien il-

kriżi li għaddejjja minnha d-dinja, se jkollhom jirritornaw lura pajjiżhom immedjatement jew inkella jkunu ddeportati.

Fl-istess laqgħa Parlamentari tkellem, id-deputat Nazjonalista Beppe Fenech Adami li qal li s-sitwazzjoni preżenti se ggħib problema kbira fil-komunità Maltija minhabba l-għadd kbir ta' ħaddiema barranin li issa se jispicċaw bla xogħol; bil-possibbiltà li tikber il-kriminalità fil-pajjiż.

Dak li qal l-Ministru Schembri għab reazzjoni qawwiya u gie kkritikat dwar li qal, għalkemm kien hemm dawk li qablu miegħu għax sostnew li f'din il-kwestjoni l-ħaddiem Malti għandu jigi l-ewwel kif ukoll li l-ħaddiema li mhux gejjin mill-Un-

joni Ewropeja (*Third Countries*) ingħataw il-permess li jidhlu Malta għax kellhom ix-xogħol u li skont dan il-permess malli ma jkollhomx xogħol dawn kellhom jirritornaw lejn pajjiżhom.

Madanakollu, aktar tard il-Ministru f'mes-saġġ fuq Facebook, skuża ruħu jekk bil-

kummenti tiegħu fil-Parlament dwar il-ħaddiema barranin wegħa' jew offenda lil xi hadd.

Il-Ministru insista, "Il-Gvern u jiena ninsabu magħquda biex ngħinu lill-ħaddiema kollha, irrispettivament min-nazzjonalità tagħhom." Tenna li "f'dawn iż-żminijiet diffiċli "l-Gvern jinsab kommess li jgħin lill-impjegati, lill-ħaddiema u anke lil dawk li jaħdmu għal rashom.

Imma xorta kien hemm min għibed l-attenzjoni dwar kemm il-Gvern jista' jaf-fordja li barra li-ċittadini Maltin u dawk tal-Unjoni Ewropeja li jgħixu f'Malta, jekk jisfaw bla xogħol ikun jista' jgħin ukoll li dawn biex imantnu lilhom infushom u jhallsu l-kirjiet tagħhom.

Insomma problema kbira għall-Gvern, b'uħud jirrimarkaw li l-Prim Ministru l-gdid ta' Malta mill-ewwel sab għadma iebsa x' jogħmod.



L-ekonomija Maltija/minn paġna 14

Dawn qed jippretendu li f'kazijiet ta' kumpaniji li jsufu aktar minn 25% telf, il-Gvern għandu jhallas nofs tas-salarju ta' kull impjegat sa massimu tas-salarju medju ma' min iħaddem li jkopri il-25% l-oħra. Hargu jsostnu li dak li kien qed joffri l-Gvern kien diżappuntanti għax xorta se jwassal biex għadd ta' ħaddiema jigu ssensjati. (*Ara l-pakketta tal-inċentivi offrit mill-gvern f'paġna 12*)

Attwalment kien hemm min ikkummenta li dawn is-sidien kienu qed jużaw lill-ħaddiem bħala lieva biex jieħdu dak li jridu u staqsew jekk dawn entitajiet kienux bil-għaqal biżżejjed fil-passat biex ifaddlu u jsorru għal meta jkun hemm bżonn.

Fuq kollox, minkejja li għandu finanzi sodi, il-Gvern xorta jrid joqgħod attent li ma jdgħajjifx iżżejjed il-fondi tiegħu li imbagħad iħalli effett negattiv għall-gejjieni.

Id-dhul mill-'bejgħ tal-Passaporti'

Intressanti l-fatt li whud minn dawk li fl-imghoddi ikkritikaw u kkundannaw lill-Gvern dwar l-iskema ta-Ċittadinanza bi hlas (il-bejgħ tal-passaporti) u għal darba wara oħra sostnew li l-Gvern kellu jwaqqaf din l-iskema, issa qed jisħqu mal-Gvern li għandu juża d-dhul qawwi minn din l-iskema, li jlahhaq madwar €600 miljun biex jgħin.

Insomma waqt il-gwaj kull għajnuna tgħodd



Min jaħžen u xiex... tassew tad-daħk!

Kif sar u qed isir f'hafna pajjiżi, xi nies, (hafna nies milli jidher) tant jitwerwru minn kriżijiet bħal din tal-coronavirus li jaħsbu li 'l quddiem jistgħu ma jsibux jixtru l-prodotti li huma mdrorjin bihom. Minkejja li kif għedt aktar 'l fuq, il-gvern Malti qed jiggarantixxi li mhux se jkun hawn skarsezzi tal-affarijiet essenzjali, xi whud huma stinati u ma jirraġunawx.

Nahseb li bħali qrajtu dwar din l-ossessjoni anke f'pajjiżi barra minn Malta. Min jgħix fl-Awstralja jaf x'qed ngħid għax għarribu dan, tant li xi hwienet anke bagħtu ċirkulari lill-klijenti tagħhom li ma jkunux jistgħu jixtru aktar minn żewġ oġġetti l-istess.

Hi xi haġa tad-daħk jekk mhux tal-biki li donnu li l-aktar oġġetti li hafna nies hasbu biex jaħznu huma r-rollijiet tat-toilet paper. Possibbli dan hu fost l-aktar oġġetti essenzjali għal xi whud? Għal xi jiem xi nies kaxkru u żvujaw l-ixjaf tas-supermarkets minn dan l-oġġett, bl-istess hwienet jer-għu jimlewhom ftit wara. Xi skarsezza skarsezza!



A quick glimpse at Australia

Coronavirus stimulus packages

More than six million Australians will be getting a cheque for \$750 as part of the Morrison Government's \$17.6 billion coronavirus stimulus package. Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the payments would inject cash into the economy to support small and medium businesses.

