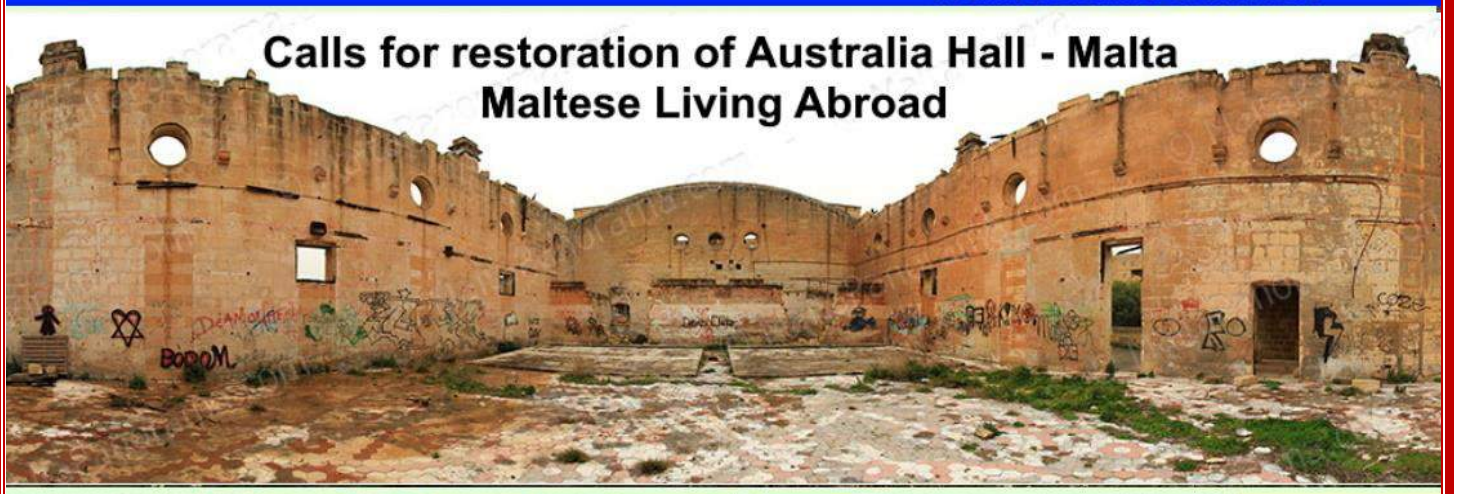
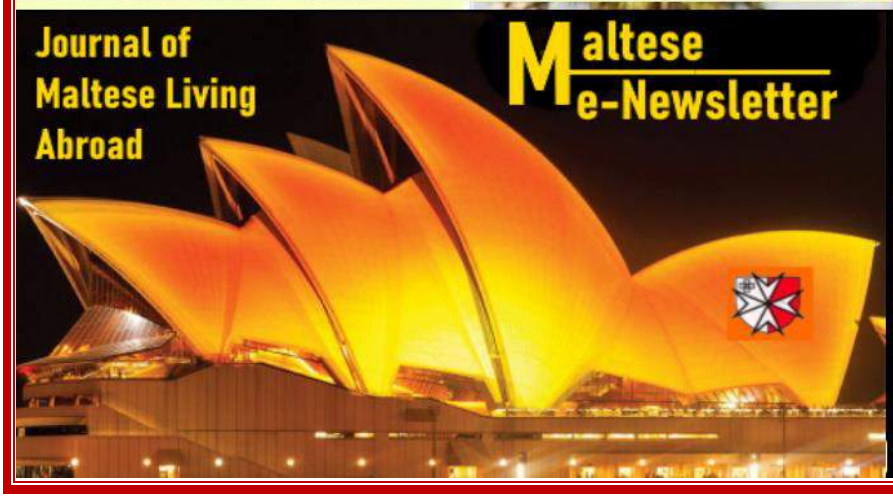
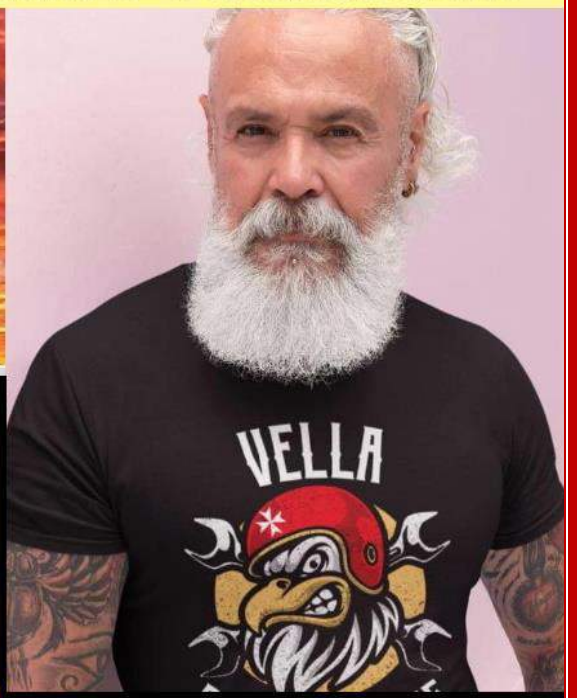
Maltese e-Newsletter

Email
maltesejournal@gmail.com
Editor
Frank Scicluna OAM MQR



NEW ZEALAND - WELCOME-HAERE MAI





Knights of Mebourne
Knights of Sydney Custom Cars Club

Episcopal Ordination of the Most Reverend Ivan Camilleri as Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto

The episcopal ordination of the Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto, the **Most Reverend Ivan Camilleri**, took place at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica, Toronto on Monday 25 January 2021 with His Eminence Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto presiding, assisted by the Most Reverend John Boissonneau, Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto, as well as the Most Reverend Vincent Nguyen, Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto. In consideration of COVID-19 restrictions on gatherings, attendance at the ceremony wias limited; however, the celebration was livestreamed online. **Ivan Philip Camilleri** (born April 18, 1969) is a Maltese-Canadian priest. He has been appointed an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Toronto and titular bishop of Teglata in Numidia, having been appointed to the position in November 28, 2020 by Pope Francis. Before becoming a priest, he worked at Bell Canada Enterprises as an associate director of finance, as well as at Nortel and Marconi Canada.

Mgr Camilleri was born in Sliema, Malta, on April 18, 1969.[1][2] His family moved to Canada in 1980,[2] when he was eleven, and he attended Philip Pocock Catholic Secondary School in Mississauga.[1] Camilleri went on to study at Laurentian University, obtaining a Bachelor of Commerce in 1991. Two years later, he earned a Master of Business Administration from the Edinburgh Business School.

He subsequently worked at Bell Canada Enterprises, Nortel, and Marconi, in various management positions in finance. Beginning in 2001, he attended St. Augustine's Seminary in Scarborough. On May 12, 2007, he was ordained to the Catholic priesthood at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica by Thomas Christopher Collins, the Archbishop of Toronto at the time. Mgr. Camilleri's first pastoral assignment was as associate pastor at Merciful Redeemer Parish in Mississauga. After serving there for two years, he undertook studies at the Catholic University of America School of Canon Law, graduating with a Licentiate of Canon Law from that institution in 2011. Upon his return to Toronto, he was appointed as vice-chancellor, before being elevated to chancellor in 2012. He became vicar general of the Archdiocese and Moderator of its curia the following year. He also served as the defender of the bond[1] and judge on the archdiocesan matrimonial court, as well as a sessional lecturer at St. Augustine's Seminary (his alma mater). .

Santa Lucija Underpass project inaugurated

The tunnels under the Santa Lucija roundabout, built at cost of 20 million euro, were inaugurated on the 24 Januray 2021.

Drivers using the Santa Lucija roundabout used to have to perform a number of dangerous manoeuvres to drive along the three arterial roads and three other roads going towards Santa Lucija, Paola and Ħal Tarxien. Some eighteen months ago, in tandem with the Marsa Junction project, work was started on the building of tunnels to enable vehicles to continue driving through instead of getting stuck at the crossroads.

The new four-lane tunnels link up Triq tal-Barrani with the Addolorata Hill and have reduced travel time by over 30%. Ths besides also reducing pollution from vehicle exhaust and the noise from congestion created by the previous roundabout.

The project contractors removed close to 80,000 tons of rock to form the two tunnels, each 90 metres in length. The tunnels link up Triq tal-Barrani and Vjal Santa Lucija through two 130m ramps. Four other roads going up and down link these two roads with the new roundabout over the same tunnels.

