



The Voice of the Maltese

(We are for the Greater Malta)

Issue
262

A fortnightly print and digital magazine

November 9, 2021

Malta has just commemorated the 100 Anniversary of its Parliament. Pictured the present Parliament in a current session. Below: A commemorative photograph of the members of Malta's first parliament in 1921 at the Governor's Palace, Valletta.

(Full story on page 11)



Euthanasia will be found to be a barbaric law



Dr Hugh
McDERMOTT MP

Every supporter of voluntary assisted dying explains their reasoning with a strong element of good intentions, decency, and perceived compassion. Over the last five years they have told me harrowing stories of suffering by loved ones and friends as they faced the end of life.

Like them, I also have such a story. My father and stepfather both died, literally in my arms, after lengthy battles with cancer. Their suffering, personal loneliness, depression and struggle greatly affected both them and our family.

Our emotional and personal experience must play a part in the debate as will the understanding that to permit euthanasia will have far-reaching consequences for our community.

There have been attempts to frame the debate around matters of religious faith, drawing on the fact that the Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu and other faiths are vehemently opposed to the legislation.

They have brought into question the views of the Liberal Premier, Dominic Perrottet, and the Labor Opposition Leader, Chris Minns, who both oppose the Bill, because they are Catholics. To do this is misguided.

There are religious and non-religious people of all sides of the debate. The debate should be framed for what it truly in-

volves – a failure of public policy and human rights and a desperate attempt to resolve this failure through what seems to be the only viable alternative to suffering.

Governments have a litany of legislation and policies introduced with good intentions to assist the vulnerable and in most cases, if not all, our community supported these policies.

I bring to mind the forced assimilation of our first nation's people, the children of The Stolen Generation and the Forgotten Australians in state institutions, racial discriminatory immigration laws, the sterilisation of the mentally ill and disabled, the criminalisation of homosexuality, and so the list continues.

These were all policies that were supported by the Parliament and Government of the day which later generations, including our own, now condemn. In the future, voluntary assisted dying will fall into this category.

History will not judge its advocates and supporters kindly. It will be found to be a barbaric law that has undermined the value of human rights and care of the vulnerable.

Over the last decades, our society has moved away from draconian legal responses and towards respecting human rights and the rights of individuals to live with dignity and respect.

We have increasingly valued human life in all its forms. We abolished the death penalty and moved to rehabilitation and humane responses to incarceration. We removed the prosecution of persons that at-

tempted suicide and understood that mental health support must play a critical role in suicide prevention.

Currently the law in NSW does not permit the killing of any person, regardless of the circumstance. Arguments of self-defence and necessity in such matters must be tested before a court of law. Nor does the law permit a person to consent to having harm done to them by another. Human life is important and protected by our state.

Introducing voluntary assisted dying changes this approach. Legislating voluntary assisted dying breaks the progress of our society in valuing human life over death. It puts a value on each person's life and transfers that value judgement to medical practitioners that are sup-

portive of assisted dying.

It permits patients to commit suicide, with the assistance of others, or if consent is unable to be given, by agreement by a medical practitioner or a "carer".

This upends the progress this state has made over many decades to prioritise the most vulnerable, the sick and elderly. It makes death an alternative to proper support and care.

In other countries that have introduced voluntary assisted dying laws we have seen legislative creep, despite the original legislation being clear in its intent and guidelines. Euthanasia has been expanded to include newborn children, the mentally ill, dementia patients, and the disabled without terminal illness.

There is no way that the current voluntary assisted dying advocates can guarantee that this will not happen in New South Wales as it is already happening in other jurisdictions.

The findings of the recent Aged Care Royal Commission have shown horrific abuse of the elderly in care homes by staff and family members. This legislation will allow perpetrators of this abuse to take things further than ever before.

To say that by legislation we will stop similar abuse towards vulnerable people facing end of life is simply false. The pressure on individuals by family, medical practitioners, and others to end their lives, due to the belief they are a burden or other reason will be immense.

Already we see countless cases before the courts of family jealousy, greed and dysfunction involving inheritance. To suggest that this will not happen in a voluntary assisted dying situation is fanciful.

Despite voluntary assisted dying advocates proclaiming there is overwhelming support for such laws I have not seen this in my community in western Sydney. Nor have I found it among my Parliamentary colleagues. In fact I have found the opposite.

Our communities are coming out of a devastating lockdown and COVID restrictions. We as a community were prepared to accept these challenges as it protected our most vulnerable, our elderly and those with pre-existing medical conditions from COVID. Our community cares about all human life.

Hugh McDermott MP is Chair of NSW Labor's Parliamentary Legal Affairs Committee and the Member for Prospect.

Editor's note:

In the last issue of the Voice of the Maltese we reported that a vote on euthanasia laws in NSW has been unexpectedly delayed until next year, with the bill being referred to an upper house committee.

Are there seniors in your community who need help at home?

Our local Home Care team help seniors to live independently at home.



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Q. My mother is in aged care. She has a decent amount of money in her bank account. She wishes to gift to her four grandchildren \$5000 each. Is she able to do this and will this affect her age pension entitlement?

A. She is able to gift this money to her grandchildren. If Centrelink are aware of her current bank balance, then they are already including these funds as assets when they calculate her age pension entitlement. Therefore her age pension could slightly increase, as \$10,000 of the \$20,000 that is being gifted will be taken off her assets.

Q. I am 69 years old and I retired from the workforce two years ago. I have recently been offered 10 hours of work per week, which I am keen to take up. Can I start investing in superannuation now that I am back at work?

A. Yes, as you are now working 10 hours per week, which amounts to 40 hours, over a 30-day period you have met the work test and thus you are able to make contributions into superannuation. Your employer will make concessional contributions of 10% of your wages while you can make non-concessional contributions of up to \$110,000 for the year.

Q. I am 45 years old and have two daughters aged 14 and 16. My husband passed away last year. I still have a mortgage of \$220,000 on the house. I work full time and therefore am able to continue to make the repayments on

this mortgage.

A relative has encouraged me to purchase some Life insurance as she said this would protect my children if anything was to happen to me. Do you think this would be a reasonable thing to do?

A. You probably have a superannuation fund that your daughters could use to pay off the outstanding mortgage. However, purchasing some life insurance cover would definitely ensure that your daughters are protected if anything was to happen to you and you still had an outstanding mortgage.

You should probably check your superannuation statement as a number of employers introduce insurance in their employee's super fund. If you have no insurance cover you could take up Life insurance through your superannuation account in order not to reduce the amount of available income that you currently have.

This is a monthly service offered by The Voice of the Maltese in which Marie Louise Muscat from the Fiducian Financial Services helps our readers understand the complexities associated with financial planning. If you need more advice send an email to Marie Louise via: maltesevoice@gmail.com.



Q. I have just gone through a terrible divorce. I have amended my Will and removed my ex-husband from being my beneficiary. Should I do the same to my super fund or amending the Will is sufficient to cut him off?

A. Your superannuation fund does not form part of your estate. You have therefore to change the beneficiary and appoint your children or the estate as your beneficiary. If you do not remove his name, he may be entitled to receive the proceeds from your superannuation account if you pre-decease him.

Q. I am 59 and have just recently lost my job. I have not managed to find employment yet and I am considering withdrawing some funds from my superannuation account. Can I do this or is there another solution to my problem?

A. As you are 59 years of age you have reached preservation age. Therefore rather than withdrawing a lump sum from your superannuation fund an option could be commencing an account based pension. This would provide you with a monthly payment to cover your mortgage repayments. Once you find employment you could then roll this account-based pension back into superannuation in accumulation.

Investing or Retiring?

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*Adrian Warburton the legendary maverick ace pilot of WWII (final)***‘The RAF’s most important pilot’****Joseph BUTTIGIEG**

For his role in the defence of Malta, Adrian ‘Warburton’ the British flying ace of the Second World War became legendary in the RAF, and Air Marshal Sir Arthur Tedder, then Air Officer Command-

ing in Chief Middle East, described him as ‘the most important pilot in the RAF’. On January 3, 1941 he was promoted to flying officer.

A Maltese citizen relates how ‘Warby’ gave up some of his spare time going around in schools lecturing the eager students about the war, its aims and how they could help. In these talks ‘Warby’ emphasized the risks of picking up strange objects and how to behave in the event of the expected invasion.

To give the readers some idea the sort of character this man was, on one occasion, downing some drinks during a party celebrating his birthday, the Germans put on a fairly heavy raid on Malta. As was the norm, the guns blazing away to defend the island were making a hell of a noise. ‘Warby’ phoned the brigadier in charge and told him: “Would you please stop your guns from making such a bloody awful noise as they are interfering with my drinking!”

At another time while he was in his Warby’s apartment with his girlfriend Christina Ratcliffe whom he befriended in Floriana, his apartment was demolished. He later told his mate, “The bastards blew us out of bed”.

In October 1943, three Beau fighter planes set forth to attack shipping in the Tripoli area. ‘Warby’ went along to report and take photographs. One of the planes was shot down about five to 10 miles from the convoy, so ‘Warby’ flew over the area and noticed that the crew of two survived and climbed into a dinghy. As there was no hope of any friendly ship to come to their rescue, he decided that rather than letting them die in a dinghy in open sea it would be best for them to be rescued by the enemy and become POW for the Italians.

He then flew back over the Italian destroyer and when they saw him approaching, thinking that must have been a pilot on a suicide mission attacking a destroyer on his own, they opened fire at him. ‘Warby’ ignored the flak and kept circling the ship flying alongside repeatedly and wagging his wings in an attempt to convince them that he was not hostile.

