Maltese eNewsletter

Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

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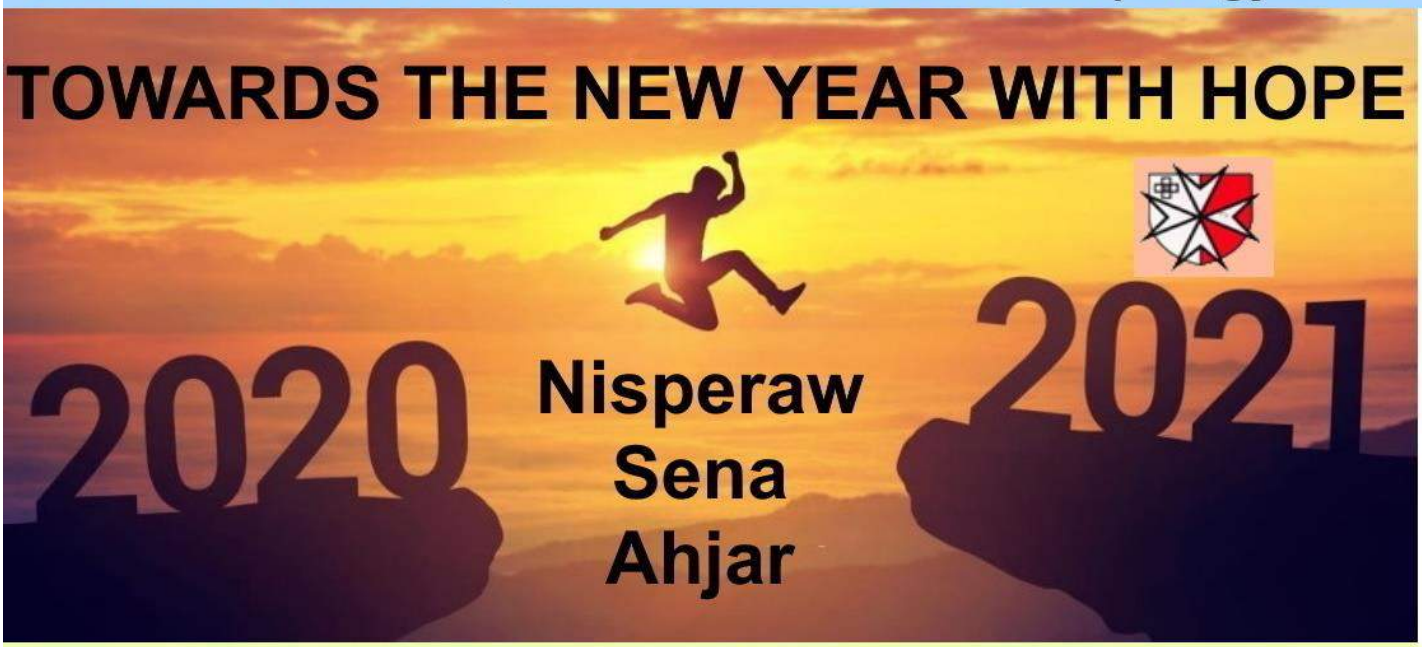
TOWARDS THE NEW YEAR WITH HOPE



Dear Maltese and Gozitans Living Abroad

It is my pleasure that,
for the second year in a row,
I am sending - on my behalf,
on behalf of my wife Miriam,
and the rest of all our Nation -
the best wishes to all of you
for Christmas and the New Year.
His Excellency George Vella
President of Malta

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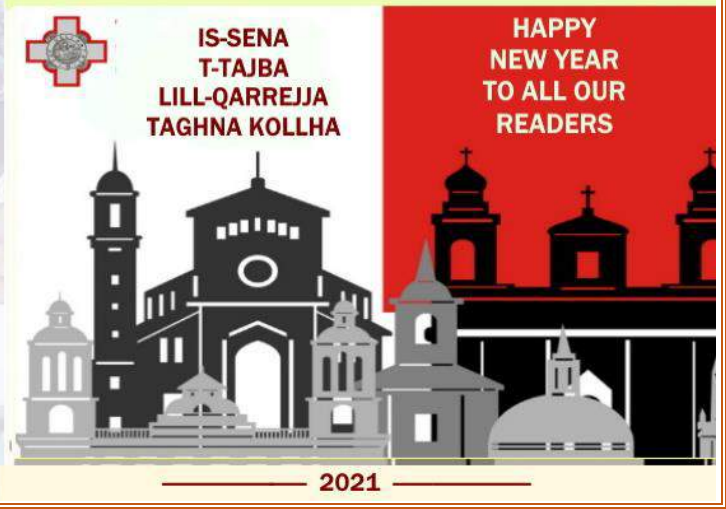
IKTAR MINN QATT QABEL

GRAZZI

The Malta Community Chest Fund Foundation.



The President of Malta George Vella and Mrs Vella exchanged traditional season's greetings with Prime Minister Robert Abela at the Presidential Palace in Valletta. The Prime Minister was accompanied by his spouse Dr Lydia Abela and their daughter, Giorgia Mae.

Photo - DOI - Jeremy Wonnacott

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF MALTA – GEORGE VELLA

Dear citizens of Malta and Gozo living abroad,

It is my pleasure, that for the second year in a row, I am sending on my behalf, on behalf of my wife Miriam, and the rest of all our Nation, the best wishes to all of you, for Christmas and New Year. This year has been long and difficult for all of us. You could say that each of the countries where you live, including Malta, has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Most of us have experienced long lockdowns. Some of us, still are. Unfortunately, we have also lost loved ones and it is fitting to salute their memory during this period. We kept our distance from each other, not because we wanted to but as a sign of love and respect.

We adapted to the circumstances. We have seen how we turn these restrictions into gestures of altruism and solidarity that have truly brought us closer together. In a fast-paced world, we also found time to talk more often.

Thus, we realised that distance was never a problem separating us. We found a way to spend hours talking, through modern technology, when under normal circumstances we never thought it would be possible.

I augur that, when this pandemic ends, we will continue to find time for each other. I am convinced that soon, we will be able to visit each other again without restrictions. Until then, stay in touch often, especially with those who are most in need or who need special attention.

Let us keep in mind those who, even during these festivities, are alone.

This is the true Christmas spirit. This is what always stood out in the Maltese character. What really matters is the togetherness and love for our family. Distance can never change these values. Therefore, I ask you that when you are decorating the Christmas tree or setting up the crib, keep in mind your families and friends here in Malta. It is good to participate fully in the traditions of your adoptive country, but also keep your Maltese heritage alive.

Stay Maltese in your traditions. Where possible, use the Maltese language and teach it to your children and grandchildren. For us, you will always be part of our family especially during these days, as we miss your presence.

I hope that those who wished to be in Malta for the holidays but could not travel due to the restrictions, will be able to do so in the very near future.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those of you who, during these difficult times, have been at the forefront of ensuring the health and safety of your communities. I am sure that you do your job with no interest for personal gain and with a lot of dedication.

I will conclude this message by telling you that wherever you are – we are proud of you. Through all your actions, you show the world that the greatness of a country is not in its geographical size, but in its people. I wish you and your families a Christmas full of joy and love. I also wish you a new year full of prosperity, happiness and above all health.

THE ARCHBISHOP'S MESSAGE

"

This year we experienced the great witness of love by so many frontliners who gave a beautiful, generous and heroic response to the pandemic that struck us without warning, a rough setback that will not easily be forgotten," Archbishop Charles Scicluna said in his Christmas message on Thursday, as he imparted on them the Lord's blessing, and, on behalf of every one of us, show them our appreciation.

In *The Birth of the Divine Physician*, Archbishop Scicluna reflected on 2020 which was marked by the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

"Who knows how many times during the past few months we asked ourselves: where is God in all this? Today we gaze at the baby in the manger of Bethlehem and his reply through a sad cry tells us: "I am here with you and for you. I am God made man. I am God with you, Emmanuel"," he said.

