



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

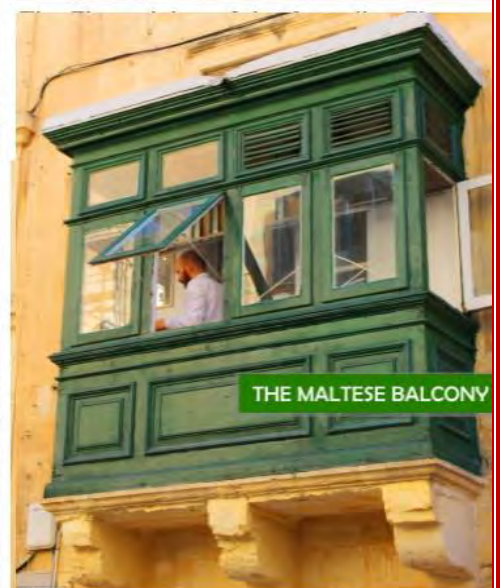
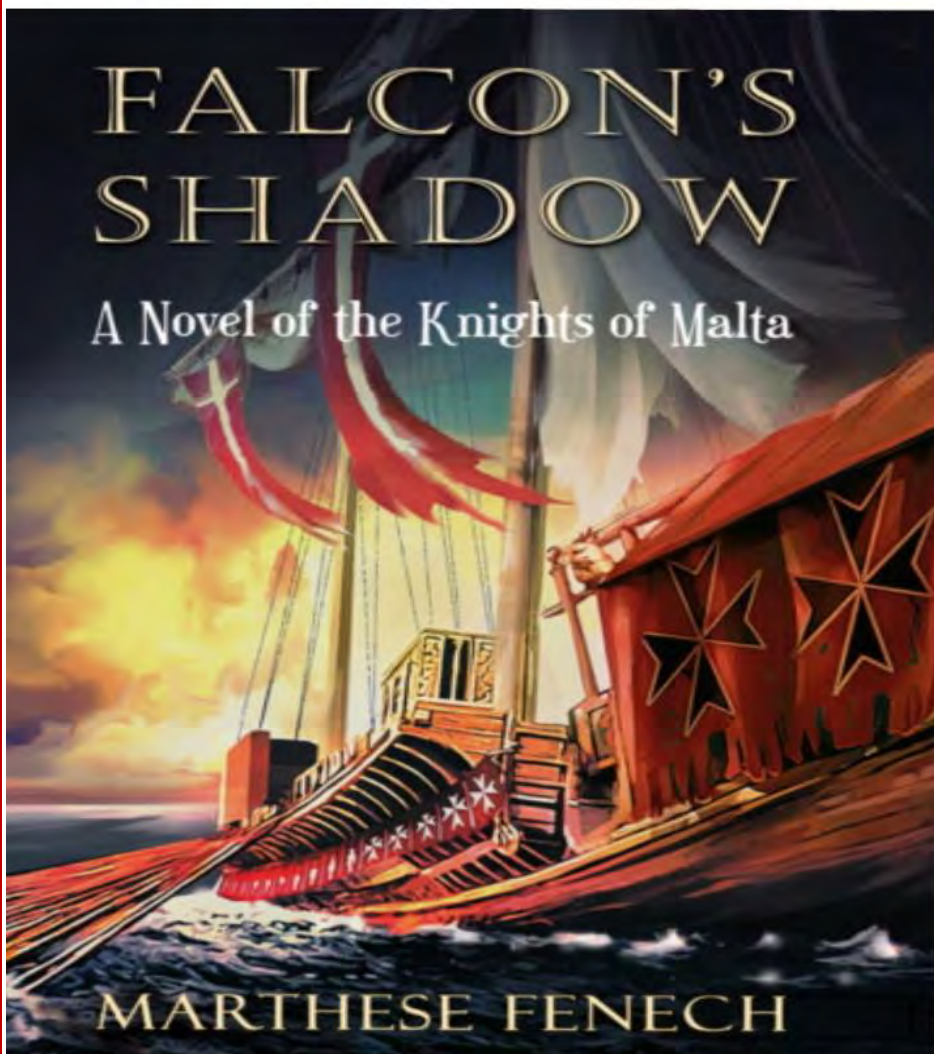
The Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

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The Flag raising of the Canadian Flag by young Maltese Canadians at the site of the Emigrants Memorial, I-Imgarr Harbour, Ghajnsielem, Gozo.





FRANK SCICLUNA RETIRES...

I WOULD LIKE INFORM MY READERS that I am retiring from the office of honorary consul for Malta in South Australia after 17 years of productive and sterling work for the Government of the Republic of Malta. I feel it is the appropriate time to hand over to a new person. I was appointed in May 2003 and during my time as consul I had the privilege to work with and for the members of the Maltese community of South Australia and with all the associations and especially with the Maltese Community Council of SA.

I take this opportunity to sincerely thank all my friends and all those who assisted me in my journey. My dedication and services to the community were acknowledged by both the Australian and Maltese Governments by awarding me with the highest honour – *Medal of Order of Australia* and the medal *F'Gieh Ir-Repubblika*, which is given to those who have demonstrated exceptional merit in the service of [Malta](#) or of humanity. I thank also the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Evarist Bartolo, for acknowledging my continuous service to the Government of the Republic of Malta.

I plan to continue publishing this Maltese eNewsletter – the Journal of Maltese Living Abroad which is the most popular and respected journal of the Maltese Diaspora and is read by thousands all over the world. *I will publish in my journal the full story of this item in the near future.*



MS. CARMEN SPITERI

On 26 June 2020 I was appointed as the Honorary Consul for Malta in South Australia. It is an honour and a privilege for me to take on this appointment. Presently the fact of my appointment is still sinking in but I endeavour to do my very best in assisting the Maltese community in whichever way I can and also promote Malta whenever possible. If I can be of assistance to you please do not hesitate to contact me on my mobile of 0401136673.

I take this opportunity to sincerely thank my predecessor Frank Scicluna. Frank gave 17 years of dedicated service to the Maltese community. I wish him all the

best for the future. Carmen Spiteri

BIOGRAPHY

Carmen Catherine Spiteri (nee Bonnici) was born in Zejtun, Malta in 1955 to Charlie and Teresa Bonnici. Carmen has a sister Marianne and a brother John. Regrettably her father Charlie passed away in 2012. Carmen is married to Venny Spiteri and has a son Christopher, two step-daughters Teresa and Angela and two granddaughters, Taylor and Tiana.

Charlie, Teresa and Carmen migrated to Australia in 1957 arriving in Fremantle and then on to Adelaide. Carmen attended St Joseph School at Hindmarsh for both her primary and secondary education. Upon completion of her education Carmen gained employment with a firm of insurance adjusters. She then worked for a stationery wholesaler, a finance company, a manufacturing firm and is currently employed at a legal firm.

Along with her husband Venny, Carmen has been a long time supporter of the different Maltese associations. In 2000 Carmen and Venny joined the Maltese Queen of Victories Band committee. Carmen served as Secretary for 2 years and as President of the Band for 13 years. Carmen has been on the Maltese Community Council for 14 years, serving as Secretary for most of that time. After several approaches by Fr Gabriel Micallef Carmen joined the Maltese Chaplaincy Festivities Group in 2016 and continues to work in that group. In 2018 served as Secretary of the St Catherine Society for about 6 months to help them out during a tough period.

When not taking Minutes and preparing for meetings Carmen together with Venny enjoys going to live theatre, dancing, travelling and generally living a happy and fulfilling life. She has holidayed in Malta on three occasions, once as a teenager and twice in more recent times with Venny. Carmen has an aunt and cousins living in Malta and has enjoyed getting to know them.

Keeping Maltese Communities Connected



Uffiċċju Komunikazzjoni

10 ta' Lulju 2020
77/2020

RESTAWR U KONSERVAZZJONI F'PARROĊĊI B'INVESTIMENT TA' €4 MILJUN KOFINANZJATI MINN FONDI EWROPEJ

L-Arċidjoċesi ta' Malta se tidhol għal xogħol ta' restawr u konservazzjoni ta' għaxar proġetti addizzjonali mas-17-il proġett li diġà tħabbru s-sena li għaddiet, b'investiment totali ta' madwar €4 miljun b'kofinanzjament ta' 80% minn fondi tal-Unjoni Ewropea. Dawn il-proġetti jinkludu r-restawr strutturali tal-knejjes kif ukoll il-konservazzjoni ta' diversi opri tal-arti, fosthom żewġ pitturi ta' Francesco Zahra.

