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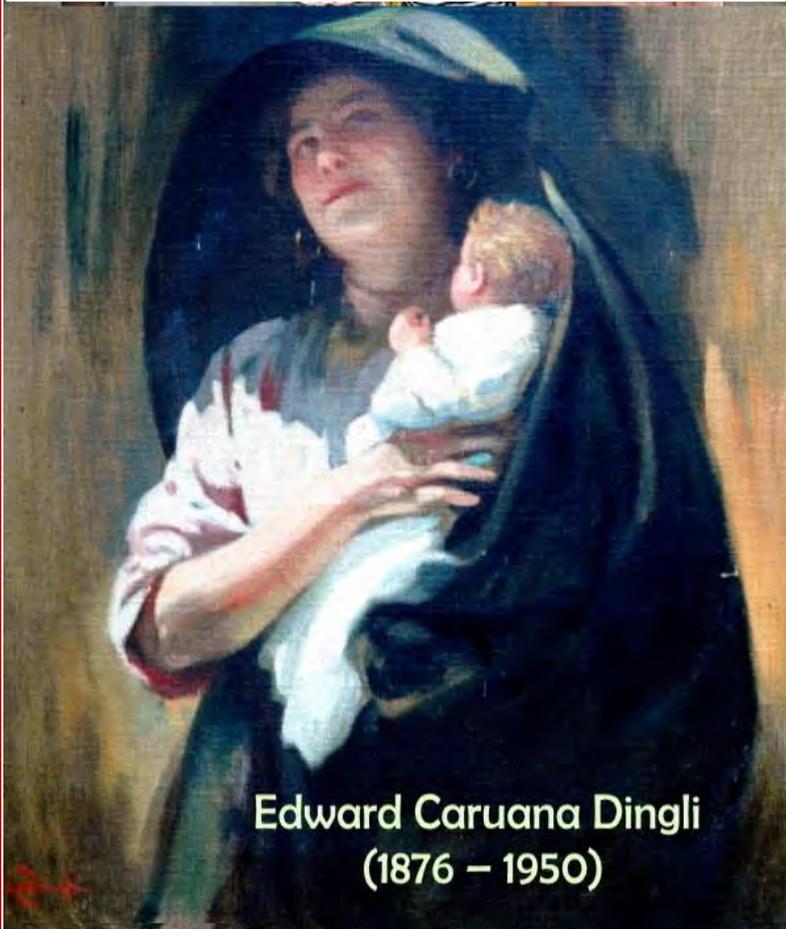


MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

JOURNAL OF THE MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

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Edward Caruana Dingli
(1876 – 1950)



Dr Martina Caruana
International Human Rights Lawyer



Safeguarding
little Children
and
Young People



Parental alienation leads to
devastating human tragedy



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Għażiż Frank, Il-Kummissjoni Emigranti tingħaqad ma ħafna oħrajn li raddewlek ħajr għax-xogħol u s-servizz li wettaqt b'mod diligenti u assidwu fil-kommunita' Maltija l-aktar ta' *South Australia*. Il-ħeġġa u l-imħabba għax-xogħol kienu valuri li jittieħdu minn oħrajn li jaħdmu miegħek. I-Entużjażmu li inti dejjem urejt fil-laqgħat tal-kumittat tal-Maltin ta' barra, kif ukoll waqt il-Konvenzjonijiet li kellna ħalla l-frott tiegħu. M'għandniex xi ngħidu għall-kontribut li inti tajt biex tibqa toħroġ l-*Newsletter* eletronika. Dan hu kollu xogħol li jibqa' u jħalli l-marka tiegħu fl-istorja.

Aħna nħossuna grati li permezz tax-xogħol tiegħek u ta' sħabek l-istorja inkitbet biex tibqa' memorja ta' dejjem li tagħmel ġiegħ lill-Maltin li ħallew art twelidhom, fi żminijiet diffiċli biex joffru futur sabiħ għalihom u l-familja tagħhom. Mhux biss, imma għamlu isem għal Malta kull fejn marru. Nitolbu biex il-ġenerazzjonijiet futuri japprezzaw dan ix-xogħol u is-sagriffiċji kollha u jibqgħu ikunu xhieda u denji tal-għeruq Maltin tagħhom. Nixtiequlek kull saħħa, ġid u barka.

Mons. Fr. Alfred Vella

Director

THE CELEBRATION OF MARIA BAMBINA AT ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL SYDNEY CANCELLED

During the COVID-19 Pandemic restrictions, due to the safety of our community, we have to ensure the well being of those who every year attend the celebration of Maria Bambina or il-Vitorja at St Mary's Cathedral Sydney.

I would like to take the significant measures to keep our community safe. It has been decided that for this year, the celebration of Maria Bambina, which this year it would have been celebrated on the, 13th September 2020, had to be cancelled.

With deep regret, I am letting you know about the cancellation so please you will notify your members and others in advance. Trusting we keep our devotion to Maria Bambina through our prayers. Some of the new restrictions are that the maximum number of people per building is one hundred, even in large churches. Congregational singing, is not allowed during events. All these restrictions will at least continue to apply for some months.

I hope that by next year, this pandemic will be over and we will be able to celebrate our traditional celebration of Maria Bambina like in the previous years.

I am sure that this decision will surely have significant impact on our community and tradition.

So let us pray for each other and hope that this COVID-19 will be over soon.

Regards Rev Fr Tarcisio Micallef MSSP

Maltese Chaplain

**In spite of several obstacles from certain quarters
we will keep growing stronger – more info later
Number 1 Journal of Maltese Diaspora**



Maltese lawyer chosen to mentor 600 young girls in New Zealand leadership programme



'The girls will be predominantly Māori and Pasifika; two under-represented groups in the legal profession. Looking forward to do my part to change that'

Martina Caruana, an international lawyer and barrister from Malta, is one of five lawyers that have been selected to mentor aspiring lawyers from disadvantaged backgrounds in New Zealand.

The mentorship forms part of GirlBoss Edge, a 10-day leadership accelerator for which Martina was approached to take part by GirlBoss NZ CEO Alexia Hilbertidou.

Sharing the news on social media, Martina writes "Stoked to have been approached by The Ministry of Education NZ and GirlBoss New Zealand to mentor 600 young girls on law, policy and governance. The girls will be predominantly Māori & Pasifika; two under-represented groups in the legal profession. Looking forward to do my part to change that!" Going into more detail about the programme, the lawyer explains that Māori, Pacifica, regional and rural applicants are priority groups, and she will be mentoring the girls via one-on-one sessions. Martina is the only Maltese lawyer to have been selected. In 2018, the young lawyer received the Queen's Young Leader Award for her work in international law and relations, transitional justice and combating gender-based violence.



Dr Martina Caruana

International Human Rights Lawyer

Martina's legal background boasts experience within Hague's international courts, and with the United Nations where she led several ground-breaking theoretical cases on the elimination of violence against women and girls. Her current ongoing works include the recognition of the Armenian Genocide and the Bosnian Genocide, and justice for the respective victims.

In her home-country of Malta, Martina is also a civil society activist, with one particular cause close to her heart – demanding justice for murdered investigative journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia. Winner of over 20 awards including the

prestigious United Nations Global Goals Award and Queen's Young Leader Medal.

In 2018 Martina Caruana received the Queen's Young Leaders Award for the work she is doing to support women to assume leadership roles by raising awareness of the challenges and barriers that young women face.

Martina was selected following a competitive process involving thousands of applicants across the Commonwealth. Together they join a network of 240 powerful young leaders, from 53 Commonwealth countries, who are driving change to make the world a better place. The 2018 Queen's Young Leaders are finding solutions to global issues such as climate change, food scarcity, gender-based violence, mental health, and access to education.





THE FEMALE LEAD

"I don't know who needs to hear this right now but one year before Alexandria Ocasio Cortez became the youngest ever congresswomen, she was working two jobs to support her mum, at a charity and as a bartender in the Bronx. She has been trolled for being working-class and not having enough experience, and she has openly admitted to regularly battling imposter syndrome in politics. She was the underdog that the media didn't take seriously until she won and she is absolutely the type of woman we celebrate and work towards. And if you need any more reasons to love her, read this..