Archbishop Scicluna referred to an occasion when Jesus used the image of himself as a physician, adding that over the past months the community drew nearer to doctors and nurses, the health authorities, medical staff and others in elderly residential homes and other realities that were all faced with difficult trials. **Christmas should also bring a spiritual healing**

Christmas should bring us spiritual healing, besides bringing us physical healing, the Archbishop said. "To heal us the Lord does not send a physician but a baby," he explained.

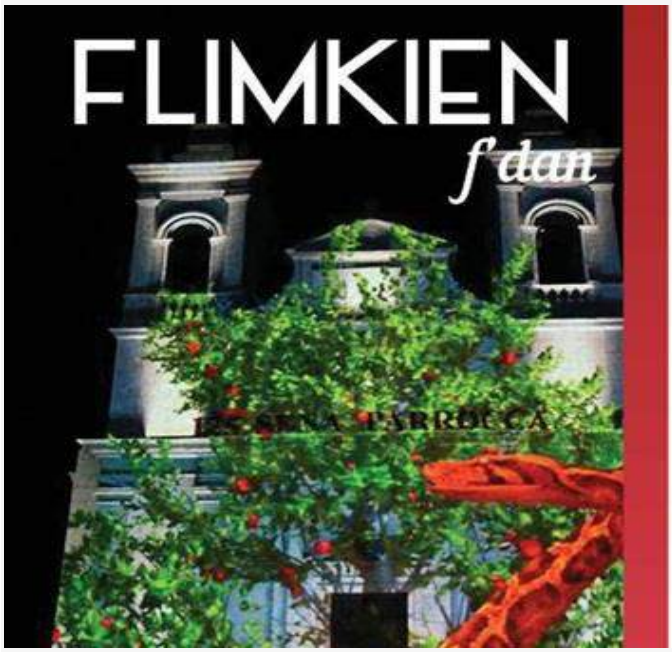
"Physicians are essential, and the Lord continues to endow them with wisdom and health. But when this baby from Bethlehem grows to become the Lord Jesus, he tells us that whatever we do to the least of our brothers, we do it to him (cf Mt 25:40). He is so close to us that he is also one of us," Archbishop Scicluna said. "Whoever can take the vaccine should do so"

Archbishop Scicluna urged those who can take the coronavirus vaccine to do so. Many are excited for the upcoming year.

One of the Covid-19 vaccines has been earlier approved by the European health authorities and its distribution is scheduled to begin on Saturday. The first to receive it according to the government vaccination roll out plan are frontliners.

"We need to co-operate with the health authorities as this is a concrete expression of love. Whoever can take the vaccine should do so, as in this way we will be protecting not only ourselves but also our brethren who due to various circumstances may not be able to take the vaccine," Archbishop Scicluna said. He also highlighted the importance of lessons learnt throughout the pandemic. Archbishop Scicluna also remembered the family of Covid-19 victims in his Chr

San Lawrenz 3D mapping show portraying the joyful spirit of Christmas



il-Milied
PARTIKOLARI
TOGETHER
during this Particular Christmas
Thursday 24th till
Saturday 26th December 2020
6:30pm
Parish Church façade, San Lawrenz

A 3D mapping show to keep the joyful spirit of Christmas alive will be projected on the Parish façade at San Lawrenz in Gozo – Together during this Particular Christmas.

Organised by the San Lawrenz Local Council, this show will be repeated between 6.30pm and 7.30pm on the 24th, 25th and 26th of December. Anyone visiting this beautiful display over the three evenings will also be able to buy traditional Maltese drinks and food related to Christmas.

Merry Christmas

MAY YOU HAVE A SAFE AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR

Sam CJ Muscat JP PresidentAustralian American Association (Vic)

THE ONLY BILINGUAL, NON-POLITICAL AND FREE JOURNAL WHICH IS READ, RESPECTED AND LOVED BY THOUSANDS OF MALTESE AROUND THE WORLD

IIL-MILIED
IT-TAJJEB
U SENA
GDIDA
MIMLIJA
HENA U PACI

L-GHAQDA
TAL-MALTI

HOW GOOD IT IS TO SEE THE BABE

(Tune: "*Me and my drum*")

Oh, how good it is to see the Babe
Who is God's own Son-with-us for our sake
What boundless joy that in our midst He lives
As his home with us He came down to make
As his own life
To all He gives
That with joy in him to fullness of life
We may all wake.

As we gaze at him we see the Babe's eyes
Gleam with fresh love for us who to him smile
He warms our hearts as nothing ever can
Beyond all words they speak to us all the while
How he was sent
Out of sheer love
By his Father who wants to reconcile
All to himself.

As Mary gently and with such tender care
Holds up the Babe for us to kiss and to greet
We bend our knee and stretch to him our hands
For him to feel how much we yearn to meet
Him who we heard
The angels say
Has been born to us and here we are
Here at his feet.

We just can't wait to go and tell the whole world
The Sun of Peace and Justice that surely last
Has dawned dispelling all our shadows away
For in the Babe we can all put our trust
That from the dust
The poor he'll raise
As to him in Cross and Glory shall all
Hold to him fast.

THROUGH MARY ALL IN ME
MARY IMMACULATE

(Tune: *Tap your sabots … A. Duval*)

Ref. ***God the Son the Father told***
Send me to the world you love
To be one with them
That they all may come and see
How through Mary all in me
Yours in love they'll be.

Since ever God in his love thought
Of all that there will ever be
All will their being have in Christ
In him to live, move, come to him
As Mary Virgin through her Son
In God's own heart is pure conceived.

Indeed with Adam the first Eve
Did eat the foul fruit souring life
God's light of love and truth turned off
As darkest night all men did shroud
Yet through God's love in Mary's Son
All to the light of day would come.

Conceived in utter beauty bright
The Second Eve she came to be
As called to mother God's own Son
She mothers all in him new born
Who share her faith her hope in him
Her love for him fills so their hearts.

Hail Mary spotless without stain
Conceived to let God's saving Word
Take root most deep in all He makes
As through his Spirit you conceived
And bearing Jesus in your womb
All made new in him you conceive.

Father Bernard Mallia SJ
8/12/2020

Christmas Past

Joseph Lanzon

In the cold days of winter, such as this Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem about 2,000 years ago. Mary and Joseph placed him in a manger *'because there was no place for him in at the inn'*. All the Christian countries in the world celebrate this great event every year on the 25 December – Christmas Day. Every Christian country has its own traditions how to celebrate Christmas but Malta has its very own – procession with the small statue of Baby Jesus around the streets of each town and village, midnight mass where a small boy delivers an emotional sermon on the nativity, cribs with *'pasturi'*, Christmas trees in practically every house, *'gulbiena'*, hot chestnut drink and ……..

The first procession with Baby Jesus on Christmas Eve was introduced by Dun Gorg Preca in 1921 in Hamrun; the Maltese traditional lullaby carol *'Ninni La Tibkix Izjed'* was written by Jesuit Indri Schembri in 1946 but probably derived from a much older version; the first narrative (homely) by a small boy at Midnight Mass was in 1883 by Gorg Sapiano; the first set-up of a Crib was at the Dominican church in Rabat in 1617.

Here is an old man reminiscing about Christmas many years back in his childhood days. I am sitting in the air-filled verandah overlooking Marsascala bay. The scene before me befits more a spectacular and imaginary painting than plain reality. Below me, the sea splashes on the rocky shore. The white-foaming waves creep forward inside the bay while far out, where the water seems to kiss the wintry clouds, the whole wild sea roars with anger. The rolling of the huge waves going up to a considerable height, make me stop and ponder.