"The biggest beneficiaries of that will be pensioners. Households receiving government benefits including pensioners and those getting Newstart, Carer's Allowance and Family Tax Benefits will get the one-off payments from March 31.

The Prime Minister said other measures included supercharging the instant asset write-off, backing business investment with an accelerated depreciation scheme and a cash flow boost for small and medium-sized employers. About 690,000 businesses across Australia will be able to get grants for up to \$25,000.

The government will also support employers to keep 117,000 apprentices in jobs for over nine months. "Importantly, these measures do not extend beyond June 30 next year, and that means that allows the budget and the community to bounce back shortly," Mr Morrison said.

More than \$2.3 billion will be pumped into the NSW economy to counter the financial havoc caused by the global coronavirus pandemic, with Premier Gladys Berejiklian vowing to pursue a "no regrets" policy. The stimulus package consists of \$700 million for healthcare and \$1.6 billion for job creation and tax relief.



Significant features include capital works investments, payroll tax relief and waiving charges and licence fees for small businesses. Other state governments had introduced similar stimulus packages.

As we went to print the states between them had 454 cases of COVID-19.

Meanwhile, as it officially declared the global coronavirus crisis a pandemic, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has been assessing this outbreak COVID-19 around the clock, with its chief, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus saying,

"We are deeply concerned both by the alarming levels of spread and severity, and by the alarming levels of inaction."

Climate change fuelled summer's bushfires

The bushfires that tore through NSW scorched more land and destroyed more homes than any state fire season on record, a new report has found.

The Climate Council's Summer of Crisis report says climate change fanned the unprecedented impacts of Australia's recent bushfire crisis.

Former Fire and Rescue NSW Commissioner Greg Mullins says the bushfires produced more greenhouse gases than Australia typically emits in a year. "Climate change fuelled unprecedented fires."

More than 2,400 NSW homes were destroyed over the summer, almost ten times more than the previous worst season for

bushfire property damage in NSW in 2013. About 5.4 million hectares were scorched over summer, which is equivalent to more than six per cent of the total NSW land area.

The report also found the bushfires have taken a huge economic toll on Australia, with the tourism sector predicted to have lost more than \$4 billion.

"The hot, dry conditions that fuelled these fires will continue to worsen without substantial, concerted action to phase out coal, oil and gas rapidly," the report read.

"Taking action now will provide a chance to stabilise, then eventually reduce disaster risks for future generations."

Penalties for breaking self-isolation

All international arrivals to Australia are now required to self-isolate upon arrival for 14 days after Prime Minister Scott Morrison stepped up measures to contain the spread of COVID-19. People who breach self-isolation could also face hefty fines of up to \$50,000 and even jail time under state powers if they break quarantine measures.

Some states already had the ability to impose self-isolation through punishing those who fail to comply with public health orders, while some states including Queensland and South Australia passed new laws to deal with the issue.

In Western Australia, people breaching quarantines face the harshest financial penalties with fines ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000. People in New South Wales face fines of up to \$11,000 or jail time if they do not comply with self-isolation orders.

The penalties are enforceable under the state's Public Health Act and the Emergency Management Act.

Political profiling by Facebook

Facebook could face millions in fines with Australia's privacy watchdog taking the social media giant to court.

The Australian Information Commissioner, Angelene Falk lodged court documents alleging users unwittingly had their personal data used for political purposes. She is alleging in Federal Court that Facebook allowed Australian users' personal data to be sold for political profiling by a third-party app.

That data was sent to now-defunct British consultants Cambridge Analytica, which used Facebook information in 2015 without permission to profile American voters.

The Commissioner claims 311,127 Australians had their Facebook data sold and used for purposes that include political profiling. "Users were unable to exercise reasonable choice and control about how their personal information was disclosed," she said.



A quick glimpse at Australia

Charity sector must be supported through crisis

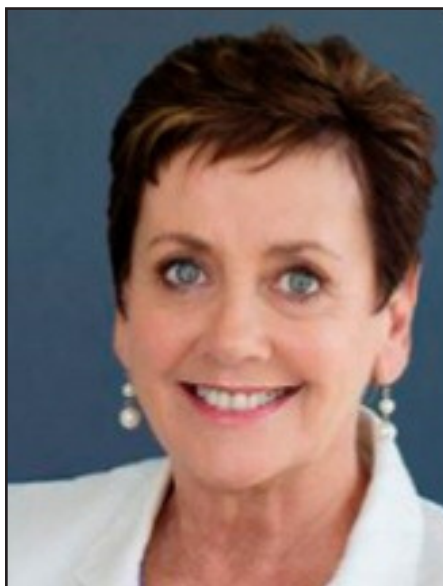
Catholic Social Services Australia chief executive officer Ursula Stephens said the Federal Government's move to assist small business and protect jobs during the coronavirus crisis must be broadened to include the charity sector because the charity sector remains vulnerable to a slowing economy.

"Giving charities and social services access to cashflow support will provide greater certainty around their business continuity at a time when many regional and rural communities continue to be affected by drought and bushfires," Dr Stephens said.

“CSSA supports the Government’s moves to protect the economy; however it is not right to expect governments and workers to carry the burden of a softening economy while market traders seek to shore up their capital returns and mitigate their risk.”

Dr Stephens said stock market traders also have a responsibility to think carefully about their current actions and the harm they are causing to public confidence.

"We are a resilient nation. Many Aus-



CSS chief Ms Ursula Stephens

Italians have suffered greatly because of drought, bushfires and now the coronavirus. It is important that we remain calm and ensure that our collective actions serve the common good," she said.

Dr Stephens said governments and other key institutions have a duty to respond to the coronavirus challenge with a focus on pursuing the common good.

