



# Maltese e-Newsletter

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

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We congratulate the Deputy Prime Minister Chris Fearne for the measures Malta is taking in its fight against the coronavirus pandemic



## MALTA TOGETHER

at 9 00 pm

3 May 2020 TVM AND FACEBOOK



### ANZAC DAY IN MALTA

Australian High Commission,  
Malta et Ambassade d'Australie  
en Tunisie is at  
Commonwealth War  
Graves Commission,  
Pietà Military Cemetery.

April 25 · Pietà, Malta

They shall grow not old,  
as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them,  
nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun  
and in the morning,  
We will remember them.

MALTESE ALL OVER  
THE WORLD





## STQARRIJA MILL-UFFIĊĠJU TAL-PRESIDENT TA' MALTA

**Il-President George Vella** jinnota bi pjaċir li għall-ewwel darba ma kellna ebda każ ġdid ta' COVID-19 f'Malta

L-Eċċellenza Tiegħu l-President George Vella jiehu pjaċir jinnota li wara granet li fihom kellna numri żgħar hafna ta' każi godda ta'

COVID-19, illum għall-ewwel darba ma kellna ebda każ ġdid.

L-E.T. saħaq li dan ma jfissirx li l-COVID-19 waqfet tattakkana, imma jfisser li l-mizuri li ttiehdu mill-awtoritajiet tas-saħħa, u l-mod kif s'issa kkopera l-pubbliku in ġenerali, b'hafna sagrifċċji personali, jidhru li qegħdin jaħdmu u jhallu r-riżultati mixtieqa. Dan ifisser li bil-mod il-mod qegħdin jitbiegħdu minna l-biżgħat ta' dawk id-dizastri umanitarji li rajna jsehhu f'pajjiżi ġirien tagħna.

L-E.T. enfasizza l-gratitudni kbira li għandu jkollna lejn min iggwidana u ħares saħħitna u dik tal-għeżiež tagħna matul l-aħħar ġimgħat, u għal darb'oħra rringrazzja lil dawk kollha, mill-kbir saż-żgħir, għall-kompetenza professjonali u d-dedikazzjoni eżemplari li bihom iddedikaw rwieħhom għal din il-ġlieda fl-interess ta' saħħet il-poplu Malti u Għawdx.

L-E.T. jixtieq jagħmilha ċara li l-ġlieda kontra l-virus għadha għaddejja, u dan l-awgurju u ringrazzjament mhux għal xogħol mitmum, imma biex nagħmlu kuragg lil xulxin u nippersistu, kif għamilna s'issa, biex inkunu kapaċi flimkien, fl-iqsar żmien possibbli, naslu biex inħallu dan l-episodju ikrah warajna, u nxammru biex niehdu ħsieb nerġgħu nqajmu fuq saqajha l-ekonomija ta' pajjiżna, u ngibu lura għan-normal il-ħajja soċjali tagħna.

L-aħħar ħsieb tal-E.T. kien f'dawk li sfaw vittmi ta' din il-marda kiefra, u fil-qraba u għeżiež tagħhom li ħallew warajhom.



## Grand Master of the Order of Malta dies in Rome

With profound regret the Grand Magistry announces the death of His Most Eminent Highness the Prince and 80th Grand Master Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto, which took place in Rome after midnight on 29th April, following an incurable disease diagnosed a few months ago. According to article 17 of the Constitution of the Sovereign Order of Malta, Grand Commander Fra' Ruy Gonçalo do Valle Peixoto de Villas Boas has assumed the functions of Lieutenant ad interim and will remain head of the Sovereign Order until the election of the new Grand Master

## TRADITIONAL AND POPULAR MALTESE SPORTS

Maltese are not into sport,” remarked Jan, a foreigner who settled in Malta, “and there are fewer opportunities to indulge in sports in Malta.”

Is that so? So it may seem, but the Maltese most certainly love their sports. There are several traditional Maltese sports that remain as popular today as when they were introduced by the Knights of St John or the British during their occupation. Meanwhile, other popular sports in Malta have more recently become an integral part of local culture. Discover the most iconic Maltese sports.

**BOULES (IL-BOĊĊI)** The scene has not changed much in centuries. Old men and a growing number of youths and women gather on a level, sand playing field. Concentration is high as two teams of three players roll balls and throw cylinder shapes with impeccable precision to hit their targets. Onlookers watch in anticipation.

The *boċċi* game is one of the most traditional Maltese sports, very similar to that played during the period of the Knights of St John in Malta, who introduced it. With similar rules and some modifications, it retains unique characteristics that separate it from similar games of boules played in other countries.

*Boċċi* clubs are prevalent in most of the towns and villages of Malta and the national league sees the participation of more than thirty teams. The Maltese love this traditional sport so much that emigrant communities in Australia, Canada and the United States have *boċċi* clubs of their own.

**FOOTBALL** Football needs no introduction and has become so popular locally that it is considered the national sport of Malta. Children play football in the school playground, in their local football field or in the street. Most localities have their own team and competition is fierce. The British introduced football in the mid-19th century as entertainment for soldiers stationed in Malta. The first football association was established in 1863, but it was only in 1909 that the game changed from amateur competition to a league format.

Alas, Maltese football rarely makes it beyond local tournaments, but the Maltese football supporter is not deterred. During international tournaments, most Maltese will support either England or Italy. However, on every World Cup game night, carcades bearing the winning country's flags are sure to blare their way along the coast!

**HORSE RACING** Horse racing is another huge sport in Malta and a very traditional affair. It was introduced in the 15th century by the Knights of Malta, who loved and encouraged this sport. It still forms an integral part of the *Imnarja* celebrations on 29th June at the original location in Rabat and horse races are held regularly at the race track in Marsa.

Since the *Imnarja* horse race was revived by the British Governor Lord Plumer in 1869, men, boys and horses still gather at Triq it-Tigrija, beneath Saqqajja Hill, in the hope of winning the silk flag (*il-palju*), which is presented at the original 1696 arched podium.

Also since 1869, horses run the 2.8km race-course in Marsa all year round. In the back streets of Marsa, horse enthusiasts keep their horses, exchange race gossip and set out to take their horses to the track for a daily run. This is no part-time sport endeavour.

**IL-ĠOSTRA** Of all traditional Maltese sports, *il-Ġostr*a is unique and dates from the middle ages. *Il-Ġostr*a is set up mainly for entertainment during some coastal village feasts but does involve competition, fitness and skill.

To the screams and shouts of excited onlookers, participants take turns at running up a greasy pole that is erected over the sea, with a view to gather the flag at the end of the pole. It is mostly fun and games, as most attempts end in a splash after a few steps, but the winner will definitely have something to brag about.

**REGATTA** Another sport closely related to traditional local celebrations is the *regatta*, a rowing race which dates from the middle ages. The *regatta* races are national events held on 31st March and 8th September, both of which commemorate the end of foreign occupation or invasion. A number of coastal towns and cities participate in ten races under two different categories. A points system determines the winners in this grandest of traditional Maltese sports.

Spectators gather in large numbers at the water's edge overlooking the Grand Harbour, where the races are held. Modified Maltese working boats such as the "*frejgatina*", "*kajjik*", "*dghajsa tal-pass*" and "*dghajsa tal-midalji*" prepare for the race. It will take five hours for the colourful boats to complete all the races along the 1,040-meter course against the backdrop of Fort St Angelo, Birgu.

**WATER POLO** Water polo just has to have a mention. Although water polo gained popularity only in 1925, Malta already participated in the Olympic Games in 1928 and its popularity kept increasing. The interest in watersports is probably natural for islanders and water polo – an unlikely marriage between football and swimming – just hits the nail on the head for the Maltese. Just as most towns and villages have a *boċċi* club, most coastal ones have a water polo pitch. Many Maltese families head down to the pitch just to enjoy an evening out by the sea on cool summer nights while others go to watch the toned, tanned players during their practice sessions. Other water sports popular in Malta include paragliding, windsurfing, kitesurfing, wakeboarding, water skiing and scuba diving.

**CLAY PIGEON/SKEET SHOOTING** Bird hunting and trapping are considered more traditional, but, with bird hunting restricted to a few weeks per year and moral concerns debating its validity as a sport, many turn to clay pigeon or skeet shooting.