Christmas, elderly people like me are expected to be in front of a cozy fireplace drinking a cup of hot tea, hearing carols on the radio or watching television. Today I felt different. Something in me was spinging me onward to this little fishing village where I spent so many happy summers with my parents, brother and sister. Watching this beauty of nature at its best could not fail to make me think of the days of my happy youth. Then, Christmas meant so much to me. Here I'll live again, in a nostalgic manner, Christmases of long ago.

Procession with Baby Jesus *"Christmas 1946. I am 10 years old, still wearing shorts. I remember when, for the first time, I took part in the traditional procession with Baby Jesus around the narrow stepped streets of Bormla organized by the Society of Christian Doctrine on Christmas Eve. How proud and excited I was as I carried a lit lantern beside the Baby. Many people would come out of their houses to see us while we sung Christmas carols creating a very Christmassy atmosphere.*

The most popular Maltese carol, without doubt, was "Ninni La Tibkix Izjed". This traditional carol resembled a lullaby being sung to the new-born little Baby. We children all liked singing it. I still remember the lyrics in Maltese:-

"Ninni la tibkix izjed, Ninni Jesu Bambin. Hallih ghalina l-biki, Ghax ahna midinbin.
Ejjew ejjew ja angli, Mis-sema mija mija Taraw lil min halaqkhom Bambin gewwa l-fisqija."

After the procession, we would return to the Museum where the Superior and the other elder members of the Society would give us a hot chestnut drink called 'Imbuljuta' or a hot chocolate drink called 'kokkodina'. How happy and care-free we were and how we used to love going around our streets singing praise to the new-born King.

Midnight Mass *Sometimes, when I was not sleepy, I would go the Midnight Mass with my mother and brother. It would be cold so early at that time of day but, wearing thick clothes; we kept as warm as possible. The church would be practically already full up by 5 am, half an hour before Mass starts.*

But the highlight of the Mass was when a small boy would take centre stage and, in a passionate manner, deliver the narration (like an homely) of the birth of Jesus. The small altar boy would include in his narration some sentences in Latin and the

congregation would exclaim in awe of him - "What an intelligent little boy!" Then, after Mass, all would exchange 'Happy Christmas' greetings before we trek back home. I always dived immediately in bed and after a few minutes would be fast asleep.

The Christmas Tree I recall that my dad used to go to 'Tal-Hawli' fifteen days before Christmas, cut out a fairly-sized tree and bring it home on his back. Sometimes John and I would go with him. He would set it up in the open courtyard and decorate it with coloured twinkling lights, streams of cotton wool and other decorations. He would also lay some small presents, wrapped in coloured paper, at the foot of the tree.

Then he would ask us, my brother and I, to invite some children from our area and, while they marvel at the twinkling lights on the tree, dad would give them packets of sweets, lemonade and one of the small presents under the tree. For us children, Christmas was a wonderful celebration coming just one year after the scarcities and sacrifices of the war.

Our tree was an attraction to children and adults in the neighborhood because Christmas trees were only just being introduced mainly as a result of British influence.

UNCLE GANNI'S 'PRESEPJU' *While my father set up the new Christmas tree in the courtyard, Uncle Ganni would construct a large Crib on the whole length of his 'side sideboard in his room which was the first one on the left as you enter the old house.*

This Crib, like all others in Malta in those days, was made of cardboard and old newspapers, given shape and form and glued together with a paste of flour and water. They were moulded to depict the Nativity scene with the cave where Jesus was born given prominence. There were other caves, pathways, passages, hills and valleys. Several houses in the distant city were depicted as a background to this scene.

As Uncle Ganni was an experienced carpenter and wood carver, his crib was very artistic and mechanical. My father would help him put up dim lights and running water in brooks and windmills. The crib used to have several figurines ('pasturi') made of clay or candle wax. I was always fascinated by a particular figurine ('Ix-xabbatur') – the one looking down from the top of the cave to see Baby Jesus. Many children and adults too, used to come to our house to see this beautiful crib because it was very realistic.

Apart from the small central figure of Baby Jesus, there were many other 'pasturi' - the baker, farmer, musicians, the three Kings and others. There were also, of course, several sheep throughout the crib as well as a cow and a donkey near the Nativity cave.

Christmas Lunch On Christmas Eve or Christmas Day morning, my brother and I would open our presents which we had been eyeing anxiously under the tree. They were from my parents and from my aunts and uncles who lived next door to us. My presents would normally be my favourite Comic Annual – the 'Beano' with its characters of Dennis the Menace, Roger the Dodger and Minnie the Minx or the 'Dandy with its characters of Desperate Dan, Korky the cat and Keyhole Kate. Other presents may be a Board game like 'Ludo', 'Snakes & Ladders' or similar as well as a Jigsaw puzzle with a beautiful full colour picture. I was so anxious to guess what my presents were and would pick them up and feel them thoroughly in my hands.

Early on Christmas day my brother and I would take the family dish to the bakery (Tal-Forn). The baker would insert a thin metal number plate in the dish, put the dish in the large wood-fired oven and then give us a duplicate of the metal plate to identify it when reclaiming the dish.

My brother and I would go to the bakery again at about 11.30 am and bring the dish with us. We would nibble the top bits while walking home. It was a temptation we could not resist. There were appetizing smells in the bakery probably as a result of the different dishes being cooked in the oven.

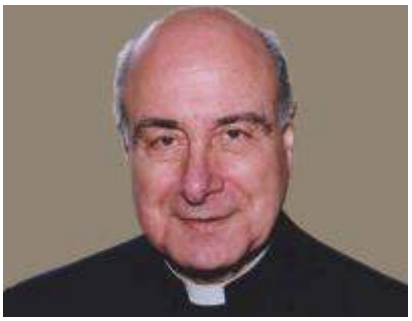
All the family would sit together for the traditional Christmas lunch. It would generally consist of baked pasta for starters, roast or chicken for main course and cake and jelly for desert. With a full stomach and happy as a lark I would then spend some time playing with my new presents in the small yard after which I would go for a short nap in our bedroom".

The sound of children below me dragging fishing nets to catch small fish, crabs and maybe an octopus disrupt my thoughts. The sea has become calmer; the sky has cleared of dark clouds; the sun still struggles to peep down on me; the lashing of the rain has stopped; and the wind had abated considerably. Evidently the future looks bright and better.

Suddenly the doorbell rings. I hasten to the door wondering who it might be. As I open the door my son and grandson rush inside hugging me to them

and with relief ask me. "*We've been looking for you all over the place Pa. where have you hid yourself? Today is Christmas Day and we could not leave you alone. Ma and the rest of the family are waiting for you at our house where we've prepared to have lunch together as we always do. Come Pa, get your things and let's go, everybody is anxiously waiting for you".* I am bewildered, surprised. Why did I leave home and come here? My mind seems to be playing tricks on me again. But my secret wish has come true.

As soon as I entered my son's house, I noticed the Christmas decorations – the large colour-lit tree in the corner, the presepju on the mantelpiece, the sounds of Christmas carols wafted across the room, the aroma of a delicious Christmas dinner, and the happy faces all around me. "*Oh you've made me so happy today. Lunch with the people I love so much on this glorious Christmas day".* Suddenly a prim little girl came running to meet me, took my hand and showed me her new doll. She was wearing a white satin dress, locks dangling from her head, face of an angel. She is my love and pride - my great granddaughter, third generation member of my family. "*Happy Christmas!*"



Ghaziz Frank, Nirringrazzjak mill-qalb ghall-Maltese Journal u nawgura lilek, lill-familja tieghek, lill-kollaboraturi tieghek, lill-qarrejja tal-Maltese Journal u lil hutna Maltin kollha Milied Qaddis u Sena Ta' Barka.

Inwassal ukoll l-awguri tal-Kummissjoni Emigranti li taf lil hafna minkom qabel hallejtu artna.