"The targeted \$750 cash payment to families and those on pensions and allowances such as Newstart is an important step in injecting vital cash into the economy," she said. "At a time of social and economic uncertainty, we need concrete measures that support our economy."

High Court delays Cardinal Pell not affected



Cardinal Pell

The Australia High Court's full bench won't hear cases in Canberra until August, and the Federal Court is vacating all matters listed through to the end of June. **Cardinal Pell**

"The first possible time the full court will sit again in Canberra will be in August," a spokesman said. He added that the court was continuing to receive advice and would reassess in June the court's pre-arranged July recess. Where necessary, hearings would be conducted using video link.

The court will continue to hand down judgments, and the move is not expected to impact the timeline of the high-profile bid by Cardinal George Pell to overthrow his child sexual abuse convictions.

The Federal Court has also announced all cases listed to the end of June, and requiring in-person attendance, would be vacated.

Victoria's Parkville and Sunshine centres closed

The Maltese Community Council of Victoria Inc. (MCCV) is working to protect its consumers and community members during the current outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

As everybody knows, the current outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19) is of great concern to many of our community members, consumers and their families. As such, the Maltese Community Council of Victoria Inc. (MCCV) is working to protect its consumers and community members.

It said that the health and safety of its consumers, community members and staff is paramount; “therefore, we have taken proactive measures to protect ourselves and others to minimise the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19). Therefore, until further notice effective from Tuesday March 17 last, the Parkville and Sunshine centres will be CLOSED, and all events, classes are cancelled.

The MCCV states that it would continue to closely monitor and follow the advice of the Department of Health and keep the community updated.

For further information on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) one can visit: the website: <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>.

One can also visit: https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/03/coronavirus-covid-19-what-you-need-to-know_1.pdf

Should anyone have any queries or require support, please the MCCV email on admin@mccv.org.au

The MCCV is currently planning on how best to support the elderly who are isolated in the community during this time. An announcement could be made soon.



Michelle Rowland MP

Shadow Minister for Communications
Federal Member for Greenway



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Tagħrif dwar il-kitba Maltija

Profezija ta' aktar minn 450 sena ilu dwar il-belt Valletta ssir realtà

Il-kittieb u storiku Giacomo Bosio fil-kteib dwar listorja tal-Ordni ta' San Ġwann, *Dell'istoria della Sacra Religione, Giovanni di Santo dell'illustrissima milizia Gerosolimitano* (m.1627), jgħid li l-Malti hu ta' nisel Kartaginiż. L-istess awtur jirrapporta li waqt it-tqeghid tal-ewwel ġebła tal-Belt Valletta fl-1566, xi Maltin anzjani nstemghu jgħidu: '*legi zimen en fel wardia col sceber raba iesue uquie*' ('Jiġi żmien li fil-Wardija [l-Gholja Sciberras] kull xiber raba' jiswa uqija').

Skont l-istoriku tal-Ilsien Malti Dr Mario Cassar, dan il-vers hu aktarx l-eqdem kam-pjun ta' Malti stampat.

Hafna l-aktar f'Malta li qed jaqraw dan, żgur jgħidu li kliem il-Maltin li kienu jsegwu t-tqeghid tal-ewwel ġebła tal-belt Valletta kienu jafu x'qed jgħidu. Kienet profezija għaliex il-bini fil-belt Valletta llum mhemmx prezzu.

Għal hafna snin hafna mill-bini, fosthom kerrejiet magħrufa, kienu thallew jidde-terjoraw, u nbidlu f'binjiet tal-biki. Tant hu hekk li hafna minn dawki li twieldu fil-kapitali Maltija, jew uliedhom, u setghu, għażlu li jitolqu mill-belt biex imorru jgħixu fi rħula jew bliet ohra madwar Malta.

Iżda minn ftit tas-snin lil hawn, il-belt



Wahda mill-kmamar f'boutique Hotel fil-belt Valletta li turi l-lussu ta' whud minn dawn il-binjiet

Valletta mill-ġdid hadet ir-ruħ, grazzi l-aktar għall-importanza li ngħata mill-gvern bir-restawr ta' għadd ta' binjiet li qabel kienu ġew abbandunati.

Sar investiment qawwi fi proġetti infrastrutturali, filwaqt li imprendituri Maltin u investiment iehor li sar minn għadd ta' imprendituri Maltin li sa fl-aħħar fehmu l-importanza li l-belt kapitali ta' pajjiż trid tkun il-mera tal-pajjiż.

Il-belt Maltija mtliet b'lukandi li għalkemm mhumieq kbar, imma ferm lus-suzi. Binjiet, l-aktar kerrejiet li kienu sfaw mitluqa ġew mibdula f'lukandi minn dawki magħrufa bħala boutique hotels li saru l-mekka ta' hafna barranin tal-flus li jagħzlu li jqattgħu l-btajjel tagħhom fil-qalba tal-attività.

Mhux hekk biss, imma nibtu ristoranti bir-radam, hafna minnhom ta' ċerta klassi. Altru li l-kapitali Maltija hadet ir-ruħ, l-aktar wara li fl-2018 kienet giet iddikjarata l-Kapitali Ewropeja tal-Kultura.

Qabel ma' Valletta setgħet dgawdi t-titlu, il-gvern għamel investiment ta' €167 miljun. Imma l-investiment totali iġġenerat fl-ekonomija Maltija b'rizultat tas-sena li Valletta gawdiet it-titlu tal-Belt Kapitali Ewropeja tal-Kultura sar magħruf li kien ta' €678 miljun. L-attività wkoll halliet total ta' €325 miljun bħala impatt ekonomiku.

Altru li l-Maltin ta' 454 sena ilu kienu jafu x'qed jgħidu dakinhar!

Giacomo Bosio: Min kien?

