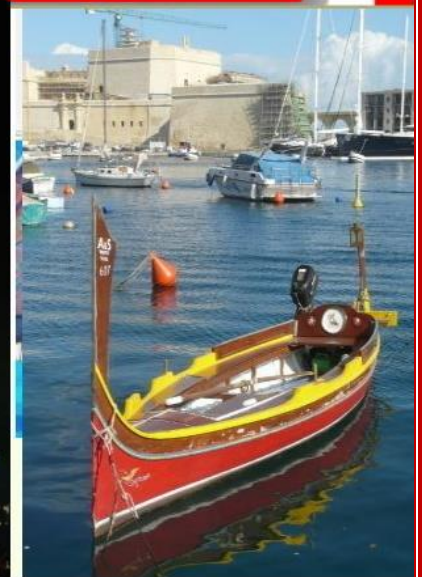




FOOTBALL
FIFA Women's World Cup:
Australia, NZ win bid to host 2023



**MALTESE TRADITIONAL
BOAT - DGHAJSA**



MALTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



MMG Concert Band of Victoria

Maltese all out to secure victory for the Maltese flag

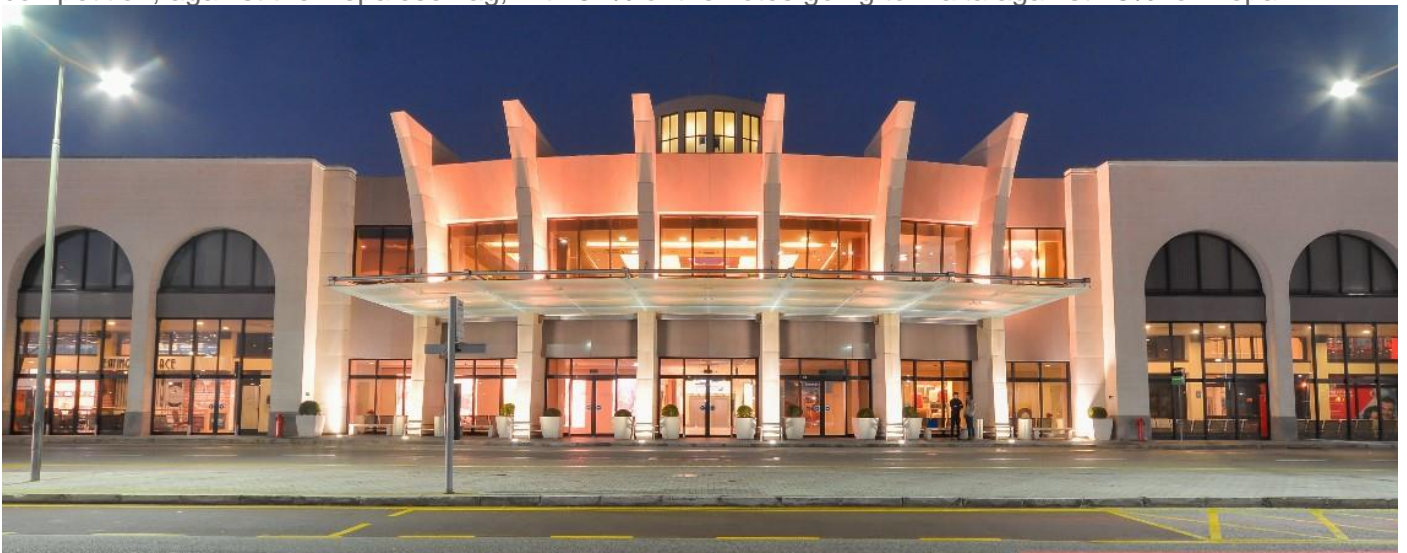
MALTESE ALL OUT TO SECURE VICTORY FOR MALTESE FLAG ON FACEBOOK

FLAG OF MALTA: flag adopted in 1964; the legend states that the colours come from the flag of Roger I of Sicily that, in the 11th century, was supported by the Maltese Christians in the battle against the Arab defenders of the island, the George Cross is intended to “bear witness to the heroism and devotion of Maltese people” during the German and Italian siege in WWII



The flags of all the world's nations are competing in a competition on Facebook through the World Flags Tournament page. However, what should have been a survey in light vein has been taken seriously by the Maltese, so

much so that the Maltese flag has polled the highest ever number of votes ever received by a flag on this page, even exceeding that of Costa Rica. A short time ago the Maltese flag even managed to win the latest competition, against the Nepalese flag, with 54% of the votes going to Malta against 46% for Nepal.



MALTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT concert to mark airport reopening

As the sun goes down on the past few quiet months, we're turning up the volume with Sounds Like Malta to celebrate Malta Airport's re-opening ON Wednesday. We can't wait to welcome you back to Malta, so we're kicking off the celebrations right now. Malta International Airport, Sound Salon, G7 events, Malta Philharmonic Orchestra, Visit Malta, LEX together with Malta International Airport ambassadors Joe Roscoe and Nicola Said - Soprano.

A number of planes sit idle in Luqa, dying to get back into the air. Since March, the place has been a NOISELESS cemetery. Malta International Airport will come back to life on Wednesday 1 July after the unprecedented circumstances in which we all found ourselves during the last few weeks, which also meant that the airport was forced to close its doors. The music will feature a number of videos that are a testament to the beauty of the Maltese archipelago. Small in size but huge in terms of its beauty: a gem, in the middle of the Mediterranean Islands, ready to re-capture the hearts of thousands of tourists who are expected to return to visit our shores soon. We can watch the show on TVM's Facebook page at 7.30pm

**POEZIJA DDEDIKATA
LILL-ISQOF GDID T'GHAWDEX
DUN ANTON TEUMA**

Ilqajt dlonk jien l-istedina
Li għamilli l-editur *
Sabiex nikteb poezija
Lil dan l-Isqof tal-futur

Li sa jmexxi 'l Għawdex tagħna
Għall-għadd tas-snin li ġejjin
Illi għandu l-għan ewlieni
Li jarana lkoll henjin!

Dan se jkun id-disa' Isqof
Fl-Istorja tal-Knisja Għawdxija
Illi se jkun qed imexxi -
Djoċesi kollha bżulija.

Dun Anton twieled u trabba
Fir-raħal sbejjaħ tax-Xagħra
Fejn tispikka l-Ġgantija
Fejn l-istorja qisha xmara!

Ninsab ċert li n-Nazzarenu
Sa jmexxi lil Dun Anton
Bniedem illi huwa mzejjen
Bl-umilta' tkun l-aqwa don!

Ġol-Awstralja ma qagħadx lura
U daq x'inhil t-tbatija
Meta ħadem u medd idu
Fuq il-passi tal-Messija.

Kemm dam jgħix fil-Belt Eterna
Ta sehmu ġewwa parroċċa
Fejn lill-poplu t'Alla għaqqad
U ġabu qisu qaqoċċa.

Għal snin twal fis-Seminarju
Sera wkoll bħala r-Rettur
Kont tarah mal-kurituri
Spiss fil-kwiet huwa idur!

Fl-aħħar snin kien qed imexxi
L-Istitut minn tal-Familja
Illi l-Isqof Mario fdalu -
Warajh ħalla ġid bil-milja.

Fil-ħin liberu li jifdallu
Kien iwerrek mat-triqat,
'Jogging shoes', T shirt perpura
Għarqan xraba, ħsieb ta' ħadd!

Ta' sitta u ħamsin sena
Sab ruħu ta' merħla kbira
Minn kliemu diġa uriena
Li jqaddisha, din hi l-mira!

Dan ir-raħal tal-Bambina
Għandu jhossu xxurtjat
Mas-snin lil dil-Knisja rified
Għax kien dejjem ippreparat!