After 20 minutes of dodging their fire, the Italians finally got the message and sped

**Adrian Warburton and his lover Christina Ratcliff during the war years in Malta**

off in the direction that Warby indicated. By then six Macchi fighters appeared on the scene and although four of them were on his tail, he managed to use his flying skills to avoid being shot. He didn’t turn home until he saw the two men rescued from the dinghy safely aboard the destroyer. For this brave encounter, he received the second bar to his DFC.

There’s a lot more to be said about this extraordinary young man. There’s a book about him by ony Spooner called *Warburton’s War*

When the war ended in Malta he was snapped up by the Americans where he befriended President Roosevelt’s son, Elliott. When Elliott came to Malta he brought with him a brand new jeep that ‘Warby’ admired. He told the American, “Great Jeep Elliott”. Elliott replied: “You like it, it’s yours Warby”. Just like that.

On 1 April 1944, ‘Warby’ was posted as the RAF Liaison Officer to the 7th PRG. On 18th January, 1944 *The London Gazette* reported that on a mission on the coast of Pantelleria, while flying over the island at two hundred feet, so within easy range of every type of anti-aircraft battery and drawing fire of even the large coastal guns, Warburton photographed virtually the entire shoreline, gaining valuable information to Allied Forces that later invaded the island.

On the morning of 12 April 1944 Warby was the pilot of one of two Lockheed F-5B photoreconnaissance aircraft that took off together from Mount Farm to photograph targets in Germany. Although, as a liaison officer, Warburton should not have been flying operations, and his flight had been opposed by 7th PRG’s commander,

Lieutenant Colonel George Lawson, Lawson’s superior, Elliot Roosevelt gave his approval.

The aircraft separated approximately 100 miles (160 km) north of Munich to carry out their respective tasks; it was planned that they would meet before heading south. Both plane and Warburton disappeared and were never found until 2002 in a field about 400 metres south of the village of Egling a.d. Paar, west of Munich/Bavaria. He was only 26. Part of his aircraft is on display at the Malta Aviation Museum.

At 1100 hours on 14 May 2003, Sqn Ldr The Reverend Alan Coates conducted the Memorial Service for Wing Commander Adrian Warburton at the St Agidius Church, Gmund and at 1145 hours, exactly the same time that Warby’s plane crashed, his coffin and mourners departed for Durnbach War Cemetery.

Among the mourners was the wife he married in 1939, Eileen (better known as Betty) then in her 90’s. Sheila, her daughter from a previous marriage, accompanied her.

Tony Spooner, who was a good friend of Warby during the war, wrote in his book: “For as long as there are people on that island who can remember the terrible days and nights of that long siege when, so it seemed, the whole might of the Luftwaffe was descending continuously on this small rocky outpost, Malta will remember its ‘Uncrowned King’, Adrian Warburton DSO and Bar, DFC and two Bars, American DFC, all won in Malta.”

**Continued on the next page*

Warby Warburton remembered on stage and on film

**Continued from page 4*

When I submitted the feature to *The Voice*, the Editor brought to my attention that talented actors direct from Malta had performed an intricate musical play in front of a packed audience at the La Valette Social Centre in Blacktown NSW.

The production, called “*Star of Strada Stretta*” told a true-life love story from World War 2 between ‘Warby’ and Christina Ratcliffe. She was awarded the British Medal for her services to the Royal Air Force and became known as ‘Christina of George Cross Island’.

Warburton was the subject of the *Mystery of the Missing Ace* episode of the BBC investigative documentary series *Time-watch*, first broadcast in November 2003.

Ratcliffe was a cabaret dancer and formed a troupe of girls who called themselves the Whizz Bangs. She was travelling over Europe when Italy declared war on Britain and then settled in Malta.

She later became an aircraft plotter at Lascaris War Rooms. Christina and Warby became celebrities during the war in



Christina (third from right in 1942) as part of a cabaret troupe called the Whizz Bangs

Malta, the perfect couple who found love in the middle of a ‘storm’. Cristina died alone in her apartment at Vincenti Buildings in Floriana in 1988. She is buried at the Addolorata Cemetery in Malta.

This musical production that toured other Australian states was made possible by funds provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion and in celebration of Valetta as the European Cul-

ture Capital for 2018.

In Malta, talented Larissa Bonaci has also recently produced a short film, “Morning Star” about Warby and Cristina. She also plays the part of Cristina.

Please note ...

With reference to Ms Julia Owens’ decision (*left*), it is worth noting that the Division of Parramatta is an Australian electoral division in the state of New South Wales. It was created in 1900 and was one of the original 65 divisions contested at the first federal election. It is named for the locality of Parramatta.

The division is based in the western suburbs of Sydney. Besides Parramatta, it includes Camellia, Clyde, Constitution Hill, Dundas Valley, Granville, Harris Park, Holroyd, Mays Hill, North Parramatta, Oatlands, Rosehill, Rydalmere, Telopea, Wentworthville, Westmead; and parts of Carlingford, Dundas, Ermington, Guildford, Merrylands, North Rocks, Northmead, Old Toongabbie, Pendle Hill, South Granville, South Wentworthville, and Toongabbie.

It covers an area of 57km and has 103,186 voters.

– The Editor

Julie Owens MP says thank you and farewell to Parramatta



Julie Owens (*above*), the popular and respected member for the last 18 years, has decided not to contest this not always such a safe seat for Labor.

Ms. Owens, who is well known to the Maltese community and is seen in many community functions, told *The Voice of the Maltese* that she could honestly say that she loved every minute of it.

In her released statement, the federal member made these observations:

Parramatta is home to the most fantastic people I have been blessed to meet so many. It has been an honour to represent this diverse and endlessly fascinating community since 2004. But the time has come to spend more time with my family, especially my grandchildren.

My goal in this job has always been to make my community stronger. Because no one is better equipped to solve the problems that we face

After the next general election there will be a new member for the federal seat of Parramatta.

and build a better future for Parramatta than its community.

Our local community and volunteer organisations need support to do this important work. So a small service my office has provided over the past 18 years – a regular grants bulletin – has turned out to be one of the most effective.

I see its impact in the range of smaller organisations that are accessing funding. It has been a joy to watch so many of you see yourselves for the first time – to recognise your value and unique contributions – and to grow. So this is a community asset that I would like to see continue.

I assure you that I will continue to work with you and represent you to the best of my ability right up to Election Day. My office will be there for you, just as it has been for the past 18 years.

It’s not possible to thank all the amazing people and organisations that make Parramatta the best community in Australia in a short statement – but I look forward to thanking you all properly before this Parliament ends.

Thank you for choosing me to represent you. It really is the best job in the world.

The Voice thanks Ms. Owens. She was always available when we needed advice and assistance.



New 9.5km Pembroke to Ta' Qali tunnel project will ensure better quality water

Water Services Corporation (WSC) has reached its most important milestone of the Pembroke – Ta' Qali underground tunnel project by completing the third and last phase of work. The 9.5km tunnel connects the Reverse Osmosis Implant in Pembroke with the Ta' Qali reservoirs.

This is a €30 million investment that will lead to better quality water around Malta, as well as more efficient operations and increased sustainability.

The Reverse Osmosis Implant in Pembroke is the largest WSC implant, where currently works are being finalised to complete the connection between it and the reservoirs situated in Ta' Qali. The connection will ensure more sustainability as the water will be treated and tested to consume less energy, increasing efficiency.

The tunnel equipped with fibreglass will direct water towards Ta' Qali and by means of a feeding hub, the WSC will deliver better quality water to the centre of Malta.

The changing face of Malta - 7

Continuing our series, on two pages, in which we highlight the various projects, infrastructure and/or otherwise, that are changing the face of the Malta that many of the Maltese currently living abroad, particularly those who emigrated decades ago, don't know much about.

This modern technology project that is co-financed by the European Union pollutes less, and would eventually also lead to less electricity consumption and save hundreds of tonnes of CO₂.

As Malta lacks water resources, it is crucial to maintain them. The main principal is that through this project the Maltese citizens are being provided with high quality water, while its provision is having less of an impact on the environment.

Mural at Hamrun depicting Malta's Saint Gorg Preca

A large panting with the face of Malta's Saint Gorg Preca is gracing a wall in Villambrosa Street, Hamrun. The mural was painted by Justin Bonnici who decided to fill up the space on the wall with the mural that also includes a train. The two are symbolic representations of the locality's history. They both date back to the 19th century.

Saint Gorg Preca was born in 1880 in Valletta but grew up and resided most of life in Hamrun. He first lived in a house just opposite the main church at High Street but later moved to Villambrosa Street. He died on 26th July 1962.

The artist, also known as Justinks made the painting following a request by the mayor of the Hamrun Local Council who asked him to have a traditional theme representing the locality.



€12 million Central Business District at Mriehel completed

With business activity expected to double by next year, with an investment of around €12 million, the Central Business District (CBD) in Mriehel has been given a new lease of life with the completion of industrial works. The area that was largely dilapidated and neglected was re-generated.

The district, the first of its kind in an area that covers a land mass the size of Malta's capital, Valletta, saw the completion of the first two phases out of three of the industrial work plan.

Minister for the Economy and Industry Silvio Schembri praised the many infrastructural projects embarked upon by the Central Business District Foundation composed of members of the government and private operators during the first five years and for completing them ahead of dead-

line.

Minister Schembri explained that this project's contribution to the economy is highly significant as more than 270 businesses, most of which are small industries; operate from here, with more than 100 different business activities.

