



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

The Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

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CONNECTING MALTESE DIASPORA



NEW BISHOP OF GOZO



The editorial team and the readers of the Maltese e-Newsletter the Journal of Maltese living abroad congratulate the new bishop of Gozo Mgr. Anron Teuma



**Knights of
Malta**

We welcome Fr Anton Teuma “affectionately and joyously” as our new Bishop BY [GOZO NEWS](#)



A Pastoral Letter has been issued by Mgr Mario Grech, Apostolic Administrator for Gozo, on the occasion of the appointment of a new Bishop for the Diocese of Gozo – We Have a New Diocesan Bishop.

The Letter is shown in full below.

“We welcome Fr Anton Teuma affectionately and joyously as our new Bishop. We had long been waiting for the Apostolic Nuncio to give us this welcome news: it was well worth waiting for, because in the person of this priest we not only have a man after God’s heart but also after the heart of this particular Church.

Although it is Pope Francis who has called Fr Anton to be one of the successors of the Apostles, and has sent him to watch over the people of God in this island, the choice was made by the Holy Spirit. After a long process of discernment involving a fair number of Bishops, priests, consecrated persons and members of the laity, the Pope could say that “‘it has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves’ (Acts 15:28) to send you Twanny.”



From what I know about Fr Anton I feel reassured in describing the Bishop-elect as “one who has dedicated his life to the name of Jesus Christ” (Acts 15:26). With this phrase, taken from the Letter which the Apostles wrote in the Council of Jerusalem, I am saying everything there is to be said.

I have no doubt that Fr Anton has a big heart overflowing with love for all of us, especially those who are little in the wide sense of the word. I entreat you to welcome him and love him: he is our father. A Bishop’s greatest sorrow is when he tries his best to love his children and this love is refused. Over time he will meet people who will throw stones at him, but I am convinced he will not be paying back anyone for this. And when he is suffering, pour balm and not vinegar over his wounds. As with Jesus, one never forgets those who, like the woman in Bethany, broke the neck of the alabaster jar full of the scented oil of pure nard to pour it over one’s wounds!

I urge you to regard him with the eyes of obedient faith. Because if we do not want a Bishop who “is a shepherd to his sheep in the name of the Lord and who exercises his office of teacher, sanctifier and leader” (Christus Dominus, 11), that would mean that we want a Bishop who is not a Bishop – it would mean we would want someone clothed in the trappings of a bishop without his being a bishop! Communion with the Bishop is one of the main arteries of the Diocese – if this artery is cut the body will face graver risks.

The news that Fr Anton is the ninth Bishop of our beloved Diocese has been given before the image, so dear to us, of Our Lady of Ta’ Pinu, which has just been brought back from restoration. It was my wish that this announcement be made in Mary’s home and not at the Curia; I wanted this gift to be given to us while “the Church” was gathered together with Mary. Because cut off from the context of a praying Church, beyond a spiritual framework, the office of Bishop does not make much sense. Furthermore, as we are gathered together before the image of Our Lady of Ta’ Pinu – the Church’s trophy in Gozo – I wanted to entrust the new Bishop to Mary’s motherly care. Just as from this Image Mary never ceases to utter the invitation “Come,” so from the bottom of my heart, dear Fr Anton, I entreat you to persist steadfastly in calling us to go to Jesus through Mary.

While exhorting you to support him today and always through your fervent prayer and through penance, later on we will be giving you more information about the Consecration and the Solemn Entry of Bishop-elect

Teuma.” Given at the National Sanctuary of Our Lady of Ta’ Pinu, Gharb, Gozo, today, Wednesday, the 17th of June. +MARIO GRECH Apostolic Administrator for Gozo

Photos from top: Fr Anton Teuma with H.H. Pope Francis; With H.H. Pope John Paul II; Trekking and hiking on the Dolomites; and from this morning at Ta’ Pinu – (bottom photos by Joe Grech)



TWANNY TA' KOLA

The welder who will become Bishop of Gozo

Anton Teuma to replace Mario Grech as he prays for 'God's kingdom in Gozo'

Anton Teuma has been named the new Bishop of Gozo and will succeed Mgr Mario Grech as the ninth bishop of the diocese. The 56-year-old Gozitan was ordained in 1988, and as well as his work for the Church, he is a licensed welder and electrician.

Apostolic Nuncio Alessandro D’Errico made the announcement at the Ta’ Pinu Sanctuary at noon, just before the official decree was issued by the Holy See.

The first step of the transition of power took place when Grech symbolically donated his own cross to his successor - a gift he had received from his predecessor Nikol Cauchi. In his first-ever message, the bishop-elect said the sanctuary was the place where the faithful confided their grievances and sufferance to Our Lady.

"My wish is that the joy of this ordination will be relayed in everyday life. I have learnt a lot from laypersons. Let's work together for God's kingdom in Gozo," he told the congregation.

In his announcement, the Nuncio referred to criticism that the announcement had taken long saying that these eight months were crucial for the Nunciature and Holy See to find a "happy solution to the best of our possibilities". He said in some cases, the process had taken up to two years.

"There are complex procedures dictated by canonical code which cannot be expedited. We must take the right decision and this is what we did with Mgr Teuma," the Nuncio remarked.

Who is Anton Teuma?



Rev. Anton Teuma was born and grew up in Xaghra, just above the Church of Jesus of Nazareth. John Spiteri, who has known him since childhood, said that his family and friends know Fr Anton as Twanny, while the Teuma family are known as "Ta 'Kola".

"His father is known as Karistu Ta' Kola. His uncle was Ġużeppi Grech, Ġużeppi ta' Kola who owned the Xaghra mill – the big mill that used to grind wheat. We still call his brother Joe ta' Kola but he was also known as Ta' Salvina – Salvina being his mother"

In a pastoral letter, the outgoing bishop said his successor epitomised the heart of the Gozitan diocese.

He described the bishop-elect as man who dedicates his life to God, and has a "big, warm heart full of love, especially for the vulnerable." However, he warned of the challenges of the role.

"There will be those who will throw stones at him but I am convinced the new bishop will not retaliate. You should give him ointment and not put vinegar in his wounds," Mgr Grech said.

Teuma is from the Xaghra parish and he embarked on his service in the priesthood in Rome, serving in the parish of St Ignatius.

He returned to Gozo in 1997 and was appointed rector of the Seminary of the Heart of Jesus.

Between 1998 and 2016, he was responsible for Eucharistic Communities in Gozo. In 2008, he spent a sabbatical year in the Holy Land.

Nationalist MP Chris Said said on Facebook early on Wednesday Ta' Pinu Sanctuary was prepared for the announcement. Dr Said thanked Gozo Bishop Mario Grech for his work in the past years and wished him success in his new mission at the Vatican. Last October, the Holy See announced that Bishop Grech had been appointed general pro-secretary of the Synod of Bishops.

Grech, 63, has served as bishop of Gozo since 2005 following the 33-year episcopate of Nikol Cauchi. He stayed on as apostolic administrator of Gozo until the appointment of his successor.

The COVID-19 outbreak had delayed the transition, which was meant to happen around Easter.

Bishop George Bugeja, the 57-year-old apostolic vicar of Tripoli, was previously touted as the front runner for the post. **Malta's bishops congratulate bishop-elect**

In a statement issued just after the announcement, Archbishop Charles Scicluna and Auxiliary bishop Joseph Galea-Curmi congratulated the bishop-elect.

They thanked Mgr Grech for his work in the Gozo diocese in the past 14 years.

They promised their prayers and those of the Church in Malta for Mgr Teuma and the Gozo diocese.

Prime Minister Robert Abela and Opposition leader Adrian Delia also congratulated the bishop-elect. The date of the new bishop's ordination has yet to be announced.

MALTESE CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWS

325th Edition of the 'Maltese eNewsletter - The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

The 325th Maltese eNewsletter has been published and one can obtain a copy by emailing the Editor, Frank L. Scicluna by sending an email to maltesejournal@gmail.com.