Iraq's suffering will 'rise sharply' in wake of coronavirus, Maltese priest says – Fr. Joseph Cassar SJ

The number of people in need of help with basic necessities in Iraq, already in the millions, is expected to rise greatly in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, according to a Catholic priest working in the country.

"The COVID-19 outbreak in Iraq and the mitigation measures imposed by public health and security authorities have had ramifications on almost all aspects of public and family life and disrupted the economy," Fr. Joseph Cassar, S.J.,

Cassar, who works for the Jesuit Refugee Service, spoke via video connection from Erbil, Iraq, during a Vatican press conference on Pope Francis' message for the 2020 World Day of Migrants and Refugees.

He said that at the beginning of 2020 an estimated "4.1 million persons in Iraq were in need of humanitarian assistance," out of a population of 38 million.

"This figure is set to rise sharply since already vulnerable households will increasingly be unable to meet even their most basic needs and are already resorting to negative coping strategies that will deplete their existing scarce resources and push them deeper into debt," he stated.

Cassar explained that in Iraq one of the grave problems of the last several decades has been the displacement of people from their homes due to war.

The priest said he works regularly with people who were displaced in Iraq when the Islamic State took control of large parts of the country in 2014: "Almost six years later, there continue to be close to 1.4 million IDPs [internally displaced persons] in Iraq. That would be a sizable city, by any standard," he noted.

Being displaced within their own country means these people are often overlooked, he said.

Cassar said "protracted displacement, coupled with limited prospects of return in the short-to-medium term, takes its toll on the lives of people. Among the young especially, the sense of 'no future' contributes to an increased incidence of suicide."

Besides the need for financial support in Iraq, Cassar said "now is the time for a massive investment in peace. Beyond valuable statistics, bringing the 'forgotten' internally displaced persons to the forefront as people is now more timely than ever."

Among IDPs, the recently returned, and host communities in Iraq, "the desire for peace could not be stronger," he underlined.

Internally displaced persons were the topic of Pope Francis' message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, which will be marked Sept. 27. In his message, published May 15, the pope said the situation of internally displaced persons is an "often unseen tragedy that the global crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated."

"In fact," he continued, "due to its virulence, severity and geographical extent, this crisis has impacted many other humanitarian emergencies that affect millions of people, which has relegated to the bottom of national political agendas those urgent international efforts essential to saving lives."

Cardinal Michael Czerny, the head of the Vatican's migrants and refugees office, said May 15 the tradition of the World Day of Migrants and Refugees goes back to 1915 and the upheaval following World War I, which included the Spanish flu outbreak.

Reflecting on the plight of the Yazidis, Fr Cassar SJ said he is reminded of the Five Holy Wounds of Jesus.

The Jesuit priest stressed for the need to have peace in Iraq and in the Middle East.

Pope Francis will make the first papal visit to Iraq in March, to support the country's Christian minority and urge peace and reconciliation in a nation racked by years of sectarian violence, including partial occupation by Islamic State militants.

The trip, scheduled for March 5-8, would be Pope Francis's first venture outside of Italy since before the beginning of the pandemic.

If you have witnessed a crime being committed against a child, your priority should be to contact the local police.

Are you a child in need of support? Or do you believe that a child is being abused, exploited, or endangered?

Do not ignore it – Report it Immediately.

If you believe you have seen children being sexually abused online, please contact the police.

PROTECT OUR CHILDREN

ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE

10 February is the celebration of the Shipwreck of St Paul on the shores of Malta. It is a holy day in Malta. The main church is situated in Vallettta is dedicated to the shipwreck of St Paul that happened in 60 AD, is situated in Valletta.
The account of this event is recorded with minute detail by St Luke in chapters 27 and 28 of the Acts of the Apostles. The most popular verse in the entire Bible for all of the Maltese people is certainly this one: *"Once we were on ground, we realized that the island was called Malta. The inhabitants showed us extraordinary kindness by lighting a fire and gathering us all around it.....They paid us great honor and when we eventually set sail they brought us the provisions we needed."*
This speaks very highly of the Maltese inhabitants who showed themselves welcoming, appreciative and generous. We pray that the Maltese people will continue to hold close to their hearts the faith that St Paul planted on our island.

St Publius – the first bishop Of Malta

St Publius, from paintings by Emvin Cremona in Floriana church
The church in Malta celebrates the feast of St Publius. He was the chief of the island of Malta when St Paul was shipwrecked here in 60 AD. He welcomed St Paul, St Luke and the 276 sailors who ended up drifting to shore on planks of wood from the broken vessel on which they had travelled. Publius was very generous and hospitable to all these people, and when St Paul found out that his father was sick with fever and a bout of dysentery, he went to his house and healed him, whereupon many other natives came to be healed of various ailments. Eventually St Paul ordained St Publius as the first Bishop of Malta. Later on in his life he was captured and martyred by the cruel Emperor Hadrian. Most probably he was sent to the amphitheatre and devoured by a lion, as his statue always shows him with a lion next to him. He was canonized in 1634. The parish church of Floriana is dedicated to him, and the impressive ceiling of the church was painted by Emvin Cremona with various scenes from the life of St Publius.

We are proud of our Maltese Achievers

Promoting the Maltese culture, history and heritage

A grandmother from Sydney sent us this message:
After 60 years in Australia - tell them that we still love Malta

A new date for Australia Day: an idea whose time has com

Rita Rotin Camilleri January 26, 2021 Melbourne

On January 26, 1788, Captain Arthur Phillip, accompanied by a fleet of 11 ships carrying 1,000 men and women to the colony of New South Wales, planted the first British flag in Australian soil. The country had been declared uninhabited, an empty land – terra nullius. For many, January 26 is Australia Day, for others it is a day of Mourning, Invasion day, or Survival day. The formal ceremony of annexation took place on February 7, 1788.

As white European colonization spread across the continent, dispossessing indigenous people of their land, culture, languages, lifestyle and even a deep spirituality, Australia Day has become increasingly controversial as it marks the beginning of this process of impoverishment and humiliation.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have expressed their pain and loss publicly since at least 1938 on the150th anniversary.

Within a few decades (following 1788) a healthy population of around 1 million had been reduced through diseases and massacres to 60,000. A plan was put into practice to "breed" out Aboriginality by ensuring all Aboriginal children would have white fathers. "Black" children were sent to work without decent remuneration. Though the myth that all Aborigines were nomadic hunter-gatherers was widely circulated we now know that the first peoples had settlements with harvesting, irrigation and fish traps. None of this made its way into our history books at school.

Not all white settlers shared the same views about our first peoples. Near Alice Springs German Lutherans at the "Hermannsberg" mission did not remove children from their families as others did but educated them and many grew up to be religious pastors.

In the more recent past, in the 1950s after British nuclear tests in South Australia the "cleaning up" process ignored the people living there. Some of their descendants are now trying to stop the storing (dumping) of nuclear waste on their land. In ages past tribes would meet in this area to exchange goods and stories so that there are many archaeological items scattered around, a treasure-house of historical artefacts.

Notwithstanding all the sadness and pain, there has been some progress along the way. When Aboriginal men returned from their WWII services abroad, they were ignored until recently. A 1967 referendum meant that indigenous Australians could now be counted in the population

On June 3 1992 the High Court of Australia ruled that we could no longer refuse to recognize the Native Title (of land) of our first peoples. It had taken ten years for Edie Mabo and his team to achieve this. Parts of Australia have
since been returned to their rightful owners. This is the day when Australia acknowledged the wrongs of its history, when it came of age. It could well be the date to celebrate Australia Day, a date when everyone has reason to celebrate.

A few more progressive steps have been taken. Notable among these was the "People's Walk for Reconciliation", when in the year 2000, 300,000 people walked across Sydney Harbour Bridge. In 2009 the then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd publicly apologized for the past injustices inflicted on our first nations. We have a long way to go. In 2017 representatives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities met at Uluru in Central Australia. From this Convention came the "Uluru Statement from the Heart". They called for "A First Nations Voice" to be enshrined in the Constitution.

Another step in this long march would be to name June 3, Australia Day.