The number of employees in the area reaches more than 12,000 and, with the development that is taking place, it is estimated that by 2022 the commercial activity in the area will increase by ap-

proximately 50% and create hundreds of new job opportunities.

Although this is an industrial area, over time, the number of residents in the vicinity has also increased and therefore investment has been made in projects that improve safety, cleanliness, traffic, and public spaces.

The Minister. "We are realising the dream to make Mriehel a professionally run trade and business area for any thriving and growing operation, where businesses and workers have a point of reference."

The Minister also emphasized the need for sustainable growth and noted the shift to green infrastructure such as LED street lighting, electric charging points and green public spaces and made reference to another site within the Central Business District which is earmarked for a second temporary car park.

Among the projects completed in the first two phases, is the opening of new roads, a new public transport service, as well as temporary parking in the centre of the area.

There has also been an investment of €650,000, that has transformed an abandoned area into a public garden to be enjoyed by workers as well as residents who work and/or live in the Birkirkara area.



New look for Żebbuġ street in the village core

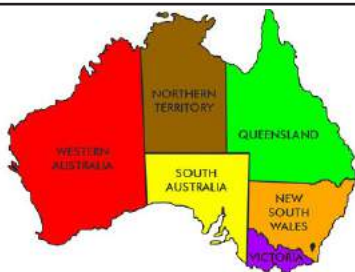
There's something uniquely charming about streets in Malta's village cores, some of which had long been neglected.

It is amazing how a few touches by the experts can revive them.

One such example is Sciortino Street in Haż-Żebbuġ where the upgrading, with new storm-water catchments, new underground networks and a new surface has just been completed. It now blends well with the attractive facades of the buildings found on it as it gives the exact meaning to our series of changing the face of Malta.



Have your say/Xi trid tgħid?



The Voice of the Maltese

Print & Digital magazine

This is a bi-lingual (in English and Maltese) fortnightly magazine that specifically targets all Maltese living abroad with emphasis on the Australian and Maltese scenes.

The magazine can be read in flip-book or PDF format online. A pdf copy is sent via email on request.

Hard copy subscription is also available at a cost.

Editors:

Malta: Joseph Cutajar

Australia:

Lawrence Dimech: MOM, OAM, JP Rt

email address:

maltesevoice@gmail.com

Letters for publication in *The Voice* magazine, either in Maltese or English should include name, e-mail address and residence of the writer, and be e-mailed to: maltesevoice@gmail.com.



Now you can also join us on facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/thevoice-ofthemaltese>

Your letters/ L-ittri tagħkom ...

Magazin li qed iżomm lill-Maltin magħqudin

Dominic-Nazzareno Pantalleresco jikteb minn Malta jikteb:

Grazzi tal-komunikazzjoni *The Voice of the Maltese* li mid-dehra hi aktar organizzata, informattiva, u aktar interessanti min qatt qabel, għalkemm dejjem kienet ta kwalità għolja.

Nawguralkom kontinwazzjoni ta' hidma sfieqa versu l-qarreja ta' din il-*"Vuci"* Maltija u Għawdxija li b'hekk qed iżommhom magħqudin dwar art twelidhom li kellhom iħallu jew jitturufnaw ruħhom minnha, forsi kontra r-rieda tagħhom.

B'din il-pubblikazzjoni għandhom iċ-ċans li jibqgħu magħqudin dwar grajjiet pajjizhom. Għalhekk nagħtikom ħajr tal-hidma tagħkom u tal-ħbieb kontributuri. Minn hawn inselli għalikom u għal dawk kollha li baqħu jagħrfu art twelidhom.

So professional Qed inħallsuhom mit-taxxi tagħna

Paul Spiteri from Brisbane QLD writes:

I follow closely the news bulletins – either streamed or on demand – of the various TV stations in Malta, and also the online news portals. They make me feel so proud to be Maltese, and sometimes I honestly regret that I am not currently living in Malta.

The island's achievements, economically and healthwise in particular have been magnificent in recent years. The way Malta has dealt with, and is still doing, the COVID-19 pandemic has rightly been praised all over, including the international health organisations.

No wonder that many regard the Maltese government's decision-making as most professional, not only in the manner that it has been taking care of the population by becoming one of the first countries to acquire enough vaccines to inoculate everybody, and to also reach immunity (over 94%) but also by helping the business community to safeguard its work force.

Malta is also giving the booster jabs to over 70s and the front liners, and soon also offering it to every individual.

Joe Piscopo minn Werribee, Victoria jikteb:

Għaliex għandna nkunu nteressati fl-SBS Radio? Iva, għax dan hu servizz li nħallu għalih aħna bħala taxpayers.

L-SBS li beda b'ħafna trombi bħala stazzjoni għall-etniċi l-lum spicċa stazzjoni bħall-oħrajn. Kien stazzjon favorit għas-soccer u anke hawn morna l-baħar.

Kellkom artiklu tajjeb ħafna (fl-aħħar ħarġa) dwar kif dawn jimxu maż-żgħar u kif jippruvaw iħawdu billi jgħorgu f'xi stgħarig li mhux faċli li timlih.

Sewwa għamlu l-Kunsilli Maltin meta ppruvaw jiggwidawna kif għandna nimlew l-istħarriġ, iżda naħseb aħjar ikkundannajni biex nuru li mhux se niġu rrumblati iktar.

The SBS radio survey

George Borg from Newport Victoria writes:

Iwould have liked to complete the Radio SBS survey, but as I came to fill it in, I found it to be confusing, if not useless.

They ask for our views, yet we know that they base their decision on the results of the Census.

I was pleased that there was an effort to coordinate replies but do you think that they take more note of the survey and not what comes out of the 2021 census, which is definitely more accurate?

Please Note If interested in advertising on *The Voice of the Maltese* magazine in order to reach the widest audience possible, particularly among the Maltese diaspora is requested to write for details to: Maltesevoice@gmail.com



Dr Hugh McDermott MP State Member for Prospect

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Omm Christine, Mary b'ghafsa ta' qalb thares lejn l-istatwa ta' bintha

Christine Gauci ta' 35 sena, Ghawdx-ija, suldat tal-armata li tilfet hajjitha tragikament waqt li kienet qed toghdos fi Mgarr ix-Xini ma' xi hbieb fit-18 ta' Jannar tas-sena l-oħra, se tibqa' mfakkra mhux biss b'monument li gie mqeghed quddiem id-dar fejn kienet tghix, imma wkoll fl-stess dar fir-Rabat Ghawdex.

Omm Christine, Mary tghid li permezz tal-monument - statwa tat-tifla bl-uniformi - thoss li bintha ghadha magħha. Imma mhux hekk biss, ghax biex tassew tibqa' f'qalbha, iddecidiet li tibdel id-dar ta' Christine f'xelter li joffri terapija lil nies li sfaw vittmi ta' vjolenza domestiku u abbuż.

Fost l-oħrajn, id-dar qed toffri wkoll kenn provizorju għal irġiel li jigu abbużati u joqogħdu lura ghax jisthu jtkellmu u jhossu li m'ghandhomx ma' min jifthu qalbhom minhabba li jibzghu li jistghu jitolfu l-kustodja ta' wliedhom.

Dak li wassal lil Mary għal dan il-ġest kienu l-messaġġi li rċeviet wara l-mewt ta' bintha, li kienu jfahhru l-kwalitajiet ta' Christine li kien hemm min fissirha bhala bniedma li kellha "qalb tad-deheb".

Christine waqt ix-xogħol li tant kienet thobb, ta' suldat



Monument f'giegħ Christine: is-suldat li tilfet hajjitha tragikament

Meta titkellem dwar Christine, Mary, li hi magħrufa għas-sens filantropiku tagħha u hija l-president tal-organizzazzjoni Happy Parenting Malta (for Happier Children) tirrakkonta li ma kinetx xtaqitha issir sudat, imma maż-żmien kienet aċċettat id-deċiżjoni. Minkejja li kienet marret taraha mejta, baqgħet ma setgħetx taċċetta l-fatt tan-nuqqas tagħha.

Christine kienet iddedikata f'hidmietha u rnexxielha tissieheb għal sena mal-armata Ingliża fejn anke serviet fl-Afganistan. Id-dedikkazzjoni u l-professjonalità tagħha wassluha biex tirbah il-*Best Soldier/Pass*.

Wara li giet lura Malta ssoktat il-karriera fl-armata Maltija fejn kienet irrispettata u popolari hafna speċjalment mas-suldati shabha. Prova ta' dan kien il-funeral li għamlitilha l-armata.

Min-naħa tagħha kienet tghin lil hafna nies, allura kien jixraq li jsir dan il-monument f'giegħha.

Mary tirrakkonta li t-tifla kienet tghidilha: "Jien suldat ta' veru", u meta ommha kienet twissiha biex toqgħod attenta, t-twegiba tagħha kienet tinkwetaha hafna. Kienet tghidilha: "L-iktar li jista' jigrili hu li jpoġġuni f'kaxxa u jibagħtuni d-dar."

Il-monument li ntlaga' tajjeb hafna, inħadem mill-iskultur Charlot Spiteri Magri li għalkemm qatt ma ltaqa' ma' Christine, iħoss li sar jafha b'modi oħra; Frans Muscat imbagħad hadmu fil-bronż.

Fil-monument – statwa li ntlaga' ferm tajjeb – Christine hija pprezentata bhala suldat qalbieni.