"Women like me aren't supposed to run for office. I wasn't born into a rich or powerful family. My dad died when I was a teenager. I've waitressed my way through hard times and dealt with disappointment. The dress I'm wearing is from a thrift shop. The ring on my hand is my mother's - a reminder of every floor she's mopped so that her daughter could have a chance." So the next time you question if you can do something let's just remind ourselves of everything AOC stands for. I feel that in many ways COVID-19 brought us closer to our environment. It made us spend more time with our immediate family. It showed us the real potential of new technologies, enabling many of us to continue working and consuming but in a different way.

For me, this experience confirmed it is time we move to the next stage of our nation's progress.

We defeated adversity together. If we stay together, we will build a better tomorrow.



The Female Lead: Educational Charity Showing How Women Shape The World.

Meet Jacinda Ardern: the first prime minister to have dealt with a major terrorist attack, a deadly volcanic eruption and a pandemic all in her first term of office. All while holding a baby 🇳🇿 NEW ZEALAND



Frankly Speaking . . .

by Rita Rotin Camilleri- Melbourne July 2020

The *Maltese E-Newsletter* is always a pleasure to read. One news item which appeared in the July Issue 328 caught my attention. I was taken aback to read about the way that Martha Attard (and others) had been treated in Malta because of their skin colour. Racism is parochial, narrow, and does not belong in Malta. After all, its population is drawn from so many different peoples, from Phoenicians, Greeks, Arabs and others.

But Malta, like other countries, is a product of its history. In years past Malta has been a major source of immigrants to many countries, not least Australia. More recently, Malta has been a major port of call for those fleeing war, persecution and abject poverty mainly from Africa and the Middle East. Over six thousand people seeking a better future have arrived in Malta by boat since 2015 alone (UNHCR).

Today, a joint civil society press release from the human rights foundation Aditus (July 2020) states "Malta simply may not abdicate its responsibility for people on its territory and for whom it is clearly responsible". This involves an unhygienic animal transport vessel carrying fifty men and women who are stranded at sea. It is up to Malta to coordinate a safe port for their disembarkation. The vessel had rescued them on orders from the Maltese authorities. If the Maltese are fearful of being overrun by foreigners, then educational and other processes are needed to ensure that the rights of highly vulnerable people are respected.

Though many of us like to think that most Maltese are not racist, racism appears to have found ways of rearing its ugly head. We know Malta gained its independence in 1964, although some British forces remained there until 1979. But British influence has left its mark on Maltese law, business and architecture and even culture. One may even ask, did Britain colonize the Maltese way of thinking? Even today, many Maltese are Anglophiles, and this can be a plus because they see themselves as belonging to a wider world. But some at least may have come to think and feel that white is superior.

What has crept into mainstream thinking in many places today is the belief that if something originated in the English-speaking world, it must somehow be better. The British Empire colonized many people of colour and ruled over them and others for decades, Malta included. In Australia's case the policy of *terra nullius* (an empty land) opened the door for new settlers to commit terrible atrocities against the First Peoples, including massacres, with impunity. Even today, the descendants of those people are treated as second-class citizens.

The Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement has helped us to focus on the injustices and suffering people of colour have endured for so long, America is certainly not the only case.

The notion of whiteness as superior has permeated our language from childhood. Fairy tales ask "who is the fairest of them all?" or "the fairest in the land". To be *fair* in appearance is equated to being *just* and good.

By maintaining the separation between black and white we deny ourselves the opportunities to learn from each other. We are all closely interconnected. To quote the well-known English poet John Donne, "no man is an island". So why try to build walls when we can build bridges? Might the Maltese nation and the far-flung Maltese diaspora have an important part to play in spreading and living this message?



Art Supports sick kids – Audrey Cardona

Royal Children's Hospital
Melbourne

Audrey Buttigieg Cardona and her UooUoo. (Damjan Janevski).

By Ewen McRae

For 150 years, the Royal Children's Hospital has been providing families and kids with the best possible health care, and

a Caroline Springs artist is doing her bit to say thank you. Audrey Buttigieg Cardona is painting one of the 100 sculptures that will form a new art trail next year as part of the hospital's 150th anniversary celebrations, bringing some of her Maltese heritage to the massive showcase.

The art trail is titled 'Me and UooUoo', and will feature 100 distinctive fibreglass sculptures called UooUoos that will be painted by 100 different artists before being displayed across Melbourne and Geelong. Ms Buttigieg Cardona said she was proud to be part of the celebrations.

"There was a call for submissions for this project, so I sent in my design and was very happy to be accepted," she said.

"I have been to the Royal Children's Hospital on two occasions with one of my kids, and the staff there were fantastic, and I know of people who have used the hospital more extensively, so I wanted to give something back to them for the great work that they do.

"My design is from my Maltese heritage, and it's based off a traditional Maltese boat and with traditional colours and designs.

"And it also features a Maltese Cross on the top, which is used pretty much all over the world on ambulances, because it comes from the knights of Malta, or the knights of St John, who looked after sick people." The launch of the art trail has been delayed due to the ongoing pandemic, and will run from January 20 until March 21 next year.

The sculptures will then be auctioned off to raise funds for the hospital and its vital work.

"To represent all the Maltese immigrants who live here, and showcase a bit of my culture in this fantastic project is a real thrill," Ms Buttigieg Cardona said.

"I hope people get out to see the art trail when it opens and continue to support the hospital and all the good work they do."

Sponsorship opportunities for all the sculptures are available by emailing

kate.dear@rch.org.au <https://www.facebook.com/ABCcreateartworks/>



**APPELL BIEX INKOMPLU NIEĦDU ҒSIEB
SAҒHITNA** Il-Knisja f'Malta tappella biex ilkoll
nosservaw b'attenzjoni d-direttivi dwar il-
prevenzjoni tal-COVID-19 għall-Ғarsien tas-saҒha

tagħna u tal-oҒrajn. Dan jgħodd ukoll għall-Quddies fil-knejjes. Il-Knisja tfakkar li għal din is-sena qed torganizza l-festa fil-parroċċi u fi knejjes oҒra b'quddiesa u pellegrinaġġ biss. Attivitajiet oҒra, bħalma huma l-marċi, mhumex responsabbiltà tal-Knisja imma tal-entità li torganizzahom u tal-awtorità ċivili li tawtorizzahom. Fil-każ tal-marċi r-responsabbiltà hi tal-każini tal-banda u tal-Pulizija.

The Malta Independent on Sunday 19 Apr 2020 CHARLES FLORES

Never has this Maltese form of salutation been more appropriate than at this moment in time when the world, and Malta with it, continue to face the almost surreal, apocalyptic threat from COVID-19. It is



such a pity so many of us have lost it in witless preference for ciao and bye which really have lost any significance they once may have had.

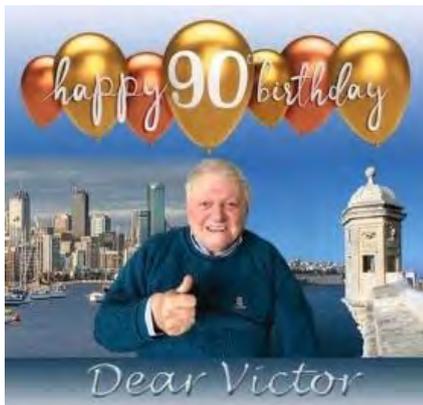
Sahha (your health) is the best thing one could wish to a loved one, a relative, a friend, even a complete unknown, particularly as we all try to stay connected via mobile and landline phone, Skype, FaceTime and so on. There was a time when sahha was so much in use that even the thousands of British sailors and soldiers we used to have among us in colonial times got hooked to it and exchanged it freely among themselves and with Maltese service-providers such as

dghajsamen (a naval concoction of the time), cabbies, taxi drivers, grocers and barmaids.

The word had taken so many roots in the everyday language of innumerable British servicemen, particularly those going back to their home ports in southern England, that it was even listed in the Oxford Dictionary. I treasure a copy of the 1934 edition of the

Oxford Dictionary given to me by a long-lost relative and which described the word sahha (written as saha, as per the English modulation of the Maltese goodbye) as int. for international and nav. for naval. Today's Google goes further than that, however. It describes it as a "Maltese interjection", correctly interpreting it as meaning "cheers", "bye" and "health". Incidentally, there was only one other Maltese word featured in the Oxford Dictionary – dghajsa (presented as daisa), again in connection with imperial times in Malta. Time has, alas, more or less killed sahha even among us. We would do well to resurrect its popularity, at least while the COVID-19 virus rages on. Stay safe is fine. Sahha is even better.