A number of shooting ranges are scattered around the Maltese countryside and the great weather allows practice all year round. The Maltese seem to enjoy firing a gun, but we are thankful that they do not tend to shoot each other (very often).

**MOTOR SPORTS** Motor Sports in Malta is not strictly traditional as it has not been around for centuries, but it certainly will be for as long as motor engines will exist.

What started off as a small group of enthusiasts in the 1950s, by the influence of the British Forces, has led to plans for a race track in Malta within just a few decades. The first Maltese motorsport

federation was established in 1976 and the Malta Motorsport Association we know today was established in 2009.

¼ mile races are held regularly at the Hal Far Race Way and hill climbs at Imtahleb, (*l/o Rabat*) are also popular. Maltese motor enthusiasts are fanatics indulging in drag racing, hill climbs and sprints, navigational exercises, off-roading and karting, in every kind of vehicle imaginable.



**Lea Harding, 93, one of the affiliate members of the Maltese RSL Sub-branch of NSW**  
**Photo taken at her home on Anzac Day.**  
**Her Uncle was Charles Bonavia who paid the ultimate sacrifice at Anzac Cove in WWI.**



## A Maltese priest in Albania during the pandemic COVID-19



**'Word goes around in an incredibly short time here, especially in the villages'**

Fr Emanuel Cutajar

*Bags of essential food items ready to be delivered to the needy.*

Fr Emanuel Cutajar, a Maltese missionary priest in Albania, relates how he is tackling the diverse problems arising from the coronavirus pandemic lockdown in Torovice, a small village in the north of the country.

It is not easy to put on paper what we are all going through here in Albania and indeed all over the

world! I try to keep up with the latest news, tuning in to all the main television stations in the world; Malta included, online, of course!

What can be done? What can I do, stranded as I am in the town of Lezhe? There's fear and distress everywhere. We have it all here, too.

The present government in Albania seems to be handling the dire situation quite well and the restrictions are quite severe. Coming from an ex-Communist country, the authorities have to steer through this crisis in a delicate but strict way, without stirring up the ghosts of the regime's dictatorial tactics of old.

Like all my fellow citizens here, I am stuck at home in the town of Lezhe and have been refused permission to use my car.

"You are a senior citizen," I was told very politely.

My parish is about 20 kilometres away, situated in the Torovice valley, which stretches north for about 30 kilometres. The valley, one kilometre and, at times, two kilometres wide, used to be marshland and was reclaimed for agricultural purposes some 50 years ago. It has been duly dried up and criss-crossed by canals that siphon off the extra rainwater with the help of a giant pumping station, called 'hidrovori'. By the way, these canals were dug out by political prisoners with their bare hands.

My parishioners are all farmers or shepherds living in very modest houses, sparsely strewn along the sides of the valley. Of course, the population is severely hit by the present crisis and they normally live from hand to mouth.

The former headteacher of the primary school confirms that 70 per cent of the families of Torovice are below the poverty line. As a parish, we do normally give handouts to the poorest but it is not enough and we cannot help everybody.

Matters are made worse by the lack of proper social assistance, medical expenses, family blood feuds, recurrent unemployment and other chronic social problems. Most of the youths have sought other ways to help out their families, mainly by going abroad and then sending them remittances, when that is possible.

Now, we are in the middle of this coronavirus lockdown. I knew I had to fend off for myself. But I just couldn't stand back, locked down, as I am, in my flat and do nothing, quarantine or no quarantine. On the other hand, I didn't want to risk being infected. I am no hero, either! I am terribly afraid, too. A hundred and one phone calls from family and friends in Malta were lambasting all the time: keep safe, stay at home! I made an application to the police department for permission to be able to use the car to visit my parish and bring help along. Very politely, permission was refused on the grounds that I am over 65 years of age.

So I bought a bicycle. Straight away, I cycled to Torovice. It took me the best of an hour and 20 minutes to arrive there. Along the way, I cycled slowly, wary of the sheepdogs, lording it over in front of the sheepfolds. There are also a flock of geese that, not infrequently, defend their territory in the middle of the road. Unbelievable!

Firstly, I said Mass at the convent, where three Franciscan sisters live and help out in the parish. The church of St Joseph is now open only for short visits. With the help of a local lad, Valentino, also on his bicycle, I proceeded to the poverty-stricken neighbourhood of Torovice, namely, Kampi-Malecaj. There we gave out €50 notes, each note safely tucked in an envelope to some 53 families. All this while sporting a mask and keeping the distance!

### *I feel so sorry when I see the plight of the people of Torovice*

Surprisingly, the people kept the distance from each other too and the whole operation was over in no time at all. The people were understandably very grateful. Some wanted to oblige with a hug or the traditional kiss on both cheeks. “No, no, no!” I kept echoing.

I ventured a second time on my bicycle to give out the precious envelopes, each including the €50 note, to the central part of the village, which comprises a rather dilapidated seven blocks of apartments but which still stand tall and strong after the powerful earthquake of last November. Again, with the help of Valentino, the job was done without a hitch. Thank God! I am always a bit nervous when I am roaming around with a large sum of money.

The same cannot be said on the third visit, during which I sent €500 worth of foodstuff, a van full of macaroni, rice, edible oil and other basic food items, to the sisters’ convent. The food was carefully prepared by Gjevalin, the owner of the family shop down below me, on the ground floor of the three-storey building where I live in the town of Lezhe.

The locals somehow got to know about this and the poor Sisters were overwhelmed by the demand. Word goes around in an incredibly short time here, especially in the villages.

But, there was still the northern part of Torovice to be taken care of, the Shkembi I Kuq (literally meaning ‘Red Rock’) area. It’s quite a poor area, too.

Enter Gjevalin, my trusted shopkeeper (and my landlord) again. He took another €500 worth of foodstuff, this time all packed in plastic bags to the Sisters in Torovice.

With Gjevalin and the bags of food, I also sent another batch of 59 envelopes, each of which contained a €50 note. I put in some extra money for some of these beneficiaries, classified as the poorest of the poor.

These envelopes were taken up and distributed by a young man from Shkembi I Kuq, named Preka. He is my man in Shkembi I Kuq, who regularly helps me on these sort of rounds, normally during Christmas time or the Easter Festival. I felt good that I was able to deliver some kind of help to the people with whom I work day by day and am so strongly attached to. Their simplicity and stoic steadfastness in the face of so many day-to-day adversities are admirable, not least now in the face of such a pandemic.

Albania just could not have had it safe, not least because half a million Albanians are happily settled in the north of Italy. Numerous daily flights to and from Italy were inevitably going to bring about the virus. One very obvious question will surely come to one’s mind: how do I get the money to be able to help these people? The truth is I was really lucky.

At the end of November, a Swiss philanthropic organisation got in touch with me and kindly asked me to help them help the Torovicaket (people of Torovice) .

I can never forget what a Swiss lady, one of the representatives of this organisation, who regularly visits Torovice told me in the ensuing correspondence : “I feel so sorry when I see the plight of the people of Torovice.”

This note almost made me cry and gave me the extra impetus to do all I can for the poor people here. This Swiss organisation had already spent a lot of money in rehabilitating five small state schools that were in a very bad state.

I was more than glad to accept the financial help which was quite hefty. There were more than 150 families who received financial help just before Christmas. I did again receive another good sum of money just before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

For the sake of the sponsors of the organisation, I oblige with photos and signatures of the beneficiaries. At the moment, though, understandably, we are not taking any photos or signatures because of the fear of infection. In the meantime, I am still thinking of how I can reach out to some more families that have as yet not received some financial help in this particular period.

This week, I hope to be able to do just that. I think there is still plenty of time to oblige

## Become a Hospice Supporter campaign launched by Hospice Malta



Hospice Malta has launched its Become a Supporter campaign, an initiative aimed at encouraging the general public to become Hospice Malta supporters by donating a minimum of €10 a year.

Hospice Malta is currently raising funds for St Michael Hospice, a brand-new complex for patients requiring palliative care services. The new facility will enable Hospice Malta to continue to offer and improve its palliative services which are free of charge for our community.

Those who wish to become a Hospice Supporter are encouraged to log onto <https://hospicemalta.org/product/hospice-supporter/> and make their donation online.