Dan tħabbar waqt konferenza tal-aħbarijiet li saret ilbieraħ filgħaxija quddiem il-knisja parrokkjali tal-Qrendi, li giet indirizzata mis-Segretarju Amministrattiv tal-Arċidjoċesi ta' Malta Michael Pace Ross, u mis-Segretarju Parlamentari għall-Fondi Ewropej l-Onor. Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi.

Is-Sur Pace Ross, f'isem il-Fondazzjoni għall-Patrimonju Kulturali tal-Arċidjoċesi ta' Malta, qal li l-investiment f'dawn il-għaxar proġetti li se jkompli jsaħħaħ il-harsien tal-wirt kulturali tagħna jammonta għal madwar €1.5 miljun. Flimkien ma' dawn il-proġetti fi tmien parroċċi, se tiġi r-restawrata wkoll il-faċċata tal-Palazz tal-Arċisqof fil-Belt Valletta li fuq xewqa tal-Arċisqof Charles Scicluna f'diversi okkażjonijiet qed jiftaħ il-bibien tiegħu biex il-pubbliku jkun jista' japprezza l-patrimonju reliġjuż ta' pajjiżna u l-identità li ssawwana.

Is-Segretarju Parlamentari Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi qal li l-knejjes Maltin u Għawdxin dejjem kellhom valur imprezzabli hekk kif jiformaw parti mill-patrimonju kulturali ta' pajjiżna. Hu stqarr li xogħlijiet ta' restawr bħalma se jsiru fuq il-faċċata tal-knisja tal-Qrendi se jkunu qed isebbħu mhux biss il-knisja nnifisha imma anki l-qalba tal-lokalità. Zrinzo Azzopardi spjega li proġetti bħal dawn se jkunu qed isaħħu il-prodott turistiku hekk kif se jesponu r-rikezza tal-wirt storiku kulturali Malti, filwaqt li jvarjaw l-attrazzjonijiet turistiċi għal diversi lokalitajiet. Is-Segretarju Parlamentari saħaq li permezz ta' fondi Ewropej, l-investiment fis-settur turistiku, speċjalment f'dan iż-żmien, jitqies bħala essenzjali biex mhux biss inqajmu l-ekonomija fuq saqajha iżda nsaħħuha wkoll.

Il-parroċċi li qed jibbenefikaw mill-Fond Ewropew taħt il-Programm Operazzjonali I (2014-2020) huma: Fraz-Zebbuġ, il-Belt Valletta (San Pawl), il-Furjana, il-Ħamrun (San Gejtanu), il-Qrendi, l-Imsida, l-Isla u Tas-Sliema (San Ġirgor).

The First Council for Maltese Living Abroad 2011

The Council for Maltese Living Abroad was set up by the Government of Malta in 2011. Following the Convention of Maltese Living Abroad held in March 2010, the Government of Malta published a draft Bill proposing to set up a Council for Maltese Living Abroad and the establishment of a Maltese Cultural Institute.



MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT OF MALTA. From left: Dr Raymond Xerri (Director MLA), Rosalie Rivett, Carmen Galea, Franklin Mamo, Gaetano Pace, Joe Sherri, Louis Vella, President Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, Dr Edwin Borg-Manché, Prof Maurice Cauchi, Fr Alfred Vella, Bernard Scerri, Larry Zahra, Lawrence Dimech and Frank Scicluna. (Not in photo: Prof Stephen Gatt)

The council of Maltese living abroad has been set up for the first time with representatives from Maltese communities in different countries.

The setting up of this council was promised by the government during "The Convention of Maltese living abroad", organised in 2010. The council is presided by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and included representatives appointed following consultation with Maltese communities from Victoria and New South Wales in Australia, other states in Australia, the United States of America, Canada, Europe and the United Kingdom.

The council included five experienced people who worked with Maltese communities living abroad.

It represents these communities in meetings with the government and public authorities.

The council monitors the standard of living of these communities and strengthens the links between them and the political, cultural, economical and social aspects of Malta. Another function is the protection of these communities' right whilst upholding their cultural and linguistic identity. It also promotes Malta's immigration history and culture overseas, particular through the Maltese language.

It's aim is to advice the government on bills of interest to Maltese living abroad as well as on administrative measures of particular interest to these communities.

It will strive to keep a registry of non-governmental organisations' founded overseas by Maltese communities and a registry of prominent Maltese citizens who may have distinguished themselves in their community.

The members of the first council are: Lawrence Dimech and Gaetano Pace for New South Wales; Profs. Maurice Cauchi and Dr. Edwin Borg Manché for Victoria;

Frank Scicluna for other states in Australia; the late Larry Zahra and Louis Vella for the United States of America; Joseph Scerri for Canada; Bernard Scerri for the United Kingdom; and Franklin Mamo for Europe. The five Maltese community experts living abroad, chosen by the Prime Minister after consultation with the Opposition are: Roderic Bovingdon (Australia); Father Alfred Vella (Migrants Commission); Joseph Muscat (Gozo); Carmen Galea (Canada); and Rosalie Rivett (United Kingdom). There were few changes along the years - Mr Alexander Grima (replaced Franklin Mamo and Prof. Stephen Gatt replaced Roderick Bovingdon) Mr Joseph Xerri is the current secretary. Doris Zammit is the first council secretary.

The Council convenes once a year in Malta following a year of internal consultations among councillors and externally with the communities that they represent around the globe. On previous agendas several items were discussed, including the creation of an online course on teaching and learning of the maltese language, the inclusion of history of maltese emigration in the Maltese schools' curriculum, the dissemination of Maltese culture (Maltese Cultural Institute), the effects of property laws and taxation rates on Maltese living abroad, dual citizenship, distance voting in European Parliamentary elections and establishing a register for diaspora organisations and prominent Maltese living abroad. Other subjects include bank services for Maltese communities abroad, possible European Union funding for events, the establishment of a radio station, a website, and the exchange of talent and know-how in various fields between Maltese in Malta and those abroad.

Due to the coronavirus this years meeting has been postponed for 2021



Every time I go to Malta, I get captivated by the beautiful Maltese balconies that dot the cities and villages of the country. But I didn't know that much about them until I started digging into their history. Now I'm more obsessed than ever! Here are some amazing facts you should know about Malta's balconies before your trip!

In Maltese, these balconies are called *gallarija*.

We refer to them as Maltese balconies in English, but in Maltese, they are called *gallarija*, which translates as 'gallery.'

The origins of the design are most likely from North Africa

The *Muxarabiji* is a feature of some Arabic houses in North Africa, essentially it is a window that allows the person inside the house to look out onto the street without being seen. Exactly when Maltese balconies appeared is still unknown. The houses of Malta have had balconies for hundreds of years, but the concept of the covered wooden enclosed balcony that became the tradition was created later. No one knows exactly when, but there's evidence that these became popular in the late seventeenth century.

Many believe that the first enclosed balconies were at the Grand Master's Palace in Valletta.

Though it's not a certainty. You can see these beautiful enclosed balconies in of the Grand Master's Palace in Valletta's St. John's Square. This set off a trend of people enclosing their balconies for aesthetic reasons.

Maltese Balconies:

Written By [Stephanie Craig](#) In [Travel Guides](#)

Many of the existing balconies which were enclosed actually destroyed the historic facades of the existing buildings.

As you walk around the different cities in Malta, see if you can tell which windows were built as enclosed balconies and which ones were shuttered after being built. I'll bet you can tell the difference more than you might expect!

Some of the balconies were shut for practical reasons, not just aesthetic ones.

As Malta's population grew, especially in Valletta, people found they were running out of space. Enclosing the balconies and darkening the windows meant this room could be used as part of the house. In many of these places, this meant it became a bathroom (though not usually with running water or plumbing). The decoration of the balconies extends beyond the wooden colored boxes.

Look at the stone supports of the balconies, called *saljaturi*. These can have many different designs, some of which can get to be quite elaborate. In Valletta, the corners of builders were required to be decorated by law.

