



MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VIC INC

NEWSLETTER

[ISSUE NO. 2.]



NOTICES

- MCCV AGM 28 November
- Maltese Language class registrations NOW OPEN!
- PAG Christmas hamper distribution.
- Australia Day Festa Tuesday 26 January at 9am
- Congratulations to Danielle & Jane who are the winners of our gardening competition.



PHONE: (03) 9387 8922

EMAIL: admin@mccv.org.au

WEBSITE: <https://mccv.org.au/>



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

Missionary (03) 9387 7433
Society of St Paul

COMMUNITY NOTICES

A festive poster for Australia Day Maltese Festa. At the top, a red banner reads 'COMMUNITY NOTICES'. Below it, a collage features the Australian flag, palm trees, a car, a hot dog, a watermelon slice, and a pink donut. Three logos are at the top: Australia Day (Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.), Maltese Community Council of Victoria, and Caroline Springs George Cross F.C. A large blue box in the center contains the text 'AUSTRALIA DAY' in white and 'MALTESE FESTA' in red. Below this, the text 'Join the Maltese Community Council of Victoria and Caroline Springs George Cross Soccer Club' is displayed. Further down, it says 'To celebrate a COVID safe Australia Day Maltese Festa starting with a mass and a flag raising ceremony. Ample parking is available.' and 'Activities will include: Children's activities, sports event, market stalls, art/crafts, car display, competitions, entertainment, raffle and prizes and much much more.' A final line says 'So come along and join in on the fun, let's make this an event to remember!'. At the bottom, the date and location are listed in red: 'JANUARY 26, 2021 9AM TIL LATE', 'CAROLINE SPRINGS GEORGE CROSS SOCCER CLUB', and '46 CITY VISTA COURT, PLUMPTON VIC'.

MCCV are looking for market stall holders for our Festa on 26 January 2021.

Enquiries to admin@mccv.org.au.

All registrations for stall holders must be submitted prior to 11 January 2021.

MALTESE LANGUAGE CLASSES

MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA INC.

LEARN MALTESE
FOR PLEASURE , WORK OR TRAVEL .

JOIN OUR
BEGINNER ADULT CLASSES.



**Registrations are now open for
Maltese Language Classes
Semester 1, 2021**

**Embrace the Maltese Culture through the
Maltese language**

***Until further notice Classes are currently
planned to held live online due to social
distancing .***

**Beginners: MONDAY, 6.30 pm
or**

THURSDAY, 6.00 pm

Advanced: WEDNESDAY, 6.00 pm

Intermediate: THURSDAY 6.30 pm

Tel: 03 9387 8922 or 0466 079 814 AH

<https://mccv.org.au/services/language/>

MALTESE LANGUAGE CLASSES

Learn Maltese in 2021 for Travel, Pleasure or Work

Join us and embrace our beautiful culture and language.

Classes are open to both adults and adult-accompanied children.

Registration for Maltese Language Classes is required. The Maltese Language classes are sponsored by the MCCV at the Maltese Community Centre. Students pay a nominal enrolment fee. Families pay a substantially discounted fee.

Classes are provided at: Beginner and Continuer levels.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions most classes will only be held online during this semester via ZOOM.

Any face-to-face classes will be subject to Covid -19 regulations.

The MCCV Education Committee overseeing the classes is composed of qualified LOTE tutors, class coordinators as well as an independent adviser.

MCCV Maltese Language Classes 2021 Semester 1

Monday Evening

Beginners (B1) Class: **6.30 PM – 7.30 PM**

Starting – **1st February 2021 (16 lessons)**

Or

Thursday Evening

Beginners (B2) **6.00 PM – 7.00 PM**

Starting – **11th February, 2021 (16 lessons)**

Wednesday Evening

Advanced (A) Class: **6.30 PM – 7.30 PM**

Starting – **3rd February, 2021 (16 lessons)**

Thursday Evening

Intermediate class **(C1) 6.30 PM – 7.30 PM**

Starting – **4th February, 2021 (16 lessons)**



Courses are intended to provide participants with a basic knowledge of reading, writing and speaking Maltese. Courses run for one semester.

Lessons coincide with school terms. A token fee of \$120 per semester for 16 lessons covers some expenses. The tutor will advise students of other resources that are appropriate. The classes run for one hour extended by 30 minutes for student queries. Students receive guided self-learning activities equivalent to 1 hour. The total Unit context hours are 2.5 hours per week.