Today Hospice Malta helps more than 1,300 families per year. The former Adelaide Cini Institute in Santa Venera, handed over to Hospice Malta by the Archdiocese of Malta last year, will see Malta's first Hospice Complex become a reality. The property, including the existing building and gardens, cover a total floor area of 11,000 square metres and will house a day therapy unit, in-patient rooms for short-term stays, outdoor garden areas as well as an education department.

"Works have already begun at St Michael Hospice and we need more support from the public in order to complete this multi-million-euro project that would indeed be a dream come true for our patients and their families. Unfortunately, we are at a stage where cancer affects one in every three persons, with this figure expected to grow in the coming years," commented Maria Gatt, Hospice Malta chairperson. "We have long felt the need of a centre offering specialised palliative services and we are close to realising this dream with the completion of St Michael Hospice."

Founded in 1989, Hospice Malta's primary role is to provide and promote palliative care services to patients suffering from cancer, motor-neuron disease, end-of-life, cardiac, respiratory, renal and liver diseases. Hospice Malta is a registered NGO with the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations.

For more information about Hospice Malta, St Michael Hospice and ways to help one can visit [www.hospicemalta.org](http://www.hospicemalta.org)



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Malta Together - A Festival of Gratitude and Inspiration is exactly what we need right now, quality entertainment by the best of the best of the island's artists and a shower of gratitude towards the health care workers, other front liners and volunteers who are involved in the fight against the medical and social problems brought on by Covid-19. Here's our brand ambassadors Joseph Calleja & Ira Losco with a message to all of you out there.

Thank you Joseph and Ira for being part of this project and we look forward to more messages from all artists performing during our festival.

Malta Together - A Festival of Gratitude and Inspiration will air on the 3rd of May 2020 at 21:00 on Television Malta and on our official social media platform and will feature (In Alphabetical Order)

Amber, Destiny Chukunyere, Djun, Emma Muscat, FAITH - Five Are In The House, Gaia Cauchi, Glen Vella, Ivan Grech (Winter Moods), Justine Shorfid, Kevin Paul, Il-Lapes, Malta Philharmonic Orchestra,

Marc Storace, Matthew James Borg, Michela, Nicole Frendo, Leuellen, Pamela Bezzina, Red Electrick, The New Victorians, The Travellers, Tribali. Stay Safe, Keep Active, Help Each Other, Malta Together.

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

Instagram <https://bit.ly/MaltaTogetherInsta>

Twitter: @MaltaTogether

**MALTA TOGETHER** Malta Together is a community platform that was created to help people in Malta live their lives better during the COVID-19 pandemic, by providing access to support, activities, entertainment, and useful services for individuals, families and businesses. Through its website (<https://www.maltatogether.com> /), Malta Together highlights the different NGOs and initiatives created to help people through these difficult times, such as food banks, helplines, and those providing counselling services. This allows people that are in need of help to reach out, while also serving as a useful platform for those wishing to help but don't know where to start. Through its activities and entertainment section, Malta Together aims to keep the public busy, active and entertained with access to online classes, activities, events and workouts, which help keep frustration and sadness at bay. The website also provides a useful guide to services currently available, from deliveries of groceries, pet supplies, goods and more, to maintenance services, online business services and medical services. Malta Together is a non-profit initiative founded by Inspirasia Foundation.

If you love to write and tinkering with words here is an invitation to write an article for this journal. Any topic which is research-able and Google-able (Is there such a word) should be passionately written with detail and a writing style that does not bore. Spice up the article with humour (you can always find something funny) and find new angles about the topic which will interest the readers. It is best if the article topic is within your realm of expertise, but if it is outside your comfort threshold as a writer, accept it just the same and you might just learn something new from what you research and then write about.





## Top End Bishop Gauci says Indigenous are 'the most traumatised people I've ever met'

**By Mark Bowling, The Catholic Leader 2019**

Maltese-born Charles Gauci has spent much of his first year as Bishop of Darwin moving about Australia's massive northern diocese that is two-and-a-half times the size of France.

"I'm on a new adventure, walking alongside many people," Bishop Gauci confides during an interview in his residence next door to Darwin's St Mary's Star of the Sea Cathedral.

The late afternoon cacophony of bird calls have started and the rich sunset is casting a crazy light on the sandstone cathedral walls.

There are voices all around, including those of urban Indigenous squatters who drop in for a cup of coffee or ask for food.

Bishop Gauci is finding each moment part of a new and unique daily test, drawing on his 41 years' experience as a priest in Adelaide, including his work in outlying cluster parishes.

His immediate previous post was as administrator of St Francis Xavier's Cathedral in Adelaide.

He was ordained Bishop of Darwin, succeeding another South Australian, Eugene Hurley.

Just as the Church is preparing for changes through the process of the Plenary Council 2020, so Bishop Gauci has spent his first 12 months in his new "patch", listening and discerning – and he is preparing to implement some major changes.

His travels have taken him from the tropical Tiwi Islands, north of Darwin, to the former mission of Santa Teresa, in the red centre, south-east of Alice Springs – reflecting the diversity of landscapes, people and priests that make up the Northern Territory.

"The Northern Territory is not Melbourne, or Sydney or Adelaide or Perth or Brisbane – it is the Northern Territory," he said.

"We need to be looking at how do we respond as a Church to the challenges of our time in this place.

"We are not creating a different Catholic Church. We are the Catholic Church in the Northern Territory."

To better understand the daily struggles of his priests – missionaries drawn from religious orders from across Australia and overseas (the Northern Territory has one seminarian studying in Melbourne) – Bishop Gauci spent time in every remote parish and with every remote area priest.

"I learn about the priests' commitment, their love of the people, their zeal, I admire some of the challenges they have to face there alone," he said.

"They are here because they are wanting to serve God and they have moved away from home and other places, and they are not doing it for any other reason than to serve the people of God.

"They love their people." Top of Bishop Gauci's list of concerns is the welfare of indigenous Australians who make up one-third of all Catholics across his diocese.

Many of them are living on remote communities where English is their second, sometimes third language, and they live disconnected from the mainstream Australian society.

"My experience tells me many of the Aboriginal people I've been meeting with are amongst the most traumatised people I've ever met, and maybe even on this planet," Bishop Gauci said.

"They have gone through the whole process of colonisation where horrible and violent acts were done against them, they were treated as less than human, they were poisoned, shot at, dispossessed – within living memory for some of them."

Over decades the Catholic Church was criticised for the forcible relocation of Indigenous families to missions.

Bishop Gauci sees intergenerational trauma as a gaping wound, but recognises positive Church action today as part of a remedy.

"They need us to be walking alongside them to come up with their own solutions," he said.

"We need to be there walking alongside the Aboriginal people.

"And they appreciate us being there, but they've had their lives dominated by others, controlled by others."

A recent conference in Darwin heard that homelessness in the Northern Territory remains 12 times higher than the national average, with more than 90 per cent of Indigenous people living on remote communities where there are dire housing shortages.

"Consider the opportunity if you live in a home with 20-plus people in your midst," Jamie Chalker, chief executive officer of the Northern Territory's Housing and Community Development said.

"What if there is no opportunity for you or your siblings for employment in your community in which you were born and raised?

"What might you expect in your future that might change that?"

As if in answer to this current crisis, Bishop Gauci is preparing to hand over ownership of Church land in one region – Daly River, about 220km south of Darwin.

"I want to do it as soon as possible – give full rights and ownership of land in the Daly River region to the Aboriginal people," he said.

"The diocese is happy to give land to the Aborigines, that was given to it years ago, so they can provide employment on this land, provide opportunities of work, and it will be their land with their rights.

"It's honouring them. The people of Daly River came to the Church for safety and support, and

the Church has done that, and we want to continue walking alongside our brothers and sisters."

Bishop Gauci said he also wanted to honour the fact that the Church doesn't belong to the priests and bishops.

"I've been hearing many people say, and rightly so, that lay people need to share in leadership of the Church, women especially who have not been given their rights," he said.

"It (the Church) belongs to all of us.

"I'm forming a leadership group of lay people. There will be three women and two men.

"They will be the key leadership team in the diocese, alongside the bishop.

"No need to feel threatened, it's about partnerships."