This means that buildings are either decorated with statues or have windows that wrap around the corners of the buildings.

Maltese Balconies were originally priced by how many panels they are across.

Each panel is called a *purtella*. The wider the balcony, the more *purtellas* are needed, thus increasing the price for having the balcony made. The color of the balcony is typically matched to the door of the house.

Traditionally colors could vary from red to navy to bright purple, expressing the individuality of the homeowners. However, the green that you see in many places of Valletta is considered a "status" color brought to the island by the British.

I personally prefer when the balconies on a street have different colors, instead of all the same. Which color of Maltese balcony is your favorite?



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www.ozmalta.com

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

BE CONNECTED: maltesejournal@gmail.com

I thank you for this journal and I admire you – you always praise the Maltese Living Abroa and you never criticise anybody. JDM

In case you missed my Facebook Live Virtual Book Launch...



Here is the entire event, complete with the addition of photographs:

[Facebook Live Book Launch https://vimeo.com/436329221](https://vimeo.com/436329221)

To those who took part, cheered me on, and engaged with me and each other, and those who have watched or will watch the replay -- THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart for the gift of your time, the most valuable thing you can give someone. Your presence this evening was everything. ♥ □ In gratitude, Marthese Fenech

PS. Falcon's Shadow shot back up to number one on Amazon's Bestseller list this evening!


THE COFFEE POT BOOK CLUB


FALCON'S SHADOW

A Novel of the Knights of Malta

By Marthese Fenech

Falcon's Shadow sweeps from quarry pits to sprawling estates, tumultuous seas to drought-ravaged lands, the dungeons beneath the bishop's palace to the open decks of warships, creaking gallows to sun-drenched courtyards. Two empires collide at the Battle of Djerba, a fateful clash which unites lost kin, only to tear them apart once more.





The Coffee Pot Book Club

Churches at Birgu - Vittoriosa

St. Lawrence Parish Church



This parish Church seems to have been the second oldest in Malta after the Mdina Cathedral. **San Lorenzo-a-mare** (*St. Lawrence by the sea*) was built by Spanish seafarers with the help of Spanish Kings around the end of the 13th or early 14th century. From 1530 to 1571 it served as the conventual church of the Knights of St. John, while the **Annunciation** church served as the parish church. In April 1532 it accidentally caught fire, was destroyed and the re-building of a new church was taken in hand without delay, with some modifications done later. The present building rose between 1681 and 1697 and is by Lorenzo Gafa. From 1798 to 1939 further modifications were

done to its architecture, including many rich decorations in the interior. It became the seat of a collegiate chapter in 1820. The Roman architect Romano Carapecchia was responsible for the additional extra bays supporting the bell towers. The second belfry was finished as late as 1913. The original dome of Gafa' in this church was destroyed by enemy action during WWII, the present one being built on the plan of Prof. Galea and inaugurated in 1954. Other losses suffered during the war include the side chapel of the Blessed Sacrament built in 1786 by Baroness Francesca Viani. Space for the building of this chapel was taken from her palace garden, and the space that was once occupied by a chapel of **St. Roque**. The side chapel was rebuilt in 1951. The sacristy and the Chapter Hall, were also destroyed during the war and rebuilt in 1947. The vaulted ceiling too suffered damage due to blast during the war, the cracks were repaired and new painting installed. The painting of The Martyrdom of St. Lawrence done by Mattia Preti in 1689 was donated to this church by Don Anton Testaferrata whose coat-of-arms is shown at the bottom left. The dedication date for this church is the 24th Oct. 1723.



Annunciation:

A 15th Century church on this site was first dedicated to the **Nativity of Our Lady**. In the 1520's it was given to the Dominican Friars of Rabat who took possession on the 4th February 1528. When the Order of St. John settled down in Malta in 1530, the parish priest of Birgu began to administer the sacraments from this church, as St. Lawrence parish church was taken over by the Knights of St. John. The foundation stone of the present building was laid in June 1638 by Inquisitor Fabio Chigi later Pope Alexander VII and consecrated by Bishop Mgr. Balaguer in August 1657. In the beginning of the 16th century its dedication was changed to the **Annunciation**. The church was restored in 1806 and in 1865 and was without a dome until 1925 when this was built on the plan of architect Gustav Soler from Birgu. In 1941 the church and convent were destroyed by enemy action, the present convent being re-occupied by the Dominican Friars in December 1954 after rebuilding. In the building process

the foundations of an Islamic minaret were found. Archbishop Gonzi blessed it i

Assumption A Jesuit Marian congregation was established at Birgu in 1604 through the initiative of Fr Sebastian Salelles S.J. A papal brief registered in the Curia Archives on the 20th August 1614 approved the erection of this congregation. The Vicar General, Fr Filippo Borg UJD, on the 24th April 1624, authorized this congregation to build its own oratory on the site occupied by **two Assumption churches**. The congregation used to celebrate here both the Assumption as well as the *Immaculate Conception* feasts. It also held the forty hours adoration. The Jesuits of Valletta were always in charge of this congregation.



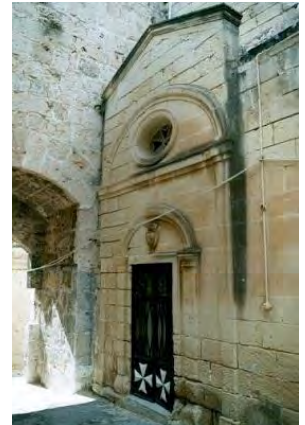
Holy Trinity - Also known as **Our Lady of Monserrat**, was built by the noble Lucrezia Gauci Falzon near the Marina wharf of this town in 1784. The coats of arms of two founding

families with the year 1462 inscribed on them, were incorporated in the facade of this church. It served as a temporary chapel for the Carmelite Friars before they moved to their newly built church of *Our Lady of Mount Carmel* in 1611. Sometime about 1685, this church was rededicated to **The Holy Trinity**. It was completely destroyed by enemy bombing in WWII but rebuilt in 1962-3 and nowadays is used for religious meetings.



Nativity of Our Lady A small chapel dedicated to the **Nativity of Our Lady (Our Lady of Victory)**, exists in fort St Angelo tucked in one corner of the bastions. Four Grandmasters were buried here who were afterwards disinterred and reburied in the crypt of St. John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta. This is a holy spot where in Punic times there existed a temple of Astarte which was also used by the Romans in honour of Juno. After the expulsion of the Arabs from Malta, a Church dedicated to the **Assumption of Mary** was erected here in 1090. In a 1274 document a church dedicated to **St Angelo** is

mentioned here and some time afterwards the dedication was changed to the **Nativity of Our Lady**. It was hit during enemy action in WWII but was rebuilt in 1950.



St. Michael & All Angels

In the early '60's an ex-rum store at the end of Birgu victualing wharf was converted into a Naval Chapel for the British forces. It was deconsecrated in 1978 prior to the final withdrawal of the Royal Navy from Malta. Afterwards it was used as a store for some time, but became derelict along with most of the buildings on the quayside at Birgu. The old Naval Bakery was renovated and opened as the Maritime Museum, but the other buildings became dilapidated. A large-scale redevelopment of the whole area was started and the first building to be demolished in July 2000 was this ex-Royal Naval Chapel.



PERSONALITIES – HAL TARXIEN

REV. MONS. PROFS. CARMEL SANT

Born in 1921 and died in 1992. Dun Karn as he was known, was a prolific writer. He was the one that translated to the Maltese Language the Holy Scriptures from the original languages.

Born in Tarxien and was educated at the Primary school of Tarxien and afterwards at the Lyceum, afterwards he entered the Royal University of Malta.

Rev Carmel Sant when still a student translated the Papal Letter 'Rerum Novarum' written by Pope Leo XIII.

After he became a priest in 1946, he went to continue his studies in Rome and when he returned back, one of his many jobs given to him was, the editorialship of the Clerical Journal 'Lucerna' and nominated a member in the 'Ghaqda Kittieba tal-Malti', (Writers of the Maltese Language Group).