Adults wishing to learn Maltese and require further information should contact the Maltese Community Centre during business hours **+61 3 9387 8922 or 0466 079 814 after hours** and leave a contact phone number or email us via our **Contact Form**.

Victorian School of Languages

The **Victorian School of Languages** also provides Maltese Language Classes for students in Years 1 to 12. Currently classes are available on Saturday mornings between 9.00 and 12.30 at Taylors Lakes Secondary College. Expansion of classes in other metropolitan areas will occur if a viable number of students enrol.

For information about schools in other states contact the **Federation of Maltese Language Schools Australia**.

MCCV LADIES AUXILIARY

Bingo on Tuesdays is run by the MCCV Ladies Auxiliary. We meet at 477 Royal Parade Parkville. Bingo commences on the 1st Tuesday in February at 11.00am. We are a small group of women who meet and play bingo in a relaxed atmosphere.

During the year we celebrate birthdays, Mother's day is celebrated with a lovely chicken salad lunch and Footy week with pie and chips. Participants are encouraged to bring their footy colours.

Christmas is celebrated on the first Tuesday in December. The Bingo group and the PAG participants joined forces and enjoy a lovely Christmas lunch funded by the MCCV Ladies Auxiliary.

We are looking forward to next years' meetings once the restrictions are lifted and safe to meet again.

Anyone interested to join please ring the Maltese Community Centre with your name and contact details. We will contact you once the centre is open. All are welcome. Telephone number is 93878922.

Unfortunately, the last bingo session was played on the 13th March as Melbourne went into its first lockdown period due to Covid-19. As a result, all bingo sessions were cancelled until further notice. Since March, contact with all participants has been maintained by phone.

The Ladies Auxiliary Committee consists of:

- 1 Marlene Xerri, *President*
- 1 Lina Dingli, *Treasurer*
- 1 Mary Cefai, *Member*
- 1 Inez Mifsud, *Member*

Marlene Xerri President, Ladies Auxiliary



“Fratelli tutti”, l-enciklika soċjali għda tal-Papa Frangisku.

Il-fraternità u l-ħbiberija soċjali huma t-toroq indikati mill-Papa Frangisku biex



FR. LONNIE BORG

niġnu dinja aħjar, iktar ġusta u fil-paċi, bit-tħabrik ta' kulhadd: poplu u istituzzjonijiet. Itenni b'saħħa l-le għall-gwerra u għall-globalizzazzjoni tal-indifferenza. Tajjeb mistaqsu: Liema huma l-ideali l-kbar imma anki t-toroq li konkretament wieħed jista' jimxi jekk irid jibni dinja iżjed ġusta u fraterna fir-relazzjonijiet tiegħu ta' kuljum, fis-soċjal, fil-politika, fl-istituzzjonijiet? Din hi l-mistoqsija li tixtieq twieġeb l-ewwel u qabel kollox *Fratelli tutti*, jew, fi lsienna, Ħuti lkoll: il-Papa jsejħilha “Enciklika soċjali” li tissellef it-titlu tat-Twissijiet ta' San Frangisk ta' Assisi, li uża dawn il-kelmiet “meta indirizza lil ħutu kollha rġiel u nisa u pproponielhom għamla ta' ħajja li għandha t-togħma tal-Vanġelu.

Problemi globali jitolbu azzjonijiet globali; le għall-“kultura tal-ħitan” B'daħla qasira u mqassma fi tmiem kapitli, l-Enciklika tiġbor – kif ifisser il-Papa stess – ħafna mir-riflessjonijiet tiegħu fuq il-fraternità u l-ħbiberija soċjali, imma mqiegħda “f'kuntest usa” u integrati ma' “għadd ta' dokumenti u ittri” mibgħuta lil Frangisku minn “tant persuni u gruppi mid-dinja kollha”