Victor Aquilina at 90



A Maltese broadcasting icon, Victor Aquilina, happily turned 90 last week. He has been living in Australia for many years, but I'm sure most people from my generation willingly join me in paying tribute to his indelible contribution to Maltese broadcasting, radio in particular, at a time when we were children and curious teenagers hungry to experience life with that sense of creativity those times demanded.

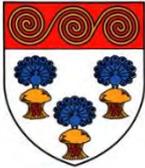
I first got to know Victor when he offered me a series of literary programmes on radio, having had earlier crossed paths with him only when I took part in what are historic recordings of the "Beat and Literature" programmes produced by the then still fledgling Movement for the Promotion of Literature in the mid-60s. Never in my wildest imagination would I have seen myself becoming a public broadcasting colleague more than a decade later, at the very end of the 70s, when I moved from print journalism to national broadcasting via a two-year stint in a somewhat opaque DOI newsroom.

My first day inside the newsroom at TV House actually started with an internal call from Victor. He invited me to his office in the company's other building further up Guardamangia road – what was still popularly known as Rediffusion House despite nationalisation having already been happily achieved five years earlier – for a welcome drink.

Gestures like that, giving someone new an immediate sense of belonging, are never forgotten, just as much as many of my age have not forgotten those annual Yuletide music stories Victor used to produce based on lyrics from different songs. One just stayed glued to that old wooden box with its throbbing heart for a loudspeaker.

Victor left for Australia only one or two years later for reasons never publicly explained, but his legacy persists. He was Malta's first DJ, a radioman through and through but who not only did not flinch from the challenge of the powerful new medium of television, but was able to settle comfortably into its bosom, something not many of his contemporaries did as easily.

PAOLA RAHAL IL-GDID



Paola (Maltese: *Raħal Ġdid*, is a town in the South Eastern Region of Malta, with a population of MORE THAN 8000. Paola is renowned for the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum, its large parish church (the biggest church in the Maltese Islands), its square with shopping centres, the Good Friday procession, and its football club, Hibernians FC. Mariam Al-Batool Mosque, the only mosque in Malta, as well as an Islamic Cultural Centre are found in Paola. The country's correctional facilities and the largest burial grounds, the Addolorata Cemetery are also in this town. The town is a commercial centre in the Southern Harbour area of Malta, about 5 km from the capital Valletta.



It is named after Grand Master Antoine de Paule, who laid the foundation stone in 1626. To encourage migration to Paola, de Paule gave indemnity to the debts of the families who moved there.^[2] This account was recorded for the first time by de Solidanis in the eighteenth century. He says that in 1750 the village was not yet a parish on its own (part of Hal Tarxien). Paola was almost deserted due to a local disease, but became increasingly habitable after intervention by captain Hunn.

There are two parish churches, one dedicated to Christ the King and the other to Our Lady of Lourdes. The feast of Christ the King is celebrated on the fourth Sunday of July and Our Lady of Lourdes is celebrated on the first Sunday after 17

August. The parish also has a Franciscan church dedicated to Saint Anthony, in the Għajn Dwieli zone of the parish. St. Ubaldesca Church is the oldest church in Paola and was the first parish church there. In 2008 the church underwent minimal restoration.^[5] Villa Perellos, which is dedicated to the homonymous grand master, is a landmark of historical importance for the locality.

Prehistory Although Paola was founded in the 17th century, several megalithic remains have been found within the locality. The Hypogeum has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Hypogeum is a large complex of rooms hewn out of the limestone about 11 metres (36 ft) below the surface. It appears to have been used as a burial site, and also as a temple. Neolithic man carved out the Hypogeum using only antlers and stone picks as tools, and in semi darkness. The Hypogeum is made up of three levels, which are superimposed upon each other. The upper level resembles the earlier rock-cut tombs found elsewhere on the Islands. The middle level, hewn out during the temple period (3800 - 2500 B.C.) is made up of numerous chambers. Many statuettes, amulets, figurines and vases were recovered here. The most famous figurine is that of the so-called Sleeping Lady, a reclining figurine, perhaps meant as a representation of eternal sleep. It is on display at the National Museum of Archaeology, Valletta

Kordin Temples - The Kordin Temples were located on a high plain that overlooks the Grand Harbour:

- Kordin I – The temple was excavated in part by A.A. Caruana, and later by Sir Themistocles Zammit in 1908 and finished by T. Ashby and T.E. Peet in 1909. It was poorly preserved and consisted of small and irregular rooms. Kordin I was left open to the elements. Bombings during the Second World War and construction on the site have obliterated all of the remains.
- Kordin II – The temple was first investigated by Cesare Vassallo in 1840. A.A. Caruana started to excavate the site properly in 1892. The excavation was continued by Albert Mayer in 1901 and finished by Ashby and Peet in their campaign of 1908–9. The chronology was difficult to figure out, and whether all of the building could be dated to the temple period is debatable. Kordin II must have been in use during the entire temple period since pottery throughout this period's phases were found during its excavation. Kordin II was damaged by the air bombardments of the Second World War and the new buildings that were constructed since.

- Kordin III – This is the only temple on Kordin still in existence today, and it is of the standard Ġgantija-phase 3-apse design. It is the only temple whose forecourt, which is in front of the concave façade, has a stone pavement, as is the entrance passage leading to the central court. Behind the temple and contemporary with it, are small rooms possibly used for storerooms or the like, or even an irregular, lobed minor temple. One of the most noted feature of Kordin III is the 2.75-metre-long 'trough' lying across the entrance to the left apse. It has seven deep transverse grooves produced by grinding. It is made of hard limestone brought from over 2 kilometres away so it is highly probable that it is for grinding corn (a multiple quern) and contemporary with the temple rather than for grinding 'deffun', the traditional Maltese roofing material, which would make it considerably more recent. Kordin III is in a walled area next to the Church of St. Anthony and is kept locked to give it maximum protection.^[7]

Several other remains from pre-history to classic antiquity remain in Paola.^[8]

Order of St. John Antoine de Paule was appointed Grand Master of the Order of St. John on 10 March 1623, when he was 71 years old. On 20 July 1626, to address a growing population, he set up a new town on the hill known as *Tal-Għerien* (literally: of the caves) which was named *Casal Nuovo* (meaning: new town) since it was funded during the rule of the Order. The town was later named *Casal Paola* to bear the family name of the Grand Master. To present date, the town is still referred to by this name. The town's coat of arms originally consisted of a white and red octagonal cross contrasted against a white and red background. During the Military Order, the town became the spiritual successor of the neighbouring town Tarxien and still depended for military tactics by the Chief of Army of Zejtun.^[10] During his rule, De Paule built a church in the town, dedicated to St. Ubaldesca who was a Sister of the Order of St. John, and this church was the first parish church of the town.

Pope Urbanus VIII issued a Bull that gave permission for this church to be built. This Papal Bull was issued from the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome on 31 July 1629. An extract from this Bull reads as follows: "we accept this request and to the afore mentioned Antonius, with the Apostolic authority granted by this Bull, we give the authority that in the mentioned town in a location of his preference, as long as it is comfortable and just, a church can be built in honour of the afore-mentioned Saint." On 12 November 1629, the Council of the Order of St. John decided to effect what was written on the Bull. The laying of the first foundation stone of this church was celebrated in grand style by Grand Master de Paule himself on Sunday 25 August 1630.

"On the day of Sunday, the 25th day of the month of August 1630, which is the feast of the king Saint Ludovico, the Most Serene and the Most Revered Grand Master Fra Antoine de Paule went to the town, which for the past four years had taken the name of his family and which was established in the land of Marsa, and he was accompanied by numerous Venerable Gran Cruci as well as by numerous brethren from our Order and in front of a crowd of people he laid the first stone of the church which was to be built for the grace of God and the Holy Virgin Ubaldesca, sister of our Religion, with the permission of the Most Reverend Prior of the church, Fra Salvatur Imbroli, who was adorned with pontifical clothes and according to the rites of the Holy Roman Church. This was done with the apostolic authority given by the Magnificent His Holiness from Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome, on the 31st of July 1629 and which was written in the public deed of the Notary Lorenzo Grima."^{[11][12]} The church was enlarged in 1900 to accommodate the growing population of Paola and it became a parish in 1910, when it was dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. A new and larger church, the one dedicated to Christ the King, was eventually built to replace it in Antoine de Paule Square, the town's main square. Since then, the church has undergone restoration and its interior is adorned with gold gilding and a niche holding the parish's titular statue of Christ the King.