L-iskultur Charlot Spiteri Magri jaħdem fuq l-istatwa ta' Christine

Perspettiva

A version of this series in English may be found in the author's blog at:
<https://ivancauchi.blogspot.com>

kitba ta'
 IVAN
 CAUCHI



Il-mekkanizmu ta' Antikitera

Fil-bidunett tas-seklu ghoxrin, eżattament fl-1900, instabu xi fdalijiet fuq vapur tal-merkanzija Ruman f'qiegħ il-baħar tal-gżira Antikitera, fil-Greċja. Fost dawn il-fdalijiet, kien hemm ċappa bronż u njam iffossilizzat li hadd ma taha kasha.

Wara xi sentejn, xi hadd induna li dan l-oġġett kien qisu fil-h-gerijiet, u dan tellaq proċess ta' studju li wassal għal konkluzjonijiet straordinarji.

Huwa maħsub li dan il-mekkanizmu kien jintuża biex ibassar il-movimenti tax-xemx u tal-qamar għal għexieren ta' snin bil-quddiem, ibassar l-eklissi kemm tax-xemx kif ukoll dawk tal-qamar, u jagħti d-data ta' diversi logħob li kien organizzat fiż-żminijiet ta' meta nħadem. Dan kien iktar minn elfejn sena ilu, jiġifieri qabel Kristu!

Huwa smat li nħadem bejn 87 q.K. u 205 q.K. Għandu għadd ta' idejn qishom dak ta' arloġġ (kemm fuq quddiem kif ukoll fuq wara) li kull wiehed kien jagħti tbassira partikulari, iskrizzjonijiet bl-alfabett Grieg, bibien b'istruzzjonijiet u tagħrif iehor.

Min hadem dan il-mekkanizmu tant kellu informazzjoni preċiża li anke ha fil-kunsiderazzjoni l-fatt li l-qamar ma jdurx madwar id-dinja f'ċirku imma jqarreb lejn u jitbiegħed mid-dinja fl-orbita tagħha!

Dan il-mekkanizmu kien jithaddem bl-idejn, bl-operatur idawwar ċirku li jirrappreżenta id-data skont kalendarju Egizzjan (għad hemm dibattitu jekk hux wiehed ta' 365 ġurnata u kwart, jew wiehed ta' 354 ġurnata).

Huwa spekulat li kien ukoll ibassar il-movimenti ta' hames pjaneti magħrufa dakinhar, jiġifieri l-pjaneti Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter u Saturn. Għalkemm l-ebda iskrizzjoni jew gerijiet ma nstabu li jirreferu għalihom, fil-manwal li nstab ta' kif jithaddem il-mekkanizmu, hemm deskrizzjoni shiħa ta' kif dawn il-pjaneti jdur madwar l-istilla tagħna. Apparti hekk, hemm xi spazju vojti li jindika li seta' kien hemm gerijiet oħrajn.

Is-sofistikazzjoni u kumplessità tiegħu huma straordinarji, u huwa fuq livell ġeneralment imqabbel ma' oħrajn li deħru fil-ħmistax-il seklu wara Kristu. Ikkunsidraw li l-fdalijiet li nstabu sal-lum ma jiznux iktar minn kilogramm wiehed, u li minnu nstabu 30 ger.

Is-snien tal-gerijiet huma kbar madwar 1.6mm kull wiehed, u l-isparju bejn sinna u oħra huwa ta' madwar 1.2mm. Immaġinaw li dan ix-xogħol ta' ċokon u preċiżjoni sar iktar minn elfejn sena ilu b'għodda tal-idejn!

Dan l-oġġett għidli l-attenzjoni għax għal darb'oħra fakkarni kemm il-bniedem kien kapaċi l-ewwel josserva n-natura, id-dinja u l-kosmos ta' madwaru, u t-tieni li jizviluppa teknoloġija biex



Il-mekkanizmu Antikera, parti mill-fdalijiet misjuba fil-1900 fuq vapur tal-merkanzija Ruman f'qiegħ il-baħar ta' gżira Griega

jitqiesu jew jitkejlu dawn l-osservazzjonijiet tagħhom, bla dubju sabiex ikunu jistgħu jirregolaw l-attivitajiet tas-soċjetajiet tagħhom, per eżempju tal-biedja, u oħrajn ta' natura kulturali u f'dan il-każ saħansitra dawk sportivi.

Ahna mdorrijiet bit-tempji megalitiċi ta' Malta li ġew qabel, li f'Haġar Qim u l-Imnajdra jimmarkaw l-ekwinossi u s-solstizji, u bħallhom hemm oħrajn madwar id-dinja, bħal Stonehenge fl-Ingilterra u Nabta Playa fl-Afrika. Dawn użaw ġebel enormi sabiex jagħmlu l-osservazzjonijiet tagħhom.

Il-mekkanizmu ta' Antikera jagħmel it-tbassir tiegħu fiċ-ċokon u b'sofistikazzjoni li tgħagħeb u li s'issa, mitt sena wara li nstabbet, għadha mhix magħrufa għal kollox.

X'baqa' ta' sofistikazzjoni li s'issa għadu mistur u biss jistenna li jiġi għad-dawl? Ahna fil-ġenerazzjoni tal-Internet u li nafu tant affarijiet, x'għad niskopru li kien minsi? Thossu bħali ċerta umiltà li tant ġenerazzjonijiet ilu diġà kienu għamlu avvanzji kbar fl-astronomija, il-matematika, il-minjaturizzazzjoni?

Thossu bħali l-biża' li tista' tiġi l-ġurnata li ahna l-bnedmin stess nistgħu neqirdu lis-soċjetà tagħna tant li hafna mill-għerf li naħsbu li għandna, jintilef u jintesa, u jgħib magħna bħal ma ghebu tant soċjetajiet tal-passat?

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100 years since the first sitting of Maltese Parliament in 1921

On November 1, Malta commemorated 100 years since the opening of the Maltese Parliament in 1921. It was the first session of the Legislative Assembly and the Maltese Senate after it was granted its Constitution. So a special session was held at Parliament Building in Valletta.

The first parliament was inaugurated by the then Prince of Wales in the Hall of St Michael and St George, the Governor's Palace, Valletta.

The granting of Self Government empowered the Maltese to administer their internal affairs and perhaps the most important moment in its history was the granting of the Constitution of Self-Government in 1921.

In 1919, Sir Filippo Sceberras, the Maltese patriot who worked very hard for the attainment of Maltese autonomy, had rallied the Maltese, and representatives of every constituted body formed part of a Maltese National Assembly that met for the first time on February 25. During it, a request was made to King George V to grant a form of government that would at least ensure full political and administrative autonomy in matters of local interest.

Three months later on May 20, instructions had been imparted to the new Governor of Malta, Field-Marshal Lord Herbert Plumer, to find out, how far it would be possible to grant to the Maltese people a larger share in the government without prejudicing Imperial interests. Therefore, the Assembly, formed a representative commission to draft a Constitution and to get in touch with the new Governor. These proceedings were, however, cut short by the Sette Giugno (June 7) riots in 1919 as the Assembly was in session.

Then on 30 April 1921, hundreds of Maltese congregated in Valletta to witness the proceedings connected with the promulgation of the new Constitution that granted the Maltese responsible government. It meant that Maltese aspirations for autonomy in local affairs were fulfilled. The first elections to elect the legislative assembly on October 18-19 gave Mgr Ignazio Panzavechia's *Unione Politica Maltija* a majority – 14 of the 32 seats, but did not accept the premiership. Instead, Governor Lord Plumer offered the post to Joseph Howard, from Panzavechia's party who thus became Malta's first Prime Minister of Malta.

There was also to be a senate made up of 17 members to be elected every six years. The Maltese side was to have 32 elected members, with seven ministers and the right to pass laws. In the first elections, only males over the age of 21 with property qualifications and proper education had a right to vote.

In that election that took place a month before the opening of Parliament, 27,104 were eligible to vote, but only 20,634 people cast their votes. A small party that had just been formed under the name of Labour Party got 4,742 votes and seven deputies. Col Willie



The inauguration of Malta's first parliament by the Prince of Wales on November 1, 1921.

Savona's Malta Labour Party had also won two seats in the Senate. The elections for the Senate were held on October 5-6, 1921.

The number of those eligible to choose the seven elected seats on the senate was 3,405, with 2,800 casting their vote. The first Speaker of Malta's first parliament (1921-23) was Edward Arrigo.

Howard led the first autonomous Maltese government until 1923 with the support of the Labour Party's seven seats in the assembly.

The first Constitution gave Malta a Government by Diarchy, that is, two authorities; the Maltese Government would handle local affairs, and the Imperial Government would take control of the 'Reserved Matters'.

Parliamentary democracy had to evolve to reflect the realities of society

The latter government controlled all matters related to security, namely military defence, foreign policy, the dockyard, ports and harbours, the issuing of money, passports, censorship, citizenship, airport and communication system. Land and buildings used by the Britain's Colonial Administration and revenue reserved for the Crown were all under Imperial control.

The Maltese experiment with self-government was short-lived, as the Constitution was withdrawn in 1936. Parliament was not yet an expression of legal independence and full factual freedom. Nevertheless, it paved the way for further constitutional development that culminated in Malta achieving political independence generations later.

Between 1921 and 2015, the Maltese Parliament operated in the Grand Master's Palace at Valletta, but since 2015, it has been meeting in a new Parliament building in Freedom Square in Malta's capital.

Today, the House of Representatives has 68 Members of Parliament elected upon the principle of proportional representation by way of a single transferable vote system.

The party winning the majority of votes, but does not enjoy a majority of seats, is awarded,

proportionately, additional seats in order to ensure a parliamentary majority. Currently, Malta is divided into 13 five-seat constituencies electing members for a 5-year term.