As Rome prepares to host the Synod of the Amazon, Bishop Gauci sees many parallels between that remote region and his own Northern Territory – in terms of challenges faced by the Church.

"The Synod of the Amazon is looking at the reality of the Amazon, and dealing with the challenges facing the Church in the Amazon," he said.

"For me, we have to also be looking at the challenges facing the Northern Territory.

"Of course we want to be in communion, faithfulness to the universal Church but to also recognise that within the Church we have to react to the realities as they are, not as we wish them or think they should be. "We have to start where we are at – to see, to judge, and to act."



**Share it with others  
send it to us**



## Mgr Patrick O'Regan to be installed Archbishop of Adelaide in May



By Jenny Brinkworth, 23 April 2020

Patrick O'Regan will be installed as the ninth Archbishop of Adelaide on the solemnity of Our Lady Help of Christians, Monday May 25, at 10.30am in St Francis Xavier's Cathedral.

The date for the Archbishop's installation was announced by Apostolic Administrator Bishop Greg O'Kelly SJ this week following uncertainty around the timing of the event due to the coronavirus restrictions.

Currently serving the Diocese of Sale in Victoria, Archbishop-designate O'Regan will travel to Adelaide for the first time next month and will self-isolate for two weeks.

Bishop O'Kelly said the news was a "moment of joy and grace" for the Archdiocese and noted that the installation would take place on the solemnity of the patroness of Australia.

"Because of the circumstances around COVID-19, this will be a modified ceremony, and will involve simply the officiating clergy and attendants," he said.

"Our plan is that when the restrictions and safety requirements around COVID-19 have eased, we will conduct a formal Liturgical Reception for the incoming Archbishop, hopefully associated with the Mass of Chrism.

"Naturally, we regret the inability for this to be a large ceremony open to all members of the Archdiocese but everyone understands the reasons why this cannot be so."

It is believed to be the first time in the history of the Australian Church that an archbishop will be installed in the absence of clergy, bishops and the lay faithful. It had been expected that

more than 2000 people would attend the service.

The quarantine restrictions also prevent the attendance of the Apostolic Nuncio and the President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and any other bishop other than Bishop O'Kelly who will read the Bull of Appointment and witness the Profession of Faith and Oath of Fidelity.

Archbishop-designate O'Regan, the ninth archbishop and 12th bishop of Adelaide, will replace Archbishop Philip Wilson who resigned in 2018.

The installation will be livestreamed through the Archdiocesan website [www.adelaide.catholic.org.au](http://www.adelaide.catholic.org.au) from [The Southern Cross](#), the online news publication of the Archdiocese of Adelaide.



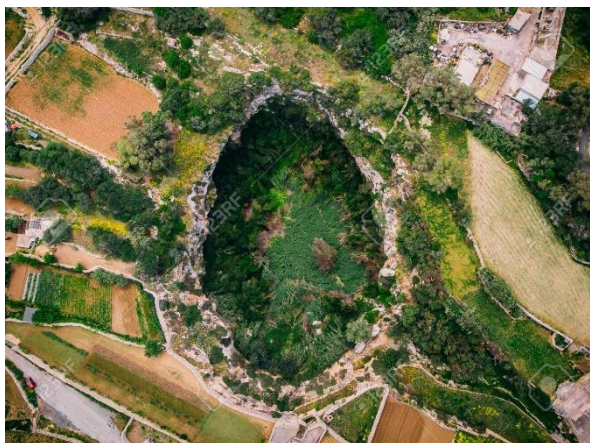
Heritage Malta

**This generation has never been tried like this before, but so were previous ones whose 'lockdown' didn't include a comfortable sofa and digital connections but instead they went underground to seek shelter from enemy bombs in often extreme humid and terrifying conditions during world war 2.**

**This sculpture of St Joseph was found inside a world war two shelter in Malta, used as a source of comfort by the local population during another difficult period in Malta's history.**

**Fort St. Elmo & The National War Museum**

## Malta Myths and Legends



Let's take a look at some of the most well-known Maltese myths and legends:

**THE LEGEND OF TAL-MAQLUBA** Have you ever been to Tal-Maqluba, just south of the village of Qrendi? If you have, you must've noticed the strange 50m round crater exactly in front of the Chapel of Saint Matthew. The story goes that on that exact spot there used to be an evil village, full of corrupt and depraved people. God in fact was so angry at them that he punished the whole village by sinking it into the earth, which swallowed it whole. Others maintain that the hole was formed during an earthquake which took place in 1343, when a natural sink-hole was formed. Truth be told, I rather prefer the first story – it's rather more exciting, right?



### THE UNDERGROUND CITY IN VALLETTA

It's well known that there are a number of underground rooms and passages beneath the eight Auberges in Valletta, as well as underneath a number of other important buildings pertaining to the era of the Knights of the **Order of St John**. However, the extent of these tunnels is a mystery. Folklore, as well as a number of historians and writers, tell us that in

fact these tunnels used to link all the Auberges, making up a sort of underground city which also linked one to rooms and storage spaces found underneath St John's Co-Cathedral, the Archbishop's Palace, the Grandmaster's Palace and Square, the granaries at St Elmo, as well as underneath most of the city itself. Some say that today these are blocked off. Others say they are full of angry spirits and ghosts, while others still maintain that they're used for smuggling stolen goods, or used by secret semi-sacred groups to meet and confabulate during long winter nights.



### CALYPSO CAVE IN GOZO

In a medium-sized open cave hidden inside the high cliffs overlooking Ramla Bay on the Western side lies what is known as the Cave of Calypso. According to Homer's *Odyssey*, Calypso was a water nymph who could not leave her abode – the island of Ogygia. After losing his ship and his comrades, the King of Ithaca and great hero Ulysses was blown on the shores of the island and found by Calypso, who fell in love with him. Ulysses remained in Calypso's cave for seven years, before being allowed to sail back home to his wife.

However, Calypso was still in love with him, and legend says that she's still waiting for him on her island. The way Homer describes the location of Ogygia within the Mediterranean Sea – as well as a number of other ancient writings on the subject – have led popular theory to state that Gozo is Ogygia, and that the cave was the one in Ramla Bay. If you want to take a look at it, all you have to do is

visit this amazing beach, set between the villages of Xagħra and Nadur. Who knows, maybe you'll even hear the sound of Calypso, moaning and crying for her Ulysses, in the sound of the crashing of the waves below.





## A Maltese platter!

This is easy to prepare and goes down a treat with guests; just chop some good ġbejniet, and arrange on a large plate or two together with sundried tomatoes, broad beans in garlic (simply boil and add chopped garlic and parsley, seasoning, olive oil and chilli vinegar), bigilla and aljoli dip with Maltese galletti, home-made kunserva (mixed with pesto) and small triangles of ftira, salmon patties, Maltese pickled onions, tomatoes in brine, olives, ready bought marinated vegetables (immarinat) or gardeniera. Malta is famous for its food but one of the staple dishes on the island is the oh-so-famous Maltese platter. Why pick just one meal when you can pick lots of little ones together?

Malta is famous for its bread, or 'ħobż' as the locals call it, and you are unlikely to find bread like it anywhere else except for on the island. Ever so slightly oily to the touch, bubbly, and light with a big, thick, crust, Maltese bread is one of the most delicious and moreish things you will ever put in your mouth. No platter is complete without it and remember, if carbs are bad, then I don't want to be right.

## STUFFAT TAC-CANGA - BEEF STEW

### Ingredients

600g fresh beef  
100g bacon,  
400g peeled tomatoes,  
Spoon tomato paste,  
onion,  
garlic  
carrot,  
potatoes,  
Half a cup of peas,  
Half a cup of red wine,  
A little olive oil,  
parsley,  
Salt and pepper,

### Method:

Cut the onion, the garlic, the carrots and potatoes into small pieces and fry for a few minutes in oil Olive  
Cut beef and bacon into cubes and add to vegetables  
Add the tomato paste and wine and stir well  
Continue to cook over a low flame for five minutes before adding the tomatoes

When the meat is cooked, add peas and a little salt and pepper according to taste

Serve the stew and Decorate with some thinly chopped fresh parsley





(Left) On ANZAC Day – 25 April 2020 Chev. Charles Farrugia OAM, President of the RSL Maltese Sub-branch of South Australia is saluting the memorial erected at the Prospect Gardens in honour of the Maltese who were killed during World Wars 1 and 2. (Right) Mr and Mrs Farrugia commemorated ANZAC DAY 2020 on the front lawn of their house together with their family and neighbours due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



## KNIGHTS OF MALTA



## THE SAGRA INFERMERIA - VALLETTA

Many buildings have a fascinating past history to tell, and the Mediterranean Conference Centre

in Valletta is no different. It was once a hospital in the 16th century, built by the Knights of the Order of St. John and of Malta and known as La Sacra Infermeria. Despite its old age, it is remarkably well-preserved and stands impeccably at its original site.