**THE JOURNAL THAT IS CONNECTING MALTESE
IN MALTA, GOZO AND THE REST OF THE WORLD**

**2013 - 2020 - SEVEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITIES
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FATHER PASCHAL GRECH - EGYPT

Original Image from Migration Museum at Dar I-Emigrant in Valletta, Malta, Retouched & Colorized. The priest with the glasses is Fr Pascal Grech, originally from Hamrun, Malta. He was ordained as a priest in Florence in 1927 and sent to Port Said. Photo is dated 1927/28. He returned to Malta, regularly

said Mass at San Gaetano Church, Hamrun. He died in 1993. He came back from Egypt in 1952 and spent many years up to 1976 as Chaplain and Guardian at the Sacro Cuor church in Sliema.

KALANC TAL-KARAWETT



Kalanc tal-Karawett in Sliema In Malta there was a well known peanut seller in the areas of Sliema and Gzira. In this picture, taken years ago, in Ghar id-dud, Sliema, Malta, we can see Kalanc tal-Karawett selling his peanuts in baskets on an old pram. The original b/w photo uploaded to Sharing Historical Information on Old Photographs has been colorised

DOWN MEMORY LANE

CRUCIFIX HILL, ELECTRICTY, FLORIANA, MALTA,



The First Power Station in Malta was on Crucifix Hill (Tal-Kurcifiss) in Floriana. Max Farrugia, an Enemalta employee for 40 years, researched the introduction of electricity in Malta during an opera at the Royal Opera House. In a TVM interview he said "Electric power was introduced into Malta for the first time in 1882 during the performance of the opera Un Ballo in Maschera. From then on developments progressed from the power station on Crucifix Hill, which provided power for a long time, particularly throughout the war

years. Distribution of electricity to a number of localities took place, with Valletta and Floriana being the first, followed by other districts." Service spread to the Grand Harbour area. He continued, "The first submarine cable between Malta and Gozo was installed in 1958. There was a small power station in Gozo, but it was not worth keeping as consumption was very low. There were further developments and over the years the Marsa plant continued to grow until 1982..." In 1987, a decision to phase out coal led to the building of a sophisticated Delimara power station at Delimara, whose initial phase of development was inaugurated in 1992.



TA' QALI MALTA WW2

Ground crew of 249 Squadron RAF taking a break from maintaining their Supermarine Spitfire Mark VCs at Ta Kali, Malta RAF Ground Crew in WWII. Source: Wikimedia Commons These are the RAF personnel who were dedicated ground crew (not pilots) of World War II from 249 Squadron based at Ta' Qali while taking a short break from their regular job of maintenance on Supermarine Spitfire Mark VCs at Ta' Qali (they called it Ta Kali). They performed this

maintenance activity on the airfield while risking their lives. They were also our heroes and yet we must have been proud of these airmen just as we were so proud of our gunners who used to protect our land from regular bombardments from enemy aircraft.

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM PAINTING SHOWING FIVE MALTESE FISHERMEN



This painting by Leslie Cole which is at the Imperial War Museum, painted in 1943 shows five Maltese fishermen at work mending five fishing boats (dghajsas). It is noted that four of these boats are shown front-on in the foreground of this painting, whereas the fifth largest boat can be seen behind them. The latter is shown side-on with the starboard visible. In the background one can see a white Mediterranean brick wall typically whitewashed and some buildings on the horizon.



NAPOLEONIC MAP OF MALTA, GOZO, COMINO, COMINOTTO AND FILFLA

This Napoleonic Map was discovered by Michael Ritter, a German specialist cartographer in Augsburg, who informed the Malta Map Society about it. Times of Malta reported that the map is a rare one and its existence was unknown even to Malta Map Society President Albert Ganado, who has been studying Maltese maps for 60 years. It was published in 1798 – the year when Malta was occupied by Napoleon (on June 17). The

map is by Johann Michael Probst and Johann Conrad Probst. The map reveals that the small islet of Filfla at the time, 200 years ago, mainly consisted of a fort, a lighthouse and a monastery with a chapel. The map is the only one known to exist and is found in the Bavarian State Library (Bayerische Staatsbibliothek or BSB) in Munich, Germany



Restoration of Comino Santa Marija Battery complete

The restoration of the Santa Marija Battery on the island of Comino is complete, the Tourism Ministry said in a statement on Saturday.

The extensive work cost around €183,000, €150,000 of which was from European funds. The Santa Marija Battery was built in 1715 by the Knights of St. John and is classified as a Grade 1 site, meaning it has the highest status of protection.

Tourism Minister Julia Farrugia Portelli said that the restoration will complement that of Wignacourt Tower, which was built on the island by the Knights in 1618.

She said that throughout 2019, 32% of the tourists who came to Malta decided to visit Comino – a figure calculated to be over 876,000 people. She also noted that thousands of Maltese also visit the island, and that hence the aforementioned fortifications deserve more promotion.



Farrugia Portelli praised Din I-Art Helwa amongst others, who take care of these sites, and described their commitment and contribution as invaluable.

Parliamentary Secretary for EU Funds Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi meanwhile said that the use of EU funds in projects such as these was making collaborations between the government and NGOs more possible.

Gozo Minister Clint Camilleri, and whose remit Comino falls, further praised the project, describing it as another attraction for the island. The President of the NGO Din I-Art Helwa Alex Torpiano meanwhile expressed satisfaction at the collaboration between the Malta Tourism Authority and the NGO, noting that through this collaboration, the restoration was completed successfully. [Times of Malta]

Maltese e-Newsletter
The Journal of the Maltese Living Abroad
maltesejournal@gmail.com

We are all in the same boat

Maltese eNewsletter
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Lil Mons Coronato Grima f' Jum mewtu

22 ta' Lulju 2020

Kont għadni kemm ftaħt għajnejja
Illi dlonk tawni l-aħbar
Li Dun Kurunat halliena
Wara ffit jiem ġol-isptar!

Izda meta tal-mewt kiefer
Jgħaddi l-mingel bħal għafrid
Igorr miegħu mingħajr ħniena
Minn quddiemu kull ma jsib.

U minn Triq Karita' għadda
Lil Kurun hasad ukoll
Anke kieku kellu s-saħħa
Li jgħib miegħu l-aqwa skoll!

Il-mard xejn ma kien wisq ħelu
Ma' dil-qalb siekta w ħanina
Għaffeg tahtu mingħajr ħniena
Bħal ħadida fuq inkwina!

Kollox għadda qisu ħolma
Il-Mons qabad issa t-triq
Sabiex dlonk ihejji ruħu
Biex jiltaqa' mal-Ħallieq.

U jagħtih malajr il-premjju
Li għalih ħadem bi shiħ
U jehilsu minn kull madmad,
Minn kull hemm, minn kull uġigh.

F'Ġibilta t-tieni darek
Hdimt bi shiħ ġewwa l-parroċċa

Ma kontx tieqaf mument wiehed
Biex tiġbor l-ulied f'qaqoċċa!

Ma narakx iktar itterraq
Matul strada Karita'
Lil kulhadd tkellem u ssellem
B' imħabba u umilta'.

Issa jixraq li tmur tgawdi
Lit-Tribun martri ta' Lydda
Illi lilu qdejt bil-bosta
Li min jaf f'ħajtek kemm idda!

Hemm fuq żgur sejjer tiltaqa'
Ma' ħuk Gorġ u l-familjari
Li qed jistennewk bil-herqa
Għalihom gojjel wisq rari!

Princeps Martyrum, San Gorġ tagħna
Tal-Genna berrah il-bieb -
Dal-qaddej fidil minn tiegħek
Laqqgħu issa ma' tant ħbieb.

Ta' insara d-dmir għandna
Li nitolbu għall-mejtin;
Lil das-sacerdot Mulej fis dahħal
Max-Xirka tal-Qaddisin.

Kav Joe M Attard
Rabat - Ghawdex
23 ta' Lulju 2020



**WE THANK ALL
OUR READERS IN
THE MAGNIFICENT
SISTER ISLAND OF
GOZO**



(1949-2020)

It is with great sadness that we hear of the news of the demise of Mgr Coronato Grima, one of the priests hailing from our Parish of St George and whose name is synonymous with the smallest diocese of the Catholic world, the Diocese of Gibraltar. Gibraltar, a British colony on the very edge of the Iberian peninsula, stand at the southernmost tip of Spain, controlling the strait that connects the Mediterranean with the Atlantic Ocean.