Copies can also be obtained only from the Malta Info Station at the St Paul The Apostle Maltese Canadian Church on Sunday since the other Malta Info Stations are still inactive due to COVID19



Fireworks spectacle on evening of 1st July: Celebration of reopening of airport for commercial flights

Posted On June 17, 2020 - Updated 17 June, 2020 6:36pm

Malta will be divided into six different zones for a firework display by 31 fireworks factories who are working together to provide a pyrotechnical display that will unite the country in its

traditions, heritage, culture and the control of the Coronavirus.

The event is being organised by the Ministry and the Tourism Authority and has been labelled "Visit Malta Now" and will take place on 1st July in the evening and will mark the reopening of the international airport for commercial flights.

Minister Julia Farrugia Portelli said she is proud that Malta is in a situation where anew it will be welcoming tourists.

Tourism Authority CEO, Johan Buttigieg, said the reopening of the airport for commercial flights and the welcoming of new tourists is an event that merits celebration particularly as the tourists have chosen Malta as their first country to visit after the pandemic.

One of the many letters we received recently.....

Let me make it clear. I only read the Journal of the Maltese living overseas because it is completely free, it's free from politics, it's bilingual and above all it's a unique gem which I and many other readers treasure and keep safely on my USB for future reading. All the members of my family read, love and share it with

several relatives and friends here in Australia and other countries. Please, don't stop and continue to provide this valuable service to us, Maltese living abroad. Regards
– John Micallef
NSW



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

This journal of Maltese living abroad is preserved at the Malta Migration Museum - Valletta, on Facebook and Twitter, the Maltese-Canadian Archives, Toronto and Gozo National Library and on www.ozmalta.com. Several organisations and institutions print the journal and distribute it among their members. Our readers share it with their family and friends.

*Kummissjoni Għolja
tar-Repubblika ta' Malta*



*High Commission
for the Republic of Malta*

MHC Press Release 03/2020 - EN

RESUMPTION OF IN-PERSON APPOINTMENTS AT HIGH COMMISSION IN CANBERRA CONSULATE GENERAL IN MELBOURNE CONSULATE GENERAL IN SYDNEY

The High Commission in Canberra has the pleasure to advise that the Consular Offices will reopen to in-person appointments on the following dates:

- Consular Office in Canberra: starting from 22 June 2020;
- Consulate General in Melbourne: starting from 6 July 2020;
- Consulate General in Sydney: has started from 16 June 2020.

The reopening of our Consular Offices to the public will require the strict observance of the COVID-19 precautionary measures, as follows:

- ✓ Persons accessing the offices are expected to practice good hygiene and must sanitise hands upon entry;
- ✓ Applicants will only be allowed access to the offices at the time of the pre-booked appointment – no more than two persons allowed per allocated booking or persons residing within the same household;
- ✓ Persons should wear a face mask to be taken off only when instructed by members of staff – to capture biometric images.

In-person appointments relating to applications for passport and citizenship, and other consular services, including the witnessing of signatures and identity, will be accepted by **APPOINTMENT ONLY**. To make an appointment, contact our offices on:

Malta High Commission Canberra: highcommission.canberra@gov.mt
(02) 6290 1724;
Consulate General Melbourne: maltaconsulate.melbourne@gov.mt
(03) 9670 8427;
Consulate General Sydney: maltaconsulate.sydney@gov.mt
(02) 9262 9500;

The timeframe of application processing has been impacted by the current restrictive measures and are taking longer. Applicants must leave ample time to renew their passports. Visa applications remain suspended until further notice.

We look forward to welcoming applicants back and will appreciate your cooperation in making this a safe (COVID 19 free) experience for all.

38 Culgoa Circuit, O'Malley ACT 2606
Telephone: 02 6290 1847 Facsimile: 02 6290 2453
Email: highcommission.canberra@gov.mt

Alda Bugeja has been going to Ghajn tal-Hasselin for 50 years



Today you can purchase an item in the blink of an eye. But in the past, the reality was different. Many things were made patiently by hand and people used to take up some kind of handiwork in order to keep the many traditions which characterise the Maltese islands alive. Because of all the comforts we have become used to today, these traditions are slowly disappearing.

Luckily, although you can count them on one hand, there are still some people who have not allowed foreign imports and the wide range of products on the market to prevent them from keeping these traditions alive. One of these people is Alda Bugeja who during the programme 'Kif isir' said that she has spent 50 years going to I-Ghajn tal-Hasselin, in Rabat, Gozo to wash sheep's wool.

The process to collect sheep's wool starts at the end of spring when farmers shear the sheep to help them withstand the summer heat. This wool is then made into all sorts of products including blankets, shawls, carpets and clothing. Mrs Bugeja explained that she washes the shorn wool under running water so that the wool remains soft and so that its natural oil is not lost, and later on this helps her to wash the wool more quickly. In other words, she soaks the wool in the water, and opens it with her fingers so that the straw and the feed which have been collected fall off, and she can then sift through it carefully before starting to knit.

Asked how long it takes her before she can start knitting, Mrs Bugeja said that she spends three hours to wash the wool and another eight hours to sift through it. [tvm.com.mt]

UNSEEN GOZO: A LOST ISLAND IN PHOTOS

Early
photographers
captured an island
that has changed
beyond recognition

[Giovanni Bonello

Times of Malta

Victoria Hotel in
Piazza Reale,

Victoria, 1910s. Photo: Michele Farrugia

We owe the visual archive recording a disappearing Gozo to early photographers who captured on camera a reality that has changed beyond recognition. They fall broadly in two categories: those who photographed the Maltese islands, including Gozo, and those who concentrated almost exclusively on Gozo.



(top left) *Ta' Pinu Sanctuary, still under construction, 1930s. (Right) A fishmonger in Gozo, 1910s. Photo: Michele Farrugia*

There seems to have been a jealously-guarded 'territorial' monopoly on imaging Gozo: only Gozitan photographers could commercialise the island in postcards. Prolific Maltese publishers did not produce Gozo sets. At most, they sneaked a few Gozo images in large runs of Malta cards.

The unchallenged king of Gozo photography was Mikiel or Michele Farrugia 'il-Badiku', who marketed his abundant wares either in his name or as 'Photo Amateur'. An ardent Strickland supporter, he was an excellent photographer, active since the early 1900s. He sometimes placed himself in his photos. With his brother Angelo, he claims the lion's share of Gozo's early imaging.

A Gozo boat, tal-latini, in full sail, 1910s. Photo: Edward A. Gouder

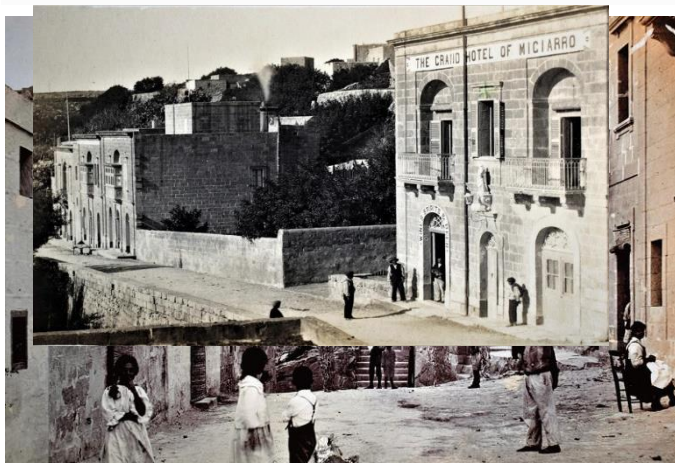
T.M. Salmond, associate member, Institution of Civil Engineers, a Scotsman from the naval dockyard, may have preceded Farrugia as a Gozo photographer, by a whisker.



The two Cremona camera artists, Giuseppe and his nephew Francis, also enriched Gozo's iconography.

Though not a Gozitan, Edward E. Gouder photographed superbly an extended series of Gozo boats, tal-latini.