Puteoli Italy — Paul stayed here for a week on his way to Rome

St.Paul:from Malta to Pozzuoli near Naples

Written by our correspondent Mark Cauchi osa

En route to Rome St. Paul was shipwrecked in Malta, commonly called near the islet of St. Paul which still holds his name. He remained in Malta according to the Acts of the Apostles for three months he did not have in mind to come to Malta, but the Divine Providence wanted so. He was bound for Rome because he appealed to Caesar. He was not accused of criminal crimes. He enjoyed freedom. During his stay in Malta Paul preached the Gospel in a cave at Rabat who later converted the people to Christianity. He was in good terms with the governor of the Island, Publius who later converted to Christianity and became the first bishop of Malta.

Chronologists say that after three months, when winter was over left Malta for Syracuse. Many believe that he took the vessel from Bormla wharf. Infect, in Bormla there is a small church dedicated to St.Paul. It is not the first one.

At Syracuse Paul preached the Gospel probably in the place where there is paleo-Christian church of St. John which was built afterwards.

Probably, it is said that few Jews went to hear St. Paul preaching because at Syracuse there was a Jewish Community. Yet, no letter was written by St. Paul to the people of Syracuse. There is no doubt that was Paul who brought Christianity to Sicily though his stay was a short one to three days. From Sicily he left for Reggio Calabria, then to Pozzuoli near Naples.

“After three months we put out to sea in a ship that wintered on the island (Malta). It was a ship from Alexandria (Egypt) with figurehead of twin gods Castor and Pollux. We left for Syracuse and stayed there for three days from where we set sail and arrived Regnum. The next day the south wind came up and on the following day we arrived Zpoteoli”. Acts of the Apostles,28,11-14). There we found brethren and were invited to stay with the for seven days.

Pozzuoli is a city (commune) of the Metropolitan city of Naples. Pozzuoli - which is derived from Puteus’ well. started to be as a Greek colony. The Roman colony was founded in 194 B.C. and took the name "Poteoli" which is derived from puteus which means a well. It is derived from the sulphuric smell in the area.

Puteoli was the great emporium for the Alexandrian grain ships. It exported blown glass, mosaics, iron, and marble.

It was a Roman Naval base at Misenum. It was the place of the Director Sulla and where he died in in 78 B.C.

St. Paul's arrival is known from the Acts of the Apostles that Paul landed at the port of Pozzuoli in the year 61 A.D. He stayed there for a week and he had a warm welcome. At that time Pozzuoli was already evangelised. So, he did not preach to the people of Pozzuoli. He stayed only for a rest before he started his way to Rome through the Appian Way. The people of Pozzuoli were exceedingly kind to Paul as the Maltese were.

Salesian Theatre, HELA Foundation win President's Award for Creativity 2020

Posted On January 23, 2021 - Updated 23 January, 2021 2:33pm
Report: Glen Falzon

The Salesian Theatre in Tas-Sliema has won the President's Award for Creativity in the section for Strengthening and Development of Talent.

The Theatre's Executive Director Fr Charles Said stated that with the engagement of suitable persons, the theatre will be in a position to continue boosting the sense of wellbeing within the community whilst expanding community participation through creative expression.

"We believe in equality, in opportunities for everyone. We believe every person has this creativity to express humanity, and through this programme, we are promoting creativity and energy to kindle the fire in every person we meet."

The HELA Foundation is the winner in the Projects and Programmes Development section. Foundation Secretary Leanne Ellul explained that the project is aimed at creating a love for reading among the Rabat community.

"HELA is seeking to place books at the centre of Rabat and beyond, and we are coming up with various activities. To date, we have published our first literary paper, and we will also have readings for children and adults. More literary papers, naturally, besides activities which will aim to get the community to appreciate books."

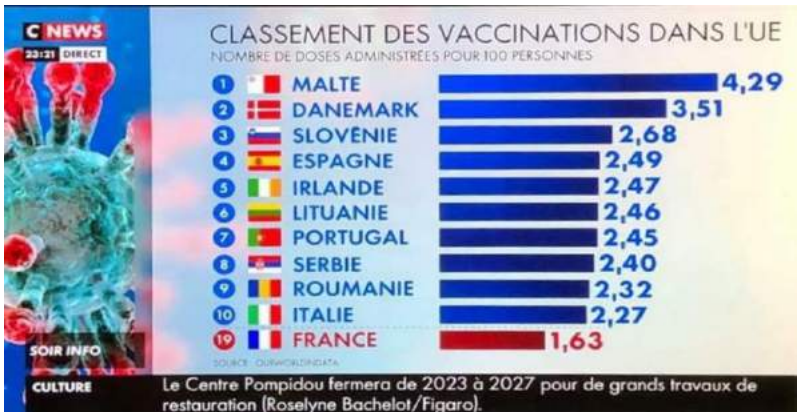
In a virtual address because of the pandemic, President George Vella stated that these two projects have one common aim: to strengthen, expand and renew the sense of community which in many areas has been lost.

"This is the time to think ahead in order to renew and create new ideas. We should find opportunities for creative ideas and, why not, also boost accessibility and inclusion through creativity."

Minister for the Arts José Herrera stated that during the pandemic artists are a source of inspiration towards solidarity and the strengthening of communities, whilst improving quality of life.

The winners of the two projects will share 75,000 euro over a three-year period.

PEOPLE OF MALTAhttps://www.facebook.com/thepeopleofmalta/



Proud of MALTA's Government for it's procurement and inoculation strategy
Malta is currently Ranking 1st in an EU Classification in administering Covid-19 vaccinations.
Thanks to all those involved and God Bless our country.

Lawrence Buhagiar **Consulate General of Malta In Sydney**

Sir Paul Boffa (1947 - 1950)

PRIME MINISTER OF MALTA (1947 - 1950)

Born in Vittoriosa on the 30 June 1890, Paul Boffa was educated at the Lyceum and at the University of Malta from where he graduated as a Medical Doctor in 1912. During World War I he served with the Royal Medical Corps in Malta, Salonika and on hospital ships. After the war he set up in private practice in Paola.

Paul Boffa entered politics when Malta was granted self government in 1921 and joined the Labour Party in 1923. He was returned to Parliament under the Amery-Milner Constitution in 1924, 1927 and 1932. He was elected Leader of the Labour Party in 1927 and immediately began to instil in the workers the need of rightfully equal representation in government in order to have a say in their own affairs. He was in coalition with Lord Strickland's party in government (1927-32). In 1932 Paul Boffa was the only Labour Party candidate elected to the Legislative Assembly until it was dissolved in 1933. He was nominated as a member of the Executive Council from 1936-1939.

During World War II Paul Boffa served with distinction as district Commissioner and ARP Medical Officer in the Cottonera, Paola, Tarxien and Luqa areas. He was awarded the O.B.E. in 1941.

In the 1945 elections, Dr Boffa was again elected in the Labour Party's interests. Boffa reached the acme of his political career in November 1947 when, he became the first Labour Prime Minister leading a majority government of 24 Labour members. In 1949, following the Labour Party's ultimatum to Britain concerning financial help, the Labour Party split up but Dr. Boffa continued as Prime Minister and later founded and led the Malta Workers' Party (MWP). The MWP lost the 1950 Elections.

Boffa was re-elected in 1951 and in 1953 and joined a coalition government with the PN led by George Borg Olivier, assuming the portfolio of Minister of Health and Social Services. The MWP did not contest the 1955 elections and in 1955 he resigned for health reasons. He retained an interest in politics and was nominated Honorary President of the Christian Workers' Party (CWP).

Boffa was created a Knight Bachelor in the 1956 New Year's Honours List in recognition of distinguished public services. He was also awarded the 1914-18 Star, the General Service Medal, the Victory Medal, the Coronation Medal and the Defence Medal.

Boffa was instrumental in obtaining recognition for the Maltese language in the law courts and the introduction of compulsory primary education and old-age pensions as well as the granting of the vote to women.

Like the language of Malta in which the Maltese anthem was written, its acceptance by all was not without obstacles or lack of enthusiasm. Pawlu Boffa was neither slow nor hesitant to support it.

In fact the **Maltese National Anthem** was very much to his heart. In 1948 he wrote:

"The habit of some to ignore the Maltese National Anthem is quite shameful. Every civilised population loves and respects its country's Anthem. We should love and respect the Maltese national anthem as much as we love and respect the Maltese flag. Both tie us, with an insoluble bond with glorious memories and victories: If ever Malta had been defeated in the last war by a foreign nation then our nationality and individuality would have ended. We would no longer be Maltese. We would have become part of a foreign country. Along with our nationality we would have lost our national anthem, an anthem written in Maltese, by Maltese, for Maltese. **L-INNU MALTI** is not just some valueless music. To the contrary, it is a live representation of our national pride, respect and revival".