Fr Coronatus Grima was born in Victoria on 18 August 1949 in a large family. One of his brothers also became a priest, Mgr George Grima, whose memory we can never forget. Fr Coronatus was ordained to the priesthood by the late St Pope Paul VI in St Peter's Square on the 29th of June 1975.

Three months after his ordination at 26 he was sent to Gibraltar to help the clergy there, for what was believed at the time, would be a period of one year; he stayed there for the greatest part of his life. He worked in various parishes, mainly St Joseph's where he served as Parish Priest. He was eventually appointed Chancellor of the diocese. Hundreds of people on the colony will remember him as a zealous priest always ready to address the needs of his parishioners and full of love and dedication to one and all.

Father Grima was installed as an Honorary Canon of St George's in 1982; he was also a

MGR CORONATO GRIMA

member of the Sacred Military Constantinian Order of St George. He was made a Monsignor while still in Gibraltar.

After more than thirty-five years spent on Gibraltar, Mgr Grima came back to Gozo in 2010. However, he did not enjoy his retirement due to weak health. Over the period of the last ten years, Dun Koronat lost a brother-in-law, two sisters and his brother priest Mgr George Grima as he continued to bear with love and patience the Cross that the Lord Jesus trusted him with. His love for the Church, the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Joseph and, last but not least, St George is a fact known to one and all. Even during his long illness, he still made himself available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the sacristy of St George which is only a few metres away from his own residence. He was looked after by his brothers and sisters but especially by his aunt Mary who lives just across from his home.

Fr Grima died on the early morning of Wednesday 22 July, Feast of St Mary Magdalen. Gentle and full of zeal for life as well as interested in what was taking place in his native parish to the very last moments, Mgr Grima will be fondly remembered not only by his friends in Gibraltar but also by the parishioners of St George's and the people of Victoria.

FIND US

**At the Malta Migration Museum –
Valletta**

**Maltese-Canadian Archives
Toronto**

FACEBOOK

[facebook.com/frank.scicluna.3](https://www.facebook.com/frank.scicluna.3)

Website: www.ozmalta.com

Parental Alienation Support Group



Every Sunday
07.30pm -10.00pm
Mosta Local Council
Hall (near Mosta Church)



Mary Gauci

President

Dr Ivan Sammut

Consultant



Karl Wright

Psychotherapist

Anthony Bezzina

Health & Safety
Consultant



Anthony Cauchi

Support Group Coordinator 99565730



At 45, Anthony Cauchi can speak candidly of the damaging effect of parental alienation, a relatively unacknowledged phenomenon affecting parents separated from their children. His 21-year-old son, from his first marriage, lives in Australia.

Anthony Cauchi is dedicating himself full-time to the organisation *Happy Parenting for Happier Children*, which he founded. Cauchi knows all too well that this type of abuse not only affects the mind, but also the heart.

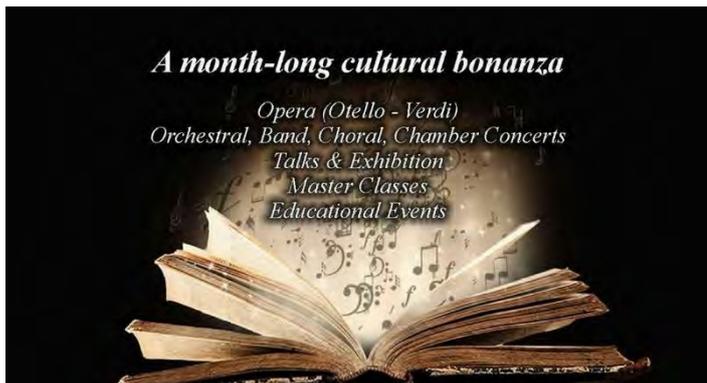
Cauchi said: “Parental alienation is a practice where one or both parents going through or recently having experienced a bitter separation freely express negative

emotions and opinions about the other parent with their child.

“On occasions it leads the alienating parent to coach the child as a witness to false accusations and criminal reports. Alienating parents try to do their best through such tactics, to reduce the time the child spends with the targeted parent to a minimum both in terms of quality and quantity, in hopes of weakening the other parental bond,” “The ‘alienating parent’ is more likely to have full custody of the child, which gives them power and control,” he says.

Cauchi’s NGO, Happy Parenting Malta, is determined to change a prevailing mentality and give men the right to be just as pro-active in their children’s life as mothers. “Men need to take a more pro-active role in their children’s lives. Children need both parents in order to thrive, and studies have shown that children who grow up with an absent parent are more likely to underperform academically, experience teen pregnancy, and suffer from mental health issues further down the line.” “Parents who co-parent are less likely to experience conflict, and that translates into a happier child,” Cauchi said. “It allows for both parents to be in control and take responsibility and minimise the risk of parental alienation developing. Parents should create a schedule that puts their child’s emotional and psychological development first.” Visit Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/parentalalienation.malta>

If anyone is interested, the NGO can offer professional support as well as a social club which takes place at the Mosta Local Council Building, every Friday between 16:00-19:00pm.



“A major festival of classical music” (Musical Opinion, UK magazine)

“Gozo's main classical music festival” (The Sunday Times of Malta)

Gaulitana: A Festival of Music is an annual springtime international festival, now established as a major artistic endeavour in Malta. Organized by the *Gaulitanus Choir*, the festival's raison d'être is to create a platform

seeking to enrich Gozo's cultural output in the leaner months of the year. Yearning to contribute towards transforming Gozo into an island of creativity, it runs for around a month and is held in various localities, with the chosen venues varying from opera houses and heritage sites to open-air locations and pub lounges.

The festival includes an eclectic mix of musical events in multifarious styles: whether operatic or symphonic, chamber or sacred, vocal or instrumental, evening or lunchtime, and classical or semi-classical, formal or informal. The multi-dimensionality of *Gaulitana* extends to non-musical artistic disciplines: live painting, art and literature. A holistic and intensive educational programme devised in collaboration with Education authorities, GAULearn, runs in parallel alongside the festival, which reaches a climax with its concluding OPERA+ Weekend, a cultural bonanza of quality events intrinsically linked with an operatic production.

A recipient of the Gozo Cultural Support Programme (issued by Arts Council Malta and the Ministry for Gozo) and the EFFE label (Europe for Festivals, Festivals for

Europe – issued by the European Festivals Association), it prides itself with several collaborations with local and foreign institutions and government agencies. In its relatively short history of just over a decade, it has developed substantially and has been playing a key role in putting the small island of Gozo on the international cultural map.



"Jekk il-poplu Malti jobdi u joqgħod kemm jista jkun ġewwa, hemm xaqq ta' dawl li l-'peak' ta' dal-virus ma niltquhx. Dan il-virus ha jinfirex kemm irriduh ahna. Minna se jiddependi."

Prof. Charmaine Gauci
Superintendent għas-Saħħa Pubblika

**MALTESE
E-NEWSLETTER**



**Journal of the
Maltese Diaspora**



JULIA MILLER - PIANIST

Hailing from the city of Lodz in Poland, Julia commenced her love affair with the piano at the age of six, and continued through primary and high school before going on to study at the Academy of Music in her home town, where she gained her Masters' Degree in Piano Performance and Chamber Music. During her time at the Academy Julia was a finalist in several piano competitions, and also towards the end of her studies complemented her education with professional performances both as a solo pianist, and as part of a classical

trio.

After graduation from the Academy Julia has gone on to perform worldwide initially again as part of a trio, and later as a solo pianist serving the luxury cruise line industry.

For two years, Julia Miller lived in Dublin, Ireland, where she combined performance engagements with her love of teaching, at the renowned Castleknock School of Music.

She coached several vocalists and also performed at the Dublin Feis Ceoil 2011, taking part in several vocal competitions as an accompanist.

Working closely with organisations such as The National Trust she has been allowed to perform in a wide variety of exceptional venues to both intimate and large audiences. Her most recent venue with the charity was the beautiful and haunting Mussenden Temple, perched on its cliff top in Northern Ireland.

In 2011 she was given the opportunity to mentor a fully staged musical in a popular theatre venue in Coleraine, Northern Ireland, which not only featured Julia but also a host of young aspiring musicians, singers and stage crew, all keen to learn what they could from her. She was also often heard creating a beautiful atmosphere in one of the oldest restaurants and venues in Dublin city.