Imiss issa l-parti tagħna
Li nitolbu għal dar-Ragħaj
Biex il-ġid tagħna ifittex
Hieni ħieles minn kull gwaj!

Mulej hu f'idejk lil Twanny
Fuqu sawwab mitt elf ġid
Sabiex lilna żgur imexxi
B'rieda soda tal-ħadid!

Kav Joe M Attard
Rabat Għawdex
18 ta' Gunju 2020

*gazzetta elettronika li toħroġ fl-Awstralja
The Maltese Journal Issue 327

Malta to send 468 tonnes of ware potatoes to Namibia – An act of solidarity which will yield an opportunity for the longterm benefit of both countries



Evarist Bartolo - Minister for Foreign and European Affairs



Reference Number: PR201216, Press Release Issue Date: Jun 26, 2020

After issuing an expression of interest for the provision of 500 tonnes of ware potatoes to address the food crisis in Namibia, the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs has received three compliant offers for a total of 468 tonnes of ware potatoes.

The main criteria were that the ware potatoes must be locally grown, not imported, and that local farmers were paid not less than 0.30c per kilo for their produce.

Thus, the Ministry bought the whole lot for the price of €187,200, of which €140,400 or 75% of the allocated funds will be going directly to the local farmers who supplied the crop to the exporters.

This shipment is now ready to depart Malta Free Port this Monday and is expected to arrive in Namibia during the last week of August. Under the Solidarity Malta heading, this initiative by the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs, supported by the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights and Trade Malta, is being done through the Overseas Development Aid Fund.

This act of solidarity with Namibia, which underwent a severe drought exacerbated by the spread of COVID-19, is expected to help around half a million persons.

Minister for Foreign and European Affairs Evarist Bartolo held that this mutually beneficial initiative is just the start of a strengthened relationship between Malta and Namibia which would lead onto other areas of cooperation and potential trade.

On his part, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights Anton Refalo held that while this initiative is one of solidarity, it will open up new opportunities tomorrow to establish a new niche for local agricultural produce and be of longterm benefit for local farmers.



lc-celebrazzjoni tal-ordinazzjoni djakonali ta' erba' kandidati, immexxija mill-Arcisqof Charles Scicluna, fil-Knisja Parrokkjali ta' Sta Katerina, iż-Żejtun, Malta
 YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/j8oLkYB4f7g>
 L-erba' kandidati li ser jigu ordnati djakni huma

- Roderick Baldacchino mill-Parrocča ta' Santa Katerina, iż-Żejtun
- Joshua Cortis mill-Parrocča ta' San Gejtanu, il-Hamrun
- Jean-Claude Schembri mill-Parrocča ta' Santa Katerina, iż-Żejtun
- Mark Scicluna tal-Ordni tal-Ahwa Minuri Kapuccini



Godfrey Sultana

*** UPDATE about the Re-opening of the Centre ***

As previously advised the Centre will re-open on Thursday 2 July 2020 STRICTLY according to the Covid-19 rules for Public and Social Gatherings which are subject to change on a day-to-day basis.

1. La Valette will open on 2 July 2020 on Thursdays and Saturdays till further notice. ONLY a total of 50 members allowed at any one time.
2. Respite will start the service again on Thursday 2 July. Flexible Respite started operating from the 15 June 2020. No Meals on Wheels or outings are scheduled as yet.
3. Consular Services: Lawrence Buhagiar will be at the Centre on Thursday 2 July. Ring the Consulate for an appointment on 9262 9500.
4. Legal Services: Josephine and Michael Karipis will be resuming their legal services from Thursday 9 July and another session on the 23 July. By appointment ONLY. Ring for your appointment on 9604 9637 or 0422 704 357.
5. Charlie's Family Restaurant will be open for Thursday Lunch and Saturday Dinner from Thursday 2 July 2020 with a limited menu.
6. NO entertainment or Bingo allowed.
7. NO Mass at the Centre or the Chapel till further notice. Wednesday NOVENA has been on for a couple of weeks. DO NOT RING the office as it is unattended till the 2 July, so please check this space for any updates. Keep safe and hope to see some of you next week.



Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/MMGConcertBandofVictoria/>
 YouTube – https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBYK69uCA_4LGJ_r6ek-nw



We are a passionate group of musicians wanting to continue celebrating Maltese culture through music. Music is a universal language and we love sharing our passion and our traditions with the broader community.



Our readers say

- ❖ Well done ... Another great one Frank. Especially those articles about the old migration. We need to wake up this giant of our History of Maltese migration. We have to honor those brave maltese that suffered so much in th Hard times. Warm Regards Greg Caruana - NSW
- ❖ Ghaziz Frank, Bongu u nittama li tinsab tajjeb. Nixtieq minn qalbi ngħidlek prosi tal-Maltese Journal li dejjem ikun ta' livell għoli u ta' interest kbir kemm għall-Maltn kif ukoll għall-barranin. Qalbi inghasret din id-darba meta fakkartni f'kemm batew missirijietna l-Maltn sa ma kienu accettati mill-Awstraljani. Mur gibhom illum u jaraw kemm irnaxxew il-Maltn f-dak il-kontinent kbir u sabih. Tislijiet Lina Brockdorff _Malta
- ❖ Thanks for your hard work which i am sure takes hours and hours every day to print the “maltese journal” As soon as i receive it i go through it word by word. So many interesting issues and so much information Thank you and wishing you josie and all your loved ones. Good health. Harry Bugeja
- ❖ I was born in Malta and had my early days in school in Malta, first in Tigne and then St.Edwards, the latter first in Mdina and then back to Cottenera. Like most Maltese my Dad was in the dockyard and when things became tough after the war, in 1948 he decided to emigrate. Incidentally, he captained Floriana FC in his early days before moving to Sliema Wanderers. Getting to Australia or the U S in those days was not easy, and due to certain circumstances, a group of them decided to emigrate to South Africa. In time, other Maltese followed, especially those who lived in Egypt. There are very few Maltese left in South Africa and their descendants are not close to Malta mainly as a result of the politics and the way of life in this country. I am the Honorary Consul for Malta in Kwa Zulu Natal and its surrounding territories. I wish to take this opportunity of thanking you for circulating your Journal. It brings back many fond memories. Regards Ronald Andrews Zanzibar
- ❖ Many thanks for the latest journal which brings such a pleasant break to all readers, and especially those who left The land of their birth a long, long time ago. Also much appreciated is the list of all your back numbers. It must give you great pleasure and consolation to know how worthwhile is your continued labour of love which brightens many a MALTESE ex-pat's month. Prosi . John Briffa sdb
- ❖ The most beautiful magazine I have ever seen about the history, culture, traditions of the Maltese people and their beautiful islands of Malta and Gozo and acknpwledgs and praise all the Maltese achievers in Malta and around the world. I am sending a donation so that you will be able to activate your project of having an indexed website of all issue of the Journal of Maltese Living Abroad. Jon M

ASSOCIATION OF LYCEUM PAST STUDENTS (ALPS)



Standing from left: S Azzopardi G, Buhagiar, Edward Bencini, Vincent Bugeja (late) Joe Battistino

Seated: Joe Brincat, Anthony (Tony) Calleja (late), Alfred Camilleri, Eddie Baldacchino, Anthony Azzopardi, R Agius



From left, back row: (Prof. Camilleri), J Borg, V Lanzon, P Portelli, Can. Farrugia, J Mifsud, R Abdilla, J Jaccarani From left, foreground L Mangion, C Cuschieri, E Borg

<https://alpsmalta.com/>

The official website of the Association of Lyceum Past Students (ALPS) was launched as part of the activities for the Association's 10th anniversary. Also officially known as the *Ghaqda Ex-Studenti Liceo*, the ALPS was formally founded on 20th March 1994. There had been a number of previous attempts to get such an organisation going, but this was the one that worked.