Giacomo Bosio, imwieled fl-1544 fi Chiasso, l-Italja fil-provincja ta' Torin fil-Piemonte, kien iben familja nobbli minn Milan li fil-familja kellhom għadd ta' kavallieri tal-Ordni ta' San Ġwann.

Giacomo kien wiehed minnhom. Hu kien ukoll l-istorku tal-ordni u jiġi z-ziju tal-antikwarju malti Antonio Bosio.

Il-kteib imsemmi fl-artiklu kien l-istorja tal-ordni mill-origini tagħha sal-1571 fi żmien il-Gran Jean Parisot de la Valette, kitbu f'Ruma. Wara l-manuskritt tah lil żewġ fratelli Frangiskani fl-Italja li min-naħa tagħhom ipproduċewh f'dak li nafu llum, erbghin kteib miġmugħa fi tliet volumi li ġew mitbugħa f'Ruma fl-1621, fl-1629/30, fl-1678, u f'Napli fl-1684.

Fuq talba ta' xi ġenituri li jew huma, inkella wliedhom qed jitgħallmu l-Malti, minn xi daqiet se nibdew mhux biss nippubblikaw xi qwieli (proverbji) Maltin, grazzi għall-Miklem, imma li wkoll nagħtu t-tifsira tagħhom bl-Ingliż.

Se nibdew bi qwieli dwar faragħ, mogħdrija u atti ta' ġid. Illum se nagħtu xi ftit:

Qwieli Maltin ... u t-tifsira bl-Ingliż

Aghmel il-ġid u nsieh, aghmel id-deni u ftakar fih	<i>Do good deeds and move on, do harm and never forget it.</i>
Il-ghani u l-fqir jehtiegu lil xulxin!	<i>The wealthy and the poor need each other.</i>
Jekk tista', dejjem il-ġid habbar.	<i>If you can, always communicate that which is good.</i>
Min għandu hafna ġid jista' jiżdiedlu, Min għandu ftit jista' jonqsu, iżda l-ghomor jonqos żgur lit-tnejn!	<i>He who has a lot of wealth can see it increase, he who has little can see it decrease further, but for certain the lifetime will decrease for both</i>
Hobzu mahbus u żejtu fil-kus!	<i>His bread is baked and his oil is in the jar." stated of someone who does not need to work for money, who has or shall inherit his wealth.</i>
Aghlaq il-bieb qabel ma taħrab id-debba	<i>Shut the door before the mare bolts</i>
Agħti jekk tiflaħ qabel ma jagħtuk	<i>Give while you can</i>
Alla jagħlaq bieb u jiftaħ mija	<i>God closes one door and opens a hundred others</i>
Alla jahfer u t-trab jgħatti!	<i>God forgives and the dust (death) will cause the sins to be forgotten</i>

Heritage Malta innovation: Hal Saflieni Hypogeum virtualised

Malta's national agency for cultural heritage, Heritage Malta has launched an interactive virtual reality experience of the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum as part of an engaging exhibition, once again raising the bar when it comes to interaction with historic sites. The Hypogeum, (3000-2500 BC--the only intact underground pre-historic temple on earth) is in Paola.

The future is behind us: Navigating history in Virtual Reality is the fruit of a successful three year-long collaboration with Saint Martin's Institute of Higher Education.

Using the latest in 3D and VR technology, experts from the Institute have managed to recreate an exact replica of the entire site in meticulous detail, giving visitors a realistic and immersive experience of the Hypogeum – without actually stepping foot in it. In a ground-breaking first, the VR experience also portrays the site, as it was originally constructed thousands of years ago, that is, with its Upper Level above ground.

The Hal Saflieni Hypogeum is an underground prehistoric burial site that was discovered in 1902 during construction works. Fr Emmanuel Magri first excavated the site between 1903 and 1906. He died in Tunisia and his excavation notes have not been found. Excavations were taken over by Sir Themistocles (Temi) Zammit, who continued works until 1911.

With entry to the Hypogeum being restricted to a limited number of visitors per day for conservation purposes prior to the most recent decision to close down the site completely due to the coronavirus outbreak, Noel Zammit, Heritage Malta's CEO, explained how this site was the perfect choice to test this experience.

He pointed out that, "Technology is the way forward, especially when it comes to

achieving our conservation and accessibility goals. This exhibition will allow thousands to visit the Hypogeum, without causing any damage or erosion to this delicate site."

Meanwhile, Charles Theuma, the Institute's Principal said that being an erratic archaeological site, recreating the Hypogeum was a considerable, but satisfying, challenge. "Our experts had to create in-house software tools to make the VR experience as immersive as possible, and include special effects in sound and lighting"

Commenting on the project, the Minister for the National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government Minister José Herrera said that as the Hypogeum is celebrating its 40th year as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. There is no better way to celebrate this event than to transform it into one of the very few UNESCO sites to make use of VR as an additional platform of study and accessibility. He said that he was "incredibly proud that Heritage Malta is once again making waves in this sector."

The future is behind us: Navigating history in Virtual Reality runs until April 12 at the National Museum of Archaeology in Valletta. Entry is free of charge.



In memoriam Swor Alpina Vella



Swor Alipia Vella tal-kongregazzjoni Frangiskana tal-Qalb ta' Gesù mi-ttet fil-Kunvent tal-kongregazzjoni f'Mackay, Queensland.

Is-soru kienet l-unika tifla minn familja ta' ghaxar ulied mill-Mellieha li kollha jghixu fl-inhaw ta' Sydney, NSW.

Is-soru hadmet ukoll mal-ordni f'Napli, l-Italja, u ghaddiet snin shah f'Warrawong u Port Kembla fejn hadmet hafna man-nies fil-bżonn. Meta bdiet titgħabba biż-żmien u saħħitha bdiet tmur lura ghaddiet l-aħħar snin tagħha fid-dar tal-anzjani li l-kongregazzjoni Frangiskana għandha għall-anzjani.