Merzuq Hill from Marsalforn, 1920s. Photo: The Fine Art Studio



Threshing in the countryside. Photo: Michele Farrugia

The arrival of the ferry boat at Mġarr Harbour, 1920s. Photo: Michele Farrugia

The Azure Window in the 1890s, an icon of Gozo, now vanished. Photo: Richard Ellis

The Grand Hotel in Mġarr, 1920s. All images from the author's collection

CARMEN CARBONARO



1953 publication was part of a series women cherished

HOW THINGS HAVE CHANGED

This book had tips to keep your husband happy Maltese Cosmopolitan Magazine, 1950s style

Il-Mara Maltija, inset, provides snapshot of what life was like for women in the 1950s. Photo: KUCO/Shutterstock.com

How to put on weight rather than lose it, tips to help keep your husband “happy” and the numerous economic benefits of boiled onions, are just a few of the nostalgic lessons gathered in a retro housewife handbook.

The book, *Il-Mara Maltija* (The Maltese Woman), was written by popular radio broadcaster Carmen Carbonaro back in 1953 and cropped up during a cleaning session in a disused library in the Rabat community centre last year.

Librarian and literary historian Kevin Vella said the book had formed part of a series of publications that women used to cherish.

“This was a sort of Maltese Cosmopolitan Magazine, 1950s style. I remember my mother having a few of them and I can still see her flicking through it after a row with my father or in between doing things around the house,” he said. The front cover of the book gives a clear picture of what it is all about: an illustration of a woman sewing as her husband smokes his pipe and reads the newspaper. It is set beside another illustration of the same woman baking and keeping the house in order just in time for his arrival from work.

University of Malta lecturer Anna Borg said the woodworm-ridden pocket guide gave a snapshot of what life was like for women before the civil rights movement.

“You have to look at this in context. Back then most women were financially dependent on their husbands and were expected to keep the house in order. Education was still in the early stages in Malta and this is in some ways a reflection of how far we’ve come,” she said.

Dr Borg, however, was quick to add that Maltese



women were still doing three times the housework men did and were earning less on average.

A look beyond the book’s front cover reveals more outdated wisdom. One top tip for instance is for women to have the housework done in time for their husband’s arrival from work, to be presentable

with hair combed and dinner fresh out of the oven, “to avoid upset”.

The book warns against reading “immoral literature” presumably referring to magazines and steamy romantic novels. But while it does not describe what this literature is, it tells readers that if they feel “in the

wrong” when reading something then they know they should not have picked it up in the first place.

Guides women on how to avoid dry, soggy or boring sandwiches

The guide comes with an entire section on socks, and how to get the best mileage out of a pair by trimming your toe nails and wearing suspenders.

It suggests ways of using boiled onions as furniture polish and provides tips for women who feel unattractive because they are too skinny. For those seeking that “pin up girl look”, Ms Carbonaro urges readers to get a good night’s sleep, eat a hearty breakfast of toast, cereal, milk and if possible bacon and eggs. “Another snack at 11am followed by a warm stew for lunch should help plump up that figure,” the book suggests.

A large part of the guide is dedicated to what Ms Carbonaro felt was the latest scourge of the Maltese housewife: sandwich making. The book explains how “men these days are all after a good sandwich”, and guides women on how to avoid dry, soggy or boring sandwiches with a handful of easy recipes.

Not all the tips are outdated. Dr Attard pointed to sections of the book relating to keeping medicines out of children’s reach, the benefits of dental hygiene and putting money away for emergencies as knowledge which would have been essential for women back then.

10 rules for a happy marriage

1. Promise your love and loyalty to your husband and to God.
2. Hold back harsh words and don’t utter them.
3. Respect your partner’s personality. Never seek to command or dominate the relationship yourself.
4. Let no one come between you and your husband or you and the management of your home.
5. Avoid all disorder in your home at all costs.
6. Come to an agreement with your partner on financial matters, so that this doesn’t become a source of discontent or disagreement.
7. Avoid complaining at all costs. Speaking out of turn, jealousy, sulking and egoism are all to be avoided.
8. Devote time, love and interest to your husband and your children’s pursuits.
9. Love your children as the best treasure God could have ever given you.

10. At night, get on your knees together with your children and gather in prayer. The family that prays together stays together. Ivan Martin

We accept articles, poems, advertisements and other material for publication. If you have a story to tell send it to us and share it.

THE DARK SIDE



James Vella-Bardon

“Congratulations on writing what is obviously a very good book, and welcome to the dark side” – Mark Dawson

Well that was a great start to 2020 wasn’t it?

The year in which I was finally all set to get going with my rewrite, before finding myself blown about and battered more times than poor Santiago up in the Crow’s Nest of the Santa Maria de Vision! Talk about choppy waters and a challenging time on so many fronts. Such a crazy year that the actual confirmed sighting of UFOs didn’t even make headline news.

But I digress, more about the writing:

As I said it’s been a crazy time the last few months, what with the virus causing havoc and all. So what was I doing before lockdown, back in 2019? Apart from receiving a few nominations and awards for Sheriff? Well it’s a long story, not sure I should go into all of it

here. But suffice to say that I've got my rights to Santi back at last (mine! My own!) and that we can now chart the course towards the Lynx of Haarlem's anticipated return.

CLICK HERE TO READ MORE

<http://jamesvellabardon.com/the-dark-side/>

ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE CHURCH MALTESE-CANADIAN COMMUNITY PARISH

3224 Dundas Street West, Toronto, Ontario M6P 2A3 416-767-7054

Pastor: Fr. Mario Micallef MSSP Associate Pastor: Fr. Ivano Burdian MSSP Parish Secretary: Mrs. Rita Apalit

OFFICE HOURS Please note: Parish office is closed during covid-19 crisis.

Emails and phone calls are still being attended to.: stpaulmssp@gmail.com Website: www.saint-paul-maltese.com



TOWARDS A SAFE RE-OPENING OF OUR CHURCH

During this week we go back to the usual weekday Mass schedule. In the meantime we will be fine-tuning all that is needed to be done for a safe opening for next weekend's Masses. This includes finding enough people who will be disinfecting the pews between our Masses.

Naturally, there will be a number of changes and restrictions in our churches as we re-open. Safeguarding the health of each other remains of paramount importance! Please note the following: • Numbers will be restricted. We will be strictly adhering to keeping a space of "6 feet in all directions" between each other • If you feel sick or not well, or have high temperature, please stay home—for your own sake and that of the others. • Face masks and/or shields are strongly recommended.

Hand sanitizer is available at the entrance of the church. Please use it, both as you come in and as you exit. Please follow instructions from the priests/ministers, especially during entrance and exit, seating, and communion. Please do not leave any books/leaflets in the church. Please note that, as we start our re-opening process, we are going for a first-come-first-serve basis for

entry into the church, similar to other public places currently open with limited capacity.

A system of online and/or telephone booking will be introduced if we see that more people are coming than the church can actually hold. THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND CO-OPERATION





Maltese Community Council of Victoria



Servicing the Maltese older community during COVID-19

The Maltese Community Council of Victoria Inc (MCCV) closed their centres due to COVID-19 on 17 March 2020.

To ensure a continuity of service, support and socialisation to our most vulnerable consumers, their usual on-site group sessions have been modified.

Social Support staff who normally facilitate activities at both centres are working together with the coordinator to provide the following services to members of the Maltese community in their homes. These include:

- Contacting consumers by telephone three times per week to perform welfare checks,

determine support needs and identify the most isolated consumers who do not have family or services to support them.

- Providing information and contacts for services such as Beyond Blue, COVID-19 Hotline, Foodbank and other relevant services.
- Conference calls allowing up to four consumers to chat together.
- Sending birthday cards to consumers, followed by a phone call on their birthday.
- iPad lessons and Loan service. Staff visit consumers and explain use of the device and provide instruction booklets and telephone support.
- Weekly scheduled online activities including FaceTime morning tea sessions and virtual socialisation sessions.
- Window visits to consumers and more recently, in home visits and assistance with shopping.

- Delivery of a fortnightly newsletters containing activities, Maltese recipes submitted by consumers, prayers, photographs of consumers participating in activities, 'a day in the life' consumer interviews, information about staying safe during COVID-19, puzzles and brain training activities.

These services allow consumers to maintain connections with the outside world in these uncertain times. Socialising and interacting, whether it be in person or via some form of digital or printed media, is beneficial to our most vulnerable community members and assists in reducing social isolation and provide consumers with fun and stimulating activities.