MALTA CLASSICAL MUSIC ACADEMY

Inclassica Malta International Music Festival 2021

Malta Classical Music Academy will run **from 17 April to 11 May**, and will coincide with the 10th year anniversary edition of the **InClassica Malta International Music Festival,** providing a fantastic opportunity to young musicians and offering world-class musical education in the heart of the Mediterranean.

For over three weeks the Academy will be inviting esteemed classical music professors from all over the world to Malta for a series of masterclasses, during which time students will have the opportunity to work on their musical skills in the sunny, friendly and creatively stimulating environment that Malta has to offer. Masterclasses in the schools of wind, strings, piano and vocal studies will be led by giants of the classical music world including Ana Chumachenco (Italy), Bernd Goetzke (Germany), Boris Kuschnir (Austria), Daniel Hope (UK), Dmitri Alexeev (UK), Grigory Gruzman (Germany), Maxim Vengerov (Monaco), Michel Beroff (France), Mikhail Khokhlov (Russia), Pavel Gililov (Germany/ Austria), Peter Donohoe (UK), Zakhar Bron (Germany/ Switzerland), to name a few.

The MCMA will host a series of lunchtime concerts featuring students of the Academy performing alongside well-known visiting musicians and **Young Classical Music Stars**. The Academy will also include collaborations with professional international orchestras who will perform during the day at some of Malta's most prestigious venues. Symphony and chamber orchestras will invite select Academy students to join them as they perform programmes of works by prominent classical and contemporary European composers.

In addition to the performance masterclasses available, the Academy will also hold presentations open to the general public, led by guest artists performing as part of InClasica Festival. These discussions will cover a range of topics including approaches to performance, theory and repertoire.

All students of the Academy will enjoy access to the entire InClassica programme of 25 concerts as well as receiving a diploma of completion at the end of the course.

For full program and details visit the website: https://classicalmusicacademy.eu/

FACEB00K - PEOPLE OF MALTA

"I believe it is a great blessing to work amongst so many adolescents and youths and in a setting where you are made to feel welcome and respected, appreciated and loved. To me the students are more than just students. And they know that very well. It is true that as a teacher I am occasionally obliged to give a grade. I hope that more than a grade, I leave an impact on these youngsters and pray that this is a positive one. It gives me great satisfaction and an encouragement to continue teaching when ex-students come to visit and tell me that I left an impression and planted a seed that bore fruit. As an educator you cannot just be academical but the lesson you give students has to also reflect what they might be needing or going through in life. There is a limit to everything and one must never cross the line. Teaching exhausts you but gives you great satisfaction.

I never had the intention of becoming a teacher here in this beloved college. But the Lord put me through some strange experiences and through some dark paths to show me that he wanted me here and not elsewhere. From here, from De La Salle College, I received a Primary and Secondary education. I then moved on to study Philosophy and Theology at the University of Malta. In September of 1996 I returned back here, this time as a teacher. I have been here at De La Salle College for the past 25 years now and I am very happy. I am lucky and blessed to work with a team of colleagues who more than that are also friends.

Reading, writing and research are very close to my heart. I am very interested in history. But above else I have a huge admiration particularly towards those who made a name and brought pride to their birthplace and to Malta. I have published a small number of books and a larger amount of articles which have been published in a different number of annuals and newspapers both in Maltese and in English. This I have done with no financial gain. The gratification lies in encouraging feedback received, or even constructive criticism or some additional, interesting details emanating from those who read and appreciate these writings. This is what motivates me to persevere." –

Fabian Mangion **De La Salle College (Malta)**

.

Cooking utensils

Due to the lack of fire-wood ovens in centuries past, a slow cooking method was used to prepare most Maltese dishes. Food was placed in earthenware pots over a little stone hearth called "kenur" The Stone Cooker was a cooking implement made from a Maltese stone and worked very effectively for many years,

The cooker or firebox had a hole in the bottom where the firewood is placed. On the top, a grate was cut from the stone itself allowing the heat to rise and heat the pots or pans. which needed constant tending and fanning. Subsequently, slow simmering became something of the hallmark of many Maltese dishes and despite the inroduction of gas and electric cookers, slow cooking is still the housewife's favorite.

On the left is the Kuciniera or the paraffin stove.

L-Isqof Anton Teuma iqaddes għall-Ġurnalisti Għawdxin

Nhar is-Sibt fil-għaxija 23 ta' Jannar, Monsinjur Isqof Anton Teuma, akkumpanjat minn Monsinjur Salv Grima, qaddes għall-Ġurnalisti u Kittieba Għawdxin fl-Istitut tal-Familja Gwanni Pawlu t-Tieni (Ċentru ta' Kana) Victoria fl-okkażjoni tal-festa ta' San Frangisk de Sales, Isqof u Duttur tal-Knisja u Patrun tal-Gurnalisti.

F'kelmtejn li għamel f'din l-okkażjoni huwa ħa spunt mill-Vanġelu tal-ġurnata u spjega kif Gesu' darba fost l-oħrajn kien mar il-Galilea biex jippriedka fost nies ostili u diffiċli li ma kenux wisq lesti biex jaċċettaw dak li kien sa jgħidilhom; dawn kienu nies ġejjin minn diversi kulturi u reliġjonijiet differenti. Huwa kellimhom dwar kif is-Saltna t'Alla kienet waslet fosthom, fi kliem ieħor l-Evanġelju li ma kien xejn għajr l-aħbar it-tajba li tnissel il-ferħ. Gesu' jitlob għall-bidla radikali fil-bniedem, biex ibiddel il-mod ta' kif jaħsibha u jikkonverti fl-għemil tiegħu.

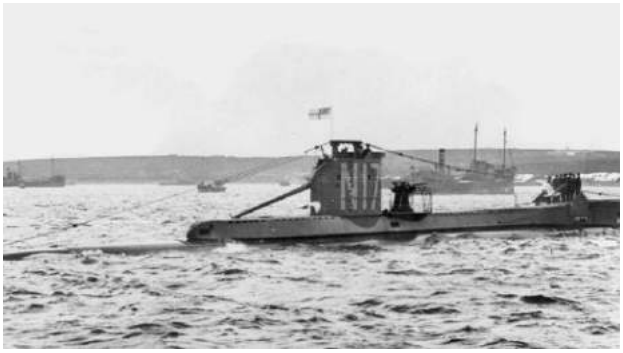
Meta għadda biex jitkellem dwar il-festa tal-ġurnata f'ġieħ dan l-Isqof ta' Ginevra Patrun tal-Ġurnalisti, Xandara u Kittieba, Monsinjur Isqof għamel riferenza għall-messaġġ tal-Papa li tkellem dwar kif il-ġurnalsit m'għandhomx jaġixxu skont l-intenzjonijiet jew aġenda tagħhom imma jmorru fejn tassew hemm il-faqar u ż-żgħir u jirrakkuntaw il-verita' u mhux dak li jixtiequ. Dan huwa l-Ħadd tal-Kelma t'Alla, żied jgħid l-Isqof, u din it-tifkira hija marbuta sew mal-Ġurnaliżmu li għandu jagħti tama, pożittiva u mhux negattivita'. Il-Ġurnaliżmu għandu jkun kontinwita tal-Vanġelu'. L-Isqof ħeġġeġ lil dawk preżenti biex jippruvaw iwasslu t-tama, il-kontinwita' tal-ħelsien li jġbilna Gesu' Kristu biex ngħidu l-verita' u ninterpretawha u mhux nirrakkuntawha. Gesu' huwa l-Aħbar it-Tajba; Gesu' innifsu jurina l-vera tifsira ta' dak li Hu. Monsinjur Teuma temm id-diskors tiegħu billi ħeġġeġ lill-ġurnalisti, xandara u kittieba Għawdxin biex jitolbu lil Gesu' ħalli dejjem iqarrbu lejn xulxin lill-qarrejja tagħhom b'dak li jgħidu u b'dak li jgħixu.