Il-Maltese Journal hu espost fil-Maltese Migration Museum f'Dar l-Emigrant li hi Memorial hajj ta'-l-Emigranti Maltin f'artna.

Jiena ghandi 92 sena u ili nahdem ma' l-emigranti u r-r-refugjati b-imhabba u dedikazzjoni hajti kollha. Huma f'qalbi u jiena f'mohhom. Tieghek Mons Philip Calleja

The President and the Executive Committee are reaching out to everyone including Club Members, Bands-People, Committee Members, Lifetime Members and Possible New Members to inform you of the Financial challenges we are facing. The Committee is working hard to try and keep our dream alive "Il Klub tal Familja Maltija". We are one of the few remaining Clubs with their own premises that remains active. With the current situation expenses are amounting, monthly payments need to be met. We must sustain and strive to weather these difficult times.

In order to accomplish this we need your Financial support. We are asking everyone to renew their 2021 Membership and also accepting any donations. New Members are welcomed and encouraged to join.

IMPORTANT UPDATE: Due to the new restrictions imposed, we will not be open on the previously mentioned dates. We encourage you to mail in or e-Transfer your membership or donations. THANK YOU IN ADVANCE. For your convenience we now are accepting e-Transfer. Our email is maltabandclub@bellnet.ca and please make sure you include your full name as a reference. THANK YOU ALL Visit us on FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/maltabandmississauga

Ġanni becomes first Maltese name registered at public registry

Registration of a child's name can be made using Maltese-language characters, Parliamentary Secretary for Citizenship and Communities Alex Muscat announced in a statement today.

The first Maltese name that has been registered on the Public Registry electronic system is Ġanni (John) using the letter 'Ġ' in the Maltese alphabet.

"From now on all parents who wish to give their children names that embrace the Maltese alphabet can do so thanks to a strong investment that the Identity Malta Agency has made in a type of software which integrates identity cards, certificates and passports together", said the parliamentary secretary.

He reiterated that when names were registered manually in, the use of the Maltese alphabet with Maltese characters was possible, but over time, the process was digitised and the programme which was used did not allow it.

Muscat said that it was a shortcoming by the state for a child born in Malta to not have the option to be named by a name incorporating Maltese letters. "So, we addressed this irregularity in our systems in order to provide a choice to all parents who give their children a Maltese name and above all continue to care for our mother tongue, because our language encompasses the identity and history of our people throughout the ages."

Chief Executive of the Identity Malta Agency Anton Sevasta explained that in the coming days the same agency will be in a position to start receiving requests for minor corrections in this regard. The legal amendments tabled will allow those with a registered Maltese name which does not use the Maltese alphabet to open a request before the Director of Public Registry wherein they can make this correction without the need for an application to the Court.

This service will be provided free of charge with the main aim of removing bureaucracies in applications for the selection of names. Those individuals who will make this type of correction will be issued with a passport that will have the same expiry date as well as a new ID card free of charge.

The general public will be notified immediately upon the entry into force of this service within the following period

MALTESE TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S DAY

By Doris Fenech

Maltese housewives cooked traditional dishes for Christmas and New Year, which included; chicken broth *"brodu tat-tiġieġa",* baked chicken with potatoes "*tiġieġa bil-patata il-forn"*, baked macaroni "*imqarrun il-forn*".

For many Maltese pork was their Christmas main dish - baked pork with potatoes "*majjal bil-patata il-forn"*. The meal finished off with fresh fruit, oranges *("larinġ*"), and tangerines ("mandolin"). Christmas brings sweets "Il-Milied iġeb il-Ħelu", it is a happy day for the children who love sweets. A vast variety of fragrant sweet pastries like chestnut pie *"torta tal-qastan*", treacle rings "*qagħaq tal-għasel*" and chestnut puree "*imbuljuta*" are prepared.

Usually sweet pastries are served separately with black coffee and with few drops of orange flower water *"ilma żahar*".

JANURAY – JANNAR is the first month of the Julian and Gregorian Calender. January

the time for looking forward and wishing for a good year ahead and the month of New Years gifts "**ix-xahar tal-Istrina**".
January is also known as the coldest month "ix-xahar tal-bard", and the month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus "xahar ta' l-Isem Imqaddes ta' Gesu".
1st January: First day of the New Year "l-Ewwel tas-Sena", - gifts are given to children and friends. I recall that our grandfathers and relatives used to give us some money as a sign of prospect for the New Year. We used to keep the coins, in a small tin box and shake them to hear the tinkle of - sixpence **"sikspenz**", shilling "xelin", or two shillings and sixpence, approximately 25 cents "**tmintax irbiegħi".**
6th January: Epiphany "Epifanija", or The Three Kings "It-Tre Re".
Epiphany is a festive day of commemoration of the arrival of the three kings, Gasper, Balthazar and Melchior with the three gifts gold, frankincense and myrrh for the New Born Jesus. On Epiphany day, the figures of the three wise men on camels are placed near the entrance of the caves of the crib to worship Baby Jesus

Maltese Proverbs - "Qwiel Maltin"

Il-Bard ta' Jannar iqaxxaar ġild "dahar" ta' ħmar - The cold of January nips the hid (the back) of the donkey - It is so cold that een a donkey feels it.
Meta Jannar taraħ lewwiemi "lewliemi", ma tatax il-Bidwi tant ħieni - When you see that January is raining frequently you won't see the peasant so happy.
Jannar, il-bajtar għanejn il-far. - In January, prickly pears are (the size of), a rat's eye.
Nhar San Pawl il-Temp ibiddel "iqalleb", seba' darbiet. - January summer (i.e. fair warm weather in January), the weather changes seven times.

WEIRD NEW YEAR'S TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD!

How do people around the world celebrate New Year's Day? When it comes to celebrating the New Year it seems that everyone has their own particular way of doing things. Some people throw bread, others burn scarecrows, and still others have fist fights for good luck. These are the 12 most interesting New Year's traditions from around the world:

1. SPAIN – 12 GRAPES In Spain, as midnight strikes, it is customary to quickly eat twelve grapes, one at each strike of the clock. These are supposed to bring luck.
2. DENMARK – BREAKING DISHES The Danish collect dishes all the year around and throw them at the front door on the New Year's Eve – the more the broken plates, the more friends one shall have in the New Year.
3. PHILIPPINES – ROUND THINGS They believe that every round thing is auspicious. So they consume grapes, keep coins, wear polkas dotted dresses, among other things. They have faith that circular things attract more fortune and money.
4. UNITED STATES – KISSING They believe kissing during midnight as the year approaches, is an auspicious gesture that purifies everything that is evil. (Or it's a good excuse to pucker up and kiss your crush
5. JAPAN – 108 RINGS Japanese New Year or Oshogatsu is meant for celebrations with family. Before the clock strikes 12, they ring 108 bells to show that the all 108 troubles have been eliminated.
6. ROMANIA – COIN TOSSING In Romania, they throw their spare coins into the river for good luck.
7. SWITZERLAND – DROPPING ICE CREAM In Switzerland, they celebrate the New Year by dropping ice cream on the floor.
8. PUERTO RICO – WATER BUCKETS In some parts of Puerto Rico. Pails of water are thrown out the windowto drive away evil spirits.

9. COLOMBIA – SUITCASES In Colombia, they carry their suitcases around with them all day in hopes of having a travel filled year.

10. THAILAND – TALC SMEARING Besides throwing buckets of water on each other in Thailand they also go around smearing each other with gray talc.

11. RUSSIA, SIBERIA – FROZEN TRUNKS Just as you might expect, in Siberia they jump into frozen lakes carrying tree trunks.

12. GREECE Greeks celebrate New Year's Day with card games and feasting. At midnight, the lights are turned off, followed by the Basil's Pie, which contains a coin. Whoever gets the piece of pie containing the coin wins luck for the next year.