Fl-ewwel kapitlu, “Id-dellijiet ta' dinja magħluqa”, id-dokument jieqaf fuq il-ħafna tagħwiġ ta' żmienna: il-manipulazzjoni u d-deformazzjoni ta' kunċetti bħalma huma d-demokrazija, il-libertà, il-ġustizzja; it-telfien tas-sens tas-soċjal u tal-istorja; l-egoizmu u n-nuqqas ta' interess fil-ġid komuni; il-prevalenza ta' logika tas-suq imsejsa fuq il-profitt u l-kultura tal-iskart; il-qgħad, ir-razziżmu, il-faqar; in-nuqqas ta' ugwajanza fid-drittijiet u t-tagħwiġ tagħhom bħall-iskjavitù, it-traffikar uman, in-nisa mjassra u mbaġhad imġiegħla jabortixxu, it-traffikar tal-organi. Huma problemi globali li jesigħu azzjonijiet globali, jišhaq il-Papa, li jwissi wkoll kontra “kultura tal-ħitan” li tiffavorixxi ż-żieda tal-mafja, li jinbnew



fuq il-biża' u s-solitudni Barra dan, illum qed naraw l-etika sejra lura u għal dan jikkontribwixxu, b'xi mod, il-midja tal-massa li jmermru r-rispett lejn l-ieħor u jeqirdu kull prudenza, waqt li joħolqu ċrieki virtwali iżolati u awtoreferenzjali, fejn il-libertà hija illużjoni u d-djalogu mhux kostruttiv.

Fit-tieni kapitlu l-papa jikkellem b'mid car dwar l-imħabba li tibni pontijiet: jagħtina l-eżempju tas-Samaritan it-tajjeb. Storja li

tajjeb niftakru fija ta spiss. F' kapitlu tlieta jittratta dwar id-drittijiet li m'għandhomx ħitan; meħtieġa etika tar-relazzjonijiet internazzjonali. Fil-kapitli erbgha, hamsa, sitta, sal-aħhar tal-enciklika l-papa jsemmi u jiddiskuti l-immigrazzjoni, il-politika mibnija fuq il-karita, il-miraklu tal-gentilezza, il-paċi u l-maħfra, u fl-aħhar le għall-piena kapitali.

Din l-Enciklika l-Papa iffirmha fuq l-artal qabar ta San Frangisk gewwa Assisi.

Feast of St Francis. The Pope publishes a third encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, in Italian, "all brothers". It is a letter on human fraternity and social friendship. In a situation of pandemic and global ecological crisis, it is more important than ever to learn to live together. Pope Francis states: "*Without the fraternity that Jesus has offered us, our efforts for a more just world run out of steam and even the best projects run the risk of becoming soulless structures*".

Of course, placing fraternity in the Word of Jesus, "*the first born of many brothers*" (Letter to the Romans, 8, 29) opens up an infinite horizon, in space and time, to the depths of our existence, to each other. Francis of Assisi was a living witness to this. Think of his meeting with Sultan al-Malik al-Kāmal. In the Cantic of Creatures, he exalts the brotherhood of all creatures, in everything and even in "*our sister Death*". It shows the foundation of the common house. He sketches out the architecture of this house, through systemic bonds of brotherhood.

Here we recognise the thought of *Laudato Si'* of Pope Francis.

Laudato Si' has become a reference text on ecology. Published five years ago, it is "*Act 1 of a call for a new civilization*" wrote Edgar Morin at the time. Since then, we have moved into "*integral ecology*" mode.

In this perspective, other acts have been made which inspire the letter "*All brothers*" published on the feast of St. Francis, acts which concern religious plurality as an expression of fraternity. Religious plurality is a call, in multiplicity and difference, to "*enter together, as a single family, into an ark that can cross the stormy seas of the world: the ark of fraternity*". These words of the Pope were pronounced in 2019, when the "*Common Document on Human Brotherhood*" was signed with Ahmad Al-Tayyib, the great Imam of Al-Azhar, a prestigious institution of Sunni Islam. Al-Azhar and the Catholic Church ask that "*this Document become an object of research and reflection in all schools, universities and institutes*", "*in order to contribute to the creation of new generations that bring good and peace and defend everywhere the rights of the oppressed and the last*".

Like the dove, peace needs wings to take flight and be sustained, "*the wings of education and justice*" according to Pope Francis.

MALTESE LITERATURE GROUP PRAYER

Gheziez membri u hbieb, sibt talba sabiha għall-Awstralja, u qlibtha għall-Malti għal min jippreferi jitlob bil-Malti.
Nghiduha ta' sikwit biex il-Madonna tidhol għalina u tehlisna mill-flagell tal-Corona Virus.

PRAYER FOR AUSTRALIA

O Mary, conceived without sin
Watch over Australia,
Pray for Australia,
Save Australia.
The more guilty it is
The more need it has
Of your protection.
One word from you to Jesus
And Australia will be saved.
O Jesus, obedient to Mary
Save Australia.
Mary help of Christians
Pray for us.
Amen.