In 1964 Rev Carmel Sant was nominated Professor of the Holy Scriptures at the Royal University of Malta. He founded the 'Ghaqda Bibblika Maltija' (Maltese Biblical Group), to deliver and teach the Word of God to all the Maltese. He with others gave us the Bible in Maltese by publishing the Biblical Journal 'Sion' which the Group started publishing.

Rev. Sant for the first time published the modern text of the New Testament of the Holy Bible, the most written text ever to be published in Maltese. He has written in many Journals like 'Lehen is Sewwa', The Sunday Times of Malta, 'The Bulletin and many others, Maltese and international.

Rev. Carmel Sant, we should say, gave a great contribution to the Maltese Literature and Language and above all in Biblical text. He died on the 23rd September 1992 and was buried in their private tomb at the 'Risen Christ Cemetery' of Tarxien known as 'Cimiterju ta' l-Erwieh'. A street and the Primary School of Tarxien were named in his Honour.



KELINU CACHIA

Kelinu Cachia was a very popular person in Tarxien. He worked at the Malta Dry Docks as a draughtsman. He was a member of the MUSEUM Society (a doctrine entity), member of the Parish Council, a member of the Feast Committee, for many years as its secretary, co-founder of the Civic Council and the Editor of the 'TARXIEN' journal.

One must see Kelinu with the lens of a writer. He was a member of the Maltese Literary Society (Għaqda Letterarja Maltija), and also a member of the Maltese Poets Association (Għaqda Poeti Maltin). Perhaps it was the poem that Kelinu

loved most.

In fact the number of poems that he wrote in honor of Tarxien and Maria Annunziata are many. He has written several poems including a poem for Mons Rev Dun Karm Sant celebrating his first Mass (1946), another when the two new bells, Pawlina and Giuzeppina, were blessed, when Rev Dun Anton Rapa celebrated 10 years as parish priest (1962), when the Annunciation Band Club celebrated 100 years of its existence (1962), a poem for the inauguration of the new playing fields (1966), A poem when the Tarxien Rainbows FC were promoted to the First Division (Today's Premier League) (1983), Another poem when the church inaugurated the Dome after renovation in it (1986). He wrote another poem for the celebration of the 100th year Old of the biggest bell we have in our parish church.

But the most two subjects that Kelinu wrote about were Our Lady under the title of the Annunciation and His native village of Tarxien. Poems like Maria Annunziata (Lil Marija Annunziata – 1951) and I love Tarxien (Għaliex inhobbu - 1962).

He died in 1995, (9th December 1995).

Vincent Battistino - mill-ktieb, 'TARXIEN'



The National Book Council is proud to present Kwarta Ktieb, a new literature podcast featuring readings from some of Malta's best-loved books.

You'll be able to listen to 15-minute reads from locally-published short stories, excerpts from novels and poetry,

read by an array of authors and personalities hailing from the arts sector. In this first series we've put together a diverse anthology of literary works spanning nearly a century of Maltese literature, revisiting classic works such as the ever-so relevant socio-political satire *Ulied in-Nanna Venut fl-Amerka* by Juann Mamo, poetry by Doreen Micallef, and some of the last decade's best-



sellers including Ġużè Stagno's *What Happens in Brussels Stays in Brussels* and Immanuel Mifsud's prize-winning *Fl-Isem tal-Missier (u tal-Iben)*.

Each episode is guaranteed to provide listeners with moments of discovery or to transport readers back to their favourite worlds via the voices of guest readers featured on Kwarta Ktieb, which include Antonella Axisa, Lorraine Vella, Kenneth Scicluna and Mikhail Basmadjian.

You can listen to all 10 episodes on [MaltaToday](#) and [Anchor](#).

Kwarta Ktieb is the latest initiative by the National Book Council aimed at further promoting Maltese literature with local audiences. It is being produced in collaboration with MaltaToday. [FACEBOOK](#)

IT-TAMA ta' L-ANTENATI TAGHNA DEJJEM KIENET FIL-MULEJ**Mill-korrispondent taghna Greg Caruana NSW**

Jekk induru dawra mal-folklor taghna, insibu li għall-Antenati taghna, t-Tama taghhom kienet dejjem fil-Mulej. Bizzejjed jekk wiehed jaghti harsa lejn il-qwieli u l-idjomi li għandna fil-folklor taghna; li baqa għaddej minn generazzjoni għall-oħra bis-saħħa ta' l-antenati taghna. U dan il-bicca l-kbira geġ, mill-bdiewa u rahhala li msieken ftit li xejn kellhom edukazzjoni, minhabba s-sitwazzjoni ta' faqar li kienu jinsabu fiha. Wara kolloxx f'dawk iz-zminijiet dawk tal-klassi għolja l-bicca l-kbira taghhom dahr u għall l-ingwi barranin.

Mela jekk nirriflettu ftit dawn il-qwieli u idiomi wiehed għandu jasal għal din il-konkluzjoni..

Mela Naraw: **ALLA MAGHNA** (ghax Alla jghin): Hija espressjoni li ngħidu meta nkunu se nibdew xi bicca xogħol. Tista tingħad ukoll, jekk nkunu qedin naghmlu xi haga u jidrilna li mhux se tirnexxi. Qisa tohrog naturali, u nitolbu lil Mulej jghejna.... **ALLA JGHEJNEK**: din ngħiduha lil xi hadd li jkollu bzonn l-ghajnuna u ma nkunux nistghu ngħinuh (ghax Alla jiehu hsieb kullhadd). **ALLA Baghtek**: hija espressjoni li ngħidu lil xi hadd li gie jaghtina l-ghajnuna qisa parti mill-providenza t'Alla. Minn naha l-oħra tista tingħad b'expressjoni kuntrarja lil xi hadd li waqt li jkunu waqt il-problema, jigi biex jghejn kollu ghajjat u paroli zejjed. **Alla jbierek**: din tingħad b'ferh mill-qalb, ghax inkunu ferhanin, bli l-Mulej ipprovdienla jew li rajna. Fl-antik bosta qlub tajba kienu juzaw din l-idioma għal xi trabi, tfal jew annimali, inkella tjur, bhal; "xi gmiel, kemm kiber,... Alla jbierek.

Dan jingħad biex iharsuhom minn kull ghajn (curse).

ALLA Jseddaq: dan jingħad, bhal biex wiehed jagħmel kuragg u jkompli jikkumbatti. **ALLA JAHFER U T-TRAB JGHATTI**:

Dan il-proverbju jingħad mill-ghat li Alla hanin u dejjem jahfrilna htijietna u it-trab huwa l-qabar li jnessi, kemm it-tajeb u kemm il-hazin, kolloxx jintesa. **ALLA FUQ KOLLOX U FUQ KULLHADD ...XEMX U XITA JIBGHAT LIL KULLHADD**:

Dan huwa ghajdut iehor li jurina kemm missirijietna kienu jemmnu fil-hniena u l-gustizzja t'Alla l-imbierek. **ALLA FETTIEHI u ALLA HANIN**: F'dan il-proverbju l-istess, jurina l-fehma qawwiya li kellhom missirijietna fil-hniena t'Alla l-imbierek. **ALLA JSEBBAH, ALLA JIBGHAT**: Dan ifisser li Alla jibghat sbieh il-gurnata bix-Xemx sabieha li timlik bit-tama; u li HU dejjem jinsab maghna bil-grazzi tieghu biex nissieltu mal-hajja minn jum għall-iehor.

Għalkemm ma narawhx ghax niehdu kolloxx for granted. **ALLA JAGHLAQ BIEB U JIFTAH MIJA**: Hawn għandna eżempju iehor li jagħmlilna kuragg, halli nkomplu nissieltu mal-hajja, u ma naqtawx qalbn, meta niltaqaw mal-maltemp. Għaliex wara kolloxx bil-ghajnuna tal-Mulej il-Folja tinqaleb tibzawx. Bl-Ingliz ngħidu

WE DON'T KNOW WHATS ROUND THE CORNER, u EVERY CLOUD HAS A SILVER LINING. Nixtieq naghlaq b'din: Kemm hu tajeb u ta' gid għalina li nkunu pozittivi. Sahħa lil kullhadd u please **STAY SAFE**

I am Andy Magro from the Maltese Ex-Servicemen Association of NSW (sub branch RSL) Australia. I enjoy reading your journal. Unfortunately, our association hasn't met for a while because of the pandemic but we keep in contact with each other. Once again thank you for your articles

I must admit that I am one of the many who has taken your marvellous Journal for granted but nevertheless enjoyed it immensely over the years. I am not Maltese but my wife Maria is. I had two postings in Malta when the Australian High Commission was still located in Sliema. The first was from 1971 to 1975 and the second was in the early part of 1982 when I had a short-term posting as Acting High Commissioner. Maria and I have visited Malta almost every year since. Maria and I were married in Qrendi in 1977 with my dear late friend Fr Rafael Vella of Malte Emigrants Commission fame officiating. Your very fine journal invokes many fond memories for me, and I am sure for many thousands of others all around the world, so I thank you for all your efforts and dedication in this regard.