Mulej aghthiha l-mistrieħ ta' dejjem.

Egyptian-born appointed new member for CMLA

The Prime Minister of Malta, Robert Abela has announced the appointment of Nadim Kanawati an Egyptian-born from Alexandria as a member of the Council of Maltese Living Abroad for a three-year term. He will be replacing Prof Stephen Gatt from Sydney NSW whose six-year term of office came to an end in February 2020.

The Voice of the Maltese has learnt that Karim Kanawati was born in Egypt in January 1989. He is currently the Marketing and Public Relations of Family Tours Egypt, and Protocol Officer at St Catherine Cathedral. He is also the director and researcher of the documentary movie "L'Alessandria degli Italiani" and was leader in the scout d'alexandrie amongst other positions.



March 31 is Freedom Day in Malta – 41st Ann. celebrations subdued

On March 31 Malta commemorates the 41st Anniversary of 'Jum il-Helsien (Freedom Day), the day in 1979 when the Maltese islands Malta got rid of the British military bases and began to be described as truly free.

The withdrawal of the British forces brought to an end 165 years of British rule. Malta had become a crown colony of the British Empire in 1814 after it sought its help to expel the occupying French forces. The British obliged and wrested the island from the French during the Napoleonic Wars.

Freedom Day is one of the five national holidays in Malta. It is normally celebrated with great patriotism and a lot of enthusiasm every single year, but this year celebrations will be subdued. The coronavirus outbreak is seeing to that as most of the usual activities organised on this day have been cancelled.

March 31st has a great significance for the Mediterranean island. Following the heroic defence of the island during World War II, King George VI had promised the Maltese people self-government, which they gained in 1947. This eventually led to independence from Britain in 1964 and 10 years later, on December 13, 1974, the constitution of Malta was revised resulting in the transformation of the State of Malta into a republic.

However, British forces remained on the island until 31 March 1979, when the long-time defence treaty between Malta and Britain came to an end and the British troops left Malta.

This withdrawal meant that for the first time in over a thousand years, Malta had no foreign military presence on its land.

Since 1979, the main events of the activities commemorating this date used to take place at the Freedom Day Monument at Birgu (Vittoriosa) and at the War Memorial in Floriana.



In the afternoon the Grand Harbour used to host a competitive regatta that attracts thousands of spectators and participants from the three big cities (Birgu, Bormla and Isla), as well as a number of coastal towns. This year it has been cancelled.

At the time of publishing the magazine, the programme (if any) to commemorate Freedom Day had not been announced.

International Anzac Day services cancelled

Australian-led international Anzac Day services have been cancelled as the government moves to slow the spread of coronavirus. The cancellations also include those normally held by the Australian High Commission in Malta.

Commemorations at Gallipoli in Turkey and on the western front in France are among the events cancelled on April 25 because of the global pandemic. The first Anzac commemorations were held in 1916.

Veterans' Affairs Minister Darren Chester says that the decision was made with great regret but people's safety was paramount. "We simply couldn't be having large gatherings of 500 or 1000 people on Anzac Day on foreign soil this year," he said. "We know that if we can reduce the spread of this virus we can save lives in our communities."

Some Anzac Day gatherings in Australian capital cities will go ahead in a different format, with Prime Minister Scott Morrison telling reporters a televised national event would be held at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

He said that this would enable people to be able to join those services, at least re-

motely, on what is one of the most important days, if not the most important days, of the year for Australians.

"It will be quite a solemn day because the last time we were in a situation like this, it was after our Diggers returned from World War I," he said.

RSL ACT said the safety of veterans and the wider public had to come first.

"In these exceptional circumstances, the RSL feels the course of action decided by the Australian War Memorial is the most appropriate way to mark Anzac Day," president John King said in a statement.

International dignitaries and some veterans and defence force personnel will likely still attend the private service.

Traditionally, services include the Anzac Dawn Service, the Australian Lone Pine Service, international wreath laying ceremonies and the New Zealand Service at Chunuk Bair in Turkey.

RSL NSW said it was working with the state government to plan other ways to commemorate Anzac Day including televising a smaller private service under strict conditions.

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern also announced that with deep sad-

ness all joint services, including Gallipoli had been cancelled. She said in a statement that the Gallipoli services, in particular, "had become a pilgrimage of sorts for many New Zealanders".

"But with global travel restrictions and isolation requirements in place in most countries, it is simply not practical to hold this year's event," she added in a statement.

Anzac Day marks the anniversary of the first campaign that led to major casualties for the Australia and New Zealand Army Corps (Anzac) during World War One.

On April 25, 1915, soldiers from both countries landed at Gallipoli Cove in Turkey, part of an Allied effort to capture the peninsula from the Ottoman Empire.

After an eight-month campaign, the Allies retreated in defeat after heavy losses on both sides. More than 87,000 Turks died, along with an estimated 44,000 men from the British Empire and France, including about 8,500 Australians and nearly 3,000 New Zealanders - one in four of the Kiwis sent to Gallipoli.

It was the Anzacs' first major engagement on the world stage, fought by the grandfathers and great-grandfathers of today's Australians and New Zealanders.

Importance of improving the connectivity between Malta and Gozo

In his opening address to the annual general meeting of the Gozo Tourism Association (GTA) at Xewkija, which was held in the presence of Gozo Minister Clint Camilleri and Tourism Minister Julia Farrugia Portelli, the association's chairman pointed out the need to keep on improving connectivity between the two islands, Malta and Gozo.

Mr Paul Scicluna said that the association is in favour of other connectivity means, especially by the introduction of an air link.

Although right now tourism has been given a slap in the face with the outbreak of coronavirus, he said that before that, tourist arrivals in Gozo was on the increase; however, a noticeable shift in the type of accommodation was also being noted.