TALBA GĦALL-AWSTRALJA

O Marija, imnissla minghajr htija
Hares lill-Awstralja,
Itlob għall-Awstralja,
Ehles lill-Awstralja.
Iktar ma għandha htija
Iktar tehtieg il-harsien tieghek.
Kelma minn għandek lil Gesu
U l-Awstralja tinheles.
O Gesu, li tobdi lil Marija,
Salva l-Awstralja.
Marija, għajnuna ta' l-insara
Itlob għalina.
Amen.



MEDICAL INFORMATION

EMERITUS PROFESSOR MAURICE CAUCHI

Pandemics and social responsibility



Wars and epidemics bring the best and the worst in a population. We have witnessed actions which can be described as laudable, even heroic. At the other extreme, we have also sometimes witnessed actions best described as selfish or idiotic at best but which can be dangerous to the general public, reflecting an atavistic regress unworthy of a civilised nation.

In Malta we have been blessed with an excellent health service, with very well qualified individuals whose expert advice we are only too happy to accept. With regards to the current pandemic, Malta has been among the first to take public health measures to control its spread among the population. Such precautionary steps can be effective only if everybody obeys the directives, even when these impose a certain amount of inconvenience or sacrifice. Nobody particularly likes locking oneself at home rather than go out for a walk on the esplanade. And no misplaced sense of duty should overcome such an embargo.

One is also embarrassed to see the overreaction exhibited by some members of the general public who in an unbelievable panic starting hoarding foodstuffs and other items, worried about a general shortage of such items, however unlikely this appears to be. A war mentality seems to linger in a population which has had more than its fair share of wars, hunger, and general insufficiencies of daily requirements, but surely this is taken to ludicrous extremes. We should all be aware that there is no fundamental reason why supply should be threatened: no u-boats, no bombs, no challenge to supply. The only reason for this fear is fear itself: a most effective and disastrous way of creating an emergency.

A raft of social issues may result from the indiscriminate utilisation of services. Medicines and medical facilities are meant to deal primarily with normal conditions and are bound to become stressed in times of epidemics. Hence the need for all of us to use such services frugally and responsibly. Overuse by one section of the population is bound to result in deficiencies for others. Doctors, pharmacies, no less than shops and supermarkets, can feel the stress or become simply overcome by such demands.

At some stage, governments have the responsibility to intervene in an effort to ensure order and reduce conflict. We have already seen cases where hefty fines have been imposed on those who cannot bear restrictions like social spacing or self-segregation. Perhaps it is time to also put a limit to what services one may expect to be made available. In countries where demand for medical care have become overstretched, basic ethical issues are being raised as to how, in an emergency, to ration limited facilities, including hospital beds or ventilators, for example. Such extreme situations could put doctors at risk of having to decide on factors such as whose life is more worth saving and similar disturbing conundrums.

While we in Malta hope that we will be reaching this emergency level in the foreseeable future, it is well to emphasize that the obligation to prevent it is not merely the responsibility of governments and administrators. It is also very much dependent on the practice of the general public. Already we have seen in the last decade an enormous increase in the utilisation, some might even say abuse, of medical facilities. The public must be made aware that resources are not infinite, and that judicious use of them is everybody's responsibility.

In relation to this is the question of information required by the public. A general comment is often heard, namely that the average person is often confused about the facts related as to how best to deal with a potentially deadly pandemic. This is in spite of the plethora of information given by health authorities, the news media and available on line. One gets the impression that it is not so much a shortage of information that is the cause of this, but rather too much information, given through various sources, which vary in credibility if not responsibility.

Information for the general public should be brief, clear, repeated frequently, given preferably by a recognisable figure of authority in short, crisp fashion, without over emphasizing the risk to certain sections of the community while at the same time giving the impression that some members are immune.

While this is a time of stress for the whole community, we have to avoid binary distinctions which has led in some countries to isolate the old and others at increased risk while the rest of the population still congregate in a celebratory mood in places like the famous Bondi Beach in Sydney.

Pandemiji u responsabilita socjali

Gwerrer u epidemija igibu l-aħjar u l-agar aspeti fis-socjeta. Rajna azzjonijiet li huma ta' min ifahharhom, anki wiehed jista' jiddiskrivihom bhala eroici. Fl-estrem l-iehor rajna ukoll azzjonijiet li nistghu niddiskrivuhom bhala idjotci u li jistghu jkunu perikulusi u mhux denji ta' nazzjon civilizzat.