13. NEW YEARS SOVIET UNION The Soviet Union's New Year's Day celebrations have been greatly affected by the Union's history. As religion was suppressed and Christmas celebrations were banned, New Year's, or Novi God celebrations often include Christmas traditions such as decorated trees, which were reconsidered as New Year Fir Trees. As the suppression left, these traditions stayed part of the New Year's Day celebration. The holiday is also celebrated with feasts, champagne, and wishes.

14. COLD-WATER PLUNGES In colder countries close to water, such as Canada, parts of the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands, it is customary to organize cold-water plunges. These plunges and races, sometimes called a Polar Bear Plunge, often raise money for charity or awareness for a cause.

For thousands of years, New Year's has been a festival of rebirth and reflection, allowing people all over the world to celebrate another great year.

15. NEW YEAR'S SONG The song, "Auld Lang Syne," is sung at the stroke of midnight in almost every English-speaking country in the world to bring in the new year. At least partially written by Robert Burns in the 1700's, it was first published in 1796 after Burns' death. Early variations of the song were sung prior to 1700 and inspired Burns to produce the modern rendition. An old Scottish tune, "Auld Lang Syne" literally means "old long ago," or simply, "the good old days."

Postcards Vintage Old Malta Street Scene of Horse & Cart Barrel Driver (Il-Bexxiexa) as the street water sprinkler to control the dust. 1945

The fabulous Carmen was born in Marsaxlokk, Malta in 1946. She looks amazing for her age, don't you think?

Carmen travelled to Australia with her parents and siblings when she was 20 years old. She met the love of her life Joey at a dance. Joey boldly approached Carmen whilst she was dancing with another man, and said "Joey and Carmen go together like birds of a feather ta"! Carmen responded, "How you know I love birds"? Carmen knew instantly he was the one.

Together they have three children, six grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Carmen loves life, her family, making pastizzi, cleaning, the bingo and the clubs. Carmen loves making people laugh, her motto in life is; "You might as well laugh and have some fun, because one day we're all going in the ground ta"!

Fellow her videos on FACEBOOK
www.facebook.com/watch/carmenthemaltese/
or Carmen;s webpage http://www.carmenthemaltese.com.au/
or You tube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=7yxH5jrt2JM

DEBORAH BARRESE

Voice Over Reels Characters, accents & kids voices

The fabulous character Carmen the Maltese has been created by Australian actress Deborah Barrese.

Deborah has studied acting in Melbourne and Los Angeles, appearing in TV series, films, commercials, and voicing children's animated characters. Specialising in character work and accents, Deborah thrives on bringing life to any character.

Deborah grew up in Melbourne, Australia, with Maltese blood running strong through her veins. She gained inspiration from her parents and grandparents who were born in beautiful Malta. Having spent Summer vacations with family in Malta, Deborah loves the Maltese culture and traditions and has always found the Maltese humour hilarious, and from a young age began impersonating her grandparents at family events.

"I had no idea Carmen would be such a hit! The fact that I was able to bring joy to people during such a challenging time, motivated me to keep going and develop Carmen's character. To be honest, Carmen helped ME, as much as she helped others get through 2020"!

Papàs Martin Zammit

June 11th 2017 was a great day for the Greek Catholic Church of Our Lady of Damascus, in Valletta. On that day, Rev. Deacon Martin Zammit received his presbyteral ordination in the church of St Nicholas of Myra, Merchants Str., Valletta. H.E. Mons Manuel Nin O.S.B. , Apostolic Exarch to Greece, and Titular Bishop of Carcabia, ordained Deacon Martin to the priesthood by the laying of hands and the invocation of the Holy Spirit. Also present for the ceremony were H.E. Mons. Charles Jude Scicluna, Archbishop of Malta, H. E. Mons. Paul Cremona O.P., Archbishop Emeritus, Archimandrite Mons. George Mifsud, Parish Priest of the Greek Catholic Church, a number of priests and monks who concelebrated at the Divine Liturgy, assisted by Sub-Deacon Mr Dennis Mifsud. Members of the Zammit family and many friends attended the celebration. Rev. Papàs Martin Zammit was ordained sub-deacon in 2014, and deacon in 2015. His presbyteral ordination crowns fifty years of faithful belonging to the Greek Catholic Church of Our Lady of Damascus. Papàs Martin was married to Gertrude in this Church in 1983. Their children, Stefan and Christine were also baptized Now he is 62 years old. He is a University professor specialising in Oriental Studies. Married with two adult children. His wife is still alive. Some time ago he baptised the daughter of his daughter.

Papas Zammit is the administrator of the Our Lady of Damascus (Madonna ta' Damaxxena) Greek-Catholic Church in Valletta . The church was built between 1576 and 1587 by the Rhodian Noble Giovanni Kalamias on the site donated by Grand Master del Monte (1565–1572. During World War II it was destroyed on 24th March 1942, but was rebuilt and consecrated on 15th August 1951 by bishop Georgios Halavazis (Γεώργιος Χαλαβαζής, 1881-1957, from 1920 till 1957 titular bishop of Theodoropolis and Apostolic Exarch of Istanbul and, from 1932, Greece (of the Faithful of Byzantine Rite). The treasures of this church are the Icon of Our Lady of Damascus, which was crowned in 1931, on the 15th Centenary of the

Council of Ephesus (A.D. 431). It was brought over by some Greeks who accompanied the Knights of St John when they were expelled from Rhodes in 1523. The other Icon is that of the Virgin Eleimonitria. During the Second World War more than 30 Icons of different sizes were lost under the ruins of the church. These were replaced by over than 30 new Icons, mostly the work of the Russian artist Gregorio Malzteff (1881 – 1952). But one can still admire the precious Icon of the Depositon from the Cross, a Crucified Christ made by the local painter Anton Inglott (1915-1945), and the Icon of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin made by the contemporary Ukranian artist Giovenale. Address Greek Catholic Church "Our Lady of Damascus" 132 A, Archbishop Street Valletta VLT 1444

"The Adoration of Jesus by the Magi" by an unknown artist of the 18th. century, Dominican Friars, Parish Church of Madonna of Porto Salvo, Valletta, Malta.

BEST WISHES FOR CHRISTMAS
AND THE NEW YEAR
Pierre Mallia
Director, House of Representatives Parliament of Malta

God bless you and keep you always happy and grateful especially at this time of the year when we celebrate our unshakable hope in Jesus Christ both in feasting his birth and in our trust in him the coming year in spite of all the trouble our world has seen through this passing year. Thanks a lot for your great service to the dispersed Maltese community. Bernard Mallia sj

Maltese Center New York City

We are closely following the recommended COVID-19 safety guidelines and in the best interest for the safety and health of our organization's community, The Maltese Center will be closed as of Friday, December 18th 2020 onwards. Please stay safe and healthy. The Maltese Center will be active on all social medium platforms and on our website to continue our communication with you. Thank you for all your support during these challenging times.

Christmas Traditions in Malta

As the air gets slightly colder outside and indoors starts feeling like the inside of a refrigerator, the island starts to take on a more Christmassy atmosphere, and people start preparing for the season.

Vetches (*Ġulbiena*) *Ġulbiena* is a word that definitely evokes memories of Christmas time for the Maltese – also known as Vetches, these are the stringy, noodle-like shoots of particular species of *Vicia* pulse seeds and are grown for decorative purposes. They are purposely grown in the dark (usually by soaking seeds in water first then placing on damp newspaper or cotton wool) so as to the keep their colour white and their shape stringy. Generally, *Ġulbiena* is planted in the first week of December to be at its best for Christmas Day, and is brought out in its container and placed at floor level or on tables around other decorations around a week before Christmas Day.

Baby Jesus figure A tradition that is nowadays only followed by the older generation is the displaying of the households's Baby Jesus figure – it is, after all, the birth of Christ that Christians celebrate during this most important religious holiday, so some homage to their deity is to be expected.