From the outside, its smooth but weathered white brick façade gives no hint of the life and death that its wards have seen. What made this hospital unusual at the time of its inception was that it employed non-discriminatory criteria for admission. Slaves, women, and non-Catholics were also accepted and treated here. Even more remarkably, its state-of-the-art facilities were actually not too far off from our own standards of hygiene in the current day. All patients here were treated by the Knights of St. John, whose compassion and ethics were matched only by their tremendous skill in the field of medicine, to the extent of even complex surgical techniques.

At that time, they were unparalleled in Europe. As you wander the vaulted underground halls, you will see real-life effigies of the sick being tended to by the Knights. It's a fascinating look into the past from the present day. The pharmacy has been reconstructed to look like it would have in the Knights' era.





## Commemoration of the 1st victims of WWII

In remembrance of the first casualties of World War II the six members of the RMA

### Royal Malta Artillery

who lost their lives on the 11th June 1940, on the Cavalier of Fort St. Elmo.

3570 BDR. JOSEPH GALEA

3084 GNR. MICHAEL ANGELO SALIBA

4345 GNR. RICHARD MICALLEF

10069 GNR. CARMEL CORDINA

10127 GNR. PAUL DEBONO

10109 BOY PHILIP BUSUTTIL



### PEOPLE PAY RESPECT FROM HOME

RSLs around the country have asked Australians to take a moment to mark their respects from home.

People around the country stood outside their homes to observe a minute's silence and honour those who have served.

While others played the Last Post in the streets outside — or in one Queensland girl's case — the paddock outside.

There was very brief service inside Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance due to the coronavirus restrictions.

Governor Linda Dessau paid her respects, laying a wreath at the Stone of Remembrance, before leaving the shrine to the sounds of bagpipes just

before dawn.

In a pre-recorded speech, she said just because this Anzac Day would be "like no other" it did not mean we should not show our respect to all of the veterans and families who gave so much and "ask for so little".

**Photo:** Residents in Clara Street, Macleod gather at dawn on Anzac Day in Melbourne. (AAP: Scott Barbour)

She acknowledged the changed arrangements this year would be difficult for veterans and their families for whom the day has "a very personal significance".

"But perhaps we can reflect in a new way on why Anzac Day still unites us so profoundly," she said.

She paid tribute to the Australian Defence Force (ADF) for its work during the "awful" bushfires of the summer.

Small Anzac services have been held across regional Victoria, with a lone bugler playing the Last Post from the Horsham memorial in western Victoria.



Don Pirouet from the Horsham RSL said he heard others playing the Last Post around the town just before 6:00am.

"It's quite heartfelt, just before we started [playing] to hear the Last Post sort of played in the background, it does reflect on community that they do still support even in these tough times," he said.

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Up to 20 people gathered at Adelaide's National War Memorial for the Anzac Day dawn service this morning to honour the fallen who lost their lives. People stood at least 1.5 metres apart due to strict social distancing measures.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of many World War II events including the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in Japan. RSL Anzac Day committee chairman Ian Smith said it was important to acknowledge the many men and women who would be missing their mates today.

*Victor Vella ikomli jesplora il-parti li tilgħab il-memorja fis-sistema legali u jistaqsi.....*

## IL-MEMORJA ... TOQGHOD FUQHA JEW LE?

Le minie se nerga naqla il-każ ta l-Kardinal Pell. Biss minn j' interessa ruħu u qara fuqu, żgur li għandu idea ta kemm il-memorja ta bniedem wiehed lagħbet parti importanti fil- procedura legali tal-każ. Il-memorja għandha ħafna jew taħdem ħafna bħat-televisin: per eż. biex nieħdu każ wiehed se insemmi lil-Prim Ministru Whitlam fl-aħbarijiet u mal-aħbar ta, ngħidu aħna, anniversarju tal- mewt tiegħu iġibu il-highlights tal-ħajja tiegħu. Naturalment kif jarawhom ta l-istazzjon u jgħibu dak li jaħsbu li jinteressaw lis-semmiegħa jew lill-ispettaturi u dak li gara 30, 40 sena ilu jew izjed jew inqas. U tidhol il-memorja imma il-memorja kif jiftakruha jew jaqblilhom li jiftakruha minn organizza id-dokumentarju. U tiġi dik li insejħulha 'memorja irrangata' jew memorja irrangata u addattata għaz-zmien li jkun . Bl-Ingliż din tissejjah 'Recovered memory' jew 'selective memory' jiġifieri memorja li iva tmur lura ħafna jew ftit snin, imma li mhux ta minn joqghod fuqha b'għajnejk magħluqin it-tnejn. Nisimghu u narraw ħafna kazi veri u wkoll fittizji ta każi ta qtil, abbużi u l-bqija u fuq min jaqa is-suspett u jidher quddiem il-qorti jew pulizija, u l-ħati juża frazi li nisimghu sikwit li hi . ' ma niftakarx' jew m'għandix idea... jew ipoġġu il-memorja fil-ġenb għal-kollox u jiddikjaraw ' ma għandix idea x'qiegħed tħarref'. Jidher bic-car li l-kelma 'memorja' mhux biss nistghu nitilfuha fid-dememntia imma nistghu wkoll ngħawguha kif jaqblilna jew nippretendu li ninsewħa.

Kien hawn żmien ,.... le mhux fi żmien żemżem , ngħidu aħna daqs 30 sena jew erbghin sena ilu meta din il-kwistjoni tal-memorja u l-iżjed ir-**recovered memory** kienet saret voga fl-Amerika. Kien hemm numru ta każi fejn il-memorja labgħet parti importanti fl-akkuza li wasslet lil ħati li jispicca l-ħabs jekk mhux x'imkien iehor. Bħala eżempju se nsemmi kaz minnhom fejn mara fettlilha li takkuża lil missierha li snin qabel meta kienet għadha tifla, kien qatel lil habiba tagħha 20 sena qabel. Missierha gie dikjarat hati fuq il-memorja ta din il-mara li wara sabu i kien kollu qlajja jew ħolm tagħha.

In-naħha l-oħra ta l-Atlantiku fl-Ingilterra fl-istess perijodu fil-bidu tad-90'ijiet grupp ta social workers fettlilhom li t-tfal ta certi inħawi kienu qegħdin jew kienu sofrew abbużi minn saħħara u minn dawn li kienu jmxu wara d-demonju..It-tfal li suppost gew abbużati kienu minn familj f'qar li kienu jgħixu i-barra mil-bliet u li ġew 'misruqin fil-għodu kmieni mil-familji tagħhom u meħudin f'orfanatrofji.'. Snin wara il-qrati tal-post iddecidew li dak kien kollu gideb u l-ebda abbuż ma kien sar ...u l-akkużi kienu finta li swew biss biex jifirdu it-tfal mil-familji tagħhom u jzommu l-avukati u l- puizija fil-jobs tagħhom!

Tabiba tal-moħħ fi studju li għamlet fuq kazi bħal dawn wara li għaddew is-snin, tkexket meta wiehed minn dawn li issa sar ragel, qalilha: Aħna ta tfal li konna ma kellna l-ebda idea x'kien qiegħed jigri u wkoll kemm kien importanti li niftakru jew ma niftakrux ezatt jew li inhawru jew nivvintaw dak li niftakru. Allura ftakarna dak li kien jaqblilna!, u f'dak li gejna imgeghllin niftakru ta tfal li konna '. Li kif tikkonkludi l-awtura ta dan l-istudju....'il- memorja saret xi haga li timxi u ddu skond ir-rih ta l-opinjona publika....' Eżatt bħal pinnur.