The Association seeks to bring together as many as possible of the thousands of surviving men of all ages who have sat in the classrooms of this oldest institution of learning in Malta, which dates back to 1592 with the foundation of the *Collegium Melitense* for the teaching of Arabic and Turkish by the Jesuits. This date is suitably recorded in the ALPS emblem, which basically incorporates the Lyceum school badge.

The main aim of the Association is not simply for social activities, although these have their own importance in the Association's calendar, but to make a real difference in modern-day society. ALPS also seeks to do its part in the preservation of national heritage. It is sincerely hoped that visiting this website will help one and all – not just Lyceum Past Students – to understand what the Association stands for.

For a number of good reasons the launch version of this website was a modest start but still very informative, and it has since continued to grow as commitments permit. It

carries recounts of the origins of The Lyceum, the birth of the Association of Lyceum Past Students, and the full Statute as amended over the years. There is also a Diary showing the salient points in the association's history as well as all the events it has organised over the past years, the make-up of the current and past Councils of Administration and pen-portraits of its current members. Another salient feature should be the business corner, through which website visitors can click on icons that invite them to take their business to the sponsors who advertise their individual trades on the icons. Our website also carries the full text of *ALPS News* as well as the Administrative Reports from past Annual General Meetings. Looking further ahead we hope to keep expanding and developing the website by enhancing the full-colour picture gallery of ALPS activities, starting with the 10th anniversary activities. Any ALPS members who, having surfed and enjoyed the website, feel moved to lend us any pictures that bring back memories of important moments in their lives (including, and especially, school life!) is certainly welcome to do so.

It will also be the Council of Administration's pleasure to see the ALPS website being used to get members in touch with their old schoolmates, maybe even helping to organise class or year reunions.

THE MALTESE JOURNAL IS PRINTED AND MADE AVAILABLE AT SCHOOLS, LIBRARIES, NURSING HOMES, MALTESE CENTRES IN AUSTRALIA, CANADA AND USA, IT IS ALSO ARCHIVED AT THE MIGRATION MUSEUM, MALTESE-CANADIAN ARCHIVES, FACEBOOK, TWITTER AND ozmalta.com

GOZO IN THE WORLD AND THE WORLD IN GOZO

The cultural impact of migration and return migration on an island community

Raymond C. Xerri

**Thesis submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for Doctor of Philosophy Europe-Australia Institute
Victoria University of Technology 2002**

A thesis submitted by Raymond Xerri for a Ph.D from Victoria University of Technology, Melbourne, 2002 deals with "the cultural impact of migration and return migration on an island community". More specifically, it reviews in considerable detail the effect of migration on Gozo, from both positive and negative aspects. It explores the meaning and significance of migration and return migration between Gozo and Australia.

The thesis starts with a comprehensive discussion relating to aspects of Gozitan life, including chapters relating to Gozitan identity, cultural life in Gozo and linguistic peculiarities. Another group of chapters describes life of Gozitan migrants in Melbourne's western suburbs where they tended to congregate, and the way that they transformed this foreign land into an image of Gozo, with their habit of hard work and importation of cultural activities such as festas and other religious practices.

It emphasises the role of religious life in the settlement process of Maltese migrants. What this thesis lacks in empirical information is amply made for by a comprehensive description of life in Gozo, particularly in the author's home village of Qala, and the new home they re-made in one particular area of the world. It also represents a milestone in Maltese-Australian relationships: this is the first Ph.D thesis by a Maltese person writing about a Maltese topic, to be undertaken entirely at a foreign University, namely, the Europe

The visit of Professor Jarlath Ronayne, the Vice-chancellor of the Victoria university, has served to continue to strengthen ties between the two universities, and to renew bilateral agreements first signed in 1989. It is hoped that more such

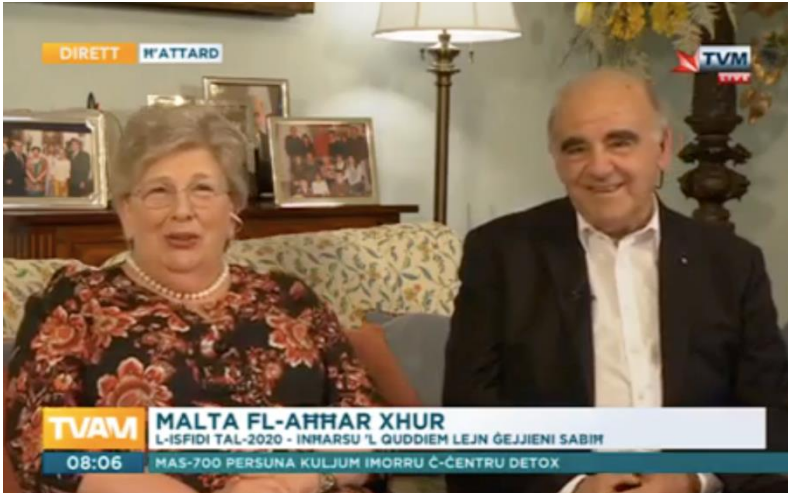


bilateral exchanges will be encouraged through such agreements.

You may read Dr. Xerri's thesis here:
core.ac.uk/download/pdf/10833959.pdf



"I haven't seen the children for four weeks – my family means everything to me!" – Mrs Vella



Report: Andrea Rossitto
Photos: TVAM

His Excellency President George Vella and Mrs Vella were among the guests on last edition of the 'TVAM' programme.

During a discussion which centred on the extraordinary weeks we have all been through, when asked what the summer meant for her, Mrs Vella replied that normally she and Dr Vella would be looking forward to the summer in order to spend a week on Gozo with all the family

in the beauty of the Gozitan countryside.

Mrs Vella admitted that they had not managed to keep up this family tradition last year, and because of the pandemic this year, they will likewise not be able to cross over to Gozo as usual.

Despite this situation, Mrs Vella said she hoped to at least her grandchildren would be able to visit her, as she has not seen them for four weeks. Mrs Vella admitted that her family is her all.

The History and Heritage of America's Catholic Church



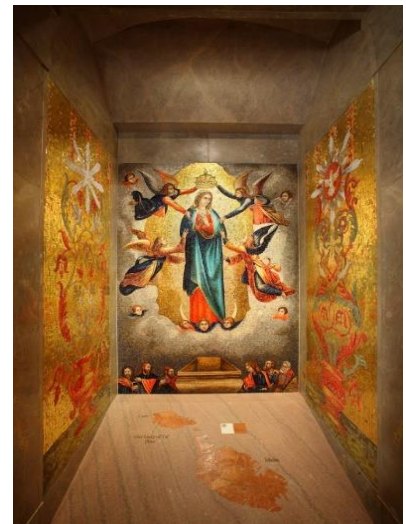
400 Michigan Avenue, Northeast Washington, D.C. 20017

The History of the National Shrine

Affectionately referred to as *America's Catholic Church*, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception has been a century in the making.

Although its foundation stone was laid in 1920, this great shrine seems to have been conceived of as early as 1846, the year the Bishops of America declared the Blessed Virgin Mary the patroness of the United States under her title of the Immaculate Conception. That year, the Lowell Courier Journal, a newspaper in Massachusetts, wrote of "a magnificent Catholic Church to be built at Washington, D.C. after the manner of the great cathedrals of the Old World from subscriptions of every Catholic Parish in America."

Through the generosity of generations of American Catholics, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception stands as our nation's preeminent Marian shrine and patronal church, rivaling the great sanctuaries of Europe and the world, not only in size and stature, but also in beauty, dignity and sanctity.



The United States has long been considered the great melting pot, where people from many diverse lands have come to dwell. The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception is proud to reflect this rich heritage of America.