The statues, sometimes very valuable due to their antique status, are taken out of storage, given a good cleaning and placed in a manger (structure used to hold food to feed animals) or similar structure, which is then placed in a prominent location in the house. This little baby could be older than you!

Wood chippings, sawdust or actual hay is placed in and around the manger for authenticity, and in most cases some lights are placed around for effect. The aforementioned *Ġulbiena* is also placed around the exhibit for decoration.

Mince Pies Owing to the British influence over the Maltese Islands is the tradition of baking mince pies during Christmas. Mince pies are called so due to them being filled with *mincemeat*, which although sounding like something you would expect to find in a hamburger, is actually a mixture of chopped dried fruit and spices (Although originally it did contain meat).

Even more delicious with a cuppa!

Without a proper Maltese name and simply known as "mince pies", these typically cupcake-sized pastries are baked around the whole month of December and are served as dessert (especially after Christmas Day Lunch, another Maltese tradition), but are also consumed at any other times of the day, particularly when combined with another Maltese all-season favourite, black tea with milk.

The top parts of mince pies may have different decorative features, and some might have icing sugar added to them for that extra sweet taste. Maltese kids are very fond of helping out their parents with preparing the pies, be it the washing of the pies with egg or milk mixture or the crimping of the top crust to the sides.

Nativity Scene (*Presepju*)

A tradition with ancient roots (as far back as 1223 AD according to sources) and enjoying high popularity amongst the Catholic populus is the creation of Nativity Scenes, also known as Manger scenes or cribs.

Most Catholic families in Malta and Gozo will own at least one *Presepju* depicting the birth of Christ, and you can find cribs made from all sort of materials – cardboard, expanded polystyrene, wood… no material is beyond the challenge for those who decide to build their own. Tiny figures representing both humans and animals complete the scene.

The Devil is in the Details

Sizes also vary from "shoebox" all the way to life-sized nativity scenes that can span a whole village square. The latter has recently become a veritable attraction, and more villages are hosting their own Presepju Haj (Live Nativity Scene) and inviting all visitors to admire the display of people and real animals as they go about their daily, 2000-years-in-the-past lives.

As realistic as it gets

You might notice signs saying *Wirja* or *Wirja ta' Presepji* on streets. These point in the direction of some social club or garage that typically has a showcase (hence the word *Wirja*) of a number of nativity scenes for all guests to enjoy.

The *priedka tal-Milied* (Christmas sermon)

is one ofMalta's oldest traditions that takes place during Christmas festivities. As per tradition, it is an occasion where the Christmas message, during midnight mass on Christmas Eve, is delivered by a small boy, and usually lasts about 10 The custom dates back to the 19th century, when a young boy named Ġorġ Sapiano gave the first sermon at the parish church of Luqa in 1883. The child recounted the sermon from the pulpit, beginning with the Latin words *Annuntio Vobis Gaudium Magnun*, which means 'I will give you news of great joy.' Many rejoiced at the end of the sermon, praising the boy on his studious manner and for doing such a great job at remembering the entire speech.

owadays, the *priedka tal-Milied* is delivered by either a girl or a boy, and sometimes by multiple children.

The participants wear traditional costumes depicting the nativity. Zach Sciberras, 21, delivered the *priedka* when he was just nine years old. "It was a very humbling experience to have been chosen to do it. My family was really proud of me for being chosen – as most are, especially my grandparents. I remember that I was nervous, speaking in front of a full midnight mass, but it went well," he recalls. Who wouldn't be? The *priedka* continues to be an important part of Maltese Christmas celebrations. Never experienced it? Take a look at last year's Christmas sermon delivered by the adorable Chelsea Dimech in St Paul's Church in Valletta.

Hello Relatives & Friends .....just in case I missed you, wherever you are, we wish each one of you & your loved ones a Happy & Holy Christmas & a New Year full of Good Health Peace Love & God's Blessings as we hope & pray for 2021 to be rid of Covid 19...Stay Safe & Take Care.....Charles N. Mifsud in Sydney Australia

Wishing you and your loved ones you a blessed, healthy and safe Christmas. Good riddance to 2020. Hopefully with the new vaccine we can look forward to a better 2021. For your enjoyment, I am inserting some photos of a Maltese presepju. (pronounced - pray-sep-u, meaning crib). Traditional in Maltese homes, churches and businesses, the hand made presepju is lovingly made from cardboard boxes, crumpled newspapers and paper mache, and then artistically painted and decorated with pasturi, (statuettes) of the holy family, the tree kings and all the stable animals that adorned the manger.

Historically, the presepju started during the period (1600s) when the Knights of St. John displayed sizeable ones in their homes. Maltese nobility, not to be outdone by the Knights, brought over from Naples expensive, artistic, baroque Neapolitan cribs called a presebbio. The tradition caught on with the less affluent Maltese, but due to costs, they began making their own presepji. At Christmas time they are seen all over the island, and there is even competition to see who can create the most beautiful one. If you have never celebrated Christmas in Malta, put it on your bucket list. A fabulous, wondrous, uplifting time where the reason for the season is predominant throughout the islands. Have a blessed and safe Christmas. **FRED & IDA AQUILINA USA**

L-AĦBARIJIET TAL-PBS (MALTA)

Il-PBS ta' Malta tforni lill-SBS fl-Awstralja bis-servizz tal-aħbarijiet kull nhar ta' Hamis u l-Hadd fit-8 am. Pero xorta intom mħeġġa biex tidħlu fil-website tal-istazzjon Malti: www.tvm.com.mt. għall-ahbarijiet bl_Ingliz u bil-Malti u programmi ohra

Jekk tixtieq tikteb xi poezija jew artiklu ghall-gurnal tal-Maltin ta' barra ibghatulna basta ma jkunx twil hafna.

We invite our readers to send poems or articles to us as long as they are too long.

MMG CONCERT BAND OF VICTORIA

Thank you for your ongoing support throughout 2020. This year has been a challenging year for everyone and we hope 2021 will be a better year for you all. We hope you have a happy and safe holiday season with your family and friends. We look forward to getting back doing what we love, performing music for you all to enjoy in 2021.Enjoy the below, Christmas virtual performance recorded for you. Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. From everyone at MMG Cocert Band of Victoria

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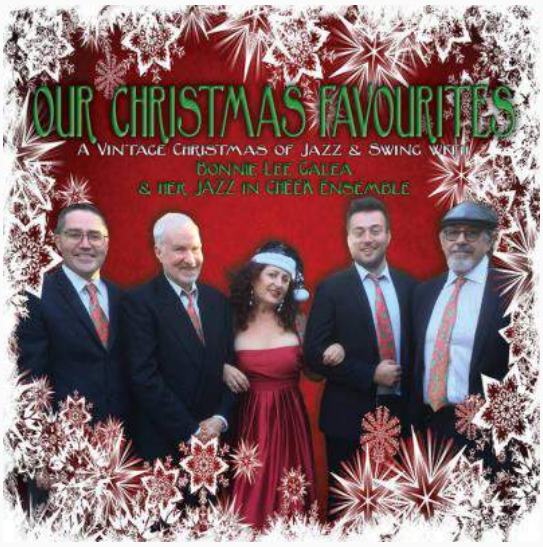
More news coming up in the New Year about our SIMPLY SADE show in the Adelaide Fringe at the Arkaba but for now we thought we would send out a link to our new CHRISTMAS CD.