Ma tagħtihomx tort: il-qrati, il-pulizija u s-social workers u l-psikatrishi ta 30 / 40sena ilu kienu għadhom jimxu fuq it-tagħlim u l-filosofija u l-fama ta Freud li dak iż-żmien kien għadu (u kif qegħdin naraw għadu jeżisti), fi stat li jekk issemmi ismu kont trid tneħħi l-kappell. Fiha x'tifhem u wkoll hi allarmanti id-direzzjoni li Freud kien jagħti fuq kif dawn in -nies għandhom jimxu u joperaw meta jistaqsu il- 'pazjenti' bħal dawn biex jieħdu l-informazzjoni li riedu jew li kien jaqblilhom jieħdu. Freud kien kiteb hekk lil shabu l-psikatrishi: 'Ma għandniex nemmnu dak li jgħidu. Irridu dejjem nassumu li m'humieq jgħidu l-verita . (Imma) Irridu ninsistu u nirrepetu u nagħmlu pressjoni u nuru li aħna ( bħala tobba) aħna infallibbli jiġifieri li ma nagħmlux żbalji..... sakemm il-pazjent jgħidilna dak li rridu nisimghu'





## **MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA**

Serving the Maltese  
community in Victoria,  
Australia since 1958

### **MCCV social support assistance**

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak of COVID-19 characterised as a pandemic on 11 March 2020. The Maltese Community Centre at Parkville and Sunshine closed on Tuesday 17th of March for the safety of the staff and members of our Maltese community, who are some of the most vulnerable at this time.

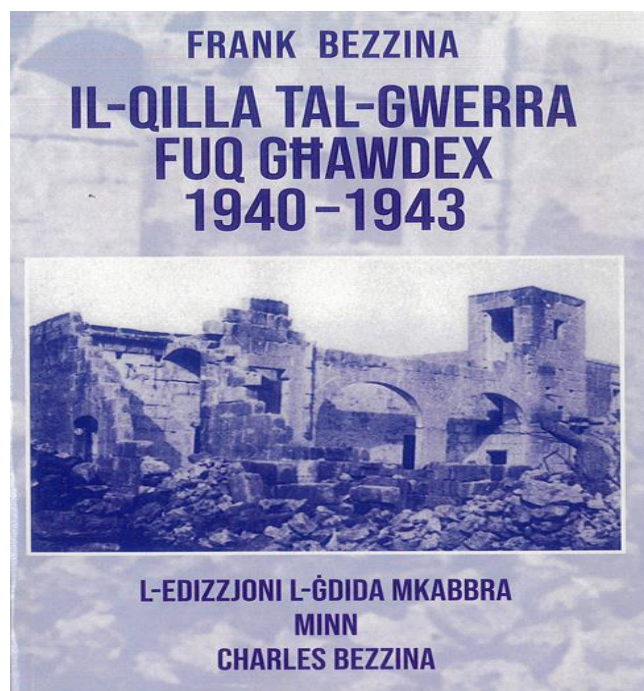
Our Social support service continues with staff and volunteers phoning people who attended our service. Our team have been checking in on them, by making a phone call every second day to ensure they have someone to talk during this most difficult and isolating time for all.

The MCCV want to continue to support the older Maltese people by expanding this service to the broader community throughout Victoria. We want to assist people in the community who may be feeling unsure, lonely or isolated due to the strict stay at home restrictions.

For anyone that registers, particularly those that live alone or are caring for someone at home, our team will call them every few days to check in on them to see how they are doing and have a chat. From the people who have been accessing this service, we know it is making their very long day at home, more tolerable.

Our team will also assist by referring those in need of other services to the appropriate organisation. The government and other welfare agencies are offering services people can access.

If you, or someone you know would benefit from this telephone contact service, contact us at the Maltese Community Council of Victoria on **9387 8922** and leave your name and telephone number. Our team will get back to all callers within a few days. Stay safe, stay home.



L-ktieb jirrakonta dak kollu li ġara f'Għawdex fi żmien it-Tieni Gwerra Dinjija. Jinkludi riċerka vasta b'madwar 1850 referenza, statistiċi u annotamenti li jagħmlu dan il-ktieb ta' siwi kbir dokumentarju.

Huwa ktieb metikoluż li għandu jsib postu fil-libreriji kollha ta' dawk li jhobbu l-istorja u għandhom għal qalbhom il-Melitensia.

Jista' jinkiseb direttament mingħand l-

awtur: [charles.poetics@gmail.com](mailto:charles.poetics@gmail.com)

jew mingħand il-

BDL: <https://bdlbooks.com/product/il-qilla-tal-gwerra-fuq-ghawdex-1940-1943/>

‘Permezz dan il-ktieb nixtieq nurik minn xiex għaddiet il-ġenerazzjoni Għawdxija li kienet tgħix għall-ħabta ta' nofs is-seklu għoxrin, u minn xiex għaddew il-ġenituri tiegħek bejn is-snin kiebja 1940-1943. Il-ġenerazzjoni moderna, medhija kif inhi fix-xalar li ġab miegħu l-progress, tinsab aljenata u ma tafx minn xiex għaddejna. Int li għandek il-ktieb f'idejk, għożżu, ibża' għalih, u għaddih lil uliedek sabiex din il-ġrajja ma tintesiex, u tgħaddi minn bniedem għal iehor, minn ġenerazzjoni għal oħra, sabiex mill-assedju tal-1798 tibqa' monument haġ għal dawk l-Għawdxin li tilfu haġjithom u djarhom, flimkien ma' hafna Għawdxin li magħhom iltaqjt u tkellimt, u li għadhom isofru l-konsegwenzi tal-gwerra sal-lum, wara li għaddew kważi erbgħin sena.'

*mill-Kelmtejn Qabel Frank Bezzina*

*Ir-Rabat, Għawdex, 1977*

**SAN GUŻEPP HADDIEM**

Mejju jiftaħ b'festa ħelwa  
iddedikata lill-haddiema –  
Kull min jagħmel xogħlu sewwa  
M'għandux għax ikollu ndiema!

Xempju tal-haddiema kollha  
Hu bla dubju **San Gużep** –  
Bniedem twajjeb, umli, sieket  
U mzejjen b'qalb tad-deheb.

Lil Marija hu ħa b'martu  
Għalkemm tqila bit-tarbija  
Illi twieldet fl-għar ta' Betlem  
Bl-aṅgli jkantaw ferrehija.

F'nofs ta' lejl Gużepi telaq  
Bit-tarbija fuq il-ħmara  
Biex mill-qilla ta' Erodi  
Hu jehlsha kollu hrara.

Kif Gesu' beda s-snin jagħlaq,  
F'ta' missieru l-ħanut  
Beda jmur xi salib jagħmel -  
Tgħid kien jaf fuqu se jmut!

Għax biex jgħajjex lil Marija  
Gużepi l-mastrudaxxa  
Kien filgħodu l-ħanut jiftaħ  
Biex jagħmel xi mejda, kaxxa,

Gwardarobba, xi banketta,  
Bibien, Twieqi, xi senduq;  
B'hekk Marija ssib x'issajjar  
U Gesu' mill-borma jduq!

Sena minnhom meta t-tfajjel  
Kien beda jitfarfar sewwa  
Ġewwa t-tempju lilu ħadu  
Miexi magħhom bl-akbar ħlewwa.

Izda meta reggħu lura  
Lil dan binhom ma sabuħx;  
Qatt ma ħolmu illi lilu  
B'xi mod setgħu li tilfuh!  
Wara tlett ijiem ifittxu

Fost l-għorrief lilu sabuħ  
Imbikkija u mifxula  
B'nikithom xtaqu juruh.

Ma fehmux illi dan binhom  
Ġie jwettaq xewqet missieru;  
Ma kellhomx għalfejn jitnikktu  
U lil qalbhom dlonk ifieru!

Sakemm dam fuq din l-art tagħna  
Gużepi baqa' kuljum  
Jieħu ħsieb Marija w binha  
Il-ħarries tagħhom ikun.

O Gużepi missier twajjeb  
Minn gos-Sema fejn tinsab  
Thalliniex naqgħu u nogħtru  
U nitmiegħku ġewwa t-trab.