Home to more than 80 chapels and oratories honoring the Mother of God and representing peoples from every corner of the globe, the National Shrine reflects the ethnic and cultural diversity of the United States and the unity and universality of the Catholic Church.

Built by generations of faithful American Catholics to honor the patroness of our nation—the Blessed Virgin Mary under her title of the Immaculate Conception — the National Shrine is affectionately referred to as *America's Catholic Church*.

Among the nationalities and ethnicities represented throughout the Basilica are African, Austrian, Chinese, Cuban, Czech, Filipino, French, German, Guamanian, Hungarian, Indian, Irish, Italian, Korean, Latin American, Lebanese, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Slovak, Slovenian, and Vietnamese. Religious communities from around the world are also represented, including the Augustinians, Carmelites, Claretians, Dominicans, Franciscans, Jesuits, Montfort Missionaries, Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Redemptorists, Salesians, Sisters of Charity, Sisters of Providence, and Vincentians.

Over 130 years ago on June 22, the Blessed Mother directed a woman on the island of Gozo to pray in the Chapel of Ta'Pinu. As word spread of Mary's manifestation at Ta'Pinu, many turned to her for help and healing. Today, the devotion of Our Lady of Ta'Pinu emphasizes Mary's role as mother and the protection that she offers to the faithful.

History of the Devotion

In the countryside of Gozo, Malta, a chapel to Mary was built in the 16th century. After purchasing the chapel in 1585, Filippo "Pinu" Gauci began to restore it in 1615. The chapel became known as "Ta'Pinu," meaning "of Philip." Filippo also commissioned an oil painting of the Assumption for the altarpiece called *Madonna Ta'Pinu*, which was completed in 1619.

Two centuries later, Mary appeared to a farmhand named Carmela Grima near the chapel. On June 22, 1883, Carmela was walking home from her work in the fields when the voice of Mary called her to pray in the chapel. Once she was inside, the Blessed Mother instructed her to pray three Hail Marys. Miraculous healings followed in the area, and the chapel became a pilgrimage destination. As pilgrimages increased, there was a need for a larger church. Construction began on a new church at the site in 1920 –the same year construction began for the National Shrine – and it was completed in 1931. Pope Pius XI designated the church as a minor basilica in 1932.

Our Lady of Ta'Pinu as an Example for Christian Parents

Our Lady of Ta'Pinu emphasizes Mary's example of godly parenthood. As Pope John Paul II [stated during his visit to Malta in 1990](#):

In a very special way, Mary has been the patroness of the Christian families of Malta and Gozo as they have sought to fulfill their unique role in God's plan for the salvation of the human race. We may be confident that with a mother's love Mary has not failed to intercede for generations of parents and children, inspiring in them that fear of the Lord which is the beginning of wisdom and accompanying them on their pilgrimage of faith.

In God's plan, the family is where children learn what it means to be responsible individuals and members of a larger community, where they first encounter the virtues of unselfish love and self-sacrifice, and where they first come to understand the mystery of God's love as it is expressed in the love of their parents.

Our Lady of Ta'Pinu at the Basilica

At the National Shrine, the [Oratory of Our Lady of Ta'Pinu](#) in the Crypt Church features a mosaic reproduction of *Madonna Ta'Pinu*. Angels surround Mary as they lift her from her tomb and place a crown on her head.

[Basilica to Reopen to the Public on Monday, June 22](#) Austin Borg



L-Arċisqof iżur il-Monument tal-Papa Gwanni Pawlu t-Tieni fil-Victoria

Fl-okkażjoni tal-100 sena mit-twelid ta' dan il-Prelat Pollak tal-Knisja Kattolika u t-30 sena mindu kien żar il-gżejjer Maltin, nhar it-Tnejn 22 ta' Gunju wara nofs inhar, Monsinjur Arċisqof Charles J. Scicluna, fuq stedina tal-Fondazzjoni Papa Gwanni Pawlu t-Tieni, fi triqtu lejn Ta' Pinu, waqaf quddiem il-monument ta' dan il-Papa qaddis u qiegħed kuruna tal-ward ifuħ fil-preżenza tal-Kumitat ta' din il-Fundazzjoni (ara ritratt). Wara huwa kompli triqtu lejn is-Santwarju tal-Madonna Ta' Pinu u qaddes fil-beraħ ta' quddiem il-knisja fl-okkażjoni tat-tifkira ta' meta l-Madonna kienet kellmet lit-twajba xebba Karmni Grima mill-kwadru titulari tal-Perugino li għadu kemm ġie rrestawrat fl-għodwa tat-22 ta' Gunju 1883.

Kav Joe M Attard

Rabat Ghawdex

THE SURVIVORS Joe Lanzon

I looked forward to meeting my two friends Shirley and Norma at the restaurant on the High Street this morning. I put on my favourite red knee-length dress, my pearl ear-rings and matching necklace and looked in the mirror. I liked my appearance.

It was a reunion lunch. We did it every year for the last five years. Each one of us recounting what happened to her during the past twelve months. We would talk about our children, our grand children, our likes and dislikes. We would bring back memories of long years past. We would enjoy being together another year. We had met for the first time at St. Mary's Hospital in London - there was also Sally - while we were having treatment for breast cancer. We were together during the long-suffering ordeal - surgery, ward patient, hospital visits and recuperation.

All four of us gave encouragement and hope to each other. We had cried and laughed together. We held hands when the end of the road seemed to be near. We laughed when things looked brighter and we seemed to be winning. We were there for each other. And we survived!

All four of us had met for lunch every year since our discharge from hospital five year ago. But this year we would be three. We would miss Sally. She had been the life and soul of the group. She was always recounting some funny story or cracking joke or waving her hands in dramatic fashion. She was the conductor during these lunches. It was the first year that we would be meeting without her. She would definitely be missed, terribly missed this year.

An image of her face filled my mind - blue eyes, blonde hair, rosy cheeks, upturned nose - a jovial laughing face which would make all around her happy. "*Keep your chin up*" she would say to any to any of us who were passing through a rough patch. I was amazed how she could joke about even the darkest of things. That was Sally.

All four of us had promised that, rain or shine, we would try to make this reunion every year. For old time's sake. For becoming friends when we needed so much love and comfort and encouragement and understanding. We gave all of these to each other as we battled with that life-threatening decease. And we survived!

Shirley and Norma were waiting at the restaurant when I arrived - Shirley with her white wide-brimmed hat on her head and several bangles around her wrists and Norma, the quite one, looking prim and proper, always listening and smiling in agreement but always positive. Shirley, Norma and I all had different characters. But Sally, bless her, had the best character of us all. She always used to make us laugh.

The place had started to fill up around us. The waitress bustled over for our order. *"Are you waiting for someone else?"* she said looking at the empty place. I shook my head but when she moved to clear the extra cutlery I stopped her. *"Please could you leave them?"* The waitress looked puzzled but nodded and left. For the next half hour we talked on this, that and the other. We brought ourselves up to date with each other's life during this past year. As I looked with pride at my two friends, I could not help but think how lucky we all were. That bad experience of the past had bonded us together like childhood friends.

After we had eaten, we ordered champagne as was our custom at the end of the meal. *"Could we have four glasses please?"* I asked the puzzled waitress. *"What are you celebrating?"* she asked us as she laid out the glasses and then, at my request, put the fourth glass in front of the empty space.

It was Shirley who spoke in her exuberant melodious voice. *"We are celebrating being alive. We're all survivors of breast cancer, you see. We met for the first time in hospital and went through our treatment together."*

"We encouraged each other. Each year we get together and celebrate another bonus year", I added. *"This is our fifth year"* put in Norma. The waitress looked at us, admiration on her face now. *"That's amazing",* she exclaimed. Then she looked at the empty chair, the unused cutlery and the empty champagne glass. *"Oh I'm very sorry, I"* She broke off, clearly did not know what to say.