OUR CHRISTMAS FAVOURITES

A Jazzy Swinging vintage Christmas with Bonnie Lee Galea & here Jazz in Cheek Ensemble



If you would like to play it today you will find it here on Bandcamp or my website. (the link only allows three plays of each song before requiring any payment)

We hope you enjoy our Cd

https://bonnieleegalea.bandcamp.com/album/our-christmas-favourties

MY MUSIC SHOP at bonnieleegalea.com But if you really like it or still need a gift for someone for Christmas we you can always pay for a download of from Bandcamp ($22 or $2.50 per song) or order it from our website through PayPal.me or let us kno how you would like to pay via email (I have credit card facilities too) We can send out hard copies you for a small postage fee. ($20 plus $5 postage)

We hope you all have a fabulous Christmas and New Year.I am sure we will all be in for a muc better 2021! Smiles Love & Happiness. **Bonnie Lee Galea – Adelaide - Australi**

We are proud of our Maltese Achievers

Promoting the Maltese culture, history and heritage

NYE celebrations to be televised, public encouraged to stay home

The three-hour show will be televised live from Fort St Elmo between 10pm and 1am

LauraCalleja for maltatoday.com.mt

The show will be etelevised live from Fort St Elmo

The annual News Years Eve celebrations will be televised live from Fort St Elmo, with the public encouraged to watch from home.

Speaking at a press conference on Monday VCA chairman Jason Micallef said that after discussions between the Valletta Cultural Agency and the Culture Ministry the decision was made to hold the 'NYE Valletta Variety Show' however, closed to the public and televised.

The three-hour show will be broadcast on TVM, NET and One between 10pm and 1am.

McIntyre.

There will also be fireworks display that will be set off from the capital's Grand Harbour and its surroundings at midnight. Culture Minister Jose Herrera said that the nation has been brave and resilient throughout 2020, an attitude that will help with looking ahead at 2021 positively.

"We wanted to find a way to celebrate this day, a day which is celebrated all around the world. In Malta we will be celebrating it a bit differently, in the comfort of our homes with our family," Herrera said.

The line-up The show will be hosted by Ben Camille and Andreana Debattista.

The line-up includes Palace String Orchestra, accompanied by Maltese artists including Amber, Aidan, Jasmine and Kevin Paul. Special guests will be Ember Trio from Britain's Got Talent 2020 semi-finale.

The evening will end with comedy from local act Min Imissu, as well as the UK stand-up comedian Michael

Namaste Mr. PaulJon Aquilina

While I hope that this email finds you well ,

I wish you , your family and friends all the very best wishes at Christmas time and much more in the coming New Year 2021. Some information about me besides being a Spiritual Consultant , I'm an Astrologer and an Author , and I'm finishing my last publication to be published next March.

I came from a very humble family. When my father returned to Malta from England, he was eventually lucky enough to find a job as a guardian of the military cemetery located at Kalkara. This job also offered my parents accommodation as they could live in a small house that that was located in cemetery grounds. To them, this was a great start and they accepted this blessing with joy. I was born three years later, on a very stormy day in June. The day of my birth is not just a simple day in astrology as any person who is born on the 13th of any month means that tha

t person had very powerful spiritual energy.

My Horoscope is published in Malta every week in the " ILLUM " and " Torca" Newspapers , and in the monthly in the magazine " Gwida" besides every Saturday a Zodiac Subject in the newspaper " L-Orizzont ". I have published 3 books so far and a zodiac calendar , all as the first time ever published in Malta .

I'm the " First" Paranormal Maltese Author " that Amazon UK Publication House has given a 5 year contract for my publications. I would be very happy to send my publications over there , maybe you can guide me to this in future communications. For these last 5 years I always took part in local tv programs with my weekly horoscopes presentations but since Covid 19 came things tumbled a bit , but still I'm keeping contact to viewers from my social media.

I'm ready for your feature and all that you need to know about my mission. **https://www.facebook.com/PaulJon13/ Webpage: https://pauljon13.com/**

Deutsch-Maltesischer Rundbrief

Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren, heute erhalten Sie den DMG-Rundbrief 4 / 2020.

Frohe Weihnachten und ein gutes, sorgenfreies Neues Jahr

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year Bix-Xewqat Tajba ghal Milied Qaddis u Sena ta´ Hena

wünscht mit freundlichen Grüßen

Christian Launer – President

Dear Frank Christmas is a special time to look forward to, and after a year of unprecedented challenges, it is especially important to take this time to come together.
I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to every South Australian who has followed the expert health advice and worked with us to keep our state safe and strong.
Because of this, many of us are able to spend time with family and friends this festive season. While the evolving situation in New South Wales will prevent some families from gathering together this Christmas, we won't keep border restrictions in place one day longer than they need to be.I hope you can cherish time with loved ones, support our local businesses and take some time to explore the vast beauty of our wonderful state. Have a safe and Merry Christmas and a bright New Year

Thank you again for a wonderful anticipated last edition for 2020 Christmas newsletter!
I enjoyed reading the many interesting and informative items!/ I must admit, I was getting quite emotional reading of the unique Maltese traditions that still survive today, and in particular, for me, being able to still read the Maltese verses which help me to keep up my reading skills.
I am also proud that I was always interested in the language both written and spoken, and though I was an immigrant child back in the early sixties, I kept up the interest as I grew up and am still very connected to our beautiful islands in the sun and appreciate the wealth of history that is rich in these islands. Have a Happy and Christmas, and stay well and safe! I am grateful for your service and commitment to your cause. Kind Regards **Ross Pulo**

Ghaziz Frank u l-familja, grazzi tal-Maltese Letter u nawguralek Milied u Sena Gdida mill-isbah u bil-barka kollha mill-Hallieq taghna. **Lino Vella ex-Editur The Maltese Herald**

I don' know if i'm late. but i just remembered that i had written a fctiicious short story about christmas. it's how a maltese family spent christmas many years ago.
I have no doubt that it would jolt the memory of many of your elderly readers. and make the young ones know how their fathers and grandfathers passed their christmases in old time malta.have a look ta it please and decide.In The Meantime I Sincerley Wish You And Your Family A Happy Christmas And Prosperous New Year. **Joe Lanzon**

A HAPPY & HOLY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR Dear family and friends. It seems like yesterday when we wished you all A holy and happy Christmas. What a year of ups and

downs this year has been. Now is the time to join together in prayer to be liberated from this evil pandemic. How it changed our lives and the whole world.To you our beloved family and friends wishing you all good health, peace and prosperity not just for Christmas but for the New Year merry Christmas to you and your family. Love and joy to all. **Harry and Mary Bugeja Adelaide**

Hi all my contact friends & family, Hope you have the most wonderful Christmas 2020, , though this year is not that encouraging to auger because of the most hatred Virus Corona & Covid 19. Also not to leave out the most encouraging coming year with the most Happiness, good fortune, good health, of the New Year 2021. May God Almighty bless all. Dominic N Pantalleresc Gzira MALTA

Thank you for the wonderful Maltese Journal which I have enjoyed for nearly two years. Elaine and I send you our warmest greetings and best wishes to you and your family, and best for a better 2021. **Elaine and Arthur Vella-Zarb, Perth, WA.**

Thank you for forwarding the Christmas Edition of the Journal and thank you for your wonderful words of support and comfort. We hope you are keeping well and wish you a very happy Christmas and New Year. We appreciate receiving your regular journals and look forward to receiving them again in 2021. There is a lot of hard work that goes into preparing the journal. All the best to you and your family. Kind regards,**Anthony and Christine Portelli**

Dear Frank and Team! Thank you again for a wonderful anticipated last edition for 2020 Christmas newsletter! I enjoyed reading the many interesting and informative items! I must admit, I was getting quite emotional reading of the unique Maltese traditions that still survive today, and in particular, for me, being able to still read the Maltese verses which help me to keep up my reading skills. I am also proud that I was always interested in the language both written and spoken, and though I was an immigrant child back in the early sixties, I kept up the interest as I grew up and am still very connected to our beautiful islands in the sun and appreciate the wealth of history that is rich in these islands. Have a Happy and Christmas, and stay well and safe! I am grateful for your service and commitment to your cause. Kind Regards **Ross Pulo**