Sincere thanks and best wishes Gordon Selleck ACT



“The Police are at the service of the Republic and of no other power” – Archbishop Charles Scicluna told the Force during Mass at St. John’s Co-Cathedral in Valletta

The Police Force commemorating the 206th anniversary since the its setting up gathered at St. John Co-Cathedral in Valletta, Malta. The Archbishop Charles J Scicluna, who celebrated Holy Mass, said that the Force’s motto of *Domine Dirige Nos* is asking God to lead them. The Archbishop said that the work of the Police is to prevent crimes and investigate anyone without fear or favour. He added that the role of the Police is not to fold their hands and wait for things to fall into their lap.

With reference to the passage from the Gospel where Jesus says be as wise as snakes, Archbishop Scicluna said that the Police need to be as wise as snakes and as pure as doves.

He added that the purity of the Police Force starts from their behaviour. He emphasised that the Police are the servants of the Republic and of no other power. The Archbishop said that the guarantee of us citizens is that no one should be above the law. He urged for an analysis of whether the principals of the code of ethics are being properly adhered to and implemented. He concluded by saying that he prays a lot for the Police because he considers them as the guarantee of social order.



The Malta Police Force commemorating the 206th anniversary since the its establishment at St. John's Co-Cathedral - Valletta July 2020

Population in Malta surpasses half a million

Friday, 10 July 2020, 11:46 Last update: about 3 hours ago



The estimated total population of Malta and Gozo at the end of 2019 stood at 514,564, up by 4 per cent when compared to 2018, the NSO said on Friday.

Persons under the age of 18 made up 16 per cent of the total population, while a further 18 per cent were aged 65 years and over. Of these, 3,049 persons – 2,132 females and 917 males – were aged 90 years and over.

The population increase in 2019 was driven by a net migration (immigration less emigration) of

20,343 persons. The largest proportion of net migrants was men, reaching 13,535 against 6,808 female counterparts.

Excluding adoptions, the largest share of migrants were third-country nationals at 12,355 followed by other EU nationals at 7,489. Net migration of Maltese nationals was estimated at 446. Resident live births registered during 2019 amounted to 4,350, a decrease of 2 per cent over the previous year. There were approximately nine births for every 1,000 persons in 2019. Over the past ten years the total fertility rate has decreased from 1.42 to 1.14, while the average age of parents who gave birth has increased from 28.6 years to 30.6 years.

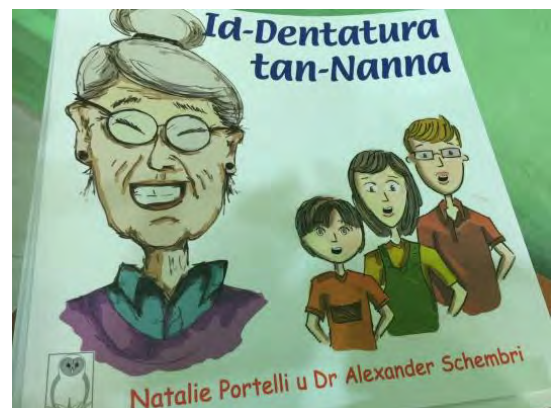
This was largely due to a sharper increase in population figures when compared to the slight decrease in the number of live births. Total resident deaths remained constant compared to last year and rose by 14 per cent over the past ten years.

'Id-Dentatura tan-Nanna' Grandma's Dentures



Children's books about dentistry are abundant and popular, especially if the protagonists are animals or popular children's characters like Barney or Dora. Most of the storylines are either

about the Tooth Fairy or about first experiences at the dentist.



There are other dental health promotion books targeted at young children which explain the importance of oral health and how to maintain a healthy dentition. On the local market one also finds popular children's books translated in Maltese like '*Gigi Tugghu Darstu*' translated by Trevor Zahra and '*Is-Sinna ta' Nora*' adapted in Maltese by Clare Azzopardi. Recently young Samuel Farrugia also published '*Samuel and The Magic Tooth*'.

I was inspired to write this short story through my special interest within the dental field which is geriatric dentistry; dental care for elderly persons. It is a fairly new field, introduced by the Faculty of Dental Surgery at the University of Malta merely five years ago. Nowadays, it is a module studied by all our dental students, not only those who are studying to become dentists but also dental hygienists, dental technologists and dental assistants.

Although 'Id-Dentatura tan-Nanna' focuses on Grandma's dentures, the main message to be delivered is about the perception and attitudes of young children towards older persons.

International and local literature, as well as my personal experiences, reveal that although children's attitudes towards the ageing process are often negative, their general attitude towards older people is positive. Thus children identify ill health, loss or greying of hair, loss of teeth or wearing a denture with old age and this generates the fear of growing old or a negative attitude towards the ageing process.

In a recent study by Sally Newman(2017), when children were asked to find an adjective to describe an older person, they all used positive adjectives like 'pleasant', 'good', 'happy', 'pretty', 'kind' and 'loved'. I believe that these adjectives are also endorsed by our Maltese children who have very loving and respectful relationships with older persons especially their grandparents and great grandparents.

For this story, I collaborated with one of Malta's leading children's writers, Nathalie Portelli, who made the necessary arrangements to my story in order to make it possible for it to be printed as a children's book. Artist David Mifsud magically transformed words into pictures, bringing Grandma and the children to life. *'Id-Dentatura tan-Nanna' is published by Wise Owl Publications.* Dr. Alexander Schembri B. Ch. D. (Hons). Dip. Ger. M. Ger. Dr. J.F. Attard B. Ch. D (Melit)Dr. W. Borg B. Ch. D (Melit)Dr. M. Cordina B. Ch. D(MeliOriginal article found on The [Malta Independent](#)

Consulate General of the Republic of Malta to Canada



At Mass in Maltese in the new normality

Last Sunday was the first time Churches reopened following four months of COVID19. (Dr. Xerri with the mask on)

Last week about 20 Maltese showed up to

Mass, today the number exceeded 60. All has changed, sanitising of hands, 2 metres apart, with masks, cannot shake people's hand (still not used to the elbow shake), cannot speak to someone close like before, but we are gradually managing to learn to adapt to the new reality.

Thanks Fr Ivano for the mass, all the best for a speedy recovery to pastor Fr Mario Micallef.

A GREAT FEELING TO BE BACK AT ST PAUL THE APOSTLE MALTESE CANADIAN CHURCH



POSTPONEMENT OF RESUMPTION OF CONSULAR SERVICES AT THE CONSULATE GENERAL IN MELBOURNE DUE TO COVID-19 REVAMP

In view of the current situation with increase in Covid-19 positive cases in the state of Victoria, and the lockdown in effect in 10 identified post-codes, the reopening of the Consulate General in Melbourne to appointments from the general public is postponed from 6 July 2020 to a future date. This arrangement will be reviewed towards the end of July 2020, taking into consideration advice from the Victorian government. Until we welcome applicants at our office in Melbourne again, we encourage you to get in touch with our office by email: maltaconsulate.melbourne@gov.mt or by telephone: (03) 9670 8427 (Monday to Friday between 08:30-16:00hrs), as soon as possible so as to coordinate obtaining the required documentation for applications. Once the office is re-opened to the public, applicants who have expressed their interest will be re-contacted to book an appointment.

Our priority is safety, protection and precaution of our members of staff and applicants alike. We apologise for the inconvenience. Thanks for your understanding and cooperation.



Comino Island is a haven for snorkelers, divers, and windsurfers from around the planet. Named after the cumin that grows all over the island, this incredible place is thick with fragrant wild herbs and flowers.