F'Malta ahna nistghu niftahru li ghandna servizz tas-sahha eċċellenti, mgħammar b'nies li jaghtuna pariri li ahna dejjem lesti li naccettaw. Dwar din l-epidemja, Malta kienet minn ta' l-ewwel li tiehu passi biex tikkontrolla il-mixja tagħha fost il-popolazzjoni. Passi bhall dawn huma effettivi biss jekk kullhad jobdi dawn id-direttivi, anki jekk dawn igibu inkonvenjenzi u xi ftit sacrificju. Hadd ma jiehu gost jissakkar go daru għal żmien twil.

Tara ukoll xi kulltant lil xi mmbri tal-pubbliku qed jippanikkjaw jibdew jahżnu ogggetti tal-ikel u affarijiet oħrajn għax jibzghu li se jkun hawn nuqqas kbir. Jahsbu li se jkun hawn nuqqasijiet bhal fil-gwerra. L-unika problema hija l-biża innifsu. li johloq emergenza.

Hafna problemi jibdew j inholqu meta kulhadd jibda jistorja. Affarijiet tal-ikel, Medicieni u faċilitajiet ta' sptarijiet jibdew jonqsu. Meta nibdew nahżnu dawn il-faċilitajiet bl-addoċ dawn jonqsu. Għalhekk ghandna nużawhom bil-għaqal.

Il-gvern għandu r-responsabbilita li jagħmel ligijiet biex jikkontrolla l-abbuż. Rajn każi fejn nies gew immultati meta kisru il-ligi pereżempju meta jiltaqgħu fl-imkien f'numru kbir, fil-hwienet u posijiet oħra.

Ta min jahseb ukoll minn għandu dritt għas-servizzi. F'xi aratijiet oħra pe l-Italja problemi inholqu għax kien hemm nuqqas tal 'ventilators' u medicini. Dawn is-sitawzzjonijiet joholqu problemi ta' etika.

Ahna f'Malta għad ma wasalniex f'dan l-istat ta' emergenza. Ta' min iqis ukoll li dan il-virus mhux lakemm teqirdu. F'Malta stess qed bhal issa naraw mewġa oħra ta' infezzjonijiet b'dan il-virus. Sakemm għadha ma teżistix tilqima effikaċi kontra dan il-virus, irridu noqgħodu hafna aktar attenti biex ma nittiehdex jew ngħadduha lil xulxin.

Jehnieg niehdu l-pariri tal-esperti, speċjalment dak li għandu jx'jaqsam mal użu ta' maskri, ma nidgezzux ma' xulxin, u l-hasil ta' l-idejn bid-diżinfettant.



MALTESE STYLE COOKING

Ingredients

Serves: 20

- 1 loaf day old bread
- 375g sugar
- 2 tablespoons custard powder
- 2 tablespoons cornflour
- 4 tablespoons cocoa
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 500g mixed dried fruit
- 250g almonds
- 250g glace cherries, halved
- 1 teaspoon vanilla essence
- 4 tablespoons whisky



Directions

Preparation: 2 hours › Cook: 45 min › Ready in: 2 hours 45 min

1. Tear bread into small pieces, put in the bowl, cover with water and soak for 1½ hours.
2. Preheat oven to 180 degrees C (fan forced)
3. Place bread in a colander and mash between your hands, draining all the liquid.
4. Transfer to a large bowl and add sugar, custard powder, corn flour and cocoa.
5. Stir in beaten eggs and mix well.
6. Add dried fruit, half of the almonds and half of the glace cherries. Add vanilla essence and whisky, mix well.
7. Pour into a baking dish and decorate with remaining almonds and cherries.
8. Bake for 45 minutes.
9. Check puddina by piercing with a toothpick, it should be dry when you take it out.

PUZZLE TIME

Kapitlu 8

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STAYING CONNECTED

The Maltese Social Support Group recommenced home visits in September 2020. Some services which were delivered to recipients included

- **Unaccompanied shopping**
- **Transport to Medical appointments**
- **Paying bills**
- **Social Visits**
- **Small group outings to parks and the beach**
- **Facetime sessions with multiple participants**
- **Telephone Bingo games**
- **Delivery of Activity packs and regular newsletters.**



Due to Covid restrictions the Annual Social Support Christmas party was forced to be cancelled. It was decided that in lieu of this party each participant would receive a Christmas Hamper.