Aloha Frank, How are you? Thank you so much for years of dedication and for sharing the Maltese Journal. Wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and the Best in the New Year! Stay Safe! Peace, Love, Happiness, Good Health! **Tony & Genny Calleja**

Thanks for keeping us updated throughout the year! Wish you and your family a wonderful Christmas and a safe & healthy New Year! **Joe Borg**

Dear Hon Scicluna I am very grateful for being included in your distribution email list. As the secretary of the Malta Australian Association of Canberra and Queanbeyan, would it be permissible for me to share your newsletter with our members through our public-access Facebook page, please? Kind regards and all the best for the festive season. Stay safe.**Nicky Secretary MAA**

I thank you for your continued work and effort in bringing us this very informative Journal. I would like to wish you and your loved ones a Peaceful Christmas and Best Wishes for 2021. Take care and God Bless You. **Karm Galea**

I would like to thank you for your Maltese Journal and it's interesting articles and informative news. Also I wish you a blessed Christmas. God bless you and your family. **Fr. Lonnie Borg mssp.**
Thank you for the wonderful Maltese Journal which I have enjoyed for nearly two years. Elaine and I send you our warmest greetings and best wishes to you and your family, and wish you all a very Happy Christmas and all the very best for a better 2021. **Elaine and Arthur Vella-Zarb, Perth, WA**

MALTESE COMMUNITY NEWS ON TV AND RADIO - AUSTRALIA

MELBOURNE: on 3ZZZ 92.3FM or on www.3zzz.com.au. Mondays 5-6 pm, Fridays 5-6 pm and Saturdays 11am.

ON SBS RADIO Day Time Analogue and Digital Tuesdays and Fridays: 12:00-13:00 97.7fm SBS 2. To into digital radio you need a receiver or device with a DAB+ chip. Tuning in is by station name not fre- que Digital radio can also be heard via digital TV

SYDNEY: listen to the MCC radio programmes on 2GLF FM 89.3. Isma' l-programm tar-radju bil-Malti mill-Ku Malti ta' NSW minn fuq listazzjon 2GLF 89.3FM.

Also On Demand on l-Internet: www.893fm.com.au) OnDemand:Ethnic MalteseCouncil11am) Il-Ħadd 11.00 l-aħħar aħbarijiet minn Malta, mużika, tagħrif, kultura, avviżi u suġġetti ta' interess.

For television news from Malta - SBS2 TV 32 ((Viceland) on Thursdays and Sundays at 8am.

SBS RADIO 2 ON CHANNEL 38. Programmes can be accessed online (live/catch up) at: sbs.com.au/Ma (mobile), using the SBS Radio app.

VIVA MALTA on COAST FM 96.3 Community Radio in Gosford Central Coast NSW. Aired on Thursdays e fortnight from 6 pm -7 pm. Presenter: Nathalie Gatt. Web streaming: www.coastfm.org.au

SBS MALTESE NEWS: L-Aħbarijiet are now on SBSTV Viceland HD Channel 32 every Sunday at 8.00 and on Thursday at 8.00 a.m. BRISBANE listen to the Maltese Pro- gramme on 4EB on Tuesdays 6.00 - 8.1 Sundays 4.15pm to 5.15pm.

MALTESE COMMUNITY RADIO ADELAIDE: Maltese Programmes on 5EBI 103.1fm: Sunday: 7.3 Monday: 8.00 am; Monday: 6.00pm. Contact: Bernadette Buhagiar: 0420 944 205. E bernadettebuhagiar@gmail.com OR Ron Borg: 0418 843 850. Email ronborg@mac.com

97.9 FM MELTON Tuesday Maltese Programme: 6.00 To 8.00 pm Presenter Miriam Vella

MELBOURNE: ON 98.9 NORTH WEST FM, every Friday 6.00 - 7.00p.m. and Mondays to 8.00pm. Presenter: Emmanuel Brincat

Mondays: 7 pm - 8 pm Started November 14, 2016 and still going strong. Program cor Music start with a Hymn, Malta News from RTK Radio Malta, my long time colleague of 17 years standing Gejtu Deguara presents a very detailed Sports segment, covering all M Sports, Australian and international results. Monthly commentary from Malta presented by Bartolo, from Sydney Lawrence Dimech, a variety of interviews including Interviews Maltese Associations, Maltese Readings, Literature and Historial Facts, readings by Emma Brincat, Malta Singers and their Music. Finishing Program always with Malta Concert Bands "Marci E Maltin". Internet streaming on www.northwestfm.org

GDAY MALTAUSSIES SHOW · WOW 100 7 FM MALTESE PROGRAM PROGRAM MALTI FUQ IR-RA "WOW100.7 FM, **I**mtella Ghallikhom Kull Ngharta' Tlieta Minn Joe Borg U Michael Mallia Mill Li Studio Ta Mary's Gewwa Sydney F'l-'Awstralja, Mi 6 Sa 9 Ta' Filghaxija

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

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

MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

WE ARE ONE BIG HAPPY FAMILY JOIN US AND YOU WILL NOT MISS A THING

PHILATELY -CHRISTMAS 2017

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Malta – Theses Christmas stamps were issued in 2017 and feature four figurines of the child Jesus found in churches around Malta and Gozo.

The photographs are by Mark Micallef Perconte. At Christmas it is customary for households to exhibit figures of Jesus as a baby. Some are placed in a manger and displayed on windowsills or other prominent places around the house. This tradition, together with crib making, has been passed on from generation-to-generation.

Sanctuary of Our Lady of Grace – Zabbar The Jesus figurine of the Zabbar parish church was brought from Rome by Mgr.Giuseppe Zarb in the 1950's.

Church of the Immaculate Conception – Cospicua The Jesus figurine of the Cospicua parish church was made in Lecce Italy. It was originally at the Malta dockyards and was donated to the church upon the yards' privatisation.

Church of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary – Naxxar The baby Jesus figurine of the Naxxar parish church was made in Lecce. It is made from papier-mâchéand was brought over to Malta in 1925.

The Basilica of St. Peter and St. Paul – Nadur Marija Portelli donated this Spanish figurine to the Nadur parish church around 40 years ago. Source: https://lIwww.tvm.com.mt/.

The Pope comforts a grieving boy who feared his atheist father isn't in heaven - and tells him that God is 'surely proud' of his dad

To whom did our forefathers pray during times of serious diseases?

Report: Nigel Mifsud

In moments of difficult times, such as the plagu cholera epidemics, the Maltese recurred to refer three saints as protectors against serious diseases Bastjan, Santu Rokku and Santa Rożalija.

As one enters the Assunta Basilica in Mosta, th altar on the right is dedicated to these three pro saints.

Mark Micallef Perconte said that the painting abo altar, painted in 1677 and which formed part of the old church, portray the three saints.

"According to an inscription under the figure of Rożalija, most probably, it was a priest's vow. I painted a year after the plague and we think it was a vow by a priest".

Researcher Tony Terribile said that there are statues, niche, streets, paintings, chapels and chu dedicated to one of the three protector saints against the plague.

"There are paintings of the three saints at the Jesuits church; a Mattia Preti painting and a side-chapel Żurrieq parish church and a fraternity which still holds a procession in the locality. We also had processions as thanksgiving by the Maltese following the end of such tragedies.

Terribile stated that at Ħal Qormi, following the end of the plague, devotion started for one the saints old church and the St Sebastian statue which is in front of the church. This saint's relic was also exhibi the old church recently and prayers were held in view of the Covid-19 situation.

Vows were also made in the past, including a procession with Christ the Redeemer at Senglea and ar between Valletta and Floriana.

"There are paintings of San Bastjan and Santu Rokku at the Sarria church, which was built during the reign, and a procession used to be made from Valletta to this church. There are two beautiful paintir Mattia Preti".

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