There are currently two political parties represented in Parliament: the Labour Party in Government after winning 2017 General Election, with a majority of seven seats, 37; and the Nationalist Party in Opposition with 30 seats. One former Labour seat is occupied by an Independent member. The main functions of Parliament are the enactment of laws and the scrutiny of the Executive.

The last 100 years have seen a lot of changes on the island. Malta is now an independent Republic, and EU Member State.

The celebratory session on Monday November 1 was attended by former parliament speakers and MPs. Current House Speaker Anglu Farrugia said in a short address, that in order to remain relevant and of service to the common good, the parliamentary democracy has to evolve to continue to reflect the realities and aspirations of society.

Notary Miriam Spiteri Debono, the first and only woman Speaker outlined the 100-year history of the Maltese Parliament, and said she believes that Malta has reached political maturity for a change in the electoral system to re-examine the possibility that more than two political formations are represented in Parliament.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Head of the House, Chris Fearn, and the Leader of the Opposition, Bernard Grech, also delivered speeches. Fearn said that the more Parliament is represented, the more legitimacy and moral fibre it has to lead the country. He said however, that one can never relinquish the fact that members of this House are elected members who represent the people and have to respond to the people.

Bernard Grech maintained this was an important occasion to identify the actual state of Parliament and an occasion to look to the future. He described today's parliament as toothless, and said he believed that the House should show more respect towards itself and that the right of the Maltese people in requesting an account, is respected.



Roundup of News About Malta



At COP26 PM Abela warns of grave danger for small islands, commits to double Malta's contribution to Green Climate Fund

Maltese Prime Minister Robert Abela told world leaders at the 26th Conference (COP 26) meeting in Glasgow, Scotland that Climate Change is here, is happening now and is having devastating impacts. He warned of the grave danger for small islands offered assistance to small island developing states, and doubles Malta's contribution to green climate fund.

The parties to the two-week UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, which was meeting after a 12-month pandemic delay, brought parties together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Prime Minister Robert Abela said that world leaders are meeting because they recognise their responsibility and need to work quickly and effectively to find and implement solutions to mitigate the climate change impacts that "give our children hope for a better future and the serenity of mind that we are committed to walk the talk with real global collaboration".

He believes that together they can make the difference for peoples and above all for humanity and our planet. "This is why COP 26 is a turning point for humankind. This is it!" he said.

He maintained that to start with, there's need to make the Paris Agreement work, ensuring it remains the uniting force to combat this reality. To foster a spirit of cooperation and solidarity that recognizes that the whole is much stronger and more impactful than the sum of individual parts.

He pointed out that all the leaders must be committed to play their part for climate change knows no borders, and explained that its implications are universal but its impacts are local and its consequences have a disproportionate impact on the most vulnerable.

Robert Abela reminded the COP26 participants that their commitment to convene in Glasgow must be translated into active, and passionate, commitment to undertake meaningful and impactful actions.

He said, "And as the world slowly recovers from COVID, the lessons we learned must not be ignored and the slogan 'building back better' cannot just remain a rhetorical expression. We must effect real change and convincingly ensure a just transition that leaves no one behind, in a compelling and tangible manner based on digitalisation, talent and a revision of how we measure national value and wealth.

"At the same time, we must reinforce our ambitions for collaboration and solidarity. The prosperity of one country should not translate into the isolation of another. The planet's new future should be based on the alignment of nations in their right for a



Maltese Prime Minister Robert Abela delivering his address at COP26 in Glasgow



better world.

"The truth is that we all have a part to play in mitigating the climate impacts and addressing international adaptation capacities."

When it comes to Malta, the Prime Minister mentioned Malta's commitment to implement an ambitious Low Carbon Development Strategy with ambitious 2030 targets that will lead the island to achieve climate neutrality by 2050.

"For a small country of just over 300 sqkm, with limited natural resources and very limited capacity for emission reductions, these targets are very challenging. But Malta was the country that brought climate change to the attention of the UN General Assembly in 1988 and we want to live up to this legacy," he said.

He pointed out that small island states like Malta are currently in grave danger and therefore we all have a duty to ensure that no coastal state loses any of its rights due to climate change.

"This is why Malta is committed to offer its assistance to small island developing states. We share similar risks. We live common circumstances. And because sharing experiences and transferring knowledge are key components of climate action, we wish to share with small island developing states our experiences and our lessons learnt for a fair and successful decarbonised economy," Robert Abela said.

As he wrapped up his address, the Maltese Prime Minister said that transformation infrastructure and adaptation capabilities need financing, therefore it must be ensured that funds are channelled to where they are most needed.

He said that recognising that developing countries are facing major challenges, as of now, Malta is committing to immediately double its contribution to the Green Climate Fund.

In a final appeal he said: "Let's rise to the occasion. Together we will defeat this global existential threat to give our children what they deserve - a better future."

**Greta Thunberg's comments at Glasgow protest march - page 22.*



Roundup of News About Malta



Malta, GCC discuss situation in Gulf region, enhance relations

Malta President George Vella stressed the importance that Malta attaches to relations with partners in the Gulf region as well as the council itself when he hosted Dr Nayef Falah Al-Hajraf, Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) who was on an official visit to Malta, at Sant'Anton Palace.

President Vella discussed the latest situation in the Gulf region and recalled how relations between Malta and the GCC are presently taking shape in the framework of a Memorandum of Understanding that also includes an action plan that was signed in

January 2017.

He observed that Malta always urged the strengthening of relations between the European Union and the GCC, and pointed out that Malta would welcome the expansion of relations through increased people-to-people contact in the economic, educational and cultural fields.

Dr Nayef Falah Al-Hajraf described Malta as a long-standing and trusted partner of the council. He said that Malta is considered to



From left: Minister Evarist Bartolo, GCC Seg. Gen Dr Al Hajraf, and President George Vella at Sant'Anton Palace

be the members' gateway to Europe.

He also gave an overview of the present state of relations between the members of the council, stating that these have now been consolidated on a number of fronts.

President Vella is expected to visit the Gulf region next year.

Minister for Foreign and European Affairs Evarist Bartolo who accompanied President Vella during this meeting also had discussions with Dr Al-Hajraf. He said that his ministry was in the process of drafting a new strategy for the Gulf, which is a reflection of Malta's commitment to further its ties and cooperation in the region.

In recalling the excellent and long-standing relations between Malta and the GCC, both sides agreed to develop an action plan with a view to enhancing further cooperation in numerous sectors such as trade, investment, food security, education, health and agriculture.

Minister Bartolo emphasised how the security of the Mediterranean and the Gulf were closely interlinked.



Prime Minister Robert Abela (second from right) with Ministers Miriam Dalli and Silvio Schembri, and Seifert's CEO Michael Seifert (extreme right)

Seifert facility is first certified carbon-neutral

Seifert, the German supplier of thermal management products, will be expanding their operations in Malta, with an €8 million investment project that will transform the Maltese facility into the first certified carbon-neutral manufacturing facility and in so doing would also create 100 new jobs.

The project, announced by Prime Minister Robert Abela during a visit to the facility in Hal Far Industrial Estate, together with President and CEO Michael Seifert, is expected to be up and running by September 2022.

The company, that specialises in air conditioning systems for industrial settings, will see the factory equipped with new energy-efficient machinery.

The Prime Minister said that this state-of-the-art project reflects the Government's vision for the manufacturing sector. He thanked the company for choosing Malta to reach its goal of becoming carbon neutral.

PM Abela said that the ambitious carbon-neutral target can only be reached if we collectively make the necessary changes and shift how we live and work. "We cannot have a healthy economy if the environment is side-lined, and we cannot protect our environment if the economy is weak," the Prime Minister insisted.

He added that it is his belief that if Maltese companies find innovative solutions, they will greatly strengthen their position within the market.

PM Abela thanked the company for its resilience during the pandemic, and for holding on to its employees. He noted that Malta is one of the three EU member states where employment increased.

The Seifert President and CEO Michael Seifert said that becoming carbon-neutral is not a marketing stunt, but a duty for the future generations. He announced that the other facilities in other parts of the world will follow suit.

He hailed the Maltese Government's COVID financial package, which, he said, was crucial to keep operating and to retain their workforce.

CHRIS BOWEN MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MCMAHON

Labor

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MCMAHON
Shops 3 & 4, 398 Hamilton Road, Fairfield West NSW
P (02) 9604 0710 F (02) 9609 3873
f Chrisbowenmp t @bowenchris
E chris.bowen.mp@aph.gov.au
www.chrisbowen.net



Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

L-Elezzjoni Ġenerali: meta?

Sa mill-bidu ta' din is-sena xi ġurnali bdew jispekulaw li l-elezzjoni ġenerali kienet se ssir f'Ġunju 2021. Izda meta qorob iż-żmien u dan ma sehħ, l-attenzjoni ntefghet fuq ix-xahar ta' Novembru u aktar ma beda joqrob iż-żmien, aktar kibru l-ispekulazzjonijiet li l-elezzjoni se ssir dax-xahar.

L-iskulazzjonijiet bdew jibru hekk kif ġimgha wara l-oħra tal-Partit Nazzjonalista, kważi ta' kuljum kienu jinsitu li kellhom tagħrif "minn sorsi qrib Kastilja" dwar dan. Saħansitra l-gazzetta ta' nhar ta' Hadd tal-PN, il-Mument semmiet xi dati għall-elezzjoni, u finalment, saħansitra, semmiet id-data preċiża(?) bħala dik tas-27 ta' Novembru.