While the smell is amazing, the real jewel of this Maltese island is the famous Blue Lagoon.

One of the most beautiful beaches in Malta, the the Blue Lagoon on Comino Island is well worth the trip. Located on the tiny, car-free islands of Comino, it's the perfect Mediterranean escape. Here's my experience taking a day trip to the Blue Lagoon in Malta!

What to Expect

The boat ride to Comino Island is incredibly picturesque. Have your camera ready for shots of the beautiful caves and sea cliffs along the route there. It's a quick trip from anywhere in Malta and the journey is Instagram-worthy from beginning to end.

As soon as you arrive at Comino Island, you will see how crazy popular this place is. There are always tons of people arriving at once. Normally, anything so touristy puts me off a bit, but this place is worth it.

You can't blame tourists for crowding in to see this

gorgeous spot! The Blue Lagoon is shallow. It's basically a giant swimming pool. The water is calm, shallow, and crystal clear. It's a good place to snorkel or just enjoy the warm water.

Try to get to Comino Island early so you can beat the crowd and maximize your day– it's all about basking in the sun so try to maximize your hours of daylight.

Getting There The Maltese archipelago is made up of three main islands, Malta, Gozo and Comino, along with many smaller uninhabited islands. The big three islands are close together and it's easy to travel between them so you plan to check them all out even on a short trip.

Gozo Island and Comino Island are both less than 30 minutes from the main island of Malta.

There are tons of boats and ferries that bring people to Comino Island, however, I'd recommend getting a private charter boat. When you go with a private company, you can arrive early and enjoy the water instead of being stuck on shore. **You'll probably only spend one day boating around Comino Island so it's best to make the most of it.**



10 ta' Lulju 1888

132 sena ilu il-Mosta tinghata d-dinjita ta' Arcipretalia

MARK MICALLEG PERCONTE

Illum hsbti li nikteb xi haga zghira fuq din l-grajja ghaliex dan kien wiehed mill-mument i glori uzi li ghandha imnizla b'ittri tad-deheb il-parrocca taghna.

Id-dokument bil-Latin li hareg minn Ruma bid-data ta' l-10 ta' Lulju, 1888 igib l-isem De Titolo Archipresbyterali Parocho Mustae in Dioecesi Melitensi Tribuendo, jigifieri "Rigward it-Tittlu ta' Arcipriet li ghandu jinghata lill-Parrocca tal-Mosta fid-Djocesi ta' Malta."

Dan id-digriet Konkistorjali twil mhux hazin; hawn inghidu biss xi haga fil-qosor milli fih. Ir-raguni ghaliex il-knisja taghna kienet giet imghollija ghad-dinjita ta' Arcipretali kienet li l-Knisja Rotunda taghna kienet qiegghda taghmel unur lid-Djocesi ta' Malta minhabba l-kobor u l-gmiel taghha u kienet sahansitra thabbatha mal-famuza Pantheon ta' Ruma. Jissemma wkoll ix-xoghol kbir li wettaq il-poplu b'imhabba kbira flimkien mal-kleru sabiex inbniet ir-Rotunda flok il-knisja parrokkjali l-qadima. Tissemma wkoll il-hidma pastorali kbira li l-Kleru tal-parrocca kien qiegghed iwettaq f'dan it-tempju, f'ghaqda shiha mas-Sede Appostolika.

Ghaldaqstant Ruma dehrilha li l-knisja parrokkjali taghna jixirqilha li tigi mghollija ghad-dinjita ta' Knisja Arcipretali u l-kappillan taghha jissejjah Arcipriet flimkien mas-successuri kollha legittimi li kellhom imexxu l-parrocca taghna fil-futur. Dak li tat Ruma gie mwettaq dritt f'Malta mill-Awtoritajiet tal-knisja taghna u hekk gie kkonfermat u ddikjarat li l-knisja parrokkjali tal-Mosta tissejjah bit-tittlu ta' Arcipretali u l-kapijiet u s-successuri legittimi taghha jissejhu Arciprieti. Illum kif kien xieraq ir-rotunda taghna hija imzejna ukoll bit-titli ta' Santwarju u Bazilika unur misthoqq ghall-opra ta' Grognet.



ORDER OF MALTA

Knights & Dames with a mission of care

In the 11th century the Knights of Malta, known then as 'Knights Hospitaller', established a hospital in Jerusalem to care for pilgrims of any religious faith or origin. The work of the hospitallers grew in fame and in 1113 Pope

Paschal II officially recognised the monastic community as a lay religious order. The Pope identified the Hospitaller Gerard as the Order's founder, together with an established group of monks – the 'Professed' – who are still at the heart of the Order of Malta today.

Throughout the centuries the number of members coming from all over Europe continued to grow and contributed to the strengthening of the Order during its presence in Rhodes (1310-1522) and in Malta (1530-1798).

While members of the Order of Malta in former times traditionally belonged to the aristocracy, the emphasis today is on a nobility of spirit and conduct. The 13,500 Knights and Dames of the Order of Malta remain true to its inspiring principles, summarised in the motto "Tuitio Fidei et Obsequium Pauperum" – nurturing, witnessing and protecting the faith and serving the poor and the sick – which become reality through humanitarian projects and social assistance in 120 countries. Members must demonstrate dedication to these principles and are admitted country-by-country through Priories and national Associations.

The three Classes

According to the Constitution, the members of the Order of Malta are divided into three Classes. The members are to conduct their lives in an exemplary manner in conformity with the teachings and precepts of the Catholic Church and to devote themselves to the assistance activities of the Order.

Members of the **First Class** are Knights of Justice, or Professed Knights, and the Professed Conventual Chaplains, who have made vows of "poverty, chastity and obedience aspiring to perfection according to the Gospel". They are religious according to Canon Law but are not obliged to live in community.

The members of the **Second Class**, by virtue of the Promise of Obedience, are committed to living according to Christian principles and the inspiring principles of the Order. They are subdivided into three categories:

- Knights and Dames of Honour and Devotion in Obedience
- Knights and Dames of Grace and Devotion in Obedience
- Knights and Dames of Magistral Grace in Obedience

The **Third Class** consists of lay members who do not profess religious vows or the Promise, but who live according to the principles of the Church and of the Order. They are divided into six categories:

- Knights and Dames of Honour and Devotion
- Conventual Chaplains ad honorem
- Knights and Dames of Grace and Devotion
- Magistral Chaplains
- Knights and Dames of Magistral Grace
- Donats (male and female) of Devotion

WE FIGHT COVID-19



COVID-19: Order of Malta Activities Worldwide



With its centuries-old hospitaller tradition, the Sovereign Order of Malta is actively participating in the management of the Covid-19 pandemic, both through forms of cooperation with national health services and civil protection corps and with health and social assistance centres. Below are some of the initiatives of associations and relief and volunteer corps in various countries.

EUROPE

Italy

In Lombardy, one of hardest-hit regions, the Order of Malta's

Italian Relieve Corps (CISOM) has deployed its volunteers to help set up a new hospital, built in record time in the Milan Fair pavilions. With 200 intensive and sub-intensive care beds, it will be an essential medical unit for treating the most serious cases. Order of Malta Italy will donate 260 ventilators to the new hospital.

From today, Order of Malta volunteers are assisting Covid-19 patients, and those who have recovered but need further treatment, in the hospital ship the Ligurian Region has set up in the port of Genoa, able to accept up to 400 patients.

The intervention of the Order of Malta's members and volunteers in Italy is mainly in the health, psychological and logistic sectors, with the distribution of food and medicines to the elderly or those in isolation. The health-screening services continue for passengers arriving in the main Italian airports, an activity launched by CISOM at the start of the coronavirus emergency. Support is also offered to municipal operations centres in ten different regions. Some of the Order's social initiatives that continue to give daily assistance to the homeless, the elderly in need, the unemployed, immigrants and those living in extreme poverty, are still up and running.

GERMANY

In Germany, the Order of Malta has opened a central and various regional crisis management centres, where task forces specialized in health emergencies are managing and monitoring all the assistance services provided, ensuring they respect the protocols issued by the respective health authorities.