Scicluna stressed the need of upgrading the tourism establishments' product in order to keep maintaining a sustainable tourism industry in Gozo.

CEO Joe Muscat delivered an audio-visual presentation on the performance of the association during 2019 and gave a detailed report of the work and initiatives undertaken



by the association.

Tourism Minister Julia Farrugia Portelli, speaking about the positive tourism performance in Gozo during the past years, stressed the need for a sustainable growth performance.

She announced that a high level working

committee within the ministry would start meeting regularly and invited the association to nominate its representative.

Gozo Minister Clint Camilleri said tourism arrivals would be strengthened if they were combined with events happening in Gozo.



Commemorating sesquicentennial of St Joseph

This being the sesquicentennial of St Joseph's official patronage of the Universal Church, Can. Noel Saliba led a meeting for men, at the Catholic Action HQ in Victoria. He prepared a PowerPoint presentation offering reflections about various aspects concerning Joseph: *he obeyed the Lord's messages and can serve as a strong example for us in differing circumstances.*

It was followed by an interesting

video about the famous Loretto staircase in New Mexico, a famously popular instance of Joseph's intervention.

Below: Diocesan President Antoine Vassallo and Diocesan Ecclesiastical Assistant Can Noel Saliba together with representatives from six Gozitan parishes who participated in the meeting for men dedicated to St Joseph.



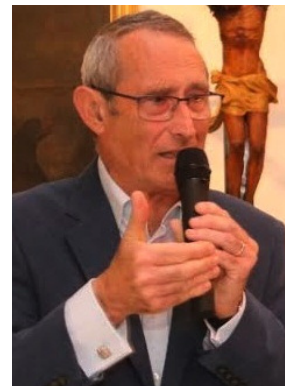
Mosaic works at St Francis Square

Mosaic works (*above*) are in progress at the steps leading to St Francis square in Victoria. The artworks, featuring God's creation of the earth found in the Genesis, including light, plants, the sun, moon and stars, birds, land and sea animals, are being carried out by the centre for projects of liturgical art, Eikon, under the direction of the centre's director Fr Roberto Gauci.

Discussing the electoral system in Gozo

Dr Austin Bencini (*right*) senior lecturer in administrative and constitutional law at the University, discussed possible changes to the electoral system in Victoria. He referred to Gozo's "special" situation and mentioned pros and cons of efforts to help "minor" parties to win parliamentary seats.

Dr Joseph Ellis introduced the lecture and gave a brief historical overview. An informal exchange of various ideas from the audience followed.



Community News

Suspension of in-person appointments at: High Commission in Canberra and Consulate Generals in Melbourne, Sydney

The High Commission in Canberra advises that in line with precautionary measures in relation to COVID-19; until further notice, in-person appointments from the three offices in Australia will be suspended follows:

- Suspension of services at High Commission in Canberra: with effect from Wednesday March 25.
- Suspension of services at Consulate General in Melbourne: with effect from Tuesday March 24.
- Suspension of services at Consulate General in Sydney: from Monday March 23.

This suspension of services will impact passport, citizenship applications, witnessing of signatures and identity. Until further notice Visa applications will no longer be accepted.

The three offices will still be contactable via email and over the phone. Malta High Commission Canberra: (02) 6290 1724; 0433 799 746; email: highcommission.canberra@gov.mt.

Consulate General Melbourne: Malta Consulate Melbourne: (03) 9670 8427; 0430 378 407 email: maltaconsulate.melbourne@gov.mt

Consulate General Sydney: (02) 9262 9500; 0430 402 177; email: maltaconsulate.syd-ney@gov.mt

We regret any inconvenience caused. Will inform the public once the services are reinstated.



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Għall-attenzjoni tal-qarrejja Il-qarrejja li jixtiequ juru l-fehmiet tagħhom dwar xi suġġett huma mhegga li ma jhallux għall-aħhar. Indirizzaw l-emails lil maltesevoice@gmail.com. L-ttri għall-pubblikazzjoni indikawhom: *Letters to the editor*.

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Important Notice

If you are unable to buy the next issues of *The Voice* from the usual sources, you can inquire about our subscription at: maltesevoice@gmail.com

We will deliver *The Voice* by mail to your address anywhere in Australia.

Avviż lill-qarrejja

Tixtieq li jkollok kopja f'idejk ta' *The Voice*?

Infakkr lill-qarrejja li *The Voice of the Maltese*, mhux biss magazine online, iżda wkoll l-uniku tax-xorta tiegħu fl-Awstralja li wkoll jiġi ippubblikat. Huma ħafna dawk li ilhom li appoġġaw ruħhom minn dan u abbonaw biex anke jibdwew jirċevu kopja pprintjata bil-posta d-dar bi flas.

Minħabba l-bogħod li hawn fil-kontinent Awstraljan, il-flas tal-posta minn stat għall-ieħor tvarja, għalhekk dawk kollha li jixtiequ li jibdwew jirċevu kopja pprintjata tal-magazine kull darba li joħroġ biex ikunu jistgħu jżommuha f'idejhom, huma mhegga biex jabbonaw għal sena halli jagħmlu żgur mill-kopja.

Biex dan isir wieħed l-ewwel jibgħat email lil maltesevoice@gmail.com fejn jitlob tagħrif dwar il-flas ta' abbonament għal sena fl-istat fejn jgħix. Imbagħad jekk ikun irid jissieheb ma' dawk kollha li mhumix kuntenti biss li jaqraw il-magazine online, imma wkoll li jkollhom kopja tiegħu, jgħarrafna.



Events for 2020

Sunday July 5

Lejla fil-Buskett

Sunday October 18

Fete

Saturday November 14

Dinner Dance

Sunday December 6

Festa San Nikola



Maltese Community Council of Victoria Inc.