Il-President Charles Spiteri P.E.P. (President) u l-Kav Joe M Attard (segretarju) tal-Għaqda Gurnalisti Għawdxin qraw iż-żewġ lezzjonijiet tal-ġurnata waqt li l-Isqof temm il-quddiesa bit-talba li għamel il-Papa Franġisku għall-ġurnalisti li hija din:

Mulej għallimna noħorġu minn ġewwa qoxritna u mmorru nfittxu l-verita'. Għallimna mmorru u naraw, nisimgħu u ma nħaddnux il-preġidizzji u naslu għall-konklużjonijiet mgħaġla. Għallimna nterrqu f'mogħdijiet fejn oħrajn ma jridux li jmorru, nieħdu l-ħin biex nifhmu, nagħtu attenzjoni lil dak li hu mportanti, ma ninfixlux wara dak li mhux essenzjali; li niddistingwu dak li hu qarrieq mill-veru. Agħtina l-grazzja li nagħrfu t-treqat tiegħek f'din id-dinja u l-onesta' li ngħidu dak li nkunu rajna.

Ritratt tal-ġurnalisti Għawdxin mal-Isqof Anton Teuma.
Kav Joe M Attard

Wreck of WWII Submarine HMS Urge Found Off Malta



Pictures courtesy of the University of Malta, Francis Dickinson and the National Museum of the Royal Navy BY **THE MARITIME EXECUTIVE** 2019

The wreck of the Royal Navy submarine HMS *Urge* has been identified by marine archaeologists off Malta, solving a 77-year-long mystery. Sitting upright on the seabed of the Mediterranean in over 400 feet of water, her bow is buried in the ocean floor, her deck gun is facing forward. She is the last resting place of 44 people.

The distinctive features of the submarine have been compared with contemporary photographs and the undisclosed location of the wreck compared with official records to make the identification. HMS *Urge* is one of 19 U-class submarines lost in World War II, 13 of them in the Mediterranean. The submarines were small and originally meant to be used purely for training.

They proved highly capable with Urge, under Lieutenant Commander Edward Tomkinson, regarded among the best in the 10th Submarine Flotilla. Her crew and captain were highly decorated for a string of successes, dispatching a German tanker supporting U-boat operations in the Atlantic, crippling the Italian battleship *Vittorio Veneto* and sinking the Italian cruiser *Bande Nere* during 20 patrols.

Edward Tomkinson

HMS *Urge* left the island on her final mission on April 27, 1942 bound for Alexandria in Egypt as the 10th Submarine Flotilla moved its base to escape the Axis Powers' constant bombing of Malta. Aboard were not just her 32 crew, but 11 other naval personnel and a war correspondent. She never reached North Africa. The Admiralty concluded she ran into an enemy minefield shortly leaving the island, but the wreck was never found.

That official assessment of her loss was put into question by one shipwreck hunter, who claimed to have found the Urge off the Libyan coast near Tobruk – far from her intended route – and supposedly sunk by Italian aircraft two days after departing Malta.

That fate – and location – has now been definitively ruled out by the combined efforts of Canadian naval researcher Platon Alexiades, Francis Dickinson – grandson of HMS *Urge*'s commanding officer – and Professor Timmy Gambin of the University of Malta's Classics and Archaeology Department and a team of students, plus the Royal Navy's official historians.

Their research confirms the original Admiralty estimate – the boat did indeed succumb to a mine laid by a German E-boat; the impact caused catastrophic damage and led to Urge plunging out of control to the seabed.

Families of the crew, led by Tomkinson's daughter Bridget, are now hoping to erect a memorial on the island and attend a commemorative service to mark the tragedy and HMS *Urge*'s rediscovery

SAVE THE AUSTRALIA HALL IN MALTA
MALTA AND THE ANZACS
NEXT EDITION
PLEASE, SEND COMMENTS AND SUPPORT EMAILS

THE GEORGE CROSS ISLAND ASSOCIATION

Our aim is to help maintain and provide an historical and educational resource for future generations, as well as to be a focal point to bring together all our members and interested parties.
Within our branches in the UK and in Malta many of our members have relatives who took part in the Pedestal Convoy or who served in Malta or were in Malta during WWII and afterwards; they share with us their memories and experiences and take part in the various commemorative events we organise each year. All are welcomed at our events whether they have any military background or not and including non-members of the GCIA.
Along with other events, the Association holds a reunion in Malta every year to commemorate the award of the George Cross and remember over 7,000 civilians and serving men who were killed during this bitter and prolonged siege. The branches (see our membership page) also hold their own commemorative events and get together regularly at social meetings you will find these on the branch pages of this site.
More information about the GCIA can be found on the page tabs across the top, and also information about upcoming events, photographs of past events and a membership form. All our members receive a quarterly newsletter which gives information on upcoming events, past events and include contributions from members. Website: **http://www.georgecrossisland.org.uk/home**
Malta 2020/21 Programme - CANCELLED

It is with great regret that I have to advise that the George Cross Island reunion in Malta for 2020 is cancelled. This step has been taken based on the Government of Malta imposing a 14 day quarantine for ALL arrivals from ALL countries. But as well as this quarantine period making it impossible for us to go ahead, we should be thinking of our health and that of our loved ones. By staying well, we can hopefully enjoy a reunion in our beloved Malta in 2021. Pat Scott National Secretary and Malta Reunion Organiser

Contact us at : info@georgecrossisland.org.uk

A young people's handbook for the journey called life

By **Cedric Farrugia** -

Fr Paul Chetcuti

It-Triq għaż-żgħażagħ : imma liema triq ? (The Way for youths: but which way?) is the name of the new publication by Fr Paul Chetcuti, Jesuit.

The origins of the book go back to a leaflet that used to be published with same name back in the 70s said Fr Paul.

The Jesuit with a vast experience working with young people and helping them in their development explained that the aim of the publication was to help youths fall in love with Jesus.

It-Triq Fr Paul Chetcuti

He said that although time changes certain challenges remain the same. "The challenges faced by young people, the essential struggles remained the same, even though circumstances change," he explained.

Going through his archives he collated the publication, that stopped from being published, so he decided to collate the thoughts published into a new "friendly" publication to help the young people of today.

He explained that the name 'it-Triq' derives from the notion that Gesus is the Way that can help young people their questions.

One of the most challenging topics for youth is love and relathionships. The book tackles this topic and more. In the publication the young people will be able to self discover themselves and once they discover themselves they will be able to interect with others and build relathionships.

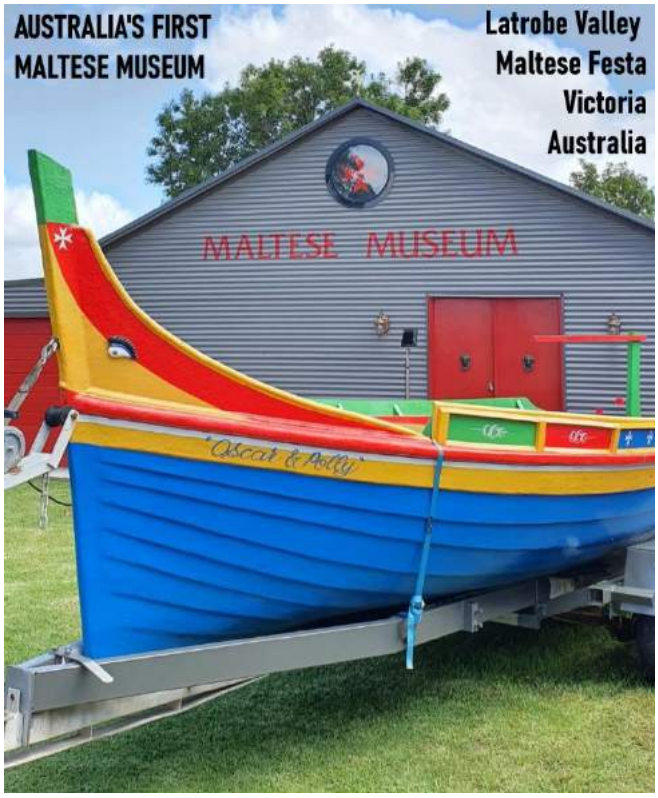
The book is made of a series of experiences with the intention of making the reader reflect and learn explaind the Jesuit.

"Who does not have for whom to live, does not have a reason to live. Who has for whom to live, has a reason to live a purposeful life," concluded the author.