I looked at my two smiling friends, then at the bewildered waitress and said. *"Sally got married and emigrated to Canada last year. She could not make it this year but we hope that she would join us again next year. We promised that we would always save a place for her."*

It was at that moment that Shirley made a toast. *"To our dear friend Sally, whatever she's doing, wherever she is, wishing you good health, see you next year!"*



Neil Agius completes Sicily-Malta swim in record time

Neil said "I had a team of 20 people with me who were awake for the entire time as well. People navigating making sure we were going the right way, the doctors, the people who fed me, the people who swam with me and kept me company and kept my spirits up."

Neil Agius, the swimmer, made landfall in St Julians after a record-breaking 28-hour swim between Sicily and Malta. Neil Agius, the Olympian, made landfall in St Julians after a record-breaking 28-hour swim between Sicily and Malta. He covered the 104km stretch in a non-stop swim, reaching Malta seven hours ahead of the expected time.

Agius is only the second swimmer to have completed the channel crossing after Nicky Farrugia's feat in 1985. This open sea challenge is the sixth longest open seawater swim ever recorded worldwide in the current neutral category in the Marathon Swimming Federation.

Agius had previously done the first ever, non-stop swim around the Maltese islands.

The swim was part of Agius's Wave of Change movement that highlights the problem of plastic pollution in our seas. The aim of Wave of Change is to raise awareness and educate people, especially children, about the problem of sea plastic pollution. The swim started at 5:15am on 25 June, in Punta di Braccetto, Ragusa, in the southern coast of Sicily, and ended this morning at 9:24am. He reached the St. Julian's waterpolo pitch, which is his hometown swimming club. Agius was greeted by a large crowd of cheering supporters, members of his family and friends.

THE LIBERTY BELL made by a Maltese-American

<https://www.everyculture.com/multi/Le-Pa/Maltese-Americans.html#ixzz6QNIngM00>

Inscription



**THE PATH OF THE LIBERTY BELL'S HAIRLINE CRACK.
THE INSCRIPTION ON THE BELL READS:**

**PROCLAIM LIBERTY THROUGHOUT ALL THE LAND UNTO ALL
THE INHABITANTS THEREOF LEV. XXV. V X.
BY ORDER OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE PROVINCE OF
PENNSYLVANIA FOR THE STATE HOUSE IN PHILA
PASS AND STOW
PHILADELPHIA
MDCCLIII**

THE MALTESE CONNECTION

The Liberty Bell was made in England in 1751 for the Assembly of the Province of Pennsylvania, to be used in the State House of the City of Philadelphia. However, when it was being tested the bell cracked. It was recast in Philadelphia by John Pass, a Maltese immigrant, and John Stow, who added a small amount of copper to make it less brittle. Pass appears in the painting "The Bell's First Note," which hangs in the U.S. National Museum of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. Although Pass is not a Maltese surname, there is no doubt about his heritage: the speaker of the Pennsylvania Assembly referred to him as hailing from Malta. It is likely that his name in Malta was Pace, and he either changed it, or it was misspelled in documents.

The Liberty Bell is located in [Independence National Historical Park](#), which is part of the [National Park Service](#). Independence National Historical Park preserves sites associated with the American Revolution, including Independence Hall, Congress Hall, and other historic sites that tell the story of the early days of the nation.



Jackson's iz-Zaqq u t-Tambur Folk Group - Malta

Covering 45 acres in Old City Philadelphia, the park has 20 buildings open to the public.

Bake the Jacinda-approved piano cake

When New Zealand Prime Minister [Jacinda Ardern](#) isn't tending to the small matter of running a country, the 39-year-old faces the same battles as the rest of us - including trying to nail the perfect birthday cake for her daughter Neve Gayford, whom she shares with [fiancé, Clarke Gayford](#).

Over the weekend, Jacinda won hearts once again for keeping it oh-so-real on social media as she shared a snapshot of her "imperfect" [piano player cake](#) from the pages of *The Australian Women's Weekly's* famous *Children's Birthday Cake Book*.

"Cake making lesson number two - don't focus on making the cake look in proportion with little to no attention on structural integrity....there is a jar of lentils propping this thing up," Jacinda confessed alongside a selfie with her piano cake creation.

She's got great taste! For Neve's first birthday, Jacinda also turned to the *The Australian Women's Weekly's Children's Birthday Cake Book* to make this bunny. "I may be smiling but about an hour earlier I was not enjoying the first birthday cake making experience (like just about every parent I know!) I recommend cakes that you can legitimately cover in coconut - it hides almost everything. Happy Birthday wee Neve!" She penned at the time. So, if you'd like to take a page out of Jacinda's book and try your hand at our piano cake, check out the recipe below.

Ingredients

2 x 470g packets butter cake mix
 2 x 180g blocks white eating chocolate
 1 black licorice strap
 1 ice-cream wafer
 Sheet music
 Small piece cardboard
 Toy candelabra and candles
 Chocolate buttercream
 185 gram softened butter
 360 gram icing sugar
 3 tablespoon milk
 50 gram cocoa powder

Method

1. Preheat oven to 180°C/350°F. Grease cake pans; line bases and sides with baking paper, extending paper 5cm (2 inches) above sides.
2. Make cakes according to directions on packets. Pour a quarter of the mixture into bar pan; pour remainder into square pan. Bake bar cake about 30 minutes and square cake about 1 hour. Stand cakes in pans 5 minutes before turning, top-side up, onto wire rack to cool.
3. Cut 2.5cm (1-inch) slice off one side of square cake; cut one end off bar cake to make it the same length as square cake, reserve cut-off piece. Using round cutter, cut a circle from reserved cut-off piece of bar cake to make piano stool; cut a piece from base of stool so it is lower than keyboard, if necessary.
4. To make butter cream; beat butter until white as possible, gradually beat in half the sifted icing sugar then milk, then remaining icing sugar. Beat until smooth. Stir sifted baking cocoa into butter cream, tint with brown colouring.
5. Secure cakes on cake board, as pictured, with a little butter cream. Spread piano and stool cakes all over with butter cream.
6. Cut chocolate into 5cm (2-inch) strips; position, top-side down, along keyboard, as pictured, to make white keys. Cut licorice strap into 4cm (1½-inch) lengths; place along keyboard, as pictured, to make black keys.
7. Trim ice-cream wafer to 4cm x 5cm (1½-inch x 2-inch) rectangle; press into piano to make music stand. Sheet music can be cut and pasted onto a small piece cardboard; position on music stand. Add candelabra and candles (or other small toy), if you like.





Musical theatre star Michael Falzon dies at 48: Prolific stage actor known for his roles in *We Will Rock You* and *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* loses his cancer battle

Jo Scrimshire Prolific musical theatre actor Michael Falzon has died of cancer at the age of 48. He passed away on Tuesday night and is survived by his wife, classically trained violinist Jane Cho.

Michael, who had leading roles in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* and *We Will Rock You*, had been diagnosed with a rare and aggressive form of germ cell cancer last year.

© Provided by Daily Mail Tragedy: Prolific musical theatre actor Michael Falzon has died of cancer at the age of 48. Pictured on April 2, 2019 in Sydney. Germ cell tumours are growths that form on reproductive cells. The stage performer had been documenting his cancer treatment on social media, but stopped posting seven days ago. Tributes flowed overnight as friends, family and colleagues remembered Michael as a 'vital member of this industry'.

British musical theatre actress Jenna Lee-James shared a photo of herself and Michael to Instagram, and wrote: 'Words fail me. You were a one-off. Not only an incredible performer and businessman, but you were also a beautiful soul. : Michael, who had leading roles in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* and *We Will Rock You*, had been diagnosed with a rare and aggressive form of germ cell cancer last year. He is pictured on stage with Queen guitarist Brian May at Sydney's Lyric Theatre on October 8, 2004

'You fought so hard and I'm so glad I got to hug you on my travels last year in Sydney.