L-MCCV qed jilqa' applikazzjonijiet għall-pożizzjoni ta' għaliem/a *part-time* tal-ilsien Malti fil-binja tagħhom f'14 Watt Street, Sunshine, Victoria.

L-applikanti jrid jkollhom għarfien sew tal-Malti kemm miktub kif ukoll mitkellem. Ibgħat applikazzjoni bid-dettalji akkademiċi lill:

admin@mccv.org.au. Għal tagħrif ieħor ċempel fuq:

0412 115 919. Halli n-numru tat-telefon u nċemplulek lura.

Community News

Tune in to Radio and Television

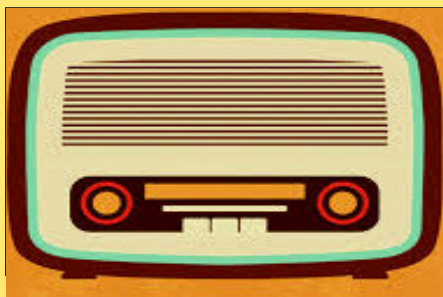
MELBOURNE: on 3ZZZ 92.3FM or on www.3zzz.com.au. Mondays 5-6 pm, Fridays 5-6 pm and Saturdays 10-11am.

MELBOURNE: on 98.9 North West FM, every Friday 6.00 - 7.00p.m. and Mondays 7.00 to 8.00pm. Presenter: Emmanuel Brincat.

On SBS Radio

Day Time Analogue and Digital Tuesdays and Fridays: 12:00-13:00 97.7fm SBS 2.

To tune into digital radio you need a receiver or device with a DAB+ chip. Tuning in is by station name not frequency. Digital radio can also be heard via digital TV.



SYDNEY: listen to the MCC radio programmes on 2GLF FM 89.3. Isma' l-programm tar-radju bil-Malti mill-Kunsill Malti ta' NSW minn fuq l-istazzjon 2GLF 89.3FM.

(Jista' wkoll jinstema' On Demand minn fuq l-Internet: www.893fm.com.au)

On Demand: Ethnic Maltese Council 11am) Il-Hadd 11.00 am: l-ahhar ahbarijiet minn Malta, muzika, taghrif, kultura, avvizi u suggetti ta' interess.

SBS Radio 2 on Channel 38.

Programmes can be accessed online (live or catch up) at: sbs.com.au/maltese and via mobile phone, using the SBS Radio app.

For television news from Malta - **SBS2 TV 32** (Viceland) on Thursdays and Sundays at 8am.

VIVA MALTA on COAST FM 96.3 Community Radio in Gosford Central Coast NSW. Aired on Thursdays every fortnight from 6 pm -7 pm. Presenter: Nathalie Gatt.

Web streaming: www.coastfm.org.au

SBS MALTESE NEWS: L-Ahbarijiet are now on SBSTV Viceland HD Channel 31 every Sunday at 8.00 a.m. and on Thursday at 8.00 a.m.

BRISBANE listen to the Maltese Programme on 4EB on Tuesdays 6.00 -8.15am; Sundays 4.15pm to 5.15pm.

Maltese Community Radio Adelaide: Maltese Programmes on 5EBI 103.1fm: **Sunday:** 7.30am; **Monday:** 8.00 am; **Monday:** 6.00pm
Contact: Bernadette Buhagiar: 0420 944 205. Email bernadettebuhagiar@gmail.com Ron Borg: 0418 843 850. Email ronborg@mac.com

Maltese Seniors Social Welfare Day Groups

Fairfield Active Maltese Seniors

Have on the last Tuesday of the Month. Group meets in Parish Hall, cnr of Stella Street & The Boulevard, Fairfield Heights at 10 am.

Maltese Seniors Central Coast

Have to contact our Welfare Officer for an appointment. For all information and referral matters call Censina Cefai: 02 439 000 12 or 0414 267 652

Daceyville Maltese Seniors

Meets the last Wednesday of the month in the Meeting Room One, No. 3 General Bridges Crescent, Daceyville.

Note: The Groups also arrange regular Bus Trips Join us and make new friends.

Merrylands Social Maltese Seniors

Meets every second Friday of the month: Miller Room, Memorial Avenue Merrylands from 10.30am to 12.30 am

Llandilo Maltese Seniors

Meets on the first Wednesday of each

month at the Llandilo Community Hall, Seventh Avenue, from 11am to 1 pm.

Maltese of Bankstown

Group meets 3rd Wednesday of month in the Bankstown CBD area.

Every other 3rd Thursday an outing. Enquiries call: Sam 9534 2357

Greystanes Maltese Seniors

Meets on the second Monday of each month at the George Preca Centre of OLQP Church, 198 Old Prospect Road, Greystanes from 10 am to 12 noon

The Sutherland & St George Maltese Group

Meets every First Wednesday of the Month from 10:00am-1:00pm.

Meetings/Get Togethers are interesting, informative & entertaining, so come Join us and make new Friends

For more info contact our Coordinator:

Charles Mifsud J.P. Phone (02) 9501 5525 – mobile 0421 662 298.

***(All Groups are co-ordinated by The Maltese Community Council of NSW) with a sponsorship from Multicultural NSW. Please contact the MCC Welfare Officer: Marisa Previtera JP on 0414 863 123. The MCC offices are at 59b Franklin Street (corner with Young St) Parramatta West NSW (next to West Parramatta Primary School).**

Our Lady of Victories Catholic Parish

NOTE: Cancellation of Good Friday Procession

Due to recent advice concerning the COVID-19 Coronavirus, the Good Friday Procession at Our Lady of Victories, Horsley Park has been cancelled.

Some Holy Week activities will proceed:

Lenten Mission – Tuesday March 31 to Thursday April 2 at 6pm in English.