These hampers have now been completed and are in the process of being delivered to all participants.

Feedback so far has been overwhelmingly positive, and participants have reported that receiving the hamper made their day.

Many thanks go out to all who assisted in making this possible by donating items and money towards these hampers.

A big thank you to the following for their generous donations:

- **LADIES AUXILIARY OF THE MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA**
- **NEWPORT MALTESE ASSOCIATION AND SENIORS GROUP**
- **THE ORIGINAL MALTESE PASTIZZI CO.**
- **MALTESE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**
- **MALTESE LA VALETTE ASSOCIATION**
- **RESKEON MALTESE ASSOCIATION**
- **SAINT GAETAN SOCIETY INC.**
- **RUKZONE DESIGN**
- **MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST PAUL.**



MALTESE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

SOME PLACE NAMES AROUND THE COAST of MALTA and GOZO

The following are a few place names around the coast of Malta, starting from Valetta.

Xiber Ras: hand-span headland.

Valletta: after G.M. de La Valette

Furjana – Floriana, named after the engineer Floriani

Gwardamanga – Guardamangia, literally means guard and eat (similar name in Sienna)

Msida: Msajda, derived from the Maltese word, sajda, fishing place.

Ta' Xbiex: 'ta', of; Xbiex probably from Xawbas, a wild prickly bush of the raspberry variety. Could also be derived from 'ta xbiek', of the nets.

Gzira: the island (Manoel Island).

Dragut Point: named after Dragut Reis who died there during the great Siege 1565

Balluta: from 'ballut', oak tree indigenous to the island.

Tal-Minsija: of the forgotten one.

Spinola: after one of the knights of St. John who built a house in the area.

Bahar ic-Caghaq: sea of pebbles (now under the main road from Sliema to St. Paul's Bay).

Burmarrad: either from 'Ben Warrat' or 'Bur-Marrad'. The first means 'ben werriet', a son to inherit with reference to St Publius who inherited the faith from St Paul; the second means 'art li tmarrad', or , swampy, fever ridden place due to the stagnant waters at Salini.

Salina Bay: the salty one.

Bugibba: 'Bu', of, and 'Gibba from Arabic 'Gubb' meaning cistern or well

Tal-Ghazzenin: of the lazy ones; could also be derived from the Greek 'Thalassenein' meaning the meeting of two seas, supposedly the place (according to tradition) where St. Paul was shipwrecked.

Qawra: means both a round body and a creek. It actually refers too the creek that surrounds it.

Xemxija: the sunny one

Mellieha: most probably derived from the word 'melh', salt; could also be derived from 'melea', a type of honey abundant in the district. Town motto 'ex sale et melea nomen meum'.

Ras il-Wahx: headland of the ghost or frightful one. (very rugged coastline – iwahxek)

Manikata: derived from the Italian 'manica' – a slave.

Ras il-Qarraba: the groaning headland, probably because of the shattered cliffs.

Mgarr: Maltese for 'was carried'; could also be derived from 'mgarr', the plural of 'magra' meaning spring, from 'igri' to run.

Ras il-Pellegrin: headland of the pilgrim, more likely the peregrine falcon.

Fomm ir-Rih: the mouth of the wind.

Ras ir-Raheb: Headland of the hermit.

Migra Ferha: Fast flowing rivulet

Ras id-Dawwara: turning headland.

Hoffret ir-Rizz: a sinkhole structure inland from Ras id-Dawwara.

Wied ir-rum: valley of the Christians. Between Ras id-Dawwara and Hoffret ir-Rizz.

Bahrija: a type of moth.

Ghajn Klieb: tied to the legend that the Arabs wanted to reconquer the island, foynd on the road to Bahrija (type of moth) were the Arabs used to live prior to the supposed insurrection.

Il-Kullana: the necklace.

Ix-Xaqqa: a slickenside along the Maghlaq fault (on the road to Ghar Lapsi).

Il-Maqluba: the upside down one. Legend has it that there existed a small hamlet inhabited by wicked people on the site where il-Maqluba lies today. Their sinful behaviour provoked the wrath of God. Despite the advice of a pious woman, who warned the people and invited them to change their way of life, the inhabitants persisted in their life of pleasure and vice. One day a violent storm hit the village and the earth beneath blew up, overturned and dropped to form what is today Filfla. (Before sex education, young children from the area were told that when they were born, they were collected from il-Maqluba).