'Sending so much love to Jane and all the Falzon family tonight. There is another star in the sky tonight. Until we sing together again.'

Australian operatic mezzo-soprano Jacqueline Dark tweeted: 'Travel well, dearest Michael. You brought joy and light to the world and will be missed beyond words. Deepest sympathy and all my love to Jane and his family.' Ian Phipps, a leading theatre publicist, also posted on Twitter: 'Vale Michael Falzon. You fought valiantly until the last, my friend.

'Your beaming smile, huge talent and incredible positivity will be missed by so many friends, family and fans. We are the better for having known you. Love to Jane and your family.'

Doctor star Rodger Corser wrote: 'Incredibly sad. We have lost a very special man.'

Michael, who was a vegetarian and lived a healthy lifestyle, described his cancer diagnosis 'dumb luck' during an interview with Studio 10 in October last year.

'It was a surprise. I was in rehearsals for *Sweeney Todd*, I'd just finished *Evita*, everything was going well, and then you get struck down,' he said.

The news came as a shock because he had no symptoms. Because of his otherwise good health, he was given the 'most aggressive treatment' available.

In October last year, Michael said he took some comfort in the fact his disease wasn't caused by poor lifestyle choices, like when smokers develop lung cancer. He revealed on *Studio 10* that doctors were optimistic about his progress. 'They're still chasing it,' he said. 'I feel good - I keep bouncing back, which they're pleased with.' That same month, he told The Sydney Morning Herald that his diagnosis had encouraged other men in the forties to get themselves checked for cancer.

'It's confronting for everybody. You're faced with your own questions of mortality. We're all touched by this at various points in our lives, I'm not special in that regard; but within your circle, when it happens it's a lot,' he said.

Michael took some comfort in the fact his disease wasn't caused by poor lifestyle choices, like when smokers develop lung cancer. He said: 'I don't feel responsible, which is a good way to feel about it. If I was one of those unfortunate sufferers that maybe could have done something about it... this was just something that was in my genes and there was no way to pick it up before it happened.'

Maltese boats – the Luzzu and the Dgħajsa



Until a short time ago our justifiably famous Valletta Grand Harbour, so often the scene of the madness of war and the courage of men, was almost crowded with hundreds of boats and water taxis, which plied the harbour creeks on both sides of Valletta.

These were largely used to ferry passengers, especially sailors, from their ships to land, and vice versa. These colourful Maltese boats are referred to as *Dgħajsa* or *Luzzu* and are also used for fishing, these days often fitted with an inboard engine.

History of the *luzzu* and *dgħajsa*

Let us not forget that it was mainly from Malta's shores that the invasion was launched that brought Italy to its knees in World War II. Indeed, the Second World War, unlike the First, was largely fought out in the Mediterranean basin. The battle for the control of the Mediterranean lasted for almost three years – from Italy's entry into the war in June 1940 to the final surrender of Axis forces in Tunisia in May 1943. Never has our Grand Harbour been so busy as during that period. Malta had achieved an importance in world affairs, as it had done in 1565, quite out of proportion to its size. And the Grand Harbour was littered with Maltese *luzzu* boats in those days of war.

But the heyday of the *dgħajsa* is well and truly over and the number of these boats in Grand Harbour has dwindled considerably. This is due to several factors but certainly, the death blow came with the rundown programme of the British Forces in Malta in the late fifties and the diminishing size of the British Mediterranean Fleet.

The colourful *dgħajsa* has an equally colourful companion which is of considerably bigger dimensions: the *luzzu*. Like the Maltese cross, this is one of the symbols of Malta and is featured on the reverse of the older series of Maltese lira coins. The Mediterranean sea, which is ever present has, throughout the ages, made men excellent mariners and this ubiquitous sea has always attracted men to fish.

Like the *dgħajsa*, the *luzzu* is also a uniquely Maltese boat. Painted in the traditional colours of red, blue and yellow, it is a sturdy and reliable sea craft and can be put to sea in almost every kind of weather. Primarily, the *luzzu* is a fishing boat but it has other uses such as ferrying locals and tourists across the Grand Harbour.

Livery and the eye of Osiris

Many *luzzijiet* (plural) have the eye of Osiris painted or carved on the bow, a symbol said to have been brought to Malta by the Phoenicians. This seems to suggest that craft of this type must have been common in the harbour since the time of the Phoenicians and Carthaginians.

It is hard to imagine a more tranquil and soul-satisfying sight than that of a dead-calm sea on a clear summer's day when the Mediterranean is magnificent and regally serene, blue and seemingly infinite. The sight of a *luzzu* out at sea on such a day is truly beautiful.

<https://www.maltauncovered.com/culture/maltese-boats-luzzu/>



Restoration and embellishment of St Michael's Bastions in Senglea underway

The 32-week project, undertaken by AX Construction, is slowly coming to fruition.

Staying on target during this difficult time is not an easy task but it is not in AX Construction's nature to be idle and sit still.

New and exciting projects are always brewing in the company's mind and, this latest project, although still in its early stages, is finally flourishing and blooming.



AX Construction has been working on the restoration and embellishment of the St Michael's Bastions and the remains of St Michael Cavalier (situated on the same bastions) for the past weeks. The project will be completed in 32 weeks. The aim of this restoration is to achieve complete rehabilitation of the whole area, including full accessibility from the public

AX Construction is mostly focusing on the fortification walls, superior slope/s and platform over the casemated vaults forming the entrance into the city, as well as the structural restoration of the iconic Clock Tower.

With this renovation, the bastion facades, as well as the clock tower, will be freed from any accumulated accretions and overgrown vegetation. The stone masonry will also be cleaned from stains and biological growth while the damaged stone feature will be repaired or replaced, depending on its condition. The timber and metal apertures will be restored or replaced, depending on the state of deterioration, with ones having identical features, design and structure.

The centerpiece will also be given appropriate care. The characteristic copper dome, situated at the top of the clock tower, will be repaired and restored to its full shining glory. The steel and timber staircase will also be restored and repaired. The construction team is also aiming that the panoramic Belvedere and the Gardjola will be brought back to their former glory with this renovation. Additionally, a specialised contractor has been employed to restore the building's iconic clock and give life to its mechanism.

AX Construction

"It is always such an honour to see our projects come to fruition," claims Denise Micallef Xuereb, Construction & Development Director, "We are extremely proud to be given the opportunity to be able to restore and care for these grand walls that hold so much history. We hope to do them justice and bring them back to life in the way that they truly deserve. I'm also very proud of all the hard work that the team has put into this restoration to be able to successfully deliver this project in time."

The St Michael's Bastions and the Remains of St Michael Cavalier restoration is the first of a comprehensive project, undertaken by the Grand Harbour Regeneration Corporation for the rehabilitation of the entrance into the city of Senglea.

The aim is to render the entrance more legible from a historic perspective, upgrade and landscape the open spaces just inside the walls including Piazza Mitrovich, the complete restoration of the Clock Tower and to make the platform over the casemated vaults accessible to the public and provide cultural and ancillary services in the area. *This content was supplied by AX Construction.*



Russian Centre for Science
and Culture in Malta

Address: 36, Merchants Street,
Valletta VLT1173, Malta

Tel: (+356) 21222030
E-mail: rcscmaltagonvol.net
Website: mltr.s.gov.ru

Russian Centre for Science and Culture in Malta

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

Russian Centre for Science and Culture (RCSC) is situated in a mansion of the second half of the XVI century (an area of 1067 m²) - the former home of the Englishman Sir Oliver Starkey, a secretary and a squire of the Grand Master of the Maltese Order, Jean Parisot de la Valette. Sir Oliver Starkey particularly distinguished himself during the Great Siege. He was the only Knight who was awarded with the honor of being buried along with the Grand Master of the Order in the crypt of the St. John's Co-Cathedral, which is located directly in front of the RCSC.