Maree Rizzo Social Support Coordinator
Maltese Community Centre 477 Royal Parade,
 Parkville, VIC, 3052 Tel: 03 9387 8922

Sunshine Office Shop 5, 14 Watt Street,
 Sunshine, VIC, 3020 Tel: 03 9312 0086



“This is how a feast should be!” – two Żejtun brothers visit their band clubs wearing rival t-shirts

Report: Andrea Rossitto **Photos:** Omar Id-Dirbi Micallef

They were brought up under one roof. Their colour is their feast, however, a different colour. Despite all this, nothing divides them. Maltese feasts are known for their rivalry which is sometimes manifested when opposing supporters of the locality's feasts come face to face during feast revelries. However, this is not always the case.

The Żejtun locality is this week celebrating the feast of Santa Katarina. On this occasion one cannot but notice the sense of unity between brothers Omar and Gaynor Micallef, two opposing feast enthusiasts.

Nicknamed 'id-Dirbi' since his early childhood, Omar started showing enthusiasm with the Beland Band supporters, known as 'tal-hodor' (green), while Gaynor followed his family tradition as 'tal-aħmar' (red) supporter.

Speaking to tvm.com.mt Omar, who is the treasurer of the Belandisti Supporters Section and asst. treasurer of the Beland Music Society said that he adores the family and never imagine to confront opposing supporters as he knows that his brother is among them. The two brothers also join together in playing instruments with the Roman band during Good Friday procession.

Asked if he ever quarreled with his brother on feast days, Omar stated that although there is some rivalry during the feast band march, it all ends quietly there. The brothers even visit their opposing supporters clubs wearing rival t-shirts without having any problems. “This is the beauty of the feast!”, Omar said

MALTESE PROVERBS

The Maltese have a rich array of proverbs to choose from. One should not dismiss all proverbs as merely warnings that are all dull, sober and negative. Some proverbs actually tend to hold an unusual humorous tone. Amongst some 4,000 Maltese proverbs that are collated in, *Il-Qawl Iqul* – PEG Malta, 1989, (Eng. 'The Proverb Says'), one comes across at least fifty sayings that contain a humorous undertone. Whether the humour succeeds to make us smile or laugh is of course a matter of personal reaction, according to each recipient of such advice.

One underlying factor that these humorous sayings are veneered with, is the rhyming of verses, usually in couplets. It is these rhyming quips that help us recall and heed these emphatic warnings. For the proverb to stick it must contain a funny twist at the end of the verse. This twist triggers a reaction, such as, 'kos hux !' or 'mur obsor hej !' which in English would be equivalent to, 'Who would have thought of that!'. We laugh at some of these proverbs, not least because some tend to be aired in a vulgar tone.

Here follows a number of proverbs that bear such traits. Most of these examples, have been picked up from the publication mentioned above. The English translations of the Maltese sayings are my own. Some of the English verses have not been rendered a literal translation, but still adhere to the gist of the tenets being delivered. Whenever the translations are not lucid enough, then a brief clarification follows.

Aħrab l-iff, il-puff u l-jaqq għax iġibu wġiegħ ta' żaqq

Avoid all nah!, bah! and ughs! as these cause stomach aches. Note the rhyming of the words *jaqq* and *żaqq*.

Dana xogħol ta' ħorrox borrox, imma ż-żebgħa u l-istokk jgħattu kollox

This job belies a quick fix, yet the paint and putty will cover all nicks. Note the words *ħorrox borrox* and *kollox*.

Ħobż u basal, u strieh x'ħin tasal

Eat bread and onions and relieve your bunions We are advised to opt for the easy life and avoid all stress. The word *basal* (onions), rhymes with *tasal* (to arrive). An old person demands that he jumps the queue due to his old age and be served immediately.

Ir-raġel tiġieġa, il-mara serduq, id-dar tinqaleb ta' taħt fuq

Here are some proverbs that warn about the economics of life:

Biex il-fqir jara xi faraġ, il-fekruna trid titla' t-taraġ

.For the poor to be rid of tears, the tortoise needs to crawl all stairs without fear.

Bla flus la tgħannaq u lanqas tbus!

'Without money one can neither hug nor kiss (the bride)'. This proverb warns any person with ambitious plans but boasts of no financial means. Note the two words that rhyme: 'flus', (Eng. money) and *tbus* – (Eng. to kiss).

Jekk ir-raġel jikxef karusu, il-mara tiegħu għal flusu!

Should a man boast of his wealth, his girlfriend will marry him for his riches. Note the rhyming words: *karusu* (Eng. his money box) with *flusu* (Eng. his money).

Għall-fqir, il-qamar musbieh, u l-basal tuffieħ

In this proverb, two situations are being presented. Firstly, for the poor man, a moonlit night (M. *dawl tal-qamar*) is just as good as the light from an oil lamp (*musbieh*). The second example proverb states: Eating onions (M. *basal*) is just as good as eating apples (M. *tuffieħ*). This means, that for someone of scarce means, one must be content with lesser things.

B'riħ jew rifnu, minn hawn il-koll għandna nsifru !

'Whether due to a breeze or else a hurricane, we shall all depart in some way or other'

Note the rhyming words *rifnu* (Eng. hurricane) and *nsifru* (Eng. to travel).

Kul u tpaxxa għax minn hawn għal ġol-kaxxa

Eat and feast well because all of us will end in the same way

(The word *kaxxa* (Maltese: box, is euphemistic for coffin).

Imut il-għani, imut il-fqir, u t-tnejn għal ġewwa l-bir

Both rich and poor shall die, each in a rectangular box must lie (M. *bir*) – a well is a metaphor for grave.



Poeżija Pritratt

Magħluqa din l-iskola
u l-qanpiena m'għadhiex tidwi
mal-għajet tat-tfal subien fil-klassijiet u l-kuritur,
saru rġiel it-tfal li telqu 'l bogħod minn din l-iskola
bil-lapes u l-pinzell f'idejhom,
jafu jiddisinjaw haġġa bl-isbaħ karikaturi,
u xtraw karożzi u djar u daru d-dinja u rabbew tfal
u rtiraw mix-xogħol f'haġġa bla sikkaturi
u għalkemm kibru u xjaħu
l-irġiel, jibqgħu t-tfal subien,
jirrakkuntaw l-istejjer sbieħ ta' din l-iskola bil-bieb u t-twieqi miftuħa beraħ
meta bi ftiit soldi fil-but
kienu l-akbar sinjuri...

Joe Axiaq

FONDAZZJONI BELT VICTORIA - GOZO

Gozo NGOs Association founding member Pjazza San Ġorġ, Victoria VCT
1101 info@heartofgozo.org.mt 21557504

Media release

IL-ĦAĠAR REOPENS

Il-Ħaġar museum (Pjazza San Ġorġ, Victoria) is reopening on Saturday 20 June, keeping its 9am to 5pm seven days a week schedule. However this special day will only be closed at 9pm to permit a celebratory evening at 7pm, to which all are invited. Guests will be able to view items from the reserve collection, as well as an "Edward Caruana Dingli's *San Ġorġ tal-Ħaġar*" exhibit in the Gozo Philatelic Society showcase. Wine will also be offered and a visit to the Roof encouraged.

There is still no entrance fee.

IL-ĦAĠAR JERĠA' JIFTAĦ

Il-mużew Il-Ħaġar (Pjazza San Ġorġ, Victoria) se jerġa' jiftaħ minn nhar is-Sibt 20 ta' Ġunju, b'konferma ta' ftuħ mid-9am sal-5pm sebat ijiem fil-ġimgħa. Imma dal-jum speċjali se jibqa' miftuħ sad-9pm biex issir serata ċelebrattiva fis-7 pm, bi stedina ġenerali. Se tkunu tistgħu taraw esibiti li ma humiex fost daww permanenti u anki wirja dwar "San Ġorġ tal-Ħaġar ta' Edward Caruana Dingli" fil-vetrina tal-Gozo Philatelic Society. Ikun hemm ukoll tazza nbid, bil-possibiltà ta' żjara fuq il-Bejt.

Dħul jibqa' b'xejn.