Min-naħa tiegħu meta kien jiġi mistoqsi dwar id-data, l-Prim Ministru Robert Abela kien kull darba jsostni li l-elezzjoni kellha ssir meta jkun fl-interess tal-pajjiż. Hawn il-Partit Nazzjonalista beda jixli lill-Prim Ministru bin-nuqqas tiegħu kien qed johloq tensjoni fost il-poplu.

Xlewh ukoll li s-sitwazzjoni qed iżżid l-inċertezza fil-pajjiż, b'detriment għan-negozji u l-haddiema li qed jinżammu imdendlin.

Ix-xniegħat u l-ispekulazzjoni bikrija komplew jiżdiedu meta waqt id-diskors tiegħu fil-Parlament, il-Prim Ministru kien qal li biex il-baġit ikun implimentat kollu, il-Gvern kien jinhtieg il-mandat tal-poplu. Dan apparti l-fatt li għet posposta wkoll iż-żjara tal-Papa Frangisku li kienet imsemmija lejn l-aħħar ta' Novembru jew il-bidu ta' Diċembru.

Izda propju meta wasal l-aħħar jum li fih il-Prim Ministru seta' jsejjaħ l-elezzjoni għall-Novembru (din trid tisejjah 33 jum qabel il-jum tal-votazzjoni), Robert Abela habbar li l-elezzjoni ma kienetx se ssir din is-sena, imm s-sena d-dieħla.

Filwaqt li qal li l-inċertezza holqitha l-Oppożizzjoni, il-Prim Ministru qal: "Ma naħsibx li huwa fl-interess nazzjonali li l-elezzjoni ssir din is-sena". Zied jgħid li kien il-PN li ried johloq l-inċertezza.

Insista wkoll li fil-ġimghat li ġejjin il-poplu u anke n-negozji għandhom jithallew jgħixu Milied tajjeb, filwaqt li jkomplu jingħataw id-dozi addizzjonali tat-tilqima kontra l-Covid-19.

It-thabbira għet milqugħa pożittivament kemm mill-midja kif ukoll minn diversi entitajiet, bil-kap tal-Oppożizzjoni jsostni li li Abela fl-aħħar temm l-ispekulazzjoni dwar jekk hux se jsejjaħ elezzjoni bikrija.

Skont il-Kap tal-PN Bernard Grech, Abela stenna sal-aħħar min-uta, u b'mod irresponsabbli, holoq inċertezza għan-negozji. Sostna li tiġi meta tiġi l-elezzjoni, il-Partit tiegħu se jkun imhejji.



Dan għab reazzjoni min-naħa tal-Prim Ministru li sahaq li x-nieghat li l-elezzjoni kienet se ssir f'Novembru holoqhom il-Partit Nazzjonalista, u hekk holoq l-inċertezza.

Li l-hlieqa li l-elezzjoni kellha ssir f'Novembru għet min-naħa tal-Partit Nazzjonalista, u saħansitra ssemmiet mill-editor online tal-Independent, Stephen Calleja, li fil-kontribuzzjoni tiegħu fil-Malta Independent taht it-titlu "How Robert Abela burst the PN's early election bubble" kiteb hekk: *It's been weeks, if not months, that the Nationalist Party hyped up a concocted story that Prime Minister Robert Abela was about to call an early election.*

L-istess Editor irrepeta għal aktar minn darba li kienet il-kampanja tal-Partit Nazzjonalista li wasslet għal din l-ansjetà, għalkemm tefa f'tit tat-tort fuq il-Prim Ministru wkoll meta' kiteb:

"Maybe Abela stretched it a bit too far, and should have ended all speculation long before last Monday, given that it was spiralling out of control and starting to have an effect on the economy."

Fir-reazzjoni tiegħu il-Kap tal-PN sostna li ma kienx il-partit tiegħu li mar żmerč għax attwalment kollox kien lest biex tithabbar l-elezzjoni, imma wara d-diskors tiegħu dwar l-estimi, ma jafx x'għara. Qal li l-Prim Ministru kien verament qed jikkunsidra u ddeċieja li jagħmel elezzjoni, "imma mbgħad xi haġa għara fil-weekend ta' wara li tkellimt jien fil-parlament u ddeċieda mod ieħor," qal.

Data fissa?

L-ispekulazzjoni u l-inċertezza dwar id-data tal-elezzjoni qajjmet diskussjoni dwar jekk tibqax s-sistema preżenti li jkun il-Prim Ministru, bla ndhil ta' hadd, li jid-deċiedi d-data tal-elezzjoni.

Kien hemm min insista li d-data kellha tkun fissa u tithabbar meta jinhatar il-Gvern. Bħal fir-Renju Unit li diġà jaf meta se tkun l-elezzjoni li jmiss.

Li forsi ma ntebhux dawk li taw l-eżempju tar-Renju Unit, fejn is-sistema dahlet fl-2011, kien il-fatt li attwalment, il-Gvern Inġliż qed iressaq mozzjoni biex is-sistema ta' data fissa titneħħa. Anzi x'aktarx li jsir hekk minhabba li l-Oppożizzjoni fil-Parlament Brittaniku qed ukoll taqbel mal-mozzjoni.



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Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri



Wara 33 sena

Mill-qradi kultant joħorġu stejjer li jolqtu l-ghajn mhux għax ikollhom x'jaqsmu ma xi qtil jew każ kriminali, imma għaliex juru ċerti aspetti tal-ħajja soċjali li qed nghixu llum. Aspetti li x'aktarx ilhom isehhu minn żmien żemżem, iżda li forsi fil-passat jew kien jinżammu mistura jinkella lanqas biss ikunu maghrufa.

Każ li tfaċċa dan l-aħħar kien ta' raġel li talab lill-qorti biex tiddikjara li t-tifla li hu rabba' u kabbar sakemm kellha 33 sena fil-fatt ma kienetx tiegħu.

Huwa kien iżżewweġ lill-mara fl-1985 u minn dan iż-żwieġ, sentejn wara twieldet it-tifla. Il-koppja sseparaw fil-2000 u erba' snin ilu ħadu d-divorzju. Madanakollu r-raġel żamm ir-relazzjoni ma' dik li kien jahseb li hi bintu.

Imma sena ilu, l-eks-martu qaltu ċar u tond li dik ma kienetx it-tifla tiegħu imma kienet ikkonċepita minn relazzjoni ekstra-matrimonjali li kien hemm bejnhu u dak li kien iħaddimha.

Ir-raġel ġie konvint li dak li qaltu l-mara kien minnu wara li saru testijiet ġenetiċi. Dan wassal biex ir-raġel jitlob lill-qorti biex tiddikjara li hu mhux missier it-tifla.

Hasda oħra għall-missier kienet dik li mix-xhieda rrizulta li t-tifla kien ilha għaxar snin taf li hu ma kienx missierha, iżda qagħdet lura milli tagħrfu b'dan biex ma twegġa' bl-ebda mod lil dak li mingħalih kien missierha.

Finalment, il-Qorti ddikjarat li r-raġel ma kienx il-missier naturali tat-tifla fil-waqt li l-kunjom tagħha għandu jkun dak ta' ommha. Ordnat ukoll lid-Direttur tar-Reġistru Pubbliku biex iħassar minn fuq l-att tat-twelid tagħha kull referenza għar-raġel, bil-mara tehel l-ispejż kollha tal-kawża.

Pittura toħloq kontroversja

Pittura ta' Manuel Farrugia li saret fil-Bażilika ta' San Ġorġ fir-Rabat, Għawdex qajjmet kontroversja shiha l-aktar fuq il-midja soċjali.

Il-pittura (*fuq*) li tiffirma parti minn serje bl-isem ta' "*Fejn hu ħuk?*" hi ispirata mill-Vangelu. Fil-pittura tpingew tliet figuri, b'dik tan-nofs tkun ta' Lassana Cisse, emigrant li m'ilux kien ġie maqtul b'tiri tan-nar f'Birżebbuġa.

Għalkemm skont l-Arċipriet tal-Bażilika l-pittura ma qajjmet l-ebda kummenti negattivi mill-parruċċani tal-parroċċa, mhux l-istess ġara fil-midja soċjali. Infatti hafna ħarġu bis-shih jikkritikaw din il-pittura, b'uħud jaslu jsostnu li ma kienx sewwa li

jigi mpitter barrani li ġie maqtul u mhux xi Malti li missitu l-istess xorti.

Meta kkummenta dwar din il-kritika, il-pittur qal li kien jistenna ċerta reazzjoni, imma mhux il-mibegħda li ntweriet. Bħala pittur huwa jiffoka fuq l-arti sagra, "imma kemm se ndumu nibbażaw il-pittura fuq il-Bibbja u ma nagħtux każ dak li jiġri madwarna," qal.

Nghidu x'n'ngħidu, wiehed ma jistax jiċħad li f'Malta għad għandna sezzjoni mdaqqsja tal-poplu li ma tantx thares helu lejn nies ta' ġilda sewda. Dan forsi żdied xi ftit minħabba l-kwestjoni tal-immigrazzjoni llegali, għalkemm ta' min jgħid li mhux l-emigranti llegali kollha huma ta' ġilda skura.

Kummenti li żgur li mhux aċċettabbli



Din il-kwalità ta' kummenti fil-midja soċjali mhix limitata biss fejn jidhlu l-immigranti llegali, imma dan l-aħħar qed tiżdied anke fil-qasam politiku.