Russian Centre for Science and Culture was opened after the restoration of the building on 8 November, 1990. RCSC in Malta is one of the overseas offices of Rossotrudnichestvo.

The main activities of the RCSC is the preparation and implementation of programs in the fields of science, culture and education, the promotion of the Russian language and information work with compatriots living in Malta. The important activity of the RCSC is to strengthen relations with the Russian diaspora, promotion of activities to enhance the cultural, scientific and business cooperation with Russia, as well as maintaining ties with their historical homeland.

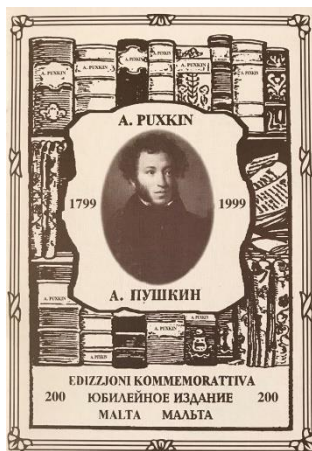
RCSC is actively working to popularise the Russian language and the preservation and strengthening of the Russian cultural and humanitarian space, to assist in the study and dissemination of the Russian language as an integral part of world culture and an instrument of international and business communication.

To implement this feature with the RCSC highly functioning, having a long history of Russian language courses, as well as the Theatre Studio of the RCSC.

RCSC organises concerts and events in connection with the momentous and memorable events in the history of Russia, holds creative meetings, organises art exhibitions, art and book exhibitions, presentations.

Russian Centre for Science and Culture in Malta offers:

- * Concert hall with 150 seats;
 - * Two exhibition halls with a total area of 120 m²;
 - * Museum of the history of Russian-Maltese relations;
 - * Two classrooms for Russian language study;
 - * Library with a reading room, a book collection of more than seven thousand pieces;
 - * 500 DVD-disks with Russian and foreign art, children's and animated films.
- Russian Centre for Science and Culture is opened to everyone from Monday to Friday from 10:00 to 18:00 hours (except official Russian public holidays). Pushkin would blend very well in our era of globalization. He was a man of the world. His great grandfather, Abram Petrovich Gannibal, of Ethiopian origin, was raised in Peter the Great's court household and became a Russian military engineer, general and nobleman.
- Achilles Mizzi, a famous Maltese poet translated a number of Pushkin's poems into Maltese. Recalling his experience, Mizzi says that he could sense "the fiery temperament of a southerner subdued by the imprint of a civilisation that had become sophisticated". This is very close to the truth like Malta is very close to



Africa! There are more translations of Pushkin from Russian into Maltese - some of them done by our compatriot and poet Yana Psaila.

Read Pushkin's poems translated into Maltese on our Facebook page — among them are the most famous, which we study in school and still remember by heart after so many years. Do you agree with what the prominent Maltese poet says about his Russian "colleague"? Here is one of his poems:

MADONNA. MAĐOHHA

Qatt ma fittixt li dari tkun imzejna
bl-oghna pitturi mal-hitan miżghuda,
biex waqt li jmilu lejn l-esperti gharfa
jistaghgbu l-mistednin qishom mibluha.
Il-bogħod minn swali jlellxu, f'hidma sfiqa
kont naghžel xbieha wahda biex quddiemha
nghaddi l-eternità. Ix-xbieha ssahhrek.
Qisha hierġa mis-shab mixghul il-Verġni
u Binha s-Salvatur, il-Gherf u d-Dija,
il-Qodos, l-Umiltà: bl-ghajnejn tas-sema,
taħt il-palmiet ta' Sijon. Hadd hlief huma...
Xewqti mitmuma. Alla wrieni wiċċek
Madonna. Ġewwa tron ta' qalbi nġhożżok.
Ix-xempju safi int ta' l-isfa grazzja.

1830



Alexandr Pushkin's poem translated into Maltese by imaginative poet and friend of the Russian Centre Achille Mizzi.

This beautiful poem was dedicated to beloved Pushkin's wife, Natalia Goncharova

FIRST COOKING CLASS WAS A SUCCESS. LUNCH WAS ALSO GREAT THANKS TO ADAM BREAD AND ITALIAN SAUCE!!



The committee OF THE George Cross Falcons Maltese Centre at Illwarra introducing classes giving individuals the opportunity to learn to cook some favourite meals. This is by appointment only, so please if you are interested do contact me.

[Elizabeth Walker](#)

Today we had a cooking class learning how to make homemade ravioli "Maltese Style". It was so much fun and proves that you are never too old to learn something new.

I have been asked to post the recipe and I will try to give this very special recipe justice and hope I don't make too many mistakes. Here we go :-

Ingredients for the pastry -

1 kilo of plain flower which makes about 6 dozen raviolis
1 teaspoon of salt, 2 cups of water (if the pastry is dry, add more water to make the pastry pliable and easy
to work with.

Knead the flour, water and salt together either with a mixer or by hand until it becomes pastry



Wrap the pastry in gladwrap and let it rest either in the fridge or on the kitchen bench for 15 minutes. After the 15 minutes, you can start rolling out the pastry. Once you have rolled out the pastry, put it through a pasta machine to thin it out.

After you have rolled the pastry then you can start putting the ricotta filling. When you place the ricotta on the pastry, about 3 centimetres apart and in the middle of the pasta. You are now ready to enclose the ricotta by folding the pastry from left to right or over the ricotta. Press down the pastry at the edge so the ricotta is secure in the pastry, you can use your fingers or a fork to do this.

You can then cut the ravioli with a cutter and place them in the freezer or cook them straight away.

Ricotta Filling ingredients - 1 kilo ricotta Parsley 1 or 2 eggs Salt to taste. Mix the eggs, parsley and salt and once the ricotta is at a good consistency pour onto the pastry.

I hope you enjoy making this wonderful Maltese favourite Happy Cooking

Louis Parnis Lot's of Maltese descendants out there and hoping we all can encourage them to support the Centre. The Centre belongs to members but most of all a HUB for all of us to meet and have fun together under the one roof.

National personification – Melita



Melita is the personification of Malta or the Maltese people. The name originated from the Roman town of that name which was destroyed and rebuilt several times by the Fatamids, Normans and Knights of Saint John and eventually renamed Mdina or Città Notabile.

The personification of Melita first appeared on 4 February 1899 on a postage stamp. Since then, Melita has been portrayed several times on both postage stamps, revenue stamps and banknotes of Malta. The design currently in use was designed by Edward Caruana Dingli in 1922, which was featured on a set of postage stamps commemorating Malta's self-government. The design shows Melita wearing a garment over a breastplate showing the Maltese Cross, a helmet and sandals.

She is holding a rudder representing the Maltese in control of Malta's destiny. The last banknotes issued by the Central Bank of Malta, which were issued

between 1989 and 2000 and valid until 2008, featured Melita from the design by Edward Caruana Dingli made for the 1922 stamp set.

Keeping Maltese Communities Connected



NATIONAL EMBLEM OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA

After the change of government in 1987, the authorities felt Malta direly needed to project a fresh image. Many innovations were considered impellent: the new philosophies of governance were manifestly unable to identify further with the old perceptions of power. These, in turn, brought about an overwhelming reluctance to be profiled by previous symbols. It was thought pointless to market a new product in an old wrapping.

The task of constructing that new national emblem was assigned to the Honours and Awards Working Committee, chaired by Adrian Strickland. Minister Ugo Mifsud Bonnici, later President, showed the committee some designs he had received from amateur volunteers, but the members rejected them as they were determined to revert to a design for the national arms that respected the traditional and hallowed rules of heraldry. Some discussions ensued as to whether Malta should adopt anew the first Independence emblem or opt for a new one altogether. Richard Cachia Caruana believed the old insignia should serve as a basis for the new one, but in a version much simplified – with the elimination of a number of elements which the Royal College of Arms had originally inserted in the first national emblem.