L-IMNARJA FESTIVAL IN MALTA AND GOZO

This feast is one of the oldest feasts celebrated in Malta and Gozo. The Feast commemorates two important Saints in Maltese religious lore, St. Peter and St. Paul. The word luminarja is derived from the Latin word Luminare - to light up. This was the way people manifested their joy in recognition of a particular feast, such lighting being offered by burning bonfires and candles. This feast has somewhat moved away from the traditional village 'festa' style and has developed a different type of merriment which is held in Buskett Garden on the eve of June 29 the day of the feast. This is a small tree grove situated some one kilometre away from Rabat. The liturgical services are held in the Mdina Cathedral. During the late afternoon hours, numerous horse and donkey races are held in a country lane situated just below and at some distance from Mdina. The contenders vie for the Palju (a traditional banner that is presented as a trophy to the winners of various categories of races) which in olden times used to be presented to the winners by none other than the Grand Master of the Order. The feast of St. Peter and St. Paul is also celebrated in Nadur, Gozo, this time in the usual festive manner that is normally held in towns and villages.

Venue

Buskett Gardens

- Phone: +356 22921000
- Email: park.msdec@gov.mt
- Website: <http://www.mrra.gov.mt>



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Maltese Myths and legends

CASTELLO ZAMMITELLO

Castello Zammitello was either built in 1675 or in the early 19th Century - the internet can't seem to decide. Occupied by members of Maltese nobility over the years, there is a legend attached to it: Lucia, the only daughter of Baron Bernardo Zammit, was engaged to be married to an elderly Sicilian count. On the day of their wedding, she disappeared. Her father thought that she may have been kidnapped by pirates and ordered an armed search of the bay close to the castle, but she was not to be found. She appeared in a vision a year later at a nearby chapel, dressed as a nun, and confessed to having run away to avoid marrying the old Sicilian. She had found refuge in a convent, taken her vows and had tended to the wounded in a foreign country until she was killed by a stray arrow. In more recent times, the castle was the scene of a cold-blooded murder, in 1988. The murdered man (a baron, the owner of the castle) received a single gunshot wound to the head as he walked to his car. The murder remained an unsolved crime for close to twenty years until the perpetrator was finally caught in 2006. A year after the murder took place, the castle was sold and is now a stunning wedding reception venue.



TAL-MAQLUBA

There are various Maltese folk legends associated with 'Tal-Maqluba'. One of the legends narrates about an evil village close to Qrendi. The villagers were so evil that God punished them by opening the ground and the Earth swallowed the whole village. The opening in the ground stopped just in front of St Matthew's Chapel which still

stands to this day.

Hasan's Cave. There are different versions of this legend and one of them is about a Muslim called Hasan. He kidnapped a Maltese farm-girl and held her captive in the cave. The locals found out about the girl and went to attack the cave. Hasan pushed the girl over the cliff and he committed suicide jumping over the edge.

MOSTA BRIDE

Legend has it that at Cumbo tower lived a girl called Marianne, she had a servant Haggi who fell in love with Marianne. Another suitor Toni proposed to Marianne and wedding plans went ahead. Haggi snuck out of the tower and set sail to Turkey. On the eve of the wedding Haggi returned to Malta and kidnapped Marianne and went back to Turkey. When Toni found out, he vowed to find

his bride, so he went to Turkey in search for her and disguised himself as a Turk. He found out his bride Marianne was staying at the Sultan's Palace. Toni heard Marianne's sad song coming from the palace window and started singing back, an escape plan. She was disguised as a poor woman and smuggled out of the palace. Toni and Marianne were reunited and made their way back home.



Carmel Attard

Il-Poeżiji

(u kif kienu jafuh shabu l-kittieba)

**PRODUZZJONI TAL-KTIEB ANDREW SCIBERRAS -
PAGNI 316**

Fit-18 ta' Settembru tal-1985 Carmel Attard kiteb il-poeżija *Disperazzjoni Kalma*. Attard kien konxju li minhabba saħħtu l-gabra l-gdida li kien qed jipprepara ma kienx se jippublikaha. U fil-fatt hekk gara għax miet qasir il-għomor. Il-vers ta' qabel l-aħħar ta' din il-poeżija msemija hawn fuq hu xhieda ta' dan.

Carmel Attard jikteb hekk: ***Ġurnata meta nħalli dan l-iskoll fatali jkun tard wisq biex irrodd lill-poplu l-aħħar volum ta' vrusi...***

Qabel ma miet Carmel Attard kien għaddieli għadd ġmielu ta' poeżiji speċjalment dawk li kien kiteb wara l-pubblikazzjoni tal-ktieb *Lampara* (1980). Billi Paul P. Borg kien ħabib tal-qalb tiegħu għadd ta' poeżiji spiċċaw għandu wkoll. Huwa ppubblikahom fil-ktieb voluminuż dwar ħajjet il-poeta intitolat *Maqful fil-Ħabs ta' Ġbini: Il-Poeta tat-Tbatija Carmel Attard* (Horizons, Malta, 2014).

Min-naħa tiegħi l-ktieb il-gdid ta' Carmel Attard tajtu l-isem ta' *Il-Kelma tal-Bniedem*, għax meta kkonsultajt lil Paul P. Borg wasalna għall-istess konklużjoni li l-poeta ried jgħammed dan ix-xogħol gdid tiegħu b'dan l-isem. F'dan il-volum wieħed għandu jsib ukoll il-qoxra tal-ktieb *Il-Kelma tal-Bniedem* li ddisinjajt jien stess. Il-messaġġ li ridt inwassal biha hu li kull bniedem f'ħajtu jgarrab mument ta' ferħ u diqa, imma hawn xi wħud li dawn igarrbuhom b'mod intens.

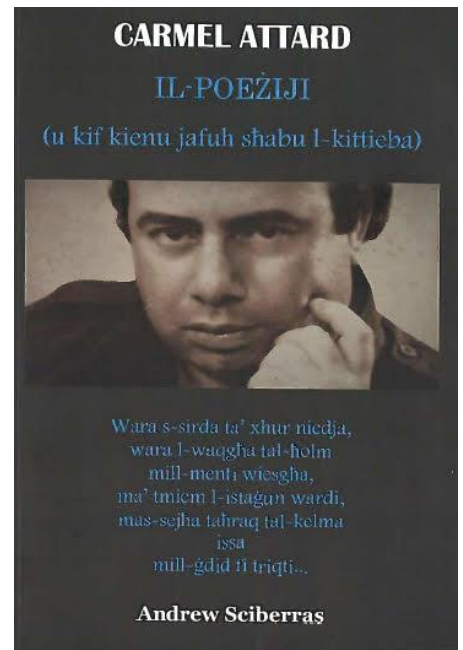
Mill-poeżiji li ppubblika Paul P. Borg fil-ktieb tiegħu, u minn dawk li għandi jien, analizzajt b'reqqa kbira liema huma dawk li jintrabtu b'mod naturali – kemm stilistikament kif ukoll tematikament – ma' dawk li nsibu fil-kotba *Taħt Qillet ix-Xemx* (1972) u *Lampara* (1980), biex b'hekk ikollna poema shiħa waħda. Xi drabi dan ma kienx faċli għall-fatt li donnu subkonxjament Attard kien qed jipprevedi l-mewt bikrija tiegħu. Ħafna mill-poeżiji ta' din il-fażi huma konċiżi, li dan juri l-urgenza li kellu l-poeta biex jiktibhom għar-raġuni li semmejt hawn fuq. Fil-gabra tal-ktieb *Il-Kelma tal-Bniedem* (1981-1994) hemm poeżiji li ma jidhrux fil-ktieb ta' Borg, u xi oħrajn b'tibdil żgħir. Jidher li f'dan l-istadju l-poeta ftit li xejn kien jorqom xogħlijietu. Poeżija jew kien iqattagħha, jew iħalliha

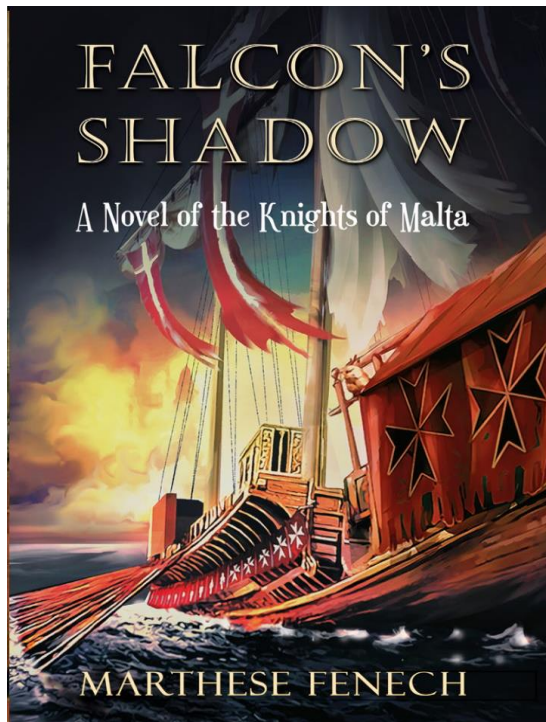
hemm
bosta drabi
mhux
mitmuma,
jew iħalliha
miktuba kif
ħarġet mis-
subkonxju,
xi drabi bi
ftit arrangamenti.