In 2012 Julia has moved to Malta where she is sharing her time between teaching, performing and coaching vocalists. She is a voice accompanist in well established Johann Strauss School of Music in Valletta, piano teacher in School of Performing Arts by Drama Troupe as well as ballet accompanist in The Dance Academy in Attard.

During summer 2013 Julia was chose as one of four piano collaborator- interns at Music Theatre Bavaria in Oberaudorf, Germany. In season 2013-2014 she was also one of the repetiteur of Teatru Manoel Youth Opera with which she performed twice in Manoel Theatre. She also coaches and accompanies students during international music exams. Julia can be heard around the island as a solo pianist as well as collaborating with other artists.

Recent appearances include St. James Cavalier Centre for Creativity ,The Mellieha Nights , St. Francis Oratory in Valletta, St. Paul's Co-Cathedral in Valletta,

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Skola Maltija Sydney is a Program of Akkademja Maltija ta' NSW Inc.
Supported by the NSW Community Languages Schools Program,
NSW Department of Education and
the George Cross Falcons Community Centre

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



Malta joins the Blue Heart Campaign against Trafficking in Human Beings

Minister for Foreign and European Affairs

[Evarist Bartolo](#)

and Parliamentary Secretary for Equality and Reforms

[Rosianne Cutajar](#)

announced Malta's partnership in the United Nations' 'Blue Heart Campaign', during a press conference held on the occasion of the World Day against Trafficking in Human Beings, which is

marked every year on the 30th of July.

Through this partnership, Malta will make its first symbolic contribution of €10,000 to the [UNODC - United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime](#)

, besides a number of local initiatives aimed at raising awareness of this social scourge. According to the UNODC, lockdowns, travel restrictions, lack of resources, and other measures to curb the spread of COVID-19 are increasing the risk for victims of trafficking, such as women and children, to be trafficked for sexual or labour exploitation as well as for the recruitment of child soldiers, while organised criminal networks continue to take advantage of this situation.

Parliamentary Secretary Rosianne Cutajar spoke on the importance of raising awareness about human trafficking. She held that Malta is not alien to this crime, and thus it is crucial that people are informed about this reality. Statistics show that in Malta the majority of victims are women who are exploited for work and prostitution purposes. In this context, she reiterated the government's commitment to work hard against human trafficking and to pursue the fight against this heinous crime which violates fundamental human rights.

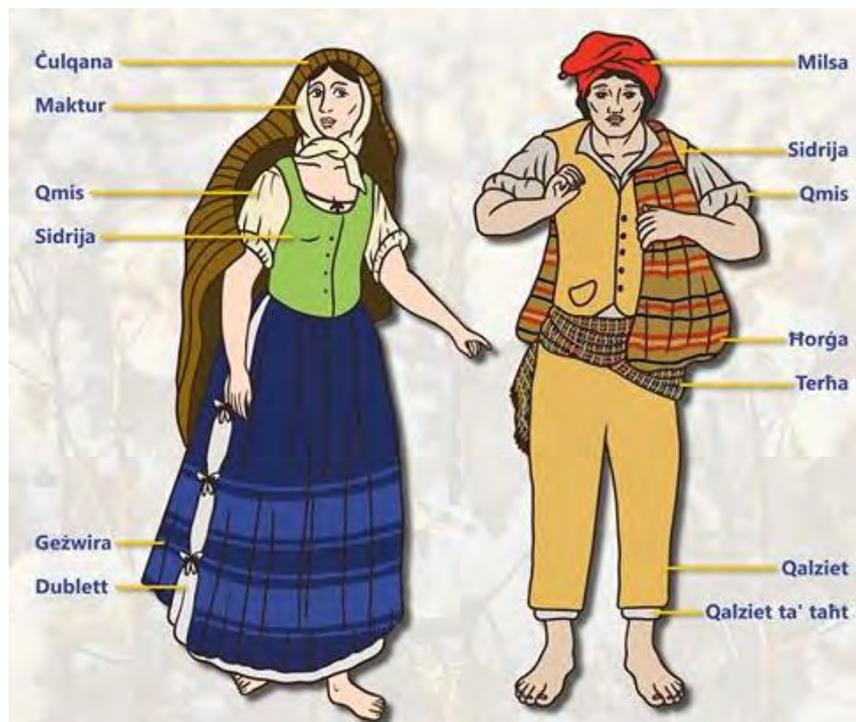
In his intervention, Minister Bartolo recalled the actions undertaken by Malta at the international level to counter human trafficking, such as its endorsement of the Call to Action to End Forced Labour, Modern Slavery, and Human Trafficking, launched at the UN General Assembly in 2017, and Malta's ratification of the 2014 Protocol to the 1930 Forced Labour Convention, which was presented to the International Labour Organisation last year. This confirms Malta's commitment to continue the fight against forced labour, to protect victims, and to provide them with access to remedies.

The Blue Heart Campaign, which Malta officially joined on the 23rd of July, is an international awareness campaign intended to enhance global efforts to combat and prevent human trafficking and its impact on society. The Blue Heart is increasingly recognised as the symbol against human trafficking representing, on the one hand, the sadness of the trafficked, and on the other the cold

heart **of the traffickers.**



WE APPRECIATE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM COMMUNITIES, ASSOCIATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS



 Heritage Malta

PEASANT COSTUMES

If we had to travel back to the 19th-century, Malta and Gozo would look dramatically different. Apart from the prevalence of pristine countryside and a lesser hectic way of life, one would have immediately noticed a pronounced distinction between the attire of the city dwellers and the peasant communities. The former followed closely budding trends on the continent, while the latter proved to

be staunch traditionalists. Time practically stood still beyond the formidable fortification lines securing the densely populated cities around the Grand Harbour. The agro-economic cycle hadn't changed for centuries and the peasants were still wearing the same type of clothing of their forefathers.



Gobelins' Tapestries

Having been serving as Malta's centre of power for some 450 years, the **Magisterial Palace** at **Valletta** is home to some of the most opulent ambiances in the Maltese Islands. Every square inch of its walls is covered with frescoes, fine drapes and exquisite works of art to impart a sense of grandeur. Undoubtedly, the early 18th-century visitors must have mesmerised by the then newly acquired tapestries hanging in the Gran Council's Hall. Donated by **Ramon Perellos y Roccaful** as part of his 'gioia' or gift to the Order

on being elected Grand Master, these 10 scenes representing exotic flora and fauna from the then newly discovered world. Fortunately, these survived practically intact and are considered the only complete and large format example of the 'Les Tentures des Indes' cycle produced by the world famous Gobelins Tapestry Manufactory in Paris.

GHANA – MALTESE TRADITIONAL FOLKLORIC MUSIC

ALBERT FENECH

Would islands as small as Malta and Gozo have their own traditional folklore music, a melody and song that is uniquely distinct and has survived hundreds of years, practically unchanged and not influenced by the passage of time?

Yes, they have. It is called 'ghana' – no, not pronounced as in the African nation Ghana, but pronounced simply "aa-na" because the coupling 'gh' in Maltese takes the sound of the immediate succeeding vowel. A straight translation is 'song' in the pure and simple form of the word.



Popular Gozitan musicians known as Id-Dudi, 1910s.

PHOTO: MIKIEL FARRUGIA

Most foreigners (if not all of them), it may well sound like a frustrated cat stuck on a hot, tin roof, wailing because its charm is not in the actual music but in the lyrics, some of which even the Maltese find difficult to understand because individual singers use individual dialects – and these can vary greatly even in a small country.

The music content is provided by traditional string guitars (not electric!), not particularly melodious but to provide a background rhythmic sound to which lyrics are set. The singer is usually a soloist but duos are also popular and may be two men

or a man and woman – probably the most popular.

Duos 'spar' to score points off each other, one berating the other for their foibles and shortcomings. Husband and wife exchanges give great merriment as each partner relates the things that anger them most about the other.

Male duos are normally left for the experts as these are impromptu and the singers make up the rhyming couplets either to "attack" or "defend" as each situation comes up.

Soloists may recount some joyous or sad experience, childhood, customs or traditions or may be critical of some event, including politicians and political parties. A soloist may be accompanied by a number of guitarists.

Researchers and historians believe the 'ghana' has its origins from Spanish tradition with influence from nearby Sicilian folklore music. To this I would add a distinct Arabic trait – certainly in the language but also in guitar intonations. After all, both Spanish and Sicilian music have their Arabic background strain too.