Led by Fr Dominic Karnas csma

Reconciliation – Thursday April 2: 7pm

Our Lady of Sorrows mass – Friday April 3: 7pm

Good Friday Church Service only on Friday April 10: 1pm

Community Wheels Inc.: Connecting you with your community

Community Wheels is your local community organisation that provides door-to-door transport services to eligible people (+65 yrs old) to:

- * attend medical appointments
- * go shopping (including assisting clients with shopping bags)
- * meet a friend for a chat or coffee, and
- * go on bus tours etc.

Available in the Parramatta City Council and parts of Cumberland Council areas. For information call: 88681400



Coronavirus continues to have an impact on world sports

The Coronavirus pandemic has been having great impact on world sports, and domestic sports competitions, particularly in football, but not only. Sport in Malta too has been severely hit.

In light of the evolving situation concerning COVID-19 and consultations with its medical unit and the relevant authorities on the extraordinary circumstances the Malta FA Bureau initially decided to suspend football and futsal matches from all competitions for 10 days, up to March 13, but it has now extended the suspension until April 5. The situation is being kept under constant review, and it could extend competitions it even further.

Meanwhile, the Head Coach of the national teams Devis Mangia to postpone his

debut in the international arena and to put his vision and plans on hold

Mangia was supposed to make his debut in a friendly international against Gibraltar

on March 26 and to follow up with another friendly against Azerbaijan four days later, both at the National Stadium. Both matches have now been called off.

UEFA postpones Euro 2020 by 12 months

The European Football Union, UEFA, has postponed its flagship national team competition, UEFA EURO 2020, due to take place in twelve cities across Europe from June 12 to July 12. The proposed new dates are June 11 - July 11 2021.

UEFA has also put on hold all UEFA competitions and matches (including friendlies)

for clubs and national teams for both men and women have been put on hold.

The move will help all domestic competitions, currently on hold due to the COVID-19 emergency, to be completed.

The UEFA EURO 2020 Play-off matches and international friendlies, scheduled for the end of March, will now be played in the international window at the start of June, subject to a review of the situation.

New dates have also to be found for the remaining rounds of the Champions League and the UEFA Europa League currently in the quarter-final stage.

UEFA also postponed of UEFA EURO 2020 by 12 months.

Parramatta FC make it back-to-back wins

Parramatta Eagles FC made their best start to the season since 2010, as they followed up their opening 6-2 victory of the 2020 NSW NPL4 Season with a solid 2-0 victory over South Coast Flame FC in Round 2 the previous week to ensure their 100% start. But they will now have wait until at least April 14 to resume play as the FFA has suspended competition following the recent COVID-19 outbreak.

Meanwhile in their match against South Coast, the Eagles dominated possession for much of the first half, with the hosts also having an array of chances in a scoreless first half.

The Eagles scored their winning tallies in the second half, the first on 62 minutes from an own goal by Carlo Stella, and then a beauty in the 71st with through Neram Yalda.

FFA suspends competitions

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic the FFA issued a directive that until at least April 14, the National Premier Leagues, FFA Cup, youth and grassroots football as well as training and associated football related activities are to be suspended.

However, the rest of the A-League, that ends on April 26 would still be played with no spectators present.



Coach Paul Zammit reaches 400-match mark in Premier

Two weeks ago, Gżira United's Paul Zammit became the first coach in Maltese football to reach 400 matches in the BOV Premier League. But he failed to celebrate the milestone as the team he has been leading for five matches was beaten 2-0 by Birkirkara, another team that he has coached.

Paul began his coaching career with Mosta back in season 2004/05, when they were still in Division I. At the time he occupied the dual role as player and coach. At the end of that season he guided them to promotion in the Premier Division and held on to the position for their first 10 matches in the Premier.

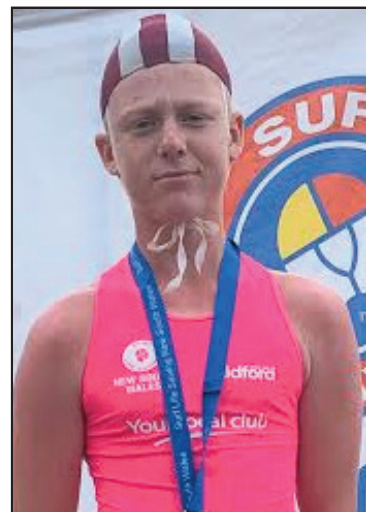
He then joined Valletta and in his first season he led them to the 2007/08 and then the Super Cup in 2008. He spent two spells for a total of 168 matches as Valletta's coach.

Paul Zammit also had three spells as coach of Birkirkara where he won the Premier League title in 2009/10. He won a second Premier title in his second spell with Birkirkara, and also led them to another league title in 2012/13. That same season he also won the Super Cup and repeated the feat in 2014.

In season 2014/15, Zammit also won the FA Trophy with Birkirkara where he stayed for 217 matches and left after a dispute with the club, which he eventually won hands down. That was his last club before he was called up by Gżira to replace sacked Italian coach Giovanni Tedesco.

In between, on his return to Valletta, in 2016/17 he won his fourth championship, and also the Super Cup.

Mark Miller, currently coaching Mosta, is also close to reaching Paul Zammit's 400-match total. The former coach of Floriana, Sliema Wanderers, Hibernians, Valletta and Qormi is expected to reach the milestone soon. He is currently on the 398 mark.



Well done Harley!

The NSW State Championships Surf events were held at Blacksmith Beach, Lake Macquarie. They attracted around 6000 competitors from all over NSW, along with 600 volunteer officials and up to 15,000 family and spectators.

Wamberal Surf Club (Central Coast) won the U/14 years' beach relay. The four boys making up the team were all from St Edwards College in Gosford.

Among them was Harley Dimech, (pictured above) son of Matthew and Tracey from North Avoca. He placed in the top 10 individual sprint and finished seventh in the beach flag.