Min irid janalizza aktar fil-fond il-poeżiji li jidhru fil-ktieb li kkreajt jien bl-isem ta' *Il-Kelma tal-Bniedem* – biex jipprova jifhem il-qagħda mentali tal-poeta f'din il-fażi partikulari ta' ħajtu – se jsib ma' wiċċu t-tbatija atroċi li kien għaddej minnha mentalment. Jista' jkun għalhekk li fl-istil tal-kitba tiegħu – issa aktar minn qabel – daħħal doża qawwija ta' sarkazmu biex forsi jtaffi ftit mill-infern ta' go fih, li ta' kuljum kien qed jifnih b'intensità kbira. Hemm bosta xi tgħid dwar dan. Imma fuq kollox il-poeżiji nnifishom huma xhieda ta' dan, għax il-maġġoranza tagħhom huma awtobijografici u jirriflett u bosta qagħdiet ta' ruħ il-poeta.

Min-naħa tiegħi inkludejt kważi x-xogħlijiet poetiċi kollha li jidhru fil-kotba *Taħt Qillet ix-Xemx* u *Lampara*. Hallett barra l-poeżiji kollha li ppubblika Borg fil-ktieb tiegħu, kif ukoll dawk li għandi jien, li jkopru dan il-perjodu. Dan għall-fatt li l-poeta kien warrabhom huwa stess wara li kien ikkonsulta mal-Prof. Oliver Friggieri liema poeżiji għandhom jiġu ppubblikati fiż-żewġ kotba msemija hawn fuq.

F'dan il-volum apparti li inkludejt l-istudji kritiċi li dehru fil-kotba *Taħt Qillet ix-Xemx* u *Lampara*, għall-gabra *Il-Kelma tal-Bniedem* il-psikjatra Anton Grech wettaq id-daħla u l-Prof. Charles Briffa kiteb studju kritiku. Min-naħa tiegħi ktibt esej riflessiv u għart għadd ta' kummenti ta' kittieba li kienu jafuh bħala bniedem u poeta. Kont u għadni tal-istess fehma li lil Carmel Attard bħala bniedem qatt ma stajt tifirdu mill-poeżija tiegħu. Il-poeżija għexha b'intensità kbira, u kienet l-istess ħajtu.





Falcon's Shadow

Available NOW for 99¢ pre-order

Born to soar, a falcon will rise.

Falcon's Shadow sweeps from quarry pits to sprawling estates, tumultuous seas to creaking gallows, the dungeons beneath the bishop's palace to the open decks of warships. Fates will collide at the Battle of Djerba, a momentous clash which unites lost kin, only to tear them apart once more.

Hello my dear friends, It is my tremendous pleasure to announce that my second novel, *Falcon's Shadow*, is available for pre-order, [here](#). The ebook version is just 99¢ Canadian, and I'd be thrilled if you could jump on this **limited time offer** and reserve your copy from **Amazon**.

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to purchase *Falcon's Shadow*. GO TO

<https://marthesefenech.com/> **AMAZON CANADA, USA, UK AND AUSTRALIA**

Due to current social gathering restrictions, my book launch event is on hold. As such, I will be hosting a virtual launch on Facebook Live on **Tuesday, July 7 at 6:30 pm Eastern Standard Time (friends in Malta, that's 12:30 am)**. I'd love for you to "attend" from the comfort of your own home! Details soon to follow. Stay tuned also for information about the forthcoming paperback and audio

versions of *Falcon's Shadow*.

Marthese Fenech <https://marthesefenech.com/>

“Arts and culture are more important now than ever”
MIAF Artistic Director Ruben Zahra



The online edition of the Malta International Arts Festival will take place between the 19th June and 5th July 2020

Ruben Zahra / photo credit: Stephen Buhagiar

Coryse Borg newsbook.com.mt

The Malta International Arts Festival original programme has been postponed to 2021.

Due to Covid-19 measures, Festivals Malta and the Artistic Director Ruben Zahra have created an entirely new programme, in

collaboration with Spazju Kreattiv, Teatru Malta, Malta Philharmonic Orchestra and the Malta Society of Arts, that fits the new social distancing measures. "We need to reach out to our audiences and engage our artists so that creativity may shine through the dark clouds," says Zahra. Ruben Zahra / photo credit: Stephen Buhagiar

Through careful planning and creative thought, the MIAF online edition was born. The new programme includes 12 video performances from some of the best artistes in Malta, including Pamela Kerr, Dorian Mallia, Rochelle Gatt, Francis Camilleri, Luke Baldacchino, Luc Houtkamp, Trevor Zahra, Malcom Galea and Simone Spiteri, spotlighting three artistic disciplines – dance, theatre and music

As part of this new programme, there will also be three artist collectives featuring over 100 local singers, dancers and actors. These collectives include the song *Kemm hu Sabih*, composed by Paul Abela to the lyrics of Ray Mahoney, originally sung by the late Sammy Bartolo, which was debuted during the *Għajta Waħda* televised event on the 7th June 2020.

The MIAF edition will also include a segment, entitled opera highlights, which will feature during the Festivals Malta Hybrid Festival (a festival touring various localities around Malta).

And that's not all. Five professionally-filmed videos of select performances from last year's MIAF will be also available for viewing for the entirety of the festival.

The MIAF online edition will take place between the 19th June and 5th July 2020 on the [MIAF Facebook page](#) and [website](#).



VOLUNTEERS WANTED THE MALTESE CENTER SOCIAL CLUB

Address: [27-20 Hoyt Ave S, Astoria, NY 11102](#)

Phone: +1 (718) 728-9883

In preparation for reopening we are asking those who would like to volunteer helping with set- up, repairs, and cleaning to please contact the Maltese Center with their availability:

info@themalteseclub.com or TEXT 917-807-2874 .

We have begun taking steps to be in a position that will allow us to safely operate under the guidelines that will be set forth by NYS and NYC guidelines. With your support this will make it possible. Thank you.

IN MEMORY OF ALFRED AXIAQ



It is with deep regret and sympathy that we announce the loss of a longtime member and volunteer of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, **Alfred Asciak**, who passed away on Sunday May 17th 2020. His love and dedication to the centre never went unnoticed continuously putting his heart into the contributions he made to many events for the MCCV. A true gentlemen in every way. We would like to extend our deepest condolences to his family and friends. **Rest in Peace** our beloved friend. You will never be forgotten. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the funeral is restricted to family only. Once our centre re-opens, a memorial in memory of Alfred will be held.



WEDDING BELLS IN MALTA

George Cini

Wearing the head cover known as ghonnella was considered a sign of modesty.

The Maltese seem to have a love-hate relationship with marriage, if one were to go by the earthly wisdom of age-old proverbs.

Take for instance, *Iz-zwieg dulliegha* - marriage is like a watermelon - meaning that marriage can either turn out to be as sweet as a sorbet or as dull as a dinosaur.

Other sayings include *L-ahjar zwieg mill-kelma sat-tieg*, that is the best marriage lasts from the engagement to the wedding day and *Iz-zwieg rabta bl-ilsien li ma tinhallx bis-snien*: Marriage is a knot made orally but which cannot be untied by biting.