The book can be purchased from the main bookshops across the island.

https://newsbook.com.mt/en/a-young-peoples-handbook-for-the-journey-called-life/

THE JOURNAL THAT IS CONNECTING MALTESE
IN MALTA, GOZO AND THE REST OF THE WORLD
2013 - 2020 - SEVEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITIES
BUILDING BRIDGES maltesjournal@gmail.com



Australia's first Maltese Museum at Morwell

The former Morwell Pigeon Club building on the site of the Maltese Community Centre in Morwell has been transformed into Australia's first Maltese Museum thanks to a $56,270 grant from the Latrobe Valley Authority's Community and Facility Fund.

The Museum features a collection of miniature handmade replicas of historical buildings dating back to the 1550s during the rule of the Knights of St John in Malta. It also includes a huge collection of Maltese Memorabilia, brought to Australia by migrants since the 1940s.

Extensive works at the building included replacing internal walls, electrical wiring and lighting, replacing front and side doors, removing the suspended ceiling to allow for tall exhibits and replacing guttering and downpipes.

Local contractors were used in the refurbishment project, with many volunteer hours also going towards the project from members of the local Maltese community.

"We are extremely pleased to support this project which has transformed the former Morwell Pigeon Club building into a high-quality Museum for our community to enjoy for years to come," said Latrobe Valley Authority CEO Karen Cain.

The museum showcases Maltese tradition through objects such as costumes, a replica of a *luzzu* [Maltese fishing boat], Knight of St. John figurines, traditional cooking utensils and newsletters. According to the Latrobe Valley Maltese Festa Facebook page, "At the 2018 Latrobe Valley Maltese Festa, we called on gold coin donations for the creation of Australia's first and only Maltese Museum to be created right here in Morwell, adjacent to the Maltese Community Centre & Social Club Latrobe Valley in Henry Street.

"After two years of incredible work and fundraising, the museum is set to officially open its doors to the public." Fifteen miniature replicas of important Maltese buildings, including a still standing version of the Royal Opera House that was bombed down during WWII, are on display inside the museum. These models were donated by the late artist Charlie Camilleri when the museum project was announced in 2018.

Malta's honorary vice consul for the Latrobe Valley and Maltese Community Centre president Mario Sammut said that "another interesting model is the Church of the Assumption of Our Lady in Mosta which was at one time the third-biggest free-standing dome in the world."

MALTESE IN USA ANGELO GRIMA

Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK THIESSEN/NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

As executive vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary at the National Geographic Society, Angelo Grima oversees all of the Society's legal matters. He is responsible for corporate governance issues and the organization's taxable subsidiaries, including incorporations, bylaws, minutes, resolutions, and related matters. Grima also serves as secretary for the Society's board of trustees.

Grima, who joined National Geographic in 1992, specializes in major corporate transactions, including the Society's joint venture agreements, various investment agreements, financial instruments, and other transactions. On multiple occasions, Grima has represented the Society before the Internal Revenue Service as well as other government agencies. Prior to National Geographic, Grima was in private practice with Steptoe & Johnson in Washington, D.C., and Kirkland & Ellis in Chicago, Illinois, handling commercial transactions and litigation. He holds a J.D. from the University of Chicago, an M.B.A. from Johns Hopkins University, and a B.A. from Wesleyan University.

His parents emigrated from Malta to New York the year before he was born. They wanted to try and make a better living. In the decade after World War II, there was not a lot of opportunity in Malta, particularly in Gozo where his parents are from. His father had been in the British merchant marine during the war, and he had been to New York a couple of times.

Angelo became a Maltese citizen in 2018 but he doesn't intend to move there permanently - his family and most of my friends are here. He would like to maintain a residence in Malta and look forward at some point to spending more time there and learning how to speak the language.

There was a time when it was assumed that once Maltese left the island, they were no longer interested and certainly never encouraged to come back. They were expected to assimilate as quickly as possible and forget their roots and their background. In fact, of course, this was pure fantasy which was most unlikely to happen.

Now, more several decades after the original waves – one might even say a tsunami of migrants – left Malta in the 1950s and 1960s, the realities of the situation have become more clear. *Quite a considerable proportion of young Maltese, while born and bred in Australia, still have a very soft spot for Malta*

A recent survey being carried out by the Maltese Community Council of Victoria shows that none of the original migrants have changed in any fundamental way from Maltese of the same background who have never left Malta. They still have the same basic culture, eat mostly the same food, congregate with other fellow Maltese, keep their religious and other traditions and in practically all respects are Maltese.

Addolorata Hill and have reduced travel time by over 30%. Ths besides also reducing pollution from vehicle exhaust and the noise from congestion created by the previous roundabout.

SANTO SPIRITO HOSPITAL, RABAT

This old building, which is situated at the National Archives Office (The transfer of the Palace Archives to Rabat was concluded on 28 July 1989) was once known as the hospital of St. Francis since it was touching with the convent and church of the said saint.

This hospital, which opened in Rabat under the rectorship of a Franciscan Nicollo Papalla' appointed by the King of Sicily in 1372, was the main hospital on the island before the arrival of the Knights in 1530. It is considered as one of the oldest worldwide hospitals. Mismanagement resulted in the transfer of the hospital's administration to the Universita' in 1433 and the hospital's name was changed into today's name.

From the middle of the 15th century onwards this hospital cared for old, poor or otherwise incapable people, besides foundlings (babies, that have been abandoned by parents) and patients. By 1580, the hospital had its own resident apothecary with his own pharmacy at the hospital. A wooden cot, which revolved on its vertical axis (the ruota) to enable the anonymous deposition of the babies, was set up by 1615.

In the early nineteenth century, the medical needs of the inhabitants of the central villages were served by this hospital. In this building, there is a museum which contains a variety of coloured bottles, mortars and pestles, a collection of glassware, a pill machine, sachet mould, druggist sundries and much more. Whilst in the library one can still admire handwritten prescriptions written by medical practitioners and dispensed by pharmacists in a collection of 100-year-old books. This hospital was closed down in 1967.

THE MALTESE CENTER

27-20 Hoyt Avenue South
Astoria, New York 11102
Phone: 718-728-9883

Sun, Feb 07 | ZOOM online event

IL-MALTIN TAGĦNA with member Nicolette Conti

Nicolette "Nicky" Conti is a New York based street photographer. Find out how some encouraging words and comments from a relative developed into a passion.

Time & Location **Feb 07, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM EST ZOOM online event**

About The Event Nicky is based in New York. Her photography creates compelling narratives and intriguing ways of looking at streets. She often uses natural light to create visual aesthetics and painterly effect. During the Covid era she also used the streets to reflect her personal sense of solitude and grief. Nicky will be showing a selection of her street work as well as images from her “New York during Lockdown” series.

MALTESE CANADIANS IN TORONTO HAVE A VERY DEDICATED CONSUL GENERAL.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to the consul general of Malta in Canada, Raymond Xerri, for his enthusiasm, constant support and guidance towards the Maltese and Maltese Canadian community here in Toronto.

I am a second generation Maltese Canadian and I am full-time professional choreographer, instructor, artistic director and performer in Toronto. It has been truly wonderful for me and for the arts community in Toronto to have Xerri as our consul general.

Xerri made it possible for me to connect with Malta to potentially produce an artistic project that is connected to Malta's prehistory. I have sourced and researched ways to connect and get closer and better acquainted with Malta vis-à-vis my artistic work but found this very difficult. It was only when I had the opportunity to meet Xerri that I was able to take the necessary steps to connect with Malta.

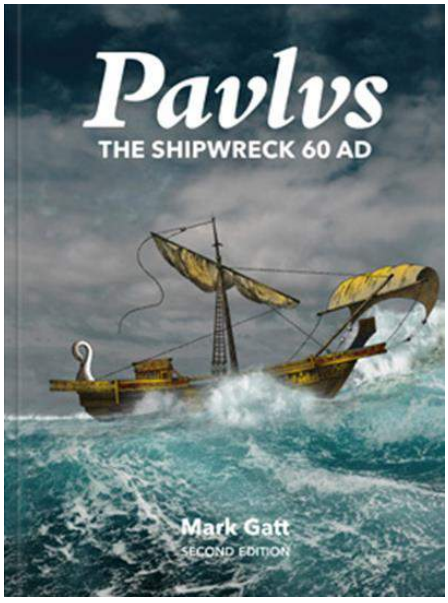
The work I hope to share with Malta is a 90-minute two act, 14 scene multimedia dance-musical of the story of the Goddess of Fertility. The entire production will feature a professional circus, belly dance, musicians, vocals and narration. My vision was to present this project at the Astra Theatre in Gozo but due to COVID-19 we will present this story here in Toronto on November 18, 19 and 20, 2021, at the Redwood Theatre.