Każ li ta' min jikkundannah kien tal-kandidata tal-Partit Nazzjonalista, Emma Portelli Bonnici (*xellug*), li hija maghrufa bħala "fawor l-ghazla", jiġifieri li n-nisa jingħataw l-ghazla jekk jagħmlux l-abortion jew le.

Dan l-aħħar ħadet sehem f'konferenza stampa fejn intqal li l-Partit Nazzjonal-

ista, għalkemm kien kontra l-abortion, kien lest għal diskussjoni dwar l-abortion fil-Parlament.

Dan wassal għal tgħajjir personali minn diversi persuni fuq il-midja soċjali, imma fost kulhadd spikka dak li qal qassis żagħżuġ, li sejhilha *bint ix-xitan*, li *kellha tiġi sterilizzata* u kliem ieħor bħal dan.

Hija tassew hasra li nies bħal dawn minflok ma jid-diskutu materji bħal dawn b'argumenti, jispiċċaw f'tgħajjir personali u jaqgħu daqshekk baxx, daqs

kemm waqa' dan il-qassis li żgur jaf li l-Knisja ma tapprovax ċert mibegħda.

Min-naħa l-oħra ta' min jammira l-fatt li fost dawk li taw l-appoggj lil Portelli Bonnici li esprimiet il-fehma tagħha u ħaduha kontra l-kritika negattiva tal-qassis, kien hemm saħansitra l-membri parlamentari Laburista Rosianne Cutajar, u l-kandidata Laburista Rebecca. Qalu li "kulhadd għandu l-jedd li li b'mod liberu jseprimi fehmietu bla ma jiġi attakkat personalment.



A quick glimpse at Australia

Who is lying? Is it Macron or Morrison?

Prime Minister Scott Morrison has insisted he will not accept “sledging of Australia” over a torn-up \$90 billion submarine deal with France. French President Emmanuel Macron accused Mr. Morrison of lying to him about ditching the submarine contract in favour of the US and UK nuclear-propulsion technology.

Mr. Macron told Australian journalists on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Rome “I don’t think; I know” when asked if he thought the Australian prime minister lied to him. “I have a lot of respect and a lot of friendship for your people,” Mr. Macron said. “I just say when we have respect, you have to be true, and you have to behave in line and consistently with this value.”

Speaking from Glasgow, while attending the COP26 climate talks, Mr. Morrison said, “I must say that the statements that were made, questioning Australia’s integrity and the slurs that have been placed on Australia ... I’m not going to cop that on behalf of other Australians.”

In September Australia announced it was cancelling its 2016 contract to acquire conventional Attack Class submarines from French company Naval Group. Instead, the Government would look at the feasibility of acquiring technology for nuclear-powered vessels from the US and UK under an AUKUS pact.

Acting Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce wanted everyone to move on from the submarine issue. “We didn’t steal an island. We didn’t deface the Eiffel Tower. It was a contract,” he said.

Both leaders have been accused of leaking and lying as the diplomatic rift escalates, but it seems that who is in the wrong may not be so clear.



Who is lying, French President Macron (left) or Australian PM Scott Morrison?

Carbon neutrality and Australia

Not everyone is convinced by the Government’s revised climate policy plan handed down by Prime Minister Scott Morrison to secure the nation’s transition to carbon neutrality by 2050 in an “Australian way”

Mr Morrison has sold the plan as a technology-focused approach that “gets the balance right” between harnessing the “opportunities” and limiting the “threats” of the energy transition.

The commitment from the Coalition has been taken over by Mr Morrison to the CO26 United Nations’ climate summit in Glasgow (October 31 to November 12). Grattan Institute Energy and Programme director Tony Wood said the plan marked a step forward, but the technology roadmap didn’t “cover the ground” required for a transition to net zero.

“This isn’t a plan to get to net-zero by 2050 - this is a plan to develop technologies that will contribute to that.” He described the response as “necessary” but

not “sufficient” to reach the destination.

“If we are going to be serious about this, we have to complement the target and the technology plan with the policies and financial markets to deliver it,” he said.

Countries had been called on to increase the ambition of the climate pledges at the COP26 summit, with the United States promising a 50 to 52 per cent reduction and Britain 68 per cent by 2030.

New religious discrimination Bill

The push to introduce the revised religious discrimination bill in the final sitting this year comes almost three years after Scott Morrison promised to introduce a new religious discrimination act after a review into religious freedom undertaken by Philip Ruddock in 2018.

Senator Michaelia Cash, who took over the bill’s progress from Christian Porter when she became Attorney-General in March, is now consulting on a third iteration of the draft legislation in an attempt to overcome internal resistance and fulfil an election promise.

Three issues are understood to face some resistance within the party room: the inclusion of a “Folau clause” that would give legal protection to someone expressing a statement of belief; conscientious objection provisions that would allow health practitioners to refuse to provide certain treatment; and the ability for religious institutions to discriminate against staff on the basis of religion to maintain a “faith-based ethos”.

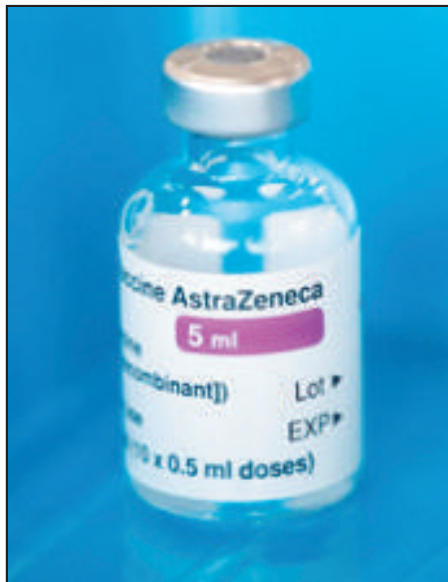


Prime Minister Scott Morrison at the COP26 in Glasgow



A quick glimpse at Australia

Ethical obligation to help neighbours



Catholic Health Australia has called on the Morrison Government to continue manufacturing the AstraZeneca vaccine in Australia to make it available to nations that desperately need it. The Government has announced it does not intend to renew its contract with CSL beyond the 51 million doses the company had already promised to deliver.

"Australia has an ethical obligation to assist poorer nations in the Pacific and beyond to get their populations fully vaccinated against COVID-19 now and into the future," CHA chief executive Pat Garcia said. He urged Health Minister Greg Hunt to ensure Australia continues producing the AZ vaccine and making it available to the World Health Organisation's COVAX initiative.

"We need to consider what kind of neighbour we want to be". Australia is currently preparing to provide booster shots to its

immunised population, while at the same time more than half the global population has yet to receive a single jab. In low-income countries, less than three percent of people have received a single dose of any COVID-19 vaccination.

As with other vaccine-preventable diseases, Australians will only be safe when COVID-19 is suppressed globally, particularly as we begin to open our borders.

Australia and the third Covid dose

The third Covid dose, a booster, will be administered six months after Australians receive their second shot. A third-dose Pfizer shot has been provisionally approved for use as a booster, the Therapeutic Goods Administration has announced.

The booster shot is expected to be delivered to Australians aged over 18 at least six months after the "completion of a Covid-19 vaccine primary series", no matter which vaccine was originally received.

While the TGA noted that there was limited data on the efficacy of a Pfizer booster shot after initially receiving AstraZeneca, experts feel confident that "mix and match" will be beneficial.

The rollout of the booster programme was expected to begin "no later than" November 8. Health Minister Greg Hunt said the booster programme would make Australia not only one of the most highly, and most recently, vaccinated countries in the world but also one of the first to receive a whole-of-population programme.

Earlier this year, the Government secured 60 million doses of Pfizer for 2022 and 25 million doses for 2023, which would enable booster coverage throughout the year.

Is it still the race that stops a nation?

The Melbourne Cup is supposed to be the "race that stops a nation". But there is increasing community concern about gambling and animal welfare. Is the Australians' relationship to the Cup changing?

Gambling is a significant part of Australian culture. Helped by the fact there are pokies in clubs and pubs, and Aussies lose more money on gambling than any other nation. Per capita, their gambling losses are more than double those in the United States.

For many, the Melbourne Cup isn't really about gambling or even horses. It's a reason to dress up and have a few (or more) drinks with friends. Or enjoy a sweep and some nibbles in the office. It's also a welcome public holiday in the State of Victoria. But there is also a growing realisation this party day has real costs to others. In 2020, the horse Anthony Van Dyck became the sixth horse to die in the Melbourne Cup, and the seventh to die in a

race on Cup Day, since 2013.

These deaths have been met with mounting concern about the racing industry. A 2019 report examining stewards' documents from August 2018 to July 2019 found 122 horses died on racetracks in Australia.

Earlier this year, Racing Victoria announced it was implementing new measures to reduce risk to horses. Many of these appear to revolve around the Melbourne Cup in particular, especially international horses, given deaths in recent years have all been foreign runners. But for horses in the thousands of other races across Australia, the risks remain as real as ever.

(For report about the race turn to page 24)



Michelle Rowland MP

Shadow Minister for Communications
Federal Member for Greenway



Level 1, Suite 101C, 130 Main Street, Blacktown

PO Box 8525, Blacktown NSW 2148

(02) 9671 4780

Michelle.Rowland.MP@aph.gov.au

MRowlandMP

www.michellerowland.com.au



Tagħrif dwar il-kitba Maltija u dawk li matul is-sekli ħadmu għall-iżvilupp tal-ilsien Malti

Illum se niddedikaw din il-paġna għall-Kanonku Ġann Piet Frangisk De Soldanis, bniedem importanti ħafna f'Malta li kien magħruf bħala lingwista, storiku u studjuż tal-ilsien Malti li minkejja li maż-żmien dwaru saru wkoll mill-inqas tliet teżijiet dwar aspetti diversi tal-opra tiegħu, fost l-

ewwel li kitbu l-bijografija tiegħu kien il-mibki imma qatt minsi Ġużé Cassar Pullicino. Fl-2010, il-Journal of Maltese Studies iddedika ħarġa speċjali għall-essays tiegħu, u l-għarfien tal-kontribut tiegħu lill-ilsien Malti ġie wkoll rikonoxxut billi f'Malta ġew imsemmija għalih xi skejjel.