To take us back to how weddings were conducted in the mid-16th century, the culture committee of the St Catherine Band Club of Zurrieq will tomorrow be re-enacting such a ceremony at 10 a.m., starting at Pjazza Repubblika, the main open space in the village.

The bride and the groom under a canopy held by four men, will walk along the narrow winding streets accompanied by the haddara, the well-wishers.

Guzè Cassar Pullicino, in his book *Il-Bennejja tal-Folklore Malti* (University of Malta, 1964), underlines rites of passage as recorded by several authors.

Count Ciantar (1696-1778) notes, that the canopy under which the bride used to walk from her home to the church, was banned by Bishop Luca Bueno in 1668. This ban continued under Bishop Cocco Palmier who also stopped the tradition of presenting a bottle of wine as a gift to the parish priest. Until 1668, however, it was still permissible to present the parish priest with a flat loaf, *ftira*, or *qarcilla*, on top of which were placed two figurines representing the couple.

Also until 1598, it was still fashionable for violinists and guitarists to walk in front of the bride, stopping to sing the couple's praises.



During Count Ciantar's days, it was no longer customary to ask the bride to masticate a mixture of herbs and honey called *zib*. The idea was for the bride to do this for a couple of hours so that, when she meets her groom for the first time, she would look, and smell, more appealing.

It was also traditional for the bride to give a fish to his sweetheart as a lucky charm. Count Ciantar says the custom knows its origin to the Phoenicians who used to adore the god of fortune.

Gan Frangisk Agius de Soldanis (1712-1770) recounts how on September 8 of each year, marking the victory of the Knights of

St John over the Turks in 1565, the Grand Master donated money to five girls to help them get married by having a decent dowry.

Tarcisio Zarb, in his book *Folklore Of An Island: Maltese Threshold Customs* (PEG, 1998), writes that, especially in villages, marriage was contracted by means of a broker known as *huttab*. This way of contracting marriages made it hard for the couple to have frequent meetings. In any case, tongues would start wagging if a woman was to talk to a man in the street when on her own.

Mikiel Anton Vassalli (1764-1829) records that, after giving their word to each other, the bride left her house only to attend the wedding ceremony. After the wedding, she returned to her parents' home where she stayed for eight days away from her husband.

On the eighth day, the husband would organise a sumptuous meal at his home to match the one held in his wife's house on the wedding day.

Annalisa Schembri, from the St Catherine Band Club's cultural committee, said that apart from the main re-enactors, tomorrow's ceremony will include over 100 male and female "peasants" while some females will wear the ghonnella.

The marriage ceremony will be held at St Andrew's chapel close to the Xarolla windmill, which will be open to paying visitors. There will be guided tours in English and Maltese.

Tickets for the guided tour and the exhibition inside the windmill cost Lm5 and Lm3 entitling holders to traditional Maltese food and a glass of wine with the newlyweds. Those who do not want to partake of the food can watch the wedding for free.

From Valletta, take bus no 32 or 34. For more details call 9987 4711. Ticket hotline: 7925 3580. culturescbc@gmail.com



Dr Guzè Micallef 'tal-Barkuna' from Gozo and Miss Maria Melita Cauchi solemnised their marriage on January 29, 1922, in the parish church of St Paul in Valletta. Photographic houses, Chrétien & Co, The Empire Studio, in 291, Strada Reale, Valletta

We sincerely thank all those who allow us to use material for our FREE newsletter.



TA' QALI NATIONAL PARK

Ta'Qali Airfield, or TaKali, as the British renamed it, is most famously known for its important use during the second World War. British Spitfires flew on a daily basis from the airfield to intercept enemy raids.

Before the War, it was mainly used as an airfield for civil use, but it was quickly re-established to fit military aircraft. By June 1940, obstructions were put near the airfield to prevent airborne landings, and on 8th November 1940, the airport was known as RAF Station Ta' Qali.

The airfield was bombed heavily during the war due to its significant importance to the island.

Amongst many RAF aces, Squadron Leader Stan Turner (Mentioned in our previous article about Spitfires) operated from Ta'Qali.

By 1945, the airfield was given to be used by a Fleet Requirements Unit, but was returned to the RAF in 1953. Finally, the Maltese Government gained the airfield in 1963 but closed it in April 1968.



The airfield was last used in 2011, when a Tiger Moth aircraft landed on Ta'Qali after almost 40 years of being closed to all aircraft. Nowadays, the airfield is a National Park and a recreational area. Many of the Military huts and buildings were converted into workshops, along with a museum.



restrictions being lifted

Feasts will be limited to Mass and a pilgrimage [Sarah Carabott](#)



Although COVID-19 restrictions will be removed as from July 1, villages feasts will this year be limited to Mass and a pilgrimage. No other activities inside or outside of the church, including on the days leading to the feast day, will be allowed.

Malta's public health emergency warning will expire on June 30, meaning that controls on social gatherings, the opening of schools or the law courts and suspensions of legal times will be no longer be in force as of July 1.

However, Health Minister Chris Fearné has said that despite the lifted restrictions, feasts and other mass events such as weddings are "not recommended". The ban on large gatherings, imposed by the Superintendent of Public Health in March to curb the pandemic, had forced the Church authorities to cancel village feasts. The bishops of Malta and Gozo had said that if the health authorities lifted their ban on large gatherings, for this year only, feast celebrations will be composed of a thanksgiving pilgrimage with the statue of the village saint on the Sunday or actual feast day.

On Friday a Curia spokesperson confirmed that these same bishops directives will come into force as from July 1. "Solemn Mass and a procession in the form of a pilgrimage will be allowed to celebrate the Titular and Secondary feasts in our parishes," he said. In May the Home Affairs Ministry said it was issuing limited permits for fireworks on days when village feasts were due, and the day before. This was being done for safety reasons, because some fireworks had already been manufactured before the pandemic spread to Malta, the ministry had said.



Heritage Malta and VisitMalta share history through tastes of old recipes

An innovative opportunity for experiencing the history of the Maltese Islands. Inspired by gastronomic references discovered in the archives of Heritage Malta, authentic recipes have

been given a new lease of life through real stories penned in ink in the antique pages of these archives.

Heritage Malta, with the help of the Malta Tourism Authority, is adding to the tastes of smell and taste to give added value to travel experiences that go back in time.

In a series of short videos filmed at prominent sites, Liam Gauci – a director within Heritage Malta Services Ltd, a subsidiary company of the Heritage Malta agency – presents events as reported in these archives, and gastronomic references are delivered to audiences to enable them to try them out at home and taste the history of the country. The first season consists of four episodes which will feature on www.facebook.com/TasteHistoryMalta and www.facebook.com/VisitMalta every Friday from 26 June.



More Recipes: Biskuttini tal-lewz - Almond cookies

Today I have two simple recipes which are easy to bake and yummy to eat.

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 1/4 cups self-raising flour
- 1/2 cup ground almonds
- 2 teaspoons amaretto liqueur

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C).

In large bowl, cream together the butter and sugar. Beat in the egg, amaretto (liquor), and almonds. Gradually mix in the flour until well blended. Drop by teaspoonfuls 2 inches apart on ungreased cookie sheets. Bake 5 to 8 minutes in the preheated oven, or until cookies are lightly coloured.



Hobz ta' San Martin St Martin Bread

Ingredients:

- 400g plain flour
- 1 sachet instant yeast
- 75g margarine
- 75g Sugar
- Few drops of Vanilla essence
- 250ml tepid milk

Glazing

- 50ml water
- 50g sugar

Method:

Mix well flour and Margarine then add the yeast, sugar, vanilla, and stir well. Then add the tepid milk to make dough and knead well by hand for around 10 to 15 minutes, or until dough is elastic.

Leave to rise for around an hour, (by then the dough would have doubled in size) then knead the dough again until it becomes elastic once again. The shape into small buns leaving enough space between the buns since these will grow in size over the next hour.

In the meantime prepare the glaze by melting the sugar in the water until it becomes like a syrup.

Glaze the buns with the syrup and place in preheated oven for around 20 minutes or until golden brown.

Slight variations to this recipe include, sprinkling the buns with sesame seeds and / or sticking a liquorices in the middle of the bun.