The late and well-known Maltese historian and folklore researcher Ġużè Cassar Pullicino found an early form of the 'ghana' dating back to 1792.

Contrastingly, the major research into Maltese folklore singing and songs was carried out by the German lady Bertha Ilg at the turn of the 19th Century into the 20th. She lived in Malta for a number of years and collected and documented 200 popular folk songs from the period.

Current musician and researcher Andrew Alamango confirmed that during the first 30 years of the 20th Century, the role of folklore music continued to increase and also included the use of mandolins and accordions.

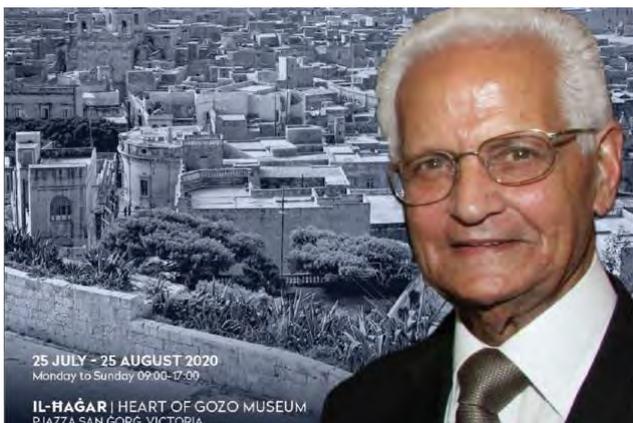
He also said the 'ghana' is important and remains important because of its vocal traditions, consisting of the skills of impromptu coupling of rhythmic phrases set to music. It is a basis of the Maltese language that is set to music that is typical of the countries of the Mediterranean region. For a while between the late 50s and 80s, 'ghana' was denigrated by some and dismissed as the music of the 'uneducated' and the country farming folk and therefore of no real consequence. However, since then it has seen a surge and has now resumed its great popularity. There is an annual 'ghana' festival that also includes folk music from throughout the Mediterranean shores, but its greatest stage is the Buskett Gardens near Rabat.

This is the venue for the annual "Mnarja" folk celebration, commemorating the feasts of Saints Peter and Paul on 29th June. Held on the eve, Buskett comes alive with thousands of visitors. Folk music abounds as well as eating the traditional dish of fresh rabbit fried in garlic with lashings of chips. Sadly there has been an infiltration of more modern music – including today's rowdy and senseless cacophonies – but the cry has gone up for a restoration of the traditional folklore strains.

As an aside, decades ago males had to commit a marriage vow to their forthcoming partner to undertake to take her to the "Mnarja" Festival annually.

One may also drop into a countryside or village coffee shop on an evening and find an 'ghana' singer strumming away to entertain friends.

Thankfully, the tradition is attracting younger and younger age groups, mainly males such as my good friend Angelo Theuma from Zejtun where "ghana" is vastly popular as it is in places like Qormi, Zebbug, Zabbar and a number of others.



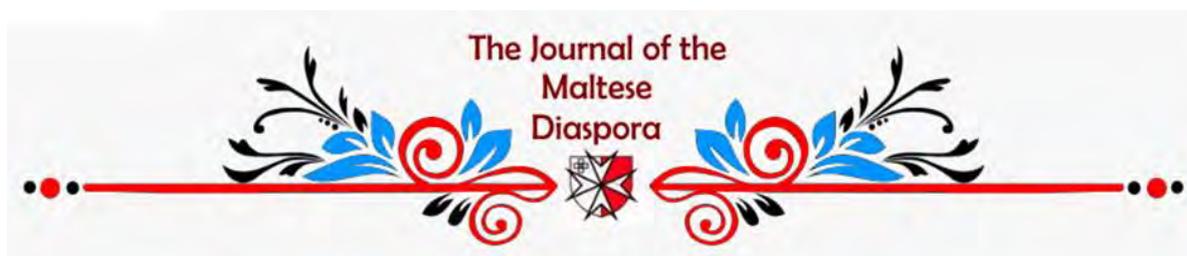
New exhibiton honouring Pawlu Mizzi to be inaugurated at Il-Haġar

A new temporary exhibition is being inaugurated by the Gozo Minister at Il-Haġar Museum in Pjazza San Ġörg, Victoria on Saturday at 7.30pm.

"From the heart of Gozo to the soul of Maltese literature" honours Pawlu Mizzi on the first anniversary of his death.

The numerous interesting photos and quotations are also included in the bi-lingual publication (number 8 in the Il-Haġar GEMS series) specially prepared for the occasion.

Events include a discussion (in Maltese) about his legacy on August 1 at 10am and Mass at St George's on August 5 at 6pm. This will be followed with the presentation and readings (in Maltese) of *Mid-Dinja Ċkejkna Tiegħi* - from Mizzi's autobiographical writings. The exhibition will run until August 25. It will be open seven days a week from 9am to 5pm. Entrance is free.



Biskuttini tal-Lewz (Maltese Almond Cookies)

At Christmas time, I really like marzipan and all things with the flavour of almonds, so I was happy to discover these little cookies from Malta. They're super-simple to make – just prepare a simple dough with almonds, sugar and egg white, roll and bake. Which is great when you've not done all your present shopping and time is fast running out.

Apart from that really amazing name, I have not been able to find out very much about these cookies, other than they are a festive treat and that they used to be served at christenings. In a way, I quite like the idea that in a world where you can in theory google anything, there are still things which have kept a fairly low profile. The other snippet of information I found is that these are traditionally made on rice paper. If you can find it, then great, but I used greaseproof paper that I rubbed with a little neutral oil which worked like a dream.

These cookies are undoubtedly one to make for people who like almonds, and I've been enjoying them with coffee to have a vague sense of Mediterranean sunshine during the cold London winter. They are also a good choice if you've got to make something for guests who are avoiding dairy or gluten. As well as almonds, these cookies also include lemon zest plus a little lemon juice. This adds a fresh flavour note which I think works really well with the almonds. If that's not your thing, I think orange zest is a good alternative – it mixes with the almond essence to give you a flavour reminiscent of orange blossom.

To make Biskuttini tal-Lewz (makes 25):

- 200g ground almonds
- 180g caster sugar
- zest of a lemon
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract
- 1 large egg white
- lemon juice, to bind
- whole almonds

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 170°C (350°F). Line a baking tray with greaseproof paper rubbed very lightly with oil.
2. Put everything apart from the lemon juice and whole almonds in a bowl and mix well. Add lemon juice, half a teaspoon at a time, to make a pliable dough (I used two teaspoons).(*)
3. Roll the dough into a long sausage, and cut into 25 pieces. Roll each piece into a ball. Place each ball on a baking tray, flatten slightly, and press a whole almond into the centre.
4. Bake the cookies for 10-12 minutes until golden. You may need to turn the tray half-way for an even colour.

(*) *If the dough is very dry, you can also add water as well as lemon juice to avoid the flavour of the cookies becoming too sharp.*





WHY it happened and it is still happening?

By Greg Caruana from NSW

Sometimes I ask myself why..... and why is there so much suffering in the world? This question was asked by every human being but did they find the answer? Any of them at some time in their life, would have endured an illness with painful suffering, that in our Maltese culture we say, 'lanqas trid tara kelb' meaning you do not even want to see a dog suffer like so. So much so, that from time to time you hear someone say at funerals that at least he is no longer suffering.

Some of our learned men, have repeatedly tried to find an answer that can reassure the mind, and that can alleviate the heartache. The ENIGMA of the evil and suffering is phenomenal. We already realized, that this year 2020, from the first months onward, we are into the COVID-19 pandemic. According to worldwide statistics, we currently have about over 14 million, 700,000 actual effective cases, and even about 610,000 death. In the United States alone, about 150,000 died, while in Brazil around 80,000 died, and thousands upon thousands more worldwide. Lucky here in Australia and even in Malta, we are doing not that bad in comparison, although as everyone knows, in Victoria, the situation is more or less not that good. So much so, that the Premier of Victoria, has made it obligatory, that if you want to leave home, you must have to wear a mask. Unfortunately, we don't know when we will be free from this pandemic, that we are all in. On the other hand, we do notice that we are experiencing many conflicts around the world, with confrontations causing suffering and unnecessary deaths.