Medical teams are operating on several fronts, in Baden Württemberg, two drive-through stations test people sent by their doctor without having to leave their cars. There are also numerous mobile clinics for consultations, as well as pre-hospital triage services. Ambulance services have been intensified. The eleven hospitals run by the Order have partially been equipped to face the healthcare crisis, one of which now specialised in respiratory diseases. Finally, the Order of Malta's volunteers are providing various new services such as shopping for elderly citizens and visiting by telephone.

FRANCE

Order of Malta France emergency teams have been working with the prefectures and hospitals since the beginning of the crisis. As requested by the authorities, they intervene in various sectors, such as assisting the sick and transporting them to hospitals, supporting call centres giving advice on health issues and delivering supplies to hospitals. Medical protocols have been activated for guaranteeing the safety of patients and staff in the various facilities for the disabled and elderly run by the Order of Malta in France.

HUNGARY

The Order of Malta's Relief Corps in Hungary (MMSZ) has activated a service to deliver food and basic necessities to the guests of its 30 institutes for the elderly or sick, now in complete isolation. Thanks to its online platform, it has also activated educational services for students – mostly young people from disadvantaged families – in the twelve institutes the Order runs in the country. Since freezing temperatures are forecast for the coming days, MMSZ will temporarily re-open its overnight shelters with 100 beds for the homeless, again in total respect of medical assistance and healthcare provisions.

IRELAND

In various towns, the Order of Malta's ambulance corps has set up an emergency hotline for those in isolation needing food and/or medicines and offers support to those in need.

SLOVAKIA

In Slovakia, the Order of Malta is attempting to maintain its activities for the homeless and continues to distribute food and hot drinks.

MIDDLE EAST

Attention remains high in the Middle East, where for now there are few Covid-19 cases recorded. However, the precarious medical and social conditions in many countries has prompted the Order of Malta to activate a series of monitoring services.

PALESTINE

In Bethlehem, the Order of Malta's Holy Family Hospital – the only facility in the region with a neonatal intensive care unit – remains open to take care of the most vulnerable mothers and infants in the region. Since 5th March, when the area was declared a red zone, some 150 babies have been born. The infection-control measures have been intensified in line with the Palestinian Ministry of Health protocols and one of the operating theatres has been turned into an isolation ward for infected patients. The lockdown of the region has however caused further difficulty in moving premature babies or those needing surgery.

LEBANON

The Order of Malta's association in Lebanon has launched a series of initiatives for containing the virus in some of the poorest areas of the country. Since the outset of the health emergency, the association's medical staff have been conducting awareness and educational campaigns in all the outlying regions where the Order of Malta has health centres and mobile clinics. In addition, all the nurses in the Order's facilities in Lebanon have received specific Covid-19 training offered by the public Health Ministry.

ASIA

SOUTH KOREA

In one of the first countries to tackle the health emergency, members of the Order of Malta's delegation in South Korea have prepared and distributed thousands of basic kits – including masks and alcohol detergents – to disadvantaged families in the cities of Seoul and Suwon. Some 2000 people have been the beneficiaries of these kits.

PAKISTAN

The Order of Malta's international relief agency, Malteser International, has intensified its hygiene information campaigns and established public hand-washing facilities.

BANGLADESH

In Bangladesh, kits have been prepared to help contain the spread of the virus in cooperation with local partners. Engaged in various emergencies worldwide, Malteser International has intensified some of its programmes in the areas at risk and at the same time ensuring its medical and social assistance activities are continuing in the areas caught up in wars and violence. "With over 60 years of experience in managing crises, including epidemics, we are tackling the coronavirus emergency with the utmost seriousness and professionalism," declared Malteser International's Secretary General Ingo Radtke. Hence the programmes providing healthcare, food, drinking water and the distribution of medical materials continued to be an absolute priority.

AMERICAS

UNITED STATES

In Hartford, capital of Connecticut, the Malta House of Care mobile medical clinic, in cooperation with the Saint Francis Hospital, has set up a drive-through for coronavirus testing near a busy circular driveway, right in front of the hospital. The patients sent by their doctor to use this facility will receive a result within 24 hours

HAITI

In the poorest country in the American continent, Malteser International is distributing flyers on Covid-19 containing hygiene indications and is offering assistance to the elderly.

COLOMBIA

Malteser International has intensified its health and hygiene education activities aimed at migrants and refugees as well as host communities in La Guajira department. Health personnel have also received extensive training on protective measures for COVID-19. In addition to scaling up mobile medical missions to remote and border areas, Malteser International has distributed hygiene articles to people in need.

Peru Adjustments have been made to Malteser International's project for the elderly, with house calls replacing group activities, providing information on preventive measures to avoid infection with COVID-19. Hygiene materials are also handed out.

OCEANIA

AUSTRALIA

The members of the Australian association are preparing food parcels that also contain hygiene articles such as soap and antibacterial gel. They are also offering assistance to the elderly in isolation and the homeless



MALTA

WHAT % OF THE POPULATION SPEAK...

MALTESE? : 100%

ENGLISH? : 88%

ITALIAN? : 66%

FRENCH? : 17%

Located just south of Italy, Malta has all the delights of Mediterranean food, weather and lifestyle without as many of the language barriers!

With a basic wage of €16,082 per year and an average of €26,000 for managers, Malta could be a great place to take the next step in your career!



Malta Maritime Museum

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Malta Maritime Museum is temporarily closed until further notice



Housed within the Old Naval bakery, the **Malta Maritime Museum** charts 7000 years of Malta's maritime history, from prehistory to the present day. Numerous exhibited artefacts highlight the different epochs of the islands' history and illustrate the global nature of seafaring and its impact on Maltese society. The museum manifests also the fascination of the sea within a Mediterranean context, without neglecting the overall global nature of seafaring.

Having started from scratch in 1988, with not even one single artefact, today the museum boasts a unique collection of over 20,000 artefacts belonging to Malta's Maritime past. This collection was acquired by the constant search for, identification, and acquisition, of artefacts related to the museum's mission. This task has been aided by the constant donations over these past years by the Maltese general public, foreign individuals, companies, corporate bodies, foreign maritime and naval museums, foreign navies, and Maltese and foreign Ambassadors and High Commissioners.

Visitors of this museum can nowadays enjoy some unique artefacts which include: the largest known roman anchor in the world, the earliest known ex-voto on the island, the largest ship model belonging to the Order of St John, the largest collection of cannons on the island, the Napoleonic figurehead of the 110 gun ship *HMS Hibernia*, a 1950s working marine steam engine, and a collection of more than 60 boats.

HEARING FROM AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN AS THEY RETURN TO SCHOOL

The return of Australian children to school has been one of the country's most hotly debated topics, with feuds breaking out between federal and state officials while parents and teachers grapple with their own fears and frustrations. But what about the students?

Their voices have been harder to find, so I thought it would be useful to ask some of the children I know what their experience has been like, and how they're feeling about the slow return to class and normalcy. I started at home, with my son Felix Stewart, who is a 16-year-old year 11 VCE student at Princes Hill High School in Melbourne.

Felix returned to school this week with mixed feelings. He told me he was relieved to return to school for social reasons, but home learning worked incredibly well for him.

"These past few months have been some of the most productive of my entire school career," he said. "I'm someone who is so easily distracted. I've also accepted that if someone tells me to do something, I don't want to do it. Maybe it's my adolescent/cave man brain. When there's no one to tell me I have to get something done, then I tend to just do it."

Felix also said that the last couple of months have been valuable in terms of preparing him and other older high school students for what lies ahead.

"These last few months have been good training for what we're actually trying to achieve," he said. "Most jobs, as far as I'm aware, do not have one boss looking over a room of 30 employees, telling all of them to

get to work.”

Even some students who are younger seem to have enjoyed the flexibility of learning from home. Archie Trengove, who is in grade one at South Preston Primary in Melbourne, just celebrated his seventh birthday with a Harry Potter-themed isolation party that he declared his “best birthday ever.”

Though he returned to school this week, he has loved the time spent at home, telling me “it was nice to spend so much time with my mum.”

He has bloomed during these months, learning to read much better than he was able to before. When I asked him if there was anything bad about learning from home he said, “No, not really.”

These responses, of course, are not universal. With some schools better equipped and more competent with remote learning than others, the disparities in teaching and experience have tended to vary even more widely at home than they might in school.