The presentation of the Goddess of Fertility will be streamed live to the world as a 'pay what you can' with proceeds going to the preservation of the Ġgantija Temples in Gozo and Ħaġar Qim and Mnajdra in Malta. Xerri has undeniably been an exceptional leader here in Canada, not only to the first-generation born in Malta but also supporting the second and third generation Maltese Canadians.

I look so forward to reaching out further and connecting with Malta's citizens and acclaimed artistic community and to one day presenting what is among the oldest stories in history, the ancient story of the Goddess of Fertility. I wish Xerri and his hard-working team here in Canada the very best.

Joanne Camilleri – Toronto, Canada

WE ENCOURAGE OUR READERS TO VISIT THIS FACEBOOK PAGE TO KEEP CONNECTED WITH MALTESE CULTURE



Apostle Paul's Shipwreck

The Ship and Her Captain

Mark Gatt

The feast of St Paul's shipwreck is fast approaching. In our Churches we shall characteristically read chapters 27 and 28 of the Acts of the Apostles. In chapter 27 we have a vivid description of the ship caught in a violent storm as it left Crete and her fateful shipwreck 14 days later on our shores.

Many historians regard this chapter as the best contemporary writing explaining ancient seafaring. A ship in distress cannot survive such a tempestuous voyage without a strong captain at her helm.

To sail in a massive, clumsy, slow, ancient Egyptian grain ship in a Gregale would have been a fearful experience. Huddled on deck, having to provide their own food and bedding, passengers were in constant danger of losing their lives.

These giants of the sea had one single square sail and no rudder for steering. Single hinged rudders were invented 600 years later and came into general use close to the thirteenth century. For steering, ships had two great oars or paddles on each side of the stern. When caught in the strong winds off Crete, the crew brought these oars out of the sea and secured them on deck.

With great difficulty they brought onboard the skiff they were towing behind them. Skiffs were extre emely important to carry passengers, cargo and for victualing when the ship would be anchored in a bay. They then undergirded (also referred to as frapping) the ship – they tied ropes around the ship's hull and deck to tighten the boards and avoid water seeping in between

the planks. The ship was fully laden with grain and wet grain expands putting more pressure on the hull's planks, which would have brought in more seawater into the holds. This frapping of wooden ships was still in use in 1795 when one of Lord Nelson's ships, the Agamemnon, was so worn out from battles and a year of patrolling the Riviera that she had three or four huge hemp hawsers passed under her hull to frap her.

They struck sale, meaning they furled in the mainsail and possibly the artemon (the small sail at the bow) too or the wind would have torn the sail or broken the mainmast. Now without steering or propulsion all they could do was to be driven by the storm.

The next day they lightened the ship by throwing some of their precious cargo overboard. A lighter ship can ride the waves better. Less grain created space, allowing for the expansion of wet grain without causing pressure on the hull's planks.

Fearing shipwreck on the Syrtis (Libya), they deployed the sea-anchor to slow their rate of drift. I believe that this experienced sea captain gave the order to secure the sea-anchor to the stern starboard side, thus taking a northerly tack. IMHO it is this sea-anchor that brought Apostle Paul to our shores or how else could a ship leaving Crete in a gregale not end up on the Syrtis?

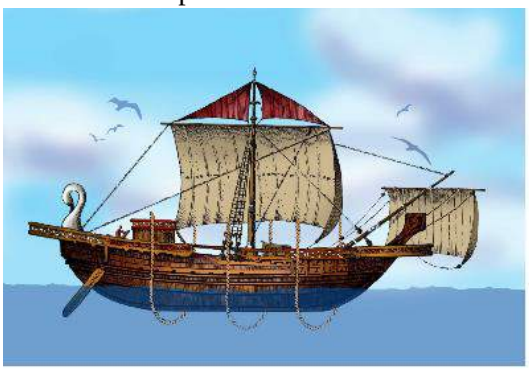
Around midnight of the fourteenth day drifting in a storm, even a seasoned and experienced sea captain would by now be exhausted from the swaying of the ship in those massive waves. Cold, wet, unable to see the sun or stars to work out his position, yet he sensed that they might be approaching land and ordered depth sounding. How did he sense they were approaching land and why did he sound the depth? It is unlikely that he could have seen the land or lights from a

nearby shore. There were no seagulls flying over the ocean at night. He could not smell the nearby land when he had another 275 men on board, many of whom were constantly seasick. Yet he had another sense that only an experienced sailor has – his feet detecting a different swaying of the ship as the waves changed their wavelength in shallower waters. In the battle of Copenhagen, Nelson outmaneuvered the Danes by taking his fleet into the shallow waters where no sea captain would have dreamed of taking his ship – into narrow and shallow straits. His pilots sounded the depth in very much the same way as the ancient sea captain did. Attacking the Danes at their weakest point he scored another great naval victory for king and country.

Finding a depth of 20 fathoms and soon after another sounding of 15 fathoms, they dropped four anchors from the stern. Dropping anchors from the stern at night shows incredible foresight. The ship could ride the waves better if anchored from the bow but the next morning, after deciding in which direction to proceed, they would have had to turn 180 degrees. At night he could not see how close he was to land and if the next day he could

afford the distance for the turn around with the waves rapidly carrying him to some reef or rocks. On the 1st August 1798 at 3 p.m. Nelson instructed his fleet to prepare for battle and at 4 p.m. to be ready to anchor by the stern. He did this to position his ships accurately so that they could pounce on the enemy. This resulted in the annihilation of the French fleet at Aboukir Bay and the biggest naval victory in history.

At daybreak the captain could see a bay with a beach. First he ordered to lighten the ship by throwing their precious cargo into the sea. They put down from the stern the steering paddles, cut off the ropes holding the anchors, hoisted the artemon to the wind and tried to land the ship onto the beach.



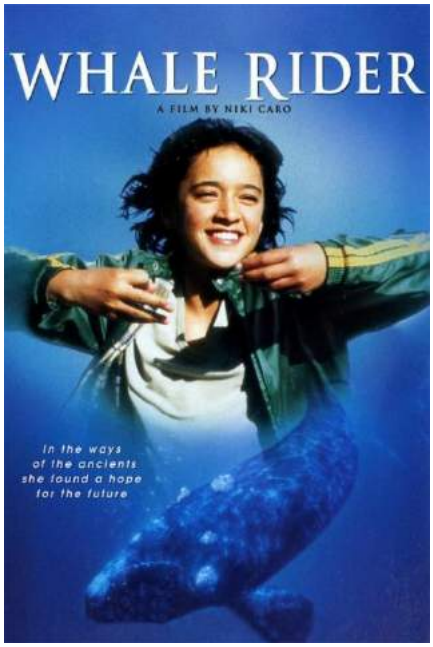
Undergirding the ship - artwork by Victor Pulis

Apostle Paul's sea voyage

But entering the bay they struck a reef and ran the vessel on a sandbar.

From there on the centurion took over command and ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and the others to make for shore on planks and other wood taken from the ship. It was divine providence that brought Apostle Paul to our shores – a providential captain who had the seamanship, command and mastery to save all 276 lives drifting in a violent storm for fourteen days and nights and to beach his ship inside a bay close to shore.

The author of this article has a film script featuring life in 60 AD Malta. He is searching for a good film producer to develop and produce the film. Any comments and suggestions are welcome - mrk.gatt@gmail.com



NEW ZEALAND - WELCOME-HAERE MAI

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT NEW ZEALAND AND THE MAORI CULTURE?

Like Malta's Esplora Interactive Science Centre

Te Papa Museum of New Zealand is a great place for kids to learn the fun way! Tepapa.govt.nz for K**ids and families**

Do a whānau challenge, a jigsaw puzzle, print an activity book, watch videos, and play quizzes.