If for instance we ponder the civil war in Syria that began in March 2011, where about 300,000 people were found dead, and more than eleven million, had to leave their homes, many of them refugees, to other parts of the world. As everyone knows, churches, mosques, schools and even hospitals have been attacked and even chemical bombs have been used. We all know of other wars, such as the one that happened and still to this day happening in Libya, in Yemen, in Afghanistan, and in other countries, where many women and children are being killed innocently, by these atrocities.

In the face of all these disasters, a sensible man, feels his nothingness, and just maybe like Jesus, who is God and human, from the cross, He call his Father, who is perfect love, and said to him, "Father, Father, why did you abandon me?" We all know that Jesus suffers without the slightest guilt, like those babies and children, who barely saw the dawn of day! You realize how hundreds of lives are reaped in horrifying casualties and in meaningless wars or fights! Automatically, I ask and try to reason within myself, why is it that those who do good, and those who preach and spread love, most of them have been destroyed in a very short time? Why is it that the wicked rules victorious and content in their evil in all they do? It is all true that suffering and death brings new creation into the world. Every one of us can see and understand how a mother has to suffers, to bring new creatures into the world.

Christ, who became God-Man, went through endless anguish and effort to teach God's message, when at the same time the same people who received so many good deeds from him, were the same people who betrayed, beaten and crucified Him, leading Him to his grievous and humiliating death! Jesus felt so exhausted and abandoned, that as a man he asked his Father, "Why have you forsaken me?" He did so much good among his people, and at the same time he felt that everything was lost.

But we found that Christ had said that he had to suffer, die and after three days will rise again and emerge victorious over death and suffering. We know that every one of us works very hard, to become more motivated and feel better within ourselves. It all seems to us, that without pain, there is no improvement. Science has made great and advanced progress. Today, I can say that doctors are performing wonders in their medical fields, and even life in general has been prolonged. Yet with all the progress that man has made, he has even created among others, nuclear weapons, with which he can destroy not only the world, but him as well.

It seems that our human nature cannot escape the accusation and the blame that part of the suffering is created by ourselves. Today the world has improved, we all have all the comforts and securities, without having suffering for them whatsoever. But above all, there seems to be no happiness. We can see our grandkids sometimes impatient and annoyed and not

appreciating anything! Believe me that I just couldn't believe when they say, "**Grandpa its boring**", when they have everything what they want in this day and age, while when we were their age, we had nothing. On July 12, we heard that Elvis Presley's grandson, Benjamin Keough, committed suicide when he was only 27 years old, and accordingly, he was also the heir to Elvis Empire. Even if we have to look and consider Malta's situation, we all see, that these days they have everything what they need like us living in Australia. Anyhow, we are experiencing that the suicide rate is one every 15 days and most of them are those under the age of forty.

Here I ask again, "Quo Vadis?" "Where are You going?" because today nothing is nothing. We were used to that make-believe, where you know where is moral or not. But unfortunately, that saying is disappearing. Nowadays for our little ones everything

is all good and fine, and don't even try to correct them, because they all know everything and not the first time, they turn to you, in saying "well that's your opinion" (in other words, don't interfere). I am sorry to say, that discipline and total respect disappeared. Where is the harmony and tranquillity? For me it comes from each and every one of us, with all the crosses we have to carry in our lives, and above all, we must first accept our situation we are in. We must be conscious of others, our families, our friends, and even where we can help anyone who needs our help. My father taught me a good saying, that if you are looking for someone to help you, you must first help yourself, and when you think about it, it does make sense, because after all this sort of life, can brings harmony and tranquillity in the hearts.

Peace be with you and **STAY SAFE**.

President George Vella visits European Asylum Support Office (EASO)



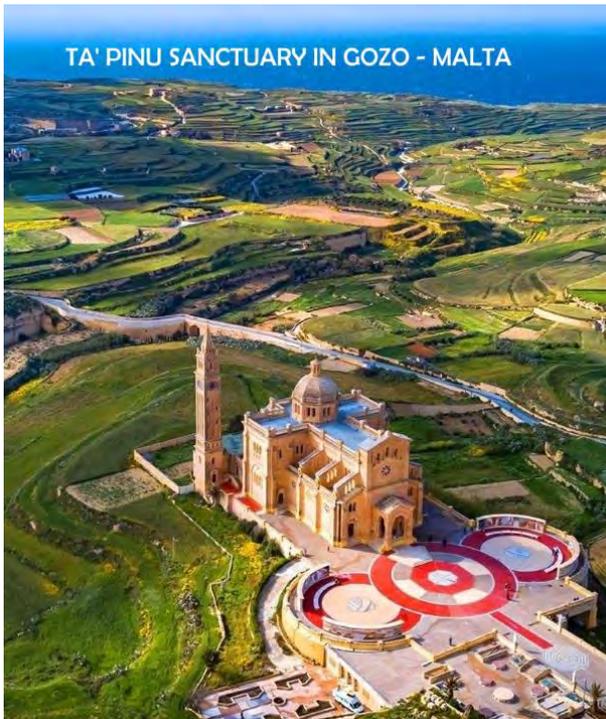
President of Malta George Vella paid a visit to the EASO where he was received by Director Nina Gregori.

President Vella was given a thorough presentation of the work conducted by the Office in Malta and other migration front-line countries on the central Mediterranean route like Italy, Greece, and Cyprus. Details were given by

EASO representatives on the way the Office tangibly assists Maltese authorities and other stakeholders in addressing the asylum scenario. Director Nina Gregori also elaborated on how the Office efficiently adapted its working methods in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure business continuity.

In addressing Director Gregori and the accompanying EASO representatives, President Vella commended the Office for the very comprehensive manner in which it addresses the issue of asylum. He stated that the issue of migration is a long-term one and that despite ongoing efforts and campaigns, people will still be compelled to leave their countries. The principle of solidarity needs to prevail within the European Union to ensure a fair and just distribution of the burden.

President Vella expressed appreciation for the work carried out by EASO, which he stated, is fundamental in ensuring that individual asylum cases are dealt with coherently by all European member states.



TA' PINU SANCTUARY IN GOZO - MALTA



Ta' Pinu Shrine in Gozo.

The chapel was rebuilt into a worthy sanctuary to accommodate the crowds. Construction of this magnificent church in Romanesque Style began in 1920. In 1932 the new Church was blessed and opened to the public and in 1935, Pope Pius XI raised it to the dignity of Minor Basilica. In the same year the miraculous image of Our Lady was crowned by Cardinal Alessio Lepicier, by decree signed by the Secretary of State Cardinal Eugene Pacelli (later Pope Pius XII). This photo on the left is dated prior to 1903. The original chapel was incorporated into the new sanctuary. See <http://bit.ly/tapinu1>



TA' GHERIEXEM WINDMILL - RABAT

Built by Manoel (1722-1736).
The mill is surrounded by houses
and can hardly be seen.
In use as a private house.

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 FRI 21ST - SUN 23RD AUGUST
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THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

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DAR IL QALA
 WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

CLAUDE CLAYTON
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 CHENON
 HOLLANDER
 DEEM
 DEPARDEAU
MISSION CLEOPATRA
 UNE COMEDIE DE ALAIN CHABAY



Certificate in Safeguarding of Children and Young People

Have a say in empowering the voice of children & young people

Welcome to the University of Malta (UM)

Do you work, or wish to work, with children and young people?

Are you involved in education, sports, healthcare, social work, pastoral care, or voluntary work?

Do you have a specific responsibility in safeguarding?

If you're young, young at heart, feel inspired and believe in social change, a career in youth work could help create the future – theirs and yours.

Safeguarding is becoming an increasingly important issue in our society. It refers to the promotion of welfare of youngsters to protect them from all kinds of harm, and to the action taken to enable the younger generations to have the best outcome in life.

Applications for the new Certificate in Safeguarding of Children and Young People are being accepted.

The Certificate in Safeguarding of Children and Young People is a joint project of the Faculty of Theology and the Faculty for Social Wellbeing.

It is offered on a part-time basis (evening) and spread over 1 year.

It includes a practicum that combines observation, fact-finding and reflection. Many of the sessions will be delivered online.

Topics covered during the course include standards and main areas of safeguarding, promotion of the welfare of children and young people, finding an effective response to any indicators of abuse, key principles of

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self-care, fundamental ethical and legal obligations for those working with children and young people.

Applications for October 2020 are available online <https://www.um.edu.mt/>