While the remains of a well found to the side of il-Maqluba depression indicates that the collapse of part of the structure occurred after this well was constructed, we can't apply this conclusion to the whole structure. The nearby street name and various historians date the formation of this sinkhole to November 1343. In the past, Malta was thought to be part of an earthquake belt which spanned several countries and included Malta, Sicily and Italy. It was postulated that the well documented earthquake of 1343 which effected Italy, created similar havoc in Malta. Medieval historians thus came to the erroneous conclusion that the formation of il-Maqluba was caused by this earthquake. Evidence suggests that the collapse took place in the Quaternary period. Note its location at the western head of the valley, Wied Babu.

Qrendi: was originally known as 'Rahal Kabir', large or main village. The Italian equivalent of 'Kekir' is 'Grande'. Over a period of time grande became Qrendi.

Blue Grotto: is one of several caves found along the coast. The arch overlying it is a remarkable geological feature formed through erosion and faulting.

Mqabba: from old Maltese verb 'Qabb', to cut stone, and hence the noun Mqabba- stone quarrying short for Muqabbaba. Another possibility is that Mqabba means 'dome'- old Maltese Qubba referring to some dome-covered buildings in the area.

Zurrieq: derived from the Maltese word for blue- 'zoroq or izraq', referring to the blue sea at Wied iz-Zurrieq. Alternatively it could be derived from 'zerniq', meaning dawn, since Zurrieq is facing the east and receives the first rays of the sun.

Bubaqra: father of the cow.

Hal-Far: in Maltese, far means big rat, hence the village of the big rat.

Il-Mara: a limestone stack in the sea.

Birzebbuga: 'Zebbuga' means olive and 'Bir' means well or 'Bur' means an area of land or meadow; so can mean either olive well (ie abundance of olives) or land of olives or olive grove.

Marsaxlokk: means Southeast port. Marsa – port and xlokk – SE.

Delimara Point: from 'Dejr il-mara', the place of the woman.

Wied il-Ghajn (Marsascala): the valley of the fountain or 'marsa sqalli' – port of the Sicilian.

Zabbar: the Maltese word for pruning trees. The best tradesmen for pruning trees were found at Zabbar. Some historians sustain that Zabbar is derived from the medieval form of a medicinal plant called 'sabbara', Aloe Vera.

Kalanka tal-patrijiet:

Kemmuna: after the cumin plant. Could be a corruption of the Greek word 'kimeni' meaning adjacent. Was also known as Cosyra (Gzira?) as well as Haephestia.

Around Gozo starting from Mgarr:

Mgarr: as for Malta.

Ghajn Sielem: Ghajn means spring and 'sielem' from 'sliem' means fountain of tranquillity.

Gebel tac-Cawl: the rock of the raven.

Hondoq ir-rummien: Pomegranite's valley

Qala: means 'bay'.

Nadur: derived from the verb 'nadur' which means to observe at length, to keep guard, or vantage point.

Dahlet Qorrot: ' ' inlet.

Xaghra: means plateau – is derived from a section of the village known as Xaghret il-Ghazzenin – the herdsmen's or idlers open fields.

Ramla l-Kbira: the big sandy bay

Ramla ta' Marsalforn: Marsa means port; 'il-forn' may be derived from the Arabic word for ship 'lifurna'.

Nothing to do with bakeries.

Il-Qbajjar:

Il-Hotba tal-Qasam: the inheritance hump

Ras San-Dimitri: San Dimitri's headland.

Gharb: means west – westernmost village in Gozo.

Fungus Rock: famous for its reputed therapeutic fungus that grows there, also known as 'Il-Gebli tal-General – General's Rock.

Ras il-Wardiya: the flowery headland; legend also has it that it was a hermit's place.

Xlendi: derives from the Byzantine Xelandion or long-ship.

Ta' Cenc Cliffs: spectacular cliff zone.

Mgarr ix-Xini: carrying of the sailing ship.

Ix-Xatt l-Ahmar: the red beach.

Rahal: 'hal', derived from Rahal from the Arabic Rahl which means station or stopping place. Subsequent growth at these places developed into hamlets and eventually villages and towns, so that the Maltese meaning of 'rahal' has widened with the subsequent loss of its original meaning.

Joseph J Borg

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On behalf of the Maltese
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