New Zealand Honorary Consulate in Malta

We are thrilled to collaborate with **Spazju Kreattiv** and bring to you in Malta our NZ Film Days mini-film festival starting on 16 February. There are six great Kiwi films to see: opening with Whale Rider (with a free raffle to win two books which inspired the film), Waru, Vai, Hunt for the Wilderpeople, Boy, and closing with They Shall not Grow Old. Screenings are free and bookings for the first three films open today (the second three on 9 March) - places are limited due to Covid-19 restrictions, so be sure to book your seats ASAP. Details and bookings on Spazju Kreattiv's website:

Whale Rider https://www.kreattivita.org/en/event/whale-rider/

Waru - https://www.kreattivita.org/en/event/waru/

Vai - https://www.kreattivita.org/en/event/vai/

LOOK AT THESE WORDS

"fjuwil (FUEL), bajsikil (BICYCLE), rawndebawt (roundabout), mowbajl (mobile), kexx (cash), bejbi (baby), rabix (RUBBISH), gowl (goal), plejer (player), skor(score), picc (pitch), dizil (diesel), tim (team), grownd (ground), kowc (coach), cermen (chairman), nikkikja (Kicking), niwwoxja (I wash), niwwocja (I watch), televixin (television),

U hallini minnek, xbin

A

fter the Covid-19 pandemic make your first trip will be to Malta.. When the seas around Malta are calm, visibility is up to 30 meters and with around 50% of its dive sites being directly accessible from shore with no need for a boat, it's really convenient even for beginner divers and those on a budget.

The underwater landscape around Malta is truly spectacular. You'll see amazing rock formations, holes, caves, drops, tunnels and chimneys toge ther with boulder fields and reefs, all teeming with sealife. There are 50 dive centers licensed to operate in Malta and they offer all kinds of sessions from introductory classes for children to PADI courses for adults and guides to help out experienced divers. Here are three of the top scuba diving spots to enjoy on your next trip to Malta.

THE BLUE HOLE The Blue Hole isn't on Malta itself, it is in Dwejra, on Gozo, one of the three Maltese islands. This dive site is overlooking the Azure Window, starting in a 10 metre wide inland pool that leads into a huge crevice before reaching the sea. The doorway to the sea is in the form of a natural arch made from rock and the waters here are clear and blue so you'll easily spot the amazing sea-life here. Parrot fish, bream, octopi, lobsters and moray eels can all be found here. The Chimney is a vertical crack through the reef which starts at 18 meters. You'll head upwards to a gorgeous coral garden and then have the choice to visit the cave at the end of the hole. Whether you're a beginner or experienced diver, the Blue Hole is suitable for you.

THE MADONNA STATUE Head to the north of Malta to discover the Madonna Statue diving site. Idea for both experienced and open water divers, this site explores a statue of the Madonna which was put into the sea a quarter of a century ago. You'll start your dive from the shore. The access is very easy through the 1 meter deep pool. The diving is around shallow plateaus which max out at just 10 meters, although experienced divers are able to dive from the plateau up to 30 meters deep. There are several tunnels in the wall and two swim-throughs which are going to amaze you. If you're keen to dive at night, this is also the right dive site for you. You'll see all kinds of marine life from barracuda and scorpion fish to amberjacks and trigger fish.

THE QAWRA REEF Another dive site in north Malta is the Qawra Reef. Perfect for intermediate and novice divers, this site is very beautiful with access from the shore. The drop off is up to 40 meters and there is a nice wall together with some huge caves on the right of it. These go in and under the reef and are perfectly safe to enter thanks to their wide entrances. You'll find some wonderful marine life here including spider crabs and hermit crabs, lobsters and nudibranchs. Should you follow the drop off, you'll find large boulders where tuna, amberjack, dentex and barracudas live. You may even see the rare Mediterranean finger sponge. There are also a number of shallow parts of this dive site with the reef top coming to about 15 meters. This is perfect for beginners and still gives them the chance to see cardinal fish, groupers and parrot fish. Since this spot is not one of the best known dive sites, you can enjoy it without any crowds.

Don't forget to take all your diving equipment with you when setting off to Malta. Although you can hire equipment here, your own is sure to be a better fit and you'll also save money so you can enjoy Malta's other many attractions.

Steven Scicluna **Graphic artist & illustrator**

Freelance **http://www.stevenscicluna.com**

Valencia, Spain

Steven Scicluna Malta-born, Spain-based illustrator, designer and visual artist is based in Valencia, Spain. With a background in graphic design, together with years of practising graffiti art, his visual language is largely graphic in nature, characterised by the use of simple shapes, bold colour, patterns and symbols. His work spans various disciplines, including sculpture, painting, illustration, product design, murals, books, graphic design and printmaking, and typically revolves around bringing out a sense of wonder in its subjects. Some of his work includes illustrations for Antoine Cassar's poetry book 40 Jum (winner of National Book Prize 2018) and creating the Objekt collection through crowdfunding. Over the years he has held several exhibitions worldwide (Malta, London, Montreal, Valencia, Krakow, Hong Kong..) and worked for a variety of clients, both local and international.

Parallel to his creative output Steven is also involved in several side projects, most of which have a cultural focus. In the early 2000s, he created Maltagraf – Malta's first website dedicated to documenting local graffiti. While living in London in 2015 he organised the N15 Street Art & Culture Fest – a festival centred around the creation of a mural that celebrated South Tottenham, one of the most culturally diverse neighbourhoods in Europe. Over the years he has also been researching the folkloric art of 'tberfil', together with other aspects of Maltese graphic art history. He is an active member of the Malta Community of Illustrators and currently co-directs a Masters in Branding course at Barreira University, Valencia.

MaltaPost to issue stamps paying tribute to healthcare workers,

MALTAPOST issued a set of three stamps paying tribute to Malta's healthcare workers. The issues are in appreciation of the sterling work performed during the Covid-19 pandemic by the carers, nurses, doctors and all hospital staff who serve on the frontline to ensure the safety and quality of care of their patients.

The stamps will be issued in a sheet of 10 stamps, with each stamp measuring 44mm x 31mm, a comb perforation 14.0 x 13.9 and bearing the Maltese Cross watermark. The sheets measure 118mm x 185mm and were produced by Printex Ltd in the offset process. All the stamps in the set carry a face value of €0.30 and the issue consists of 500,000 stamps. Two of the stamps reproduce paintings by Madeleine Gera and the other , a painting by Andrew Micallef. This philatelic issue will be available from all Post Offices in Malta and Gozo as from Friday 29 January 2021. Orders may be placed online at www.maltaphilately.com or by mail from the Philatelic Bureau, MaltaPost p.l.c. 305, Qormi Road, Marsa, MTP 1001; Telephone: 2596 1740, e-mail: info@maltaphilately.com

Underground reservoir, known as the underground cathedral, to be restored and reused

These amazing shots were taken underground, inside the Luqa Naval Reservoir which can hold up to million gallons of water. The reservoir was built by the Naval Authorities in the 19th century. Today the Water Services Corporation is carrying out maintenance & cleansing works to restore the reservoir for use again!

**There are around 365 churches on the Maltese Islands,
one for everyday of the year!
Throwback to last summer when we visited most of them
in the middle of the night amidst a pandemic
Rachel Bonnici, Den Demicoli and Mary Theodorou**

George Cross Falcons Community Centre

25-27 Lake Avenue Cringila NSW 2502

The Club is situated ten minutes outside Wollongong and forty minutes from Liverpool. The Club was built by the Maltese in 1951 to serve the community that arrived in the Illawarra to work at the steel works. It has also served the community as a welcoming place for all the distinguished dignitaries who travelled to Australia from Malta to meet the Maltese that migrated to all parts of Australia. Today the Club is proud of its great committee that understands the importance of solidarity, social cohesion and multiculturalism.

Celebrating Maltese history, culture and traditions, it has been hub for Maltese immigrants, their children and grandchildren. Maltese language schools have long been established in the major cities, and those with Maltese ancestry or ties to the Mediterranean archipelago have expressed their desire to learn more about the culture and language of the islands. GCFCC The current President, Louis Parnis, together with the members of the committee and volunteers administer the centre efficiently to continue serving the community. Come and join us.

George Cross Falcons Community Centre
25-27 Lake Avenue Cringila NSW 2502

ON MONDAY FRESH BISCUITS PASTIZZI, GBEJNIET AND PEPPERED CHEESE

THE CENTRE WILL OPEN AGAIN ON MONDAY FEB 1 FROM 9.30 AM BINGO-LUNCN-RAFFLE

A New Bench for the Kitchen

Volunteers working in THE SHED

Maltese Living Abroad

If you have a story to tell send it to us

Email maltesejournal@gmail.com