And many students say they prefer a structured classroom.

That is certainly true of Charlotte Dawson, a year 9 student at Wesley College in Melbourne who just turned 15. Charlotte will return to school on the 9th of June, and feels as though she has fallen behind while learning via Zoom.

“It’s especially hard in maths, because the teacher would usually come around and check on how everyone’s doing,” she said. “You have to be so much more forward and proactive to get that attention, and not everyone is good at that.”

She also said that she thinks teachers have been compensating for lost face-to-face instruction by loading up students with far more work than they would usually be given. (This is a complaint shared by Felix, as well, along with many other children.)

What’s clear from speaking to all these kids, though, is that education rarely takes such differences into account — nor is there much room for children to figure out which conditions best help them learn.

For many parents, quarantine has provided that opportunity. It reinforced for me just how different every student is, and how one-size-fits-all schooling will always leave some children behind.

If anything positive can come of this grand experiment in learning that Australia has undertaken, it might be that schools begin to allow flexibility for students with different needs and learning styles.



wrote *The Kappillan of Malta*.

The couple, who met in London and married in 1961, spent many years residing in San Lawrenz in Gozo where Ann flourished into a beloved member of the community, frequently hosting writers and artists from Gozo and all around the world.

At 19, Monsarrat was already working for her local newspaper but quickly moved on to Fleet Street in London, where she wrote for British national newspaper *The Daily Mail*.

Later in her career, Monsarrat authored two books, *And the Bride wore ...* in 1973, which documented the

Journalist and author Ann Monsarrat dies

The widow of Nicholas Monsarrat was a long-time Gozo resident

Jessica Arena – Times of Malta

Ann Monsarrat, a journalist and author who lived in Gozo for over 40 years has passed away after a long illness.

The British-born author was the widow of the late diplomat and novelist Nicholas Monsarrat, who

history of wedding traditions and garments, going on to write *An Uneasy Victorian*, a biography of the novelist William Makepeace Thackeray, of *Vanity Fair* and *Barry Lyndon* fame.

Ann was passionate about her home in a converted farmhouse, which she restored with gusto together with her husband and a constant patron of the arts, even appointed to the board of the Saint James Cavalier Centre for Creativity (now known as *Spazju Kreattiv*) at its inception in 2000.

"Malta, and Gozo in particular, was undoubtedly Ann's true spiritual home. She felt strongly about the preservation of the Maltese artistic and cultural heritage," Monsarrat's brother, Richard Griffiths, told *Times of Malta*. "It is therefore fitting that, after a long and stimulating life and, sadly, following a debilitating illness, during which she was cared for with extraordinary devotion by her Maltese friends, she will have her final resting place in the cemetery in San Lawrenz."

Ann's funeral will be held on July 17 at the Holy Trinity Church in Sliema

IL-PORTAL SILIJET STORICI MIĠJUBA MINN
Heritage Malta
MINISTRIU ORAL-
EDUKAZZJONI U AĠRIKOLTA

Malta takkwista l-Indipendenza...

Il-poplu ta' Malta u Ghawdex kiseb il-jedd li jamministra l-affarijiet u d-destin tiegħu mingħajr indhila, filwaqt li d-drittijiet fundamentali u l-libertajiet tal-individwu ġew mogħtija rikonossiment shih.



Kortesija: Dipartiment tal-Informazzjoni

THE PORTAL HISTORY SNIPPETS BY
Heritage Malta
MINISTRIU ORAL-
EDUKAZZJONI U AĠRIKOLTA

Malta welcomes its first President...

Notwithstanding the bad weather, the large crowd that gathered in Palace Square cheered enthusiastically as Sir Anthony Mamo waved from the Palace balcony.



Courtesy: Department of Information



**WE THANK OUR READERS
WHO MADE OUR JOURNAL
OF MALTESE LIVING ABROAD
NUMBER ONE**



MALTA BOOK FESTIVAL 2020



The National Book Council would like to announce the launch of a media scheme for prospective exhibitors of the Malta Book Festival 2020.

Applicants may send in their application forms by 14 August to secure their place at this year's Malta Book Festival and listing in the official programme. New to this year's edition, **applicants may opt to request for a media subsidy**, whereby they will receive a refund of the application fee (equal to the value of the type of stand/s opted for) against presentation of receipts of adverts in the local press about their participation in the book festival.

As well as further promoting the Malta Book Festival in these

difficult times, the newly launched media scheme aims at supporting the wider local publishing industry, which has notoriously been experiencing an existential financial threat. The scheme endeavours to support both the book industry and the local media houses, promoting cohesion and collaboration between the two sister publishing enterprises. Indeed, the National Book Council is of the conviction that as well as being a fundamental democratic tool, the local press is also an integral part of the book industry infrastructure. Bridging the gap between local media houses and publishers, and engaging the local press to champion local books will benefit the publishing industry as a whole. This is only one aspect of the National Book Council's unrelenting work and targeted investments aimed at supporting the local book publishing sector every year.

The **Exhibitor's Media Scheme Application Form** (which includes rules and regulations) may be downloaded [here](#). Should you have any queries regarding eligibility for participation and more information on the media scheme, please feel free to contact Matthew Borg (matthew.borg@ktieb.org.mt) or Andrew Ricca (andrew.ricca@ktieb.org.mt).

All applications are to be sent via email to Simona Cassano on simona.cassano@ktieb.org.mt

AND by post/delivered by hand to this address:

MALTA BOOK FESTIVAL 2020 – MEDIA SCHEME

National Book Council

Central Public Library

Prof. J. Mangion Street Floriana, FRN 1800 MALTA

The Malta Book Festival is going to be held between Wednesday 11 and Sunday 15 November at the Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta. The application is open to all publishers, book distributors, bookshops and book agencies. NGOs and public entities, whose field of activity involves the publication of literary material or the promotion of literature, are also eligible to apply.

Interested applicants are urged to apply early and submit, along with their application, a detailed list of the events they would like to set up as part of the cultural programme of the Festival. They are respectfully reminded that early applications may be given preference in the programme of events.

The MBF 2020 Application Form, with updated rules, regulations and provisions, [can be downloaded here](#). Please make sure you peruse all terms and conditions before you apply.

*Applications should be duly filled in and sent as an email attachment and by post **by not later than Friday 14 August 2020 at noon (12 pm)**.*

Feta and Lamb Stuffed Capsicums

These are stuffed capsicums with a Greek theme which incorporate lamb, risoni, spinach and feta. You could also use beef or turkey mince if you prefer

Ingredients **Serves: 6**

- 250g risoni pasta
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 yellow onion, chopped
- 2 large cloves garlic, chopped
- 700g lamb mince
- 4 1/2 teaspoons dried oregano
- 1 tablespoon dried basil
- salt and pepper to taste
- 450g frozen chopped spinach, thawed and drained
- 2 tomatoes, diced
- 180g tomato paste
- 220g crumbled feta cheese
- 6 large green or red capsicums - tops removed and seeded
- 2 tablespoons olive oil



Directions

Preparation: 20min > **Cook: 45min** > **Ready in: 1 hour 5min**

1. Bring a pot of lightly salted water to a boil over high heat. Cook the risoni in the boiling water uncovered, stirring occasionally, until tender yet firm to the bite, about 8 minutes. Drain.
2. Heat 2 tablespoons olive oil in a large frypan over medium high heat; cook and stir the onion and garlic in the hot oil until fragrant, about 1 minute. Crumble the lamb mince into the mixture; season with the oregano, basil and salt and pepper. Continue cooking until the lamb is completely browned, 7 to 10 minutes. Remove from heat. Stir the risoni, spinach, tomatoes, tomato paste and feta cheese into the lamb mixture until evenly incorporated.
3. Evenly rub the outside of the capsicums and the tops with 2 tablespoons olive oil. Season with salt and pepper. Arrange in a baking dish large enough to accommodate all of them standing upright. Fill the capsicums with the lamb mixture and replace the tops.
Roast in the preheated oven until the capsicums begin to brown, 30 to 40 minutes.

**LET'S WORK TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FUTURE
I CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY SOME STUPID PEOPLE
PREFER TO BUILD WALLS INSTEAD OF BRIDGES
DESTROY INSTEAD OF CREATING**