The People of Malta – FACEBOOK

IL-HOBZA MALTIJA MALTESE BREAD

"Il-ħobża Maltija m'hawnx itjeb minnha. Il-ħobża Maltija u l-ftira huma żewġ prodotti li fid-dinja kollha ma ssibhomx.

Iżda qed ikissruhom għax in-nies qed tippreferi l-ħobż fancy. Il-ħobża tal-Malti naqqasnielha ħafna l-melħ filwaqt li meta qed tiekol il-ħobż fancy, qed tiekol prodott li fil-verità j'ħaxxen iktar. Imma n-nies

mingħalihom li l-kontra.

M'għadniex daqs li konna fil-bejgħ tal-ħobża Maltija. Hares lejn il-fran ġewwa Ħal Qormi u tara kemm fadal. Ix-xogħol niżel ħafna. Dan huwa prodott li m'għandux jaqla' bis-sieq. Il-ħsara tiġi meta tesagera u tiekol iżżejjed, u f'kollix dan." – Leli u Kola

"There's nothing like Maltese bread. Maltese bread and the local ftira are two unique products that you won't find anywhere else in the world.

But they're on the road to perdition because nowadays people prefer fancy bread. We have reduced the amount of salt to make Maltese bread but in actual fact when people eat fancy bread, they are actually eating more fatty foods. But they think that they are actually consuming healthy food.

It's not what it used to be, we used to sell more Maltese bread in the past. Just take a look at the bakeries in Qormi, see how many are still open. The business is dwindling but things shouldn't be like this. This kind of business shouldn't be in this state. The real danger is when people go overboard and eat uncontrollably. Balance is key in everything in life." Supported by: [Excel Homes Malta - www.excel.com.mt](http://www.excel.com.mt)



"We have been together as a band for three years. We had been commissioned for a project to compose three Dun Karm Psaila poems. We had enjoyed that time and there was potential. From then on we never looked back and started working on other projects. We are called **SKALD**. The name came about because we had started practicing in a place full of wood. We also discovered that in Scandinavian, Skald is a person who offers entertainment and praises a country's heroes.

We always produce work in Maltese. We cover different themes and styles. Our set up is unique in Malta. The roots are Maltese contemporary folk. Skald is made up of a percussion, a classic guitar, a bass, an acoustic guitar and a violin.

The greatest hurdles are finance and commitment to find time to get together. We do all this for our own pleasure and satisfaction. Together we share our joys and problems. At least we were fortunate enough to find the support of Festivals Malta.

We are disappointed because this year we were going to launch our first album but because of Covid we had to postpone everything to next year. It should have taken place in conjunction with a live concert that had to be postponed. We are still proud that we managed to do our first live session video for "Pjazza Kbira" that was part of the online festival Ghanafest 2020. We hope you like it:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vN09GCfOyqU> — with [Aaron Debattista](#), [Bertu Aquilina](#), [Simon Bezzina](#), [Jesmar Bezzina](#) and [Gabriel Gauci](#) at [Lito's Place Recording Studio](#).



Australian-Maltese Tash Sultana welcomes *The Last of Us Part II* with a cover of 'Through the Valley'

BY TEAM BLUNT ON JUNE 19, 2020

Maltese-Australian musician Tash Sultana teamed up with PlayStation to re-

record an iconic track from the highly-anticipated video game, *The Last Of Us Part II*.

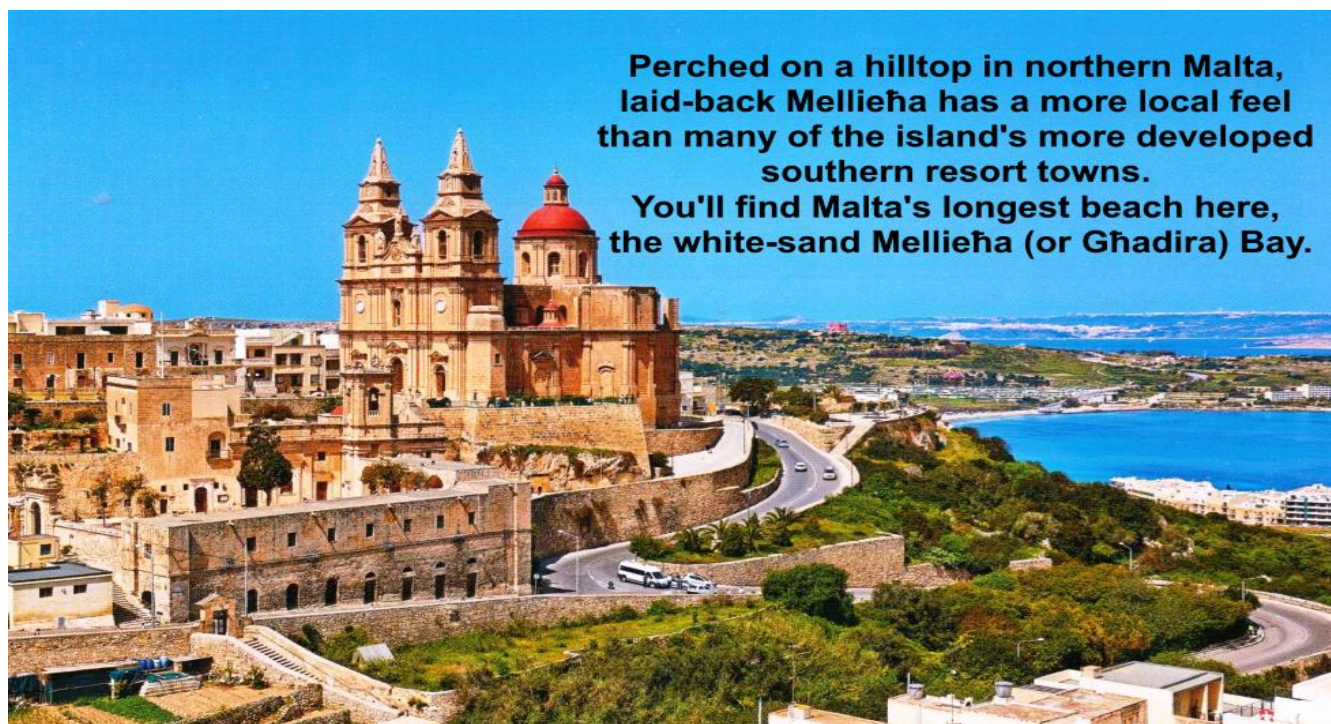
If you have any sense of major milestones in pop culture over the past decade, you would be aware of Naughty Dog's *The Last of Us*. The highly-anticipated sequel to the game, which comes seven years after its predecessor was originally released, has been unveiled today, to the delight of gamers everywhere.

If you were first in line for the gorgeous, post-apocalyptic masterpiece, you may have missed Tash Sultana's special welcome of the series' next instalment. The Aussie musician has partnered with PlayStation to mark the occasion with a special rendition of 'Through The Valley'. The track represents an iconic moment for PlayStation fans, sound-tracking *The Last of Us Part II*'s reveal trailer from 2016.

Director of Marketing at Sony Interactive Entertainment Australia, Patrick Laganda, commented on the success of the track, describing it as a #1 hit in several markets as a result of being featured in the teaser clip. He added that "recreating this with a phenomenal Aussie talent like Tash Sultana truly creates a special Australian moment to mark the launch of one of our biggest titles for PS4." It looks to be one of the last major releases for this generation, with announcements about the PlayStation 5 coming thick and fast, cementing the longstanding expectation that the new console will be out later in 2020.

The artist herself, Tash Sultana, described being "completely honoured to be asked to do something like this." "This is the first time I've done a collab like this. Usually it's kinda just like writing sessions with other musos but this is for a game and it's different as it's not my usual style to venture into".

"I can't wait to see it in the game world." *The Last of Us Part II* is out now and we're playing it, so don't talk to us



Perched on a hilltop in northern Malta, laid-back Mellieħa has a more local feel than many of the island's more developed southern resort towns. You'll find Malta's longest beach here, the white-sand Mellieħa (or Għadira) Bay.

THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF A MALTESE VILLAGE - MELLIEHA