Kif ħadt ħsieb fiż-żmien imbiegħed  
Lil Gesu u lil Marija,  
Għinna ntterrqu f'din id-dinja  
F'din il-ħajja tat-tbatija!

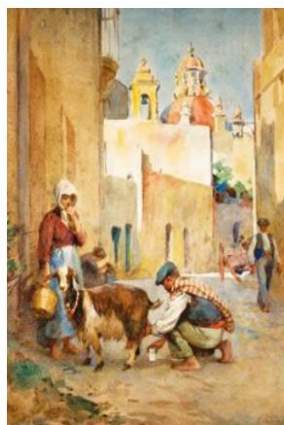
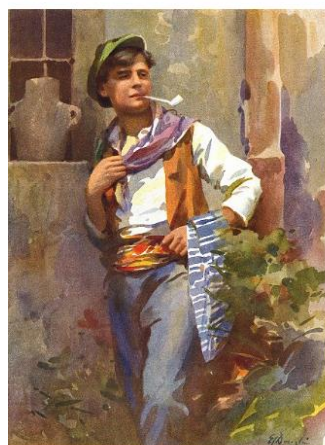
Sabiex wara dal-vjaġġ iebes  
Fis-Sema niġu ngawduk  
Ma' Gesu' u ma' Marija  
U mħabbatna dlonk nuruk!

**Kav Joe M Attard**  
**Victoria Ghawdex**

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MISS A THING. Subscribe: [maltesejournal@gmail.com](mailto:maltesejournal@gmail.com)**



## Chev. Edward Caruana Dingli



thirteen years, with whom he had two children, when he was 24. Following his separation from Falzon in 1913, he had a reputedly relationship with Olga Galea Naudi née Barbora a long time acquaintance of Caruana Dingli and wife of an ex-military man Carlo Galea Naudi.<sup>[7]</sup> He would go on to paint various portraits of Olga throughout his career.

Caruana Dingli studied under notable Maltese artists, including Willie Apap, Anton Inglott, Emvin Cremona and Esprit Barthet. Edward Caruana Dingli is brother to Robert Caruana Dingli and great-uncle to Debbie Caruana Dingli, both of whom are notable Maltese painters. Artistic Work - Caruana Dingli's work incorporates portrait paintings in oil where his main subjects were prominent Maltese figures such as politicians, clerics and prelates. On the other hand, Caruana Dingli also painted folkloristic watercolour and gouaches

From Wikipedia

*Some of the paintings designed by Caruana Dingli*

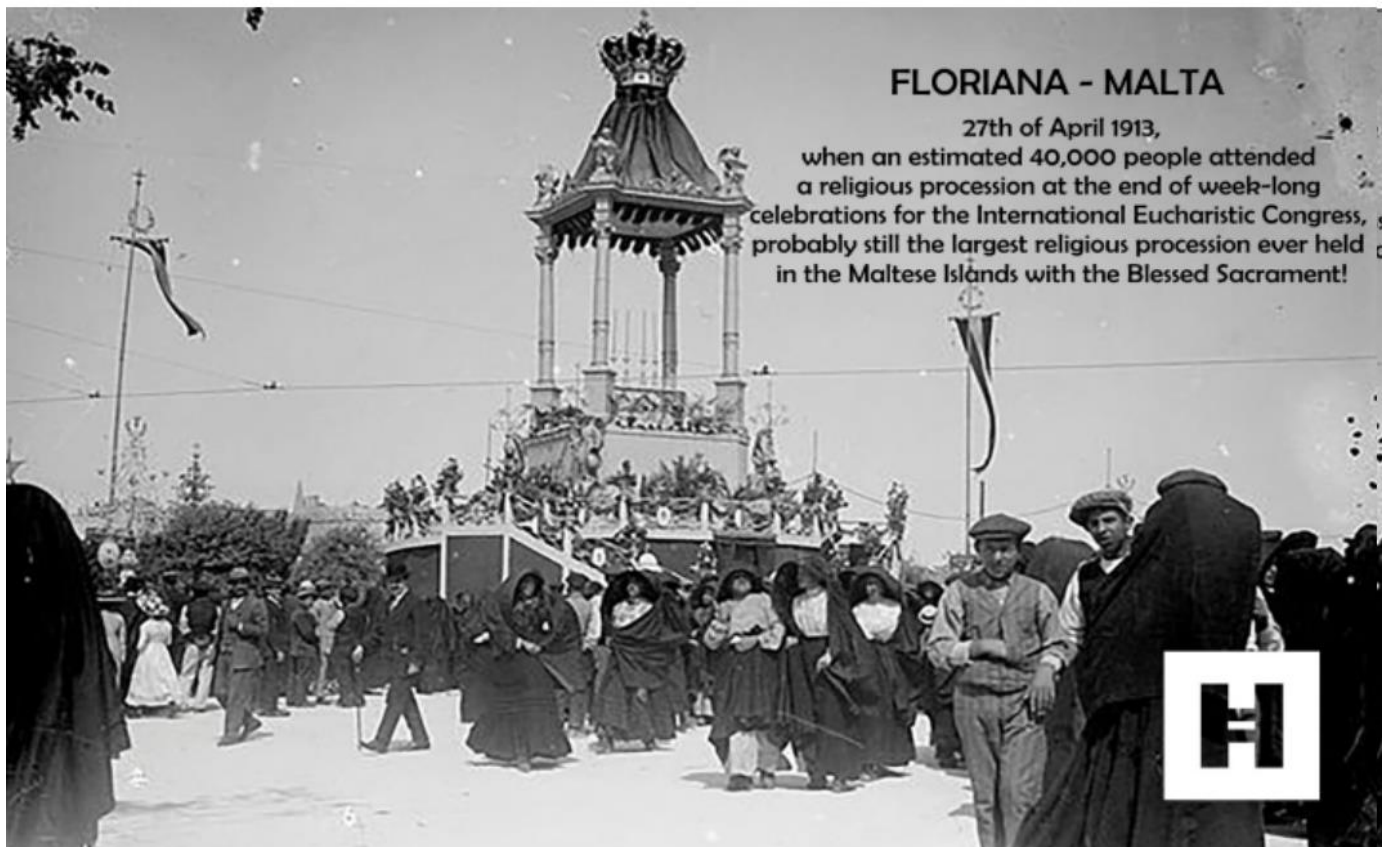
**Edward Caruana Dingli** (Valletta, Malta 10 August 1876–9 May 1950) was a Maltese painter

Edward Caruana Dingli was born on 10 August 1876 in Valletta to Raphael Caruana Dingli and Martha née Garroni.<sup>[3]</sup> He followed his father in embarking on a career in the civil service, where he was commissioned to the **Royal Malta Regiment of Militia**, and later he transferred to the **Royal Malta Artillery**.<sup>[4]</sup> He left military service in 1913 and became a full-time artist at the age of 37. He married Charlotte Marietta Giovanna Falzon for

paintings depicting Maltese landscape, countrysides and local street scenes with merchant sellers, farmers and children playing traditional Maltese games. Giuseppe Cali, who was Caruana Dingli's mentor and close friend, encouraged Caruana Dingli to focus his work on realism whilst holding a romantic idealism.

His work may be found in a number of collections such as the **Casino Maltese**, the **National Museum of Fine Arts** (nowadays known as MUŻA) at **Auberge d'Italie**, and the **Museum of the Order of St John**. He also designed the label for the first Maltese beer in 1928, the **Farsons Pale Ale**









Maltese builder Frank Cefai with the Archbishop of Sydney, Normal Thomas Gilroy, placing the first stone of the complex at Our Lady Queen of Peace, Greystanes.

## The Maltese at Greystanes New South Wales Australia

**Greystanes** is a suburb in Greater Western Sydney, New South Wales, Australia and it is located 29 kilometres west of the Sydney central business district in the local government area of Cumberland Council. Founded in the 1790's. Greystanes is one of the oldest suburbs in Sydney.

In the early years of British settlement the area was known as Prospect Hill and was the site of the first land grants to emancipated convicts in 1791. In this period it was one of several areas of conflict between the Darug people and the settlers, the Darug people being led for many years of guerrilla warfare by Pemulwuy.