More debate followed about the scroll: should it contain the original motto *Virtute et Constantia*, or should it be *Repubblika ta' Malta* like the previous one? Philo Pullicino proposed an altogether new Latin motto: *Laetentur Insulae* – let the islands rejoice, suitable to the positivity that was then sweeping Malta. Mr Pullicino must have known his Old Testament well. The phrase comes from Psalm 96: *Dominus regnavit, exultet terra, laetentur insulae multae*. But eventually *Repubblika ta' Malta* prevailed for the scroll – quite uselessly. A national emblem is, in itself, a badge of identification, and should require no further emphasis to explain itself.



Order of Malta's Italian Relief Corps Turns 50. Lieutenant ad-interim congratulates President

26/06/2020 Present during the most violent earthquakes to strike Italy over the last decades – from Belice and Irpinia to Aquila and central Italy in 2016 – not to mention the migrant shipwrecks in the Mediterranean, the Order of Malta's Italian Relief Corps (CISOM) celebrates its 50th birthday. Half a century of commitment in which the Relief Corps has grown until it now numbers some three thousand volunteers nationwide. It was 24th June 1970 when the Order's

Grand Magistry first established its volunteer corps in Italy. Since then, in over 18,300 days of activity, the corps' doctors, nurses, rescuers, psychologists and logisticians have been there for all the major natural disasters and for numerous minor ones, offering medical and social assistance to the most vulnerable.

The Lieutenant ad-interim, Fra' Ruy Gonçalo do Valle Peixoto de Villas Boas, called Gerardo Solaro del Borgo, president of the Italian Relief Corps, to ask him to give his best wishes for this important anniversary to all the corps' volunteers.

"Charity and efficiency are the words that inspire us," Gerardo Solaro del Borgo said in a press release. "Over these years we have been present in the major national emergencies, always in the awareness of belonging to a system in which helping others is a priority. CISOM intends to continue renewing itself, making its activities increasingly useful for others.

In the Covid-19 emergency, CISOM volunteers have also been in the front line alongside Italian national and local institutions in tackling the pandemic and helping the population during the lockdown period. "In a decidedly challenging 2020, in which all the volunteers have given the best of their humanity in the communities most affected by the pandemic, we dedicate this milestone to the men and women who animate the capacity of a corps that profoundly renews itself without forgetting the lived experience," Gerardo Solaro del Borgo concluded.



The new executive council of Institute of Maltese Journalists <https://igm.org.mt/>

The Annual General Meeting of the Council of Maltese Journalists was held on 27 June 2020 and a new Executive Council was elected for the coming two years. For the first time, the council will have members from six local newsrooms that is there now is the greatest ever representation of Maltese media on the IGM.

For the first time, IGM will have three women in the Council, making this the largest female representation ever held by the Institute's Council in its 30 years of existence

There were no nominations for the office of President. it was agreed that one of the members elected to the council will be selected president at the first meeting of the Council.

Nigel Mifsud will continue to hold office as General Secretary while Mario Schiavone will continue to hold office as treasurer. The other appointed members are Claire Caruana, Sylvana Debono, Christine Amaira, Neil Camilleri, Julian Bonnici, Charles Camenzuli and Domenic Aquilina. The President of the Malta Sport Journalists Association Sandro Micallef will be a non-voting member in the council.

Another addition to the Council are the appointments of two reviewers to scrutinise IGM finances, with members Mario Xuereb and Victor Vella being selected as the Institute's first two reviewers

The Institute of Maltese Journalists (IGM) was founded as The Malta Press Club on 3 November, 1989, following a suggestion by Joseph Brockdorff, chairman of BPC International Limited, a public relations and advertising company, who approached the editors of the local media and offered his help in the setting up of an association grouping together media practitioners.

Previous attempts to set up a journalists' association all failed after a few months, partisan political reasons almost inevitably contributed towards their downfall.

The founding members of The Malta Press Club are: Anthony Montanaro, deceased (The Sunday Times), Charles Grech Orr (The Times), Evarist Bartolo (Il-Helsien), Felix Agius (l-orizzont), Joe A. Vella (Malta News), Mario Schiavone (in-Nazzjon), Joe Cassar (Il-Mument), Manwel Zammit (Broadcasting Malta – the precursor of PBS Ltd) and Carmel Bonello of BPC.







Women's World Cup 2023: Everything you need to know ahead of the epic tournament

Australia and New Zealand have landed the 2023 Women's FIFA World Cup. Here's everything we know ahead of the tournament.

The FIFA Women's World Cup is officially coming Down Under in 2023 after Australia and New Zealand's joint bid got the nod over Colombia.

It appeared tragedy was set to befall Australia's bid after it was reported UEFA had encouraged its members to back the South American bid.

In the end the dual bid stood up to the challenge and now the world's best women's soccer players will head Down Under for the biggest tournament in 2023.

The tournament will also be the first time 32 teams will be competing, rising from 24 teams that faced off during the 2019 edition.

It will also make history as being the first World Cup to ever be held across two confederations — the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and the Oceania Football Confederation.

The joint proposal will see games played in 13 venues across 12 cities, with the opening match at Eden Park in Auckland and the final in Sydney. Seven cities in Australia would host games, and five in New Zealand. So with 32 teams set to head down to Australia and New Zealand, the questions now turn to where will the games take place and in what stadiums



Malta in China January 2020

Maltese Culture, Maltese History, Maltese Scenery, Maltese Food. Magnificent! Ambassador John Aquilina joins long-term Beijing residents Silvano and Nathalie Azzopardi and their son Jeremy for a Let's Go to Malta session with neighborhood Chinese children.

Ghalfejn?

JAHASRA HAWN XI
WHUD LI QED
JIPPRUVAW
JOHONQU DAN IL-
GURNAL TANT
SABIH U
IMPORTANTI.

AHNA BIL-
GHAJNUNA T'ALLA
U TAGHKOM SER
INKOMPLU DAN
IX-XOGHOL LI QED
JGHAQQAD

IL-MALTIN TA'
BARRA



HARRISON MERRIFIELD

Harrison is one of our two conductors at MMG Concert Band of Victoria and plays the trumpet. He also is able to play the piano, trombone, baritone, saxhorn, French horn and tuba. Harrison started learning music at the age of 7 with the St Albans Melita Band. He was taught theory by Amie Cardona and then was taught practical trumpet by Steven Azzopardi, both of which are still playing with MMG.

Harrison played with the St Albans Melita band and then began conducting at the age of 16. He has also played with the Werribee Concert Band, Hobsons Bay City Band, John Antil Youth Band, Melbourne Youth Wind Symphony, various school bands and he also is currently playing in bands at University.

Music has always been Harrison's passion. He finds it incredibly fulfilling and relaxing and he loves meeting new people, sharing and creating music together.

Harrison enjoys the MMG Concert Band of Victoria as he enjoys the passion that everyone shares creating beautiful music together, in a friendly and supportive environment.

Harrison enjoys all the feasts but San Gejtanu is one that is close to his heart, as it was his Grandpa's feast. He loves all our traditional Maltese marches, especially Ix-Xieh as well as pieces like The Lion King which we performed at our last Gala Night.

The MMG Concert Band of Victoria is an amazing ensemble filled with very supportive and talented individuals. Harrison is very proud and grateful to be one of the conductors of this fine group. He looks forward to see what the future holds for The MMG Concert Band of Victoria.



**St Nicholas committee in Plumptre NSW,
would like to wish all the people from Siggiewi a happy feast day**