The area later became differentiated into Prospect, to the west of Greystanes Creek, and Greystanes to the east of the Creek, the latter taking its name from a historical home on Prospect Hill, built by Nelson Simmons Lawson, third child of Lieutenant William Lawson. The name 'Grey Stanes', given by Nelson Lawson, came from the outcrops of basalt on Prospect Hill, "Grey" being its colour and "Stanes" being the Scottish word for stones. The land was originally granted to William Cummings in 1799, before being acquired by William Lawson in approximately 1810.

HOME to about 23,000 people, Greystanes had humble beginnings nearly 70 years ago when the area was mainly used to farm poultry until it developed in the 1950s and 1960s as a residential suburb. The Maltese have played an integral part in the history of Greystanes' growth. Frank Cefai, a Maltese migrant, is a well-known developer who established suburban life through the construction of residential homes, schools and parishes in the 1950s. "I still remember knocking down the poultry farms and market gardens to build homes so people could start living here," he said. "I had the honour of placing the foundation stone at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish with the Archbishop of Sydney."

Frank Cefai, a Maltese migrant, is a well known developer who built thousands of residential homes throughout Greystanes and its surrounding suburbs. Frank built and helped fund the Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church in 1975 and the surrounding primary and secondary schools.

Many of the early residents of Greystanes were from Malta and many of them operated poultry farms. Three family poultry businesses from Greystanes became household names throughout Australia - Cordina Chickens, Baiada Chickens and Pace Farm Eggs. Greystanes still has a large Maltese-Australian community. The Maltese community have hosted a Festa every October since 1965 in and around the church in honour of Our Lady Queen of Peace (Tal-Vitorja or Marija Bambina). The statue is on display in the church and at the annual procession of the [Maltese Festa](#).



## Malta Myths and Legends



hole was formed during an earthquake which took place in 1343, when a natural sink-hole was formed. Truth be told, I rather prefer the first story – it's rather more exciting, right?

Let's take a look at some of the most well-known Maltese myths and legends:

**THE LEGEND OF TAL-MAQLUBA** Have you ever been to Tal-Maqluba, just south of the village of Qrendi? If you have, you must've noticed the strange 50m round crater exactly in front of the Chapel of Saint Matthew. The story goes that on that exact spot there used to be an evil village, full of corrupt and depraved people. God in fact was so angry at them that he punished the whole village by sinking it into the earth, which swallowed it whole. Others maintain that the



### THE UNDERGROUND CITY IN VALLETTA

It's well known that there are a number of underground rooms and passages beneath the eight Auberges in Valletta, as well as underneath a number of other important buildings pertaining to the era of the Knights of the **Order of St John**. However, the extent of these tunnels is a mystery. Folklore, as well as a number of historians and writers, tell us that in fact these tunnels used to link all the Auberges, making up a sort of underground city which also

linked one to rooms and storage spaces found underneath St John's Co-Cathedral, the Archbishop's Palace, the Grandmaster's Palace and Square, the granaries at St Elmo, as well as underneath most of the city itself. Some say that today these are blocked off. Others say they are full of angry spirits and ghosts, while others still maintain that they're used for smuggling stolen goods, or used by secret semi-sacred groups to meet and confabulate during long winter nights.



### CALYPSO CAVE IN GOZO

In a medium-sized open cave hidden inside the high cliffs overlooking Ramla Bay on the Western side lies what is known as the Cave of Calypso. According to Homer's *Odyssey*, Calypso was a water nymph who could not leave her abode – the island of Ogygia. After losing his ship and his comrades, the King of Ithaca and great hero Ulysses was blown on the shores of the island and found by Calypso, who fell in love with him. Ulysses remained in Calypso's cave for seven years, before being allowed to sail back home to his wife.

However, Calypso was still in love with him, and legend says that she's still waiting for him on her island. The way Homer describes the location of Ogygia within the Mediterranean Sea – as well as a number of other ancient writings on the subject – have led popular theory to state that Gozo is Ogygia, and that the cave was the one in Ramla

Bay. If you want to take a look at it, all you have to do is visit this amazing beach, set between the villages of Xaghra and Nadur. Who knows, maybe you'll even hear the sound of Calypso, moaning and crying for her Ulysses, in the sound of the crashing of the waves below.



## How's this for stirring memories - Spitfire and Hurricane over Grand Harbour

Thanks to Bob Croton for bringing this to our attention.



Closest translation of the Maltese motto on the station badge I can come up with is 'Never captured by it's enemies'. My friend, Grace Aquilina, gave a literal translation of 'the airport has never been won by the enemies'.

I was stationed at RAF Luqa September 1972 to February 1974, short toured due to promotion to Corporal and shipped back to the UK. RAF Luqa has a long and meritorious history, particularly during World War II.

From 1941 to 1943 the RAF base was very important for British forces fighting Italian and German navies in the Mediterranean. Support of troops fighting in North African also played a big part in the bases' history and proved its strategic worth time and again.

The air battles over Malta are well documented as is the staunch support of the Maltese people which earned them the George Cross. Other airfields were built on Malta apart from Luqa. TaQali and HalFar, Safi, Qrendi and even on the island of Gozo.

Since the war Luqa has taken part in the Suez crisis of 1956 as well as serving as the civilian airport for Malta, sometimes being referred to a Valletta Airport.

When I was posted to Malta in 1972 we were just returning after being requested to leave by the,

then, Prime Minister Dom Mintoff. On our return there was much refurbishment to be undertaken and the communications relay station at Siggiewi had to be re-equipped.

This meant the terminal communication centre at Luqa airport had to act as relay centre until control could be handed back to Siggiewi. It was a happy day for the terminal commcen staff when that happened! While there we had a squadron of Photo Recon Canberra's and Maritime Nimrods stationed permanently at Luqa but often had visiting aircraft, not least of all the compliment of HMS Ark Royal (Phantoms etc.) as they were unable to take off from the ship while in harbour.

We left again in 1979 after a dispute between the British and Maltese governments about continuing the lease. There was also a disastrous crash over the village of Zabbar involving a Vulcan bomber which affected feeling towards the RAF presence.

Despite political conflicts, causing us to leave, the relationship between Malta and the United Kingdom is excellent, as is the relationship between the respective populations. It's a wonderful place to visit for the history and friendly welcome that is always extended to visitor



## Maltese living in Russia sing National Anthem as a symbol of hope and patriotic courage

**Report:** Maria Muscat **TIMES OF MALTA**

In Russia the pandemic is alive and well and the Maltese community is having to live this reality. TVM spoke to a Malta girl and even to the Maltese ambassador in Moscow, Pierre Clive Agius. In Russia, there has been a sharp increase in coronavirus patients in recent days. The pandemic is causing great difficulties in hospitals and is of serious concern to the President Vladimir Putin because it is destabilizing the economy and can create social tensions.

Sonia Pronine, a Maltese married to a Russian has been living in Russia for eighteen years. She told TVM that because of the pandemic, they are unable to leave their homes.

"To leave we have to have an application on our mobile, and you have to be able show that you need to go out – shopping or to the doctor and when you return you have to tell them."

Sonia Pronine said the anxiety of the pandemic is also complicated by the fear that she will not be able to visit her relatives in Malta if necessary

"Now if something happens to the family one can't leave as fast as one used to, you feel it."

Malta's ambassador to Russia Pierre Clive Agius said that Russia is living this reality with all its consequences.

"Economic stress is very a reality, besides people's fear of going out, people are only buying the essentials. You can feel the economic stress."

At the initiative of the ambassador, the tiny Maltese community in Russia, despite the long distances, made a video singing the Maltese National Anthem to give each other courage and a sense of patriotism for the Maltese stay strong in the face of this pandemic, wherever they are.

## Coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in Russia as of April 28

Published by Statista Research Department, Apr 28, 2020

As of April 28, 2020, Moscow accounted for the highest number of people infected with the coronavirus (COVID-19) in Russia with over 48.4 thousand cases, followed by the Moscow Oblast with approximately 10.2 thousand. In total, 93,558 COVID-19 cases were recorded in Russia, of which more than 8.4 thousand people were cured and 867 died due to the disease.



**NEXT ISSUE WILL BE  
DEDICATED TO ALL OUR  
MOTHERS  
TO CELEBRATE  
MOTHER'S DAY  
JUM L-OMM**