ĠPF De SOLDANIS – lingwista, storiku u studjuż tal-ilsien Malti

Ġann Piet Frangisk De Soldanis twieled fir-Rabat Għawdex fil-31 ta' Ottubru tal-1712, u ta' 17-il sena, saħansitra qabel kien ġie ordnat saċerdot, ġie mlaħhaq kanonku tal-Knisja Kolleġġjata tal-gżira Għawdxija. Huwa studja għadd ta' u lingwi f'Malta kif ukoll il-filosofija u t-teoloġija fil-Kulleġġ Ġizwita tal-Belt Valletta.

De Soldanis kiseb ukoll il-lawrja fil-liġi mill-Università ta' Padova, u kien imsieheb f'mill-anqas erba' akkademji Taljani. B'hekk, u bis-safar tiegħu, sar jaf sew dak li kien qed isehh intelletwalment fl-Ewropa u kien midhla tax-xogħol ta' studjużi barranin fosthom uhd li kien il-taqa' magħhom personalment.

Tul haġtu kien magħruf bħala bniedem għaref, ta' kultura vasta mqabbel mhux biss ma'd dawk Maltin, imma anke fil-kuntest Ewropew, u smat ferm minn filoloġi, letterati u riċerkaturi barranin li kienu għarfu l-għerf u l-hila tiegħu fir-riċerka skont in-normi ta' dak iż-żmien.

De Soldanis kien studjuż modern f'ħafna aspetti, dejjem herqan li jagħmel tiftix dwar oqsma differenti tal-għerf, u ma kienx jiddejjaq jaqsam dak li jaf ma' haddiehor biex iwessa' l-orizzonti tiegħu. Kien saħansitra dejjem lest jislef kotba tiegħu lil studjużi oħra.

De Soldanis kien minn tal-ewwel fl-istudju metodiku tal-Malti. Fost ix-xogħlijiet ewlenin tiegħu, miktub waqt li kien Ruma, hemm grammatika tal-Malti li ġiet ippublikata fl-1750, magħrufa fil-qosor bħala "*Della Lingua Punică presentemente usata da' Maltesi...*".

L-ghan ewlieni tiegħu fil-kitba ta' din il-grammatika u tad-dizzjunarju kien li permezz tagħhom ipoġġi l-ilsien Malti fuq l-istess livell ta' lingwi oħra li kellhom alfabet aċċettat u uniformi, kif ukoll dizzjunarju, u b'hekk setgħu jiġu apprezzati. Għal De Soldanis, l-ilsien Malti kien wirt imprezzabbli tal-poplu Malti u għelm tal-identità Maltija.

Minn s'tharriġ li sar dwar din il-grammatika, instab li fil-kitba tiegħu De Soldanis wera ġudizzju tajjeb ħafna meta, wara li kkonsulta lingwisti fl-Università La Sapienza ta' Ruma, ippropona u uża karattri tal-alfabet Latin biex jikteb il-Malti u għalhekk jista' jingħad li kien prekursor tal-użu tal-alfabet Latin użat illum. De Soldanis jistqarr li l-alfabet tiegħu kien ġie apprezz-



Bust ta' Ġann Piet Frangisk De Soldanis fil-ġonna tal-Villa Rundle, ir-Rabat, Għawdex zat minn studjużi barranin.

Kemm De Soldanis, kif ukoll Mikiel Anton Vassalli warajh, ilmentaw u wkoll ikkritikaw il-Malti mħallat - anzi hu sejjahlu "ippastardjat" - li kienu jitekellmu bih xi nies tal-Belt billi jitaljanizzaw il-Malti kemm fil-vokabolarju u kemm fil-pronunzja.

Jingħad li De Soldanis anke wera t-triq u nebbah lil Mikiel Anton Vassalli, li twieled sitt snin qabel il-mewt tal-Għawdexi, fl-istudji lingwistiċi tiegħu.

De Soldanis kiteb numru ġmielu ta' xogħlijiet li qatt ma ġew ippublikati, fosthom wiehed mill-ewwel dizzjunarji tal-Malti li qatt ġew ikkompilati u li ħadlu ħafna snin biex wettqu. Dan jikkonsisti f'erba' volumi manuskritti msejjah "Damma tal-Kliem Kartaginiz imxerred fil-fomm tal-Maltin u Għawdxin". Il-manuskritt, li jinsab merfugh fil-Bibljoteka Nazzjonali ġie studjat sewwa u kien is-sugġett ta' teżijiet ta' livell għoli fl-Università ta' Malta. Kien ukoll mifli sew minn Vassalli meta kien qed jahdem fuq id-dizzjunarju tiegħu.

Dan kollu li De Soldanis għamel għall-ilsien Malti iwassal biex studjużi jhossu li għalkemm l-istudji lingwistiċi ta' De Soldanis ingħataw għarfien misthoqq, imma kien fil-fatt jisthoqqlu wkoll aktar impor-

tanza milli ngħata fl-imghoddi.

Fil-kitba tad-Damma, De Soldanis wera atteġġjament modern fis-sens li dahhal il-kliem kollu użat fi żmien bla ma halla kliem li kien jidhirlu li huwa estranju għall-Malti. Waqt li jagħti t-tifsir tal-kliem Malti, kiteb dwar sugġetti bħal drawwiet soċjali u folkloristiċi u halla wkoll djalogi helwin u naturali bil-Malti, fosthom bejn persuni Maltin jew Għawdxin ta' klassijiet soċjali differenti, li permezz tagħhom wiehed isir jaf aspetti differenti tal-hajja soċjali u ekonomika Maltija tas-seklu tmintax. Hu gavar ukoll ftit anqas minn erba' mitt proverbju u għidut ieħor li kienu kurrenti fi żmien.

Tul haġtu, l-istudjuż De Soldanis kien ukoll meqjus bħala patrijott li kien jixtieq jara riformi soċjali fl-edukazzjoni u aktar emancipazzjoni politika. Biss jingħad li b'danakollu forsi ma żviluppax il-hsieb politiku tiegħu biżżejjed li jindirizza lill-poplu Malti bħala "nazzjon", xi haġa li mnexxielu jagħmilha warajh Vassalli.

Fl-1763 De Soldanis inhatar l-ewwel bibljotekarju, u seba' snin wara, fit-30 ta' Jannar tal-1770 miet fl-età ta' 58 sena, li 38 sena minnhom għaddihom taht is-saltna tal-Granmastru Emanuel Pinto de Fonseca. Wara li f'wahda mill-kitbiet tiegħu De Soldanis fisser ideat li kienu jixhdu x-xewqa għal tibdil politiku f'Malta, dawn m'għogħbux lill-Inkwizitur, tant li xlieh mas-Segretarju tal-Istat tas-Santa Sede li kien ried idahhal repubblika minflok is-saltna awtokratika ta' Pinto.

Dan wassal biex il-Granmastru sejjah lil De Soldanis "insolenti u vili" u rrapportah lil-Papa. De Soldanis spiċċa jiġi interrogat Ruma u ordnat jagħmel apologija lill-Granmastru.

De Soldanis kien iħobb ħafna lil Għawdex. Hu kiteb *Il Gozo antico-moderno* li fih kiteb dwar it-toponomija ta' Għawdex, l-istorja tal-Kolleġġjata u knejjes oħra, il-ġraġja ta' ordnijiet reliġjużi, kif ukoll fuq drawwiet u aspetti folkloristiċi u soċjali tal-hajja Għawdxija. Ipprova wkoll jikteb l-istorja tal-gżira mill-ibghad żminijiet kif kienu jimmaginaw fi żmien, jiġifieri żmien il-ġganti li bnew it-tempji megalitiċi, u wasal saż-żminijiet tal-hakma tal-Ordni ta' San Gwann li ghex taħtha.

Ir-raba' *Leggero e Cantabile*

Mill-Gżira
Għawdxija

Charles Spiteri



Is-sopran Anna-belle Zammit

Ir-raba' edizzjoni ta' *Leggero e Cantabile*, kunċert ta' mużika klassika minn Mariella Spiteri Cefai u l-Ewfonija Ensemble, din is-sena għet imtella' b'suċċess fl-Anfiteatru ta' Villa Rundle, fir-Rabat, Għawdex. L-għan ta' dan il-kunċert hu li jissokta jippromovi t-talent lokali kif ukoll joffri lill-pubbliku wirjiet mużikali ta' kwalità.

Kienu diversi solisti ta' hila li kantaw fl-edizzjonijiet li għaddew u li paxxew lill-udjenza.

Ta' din is-sena ma kinux eċċezzjoni!

Il-hlewwa tal-mużika interpretata f'wiehied mill-isbah ambjenti kulturali f'Għawdxija għamlet tajjeb għall-frisk ta' lejla tal-ħarifa, hekk kif l-udjenza numeruża tpaxxiet tisma' 13-il silta minn biċċiet operistiċi u oħrajn klassiċi, fil-parti l-kbira interpretati mis-sopran Għawdxija Anna-belle Zammit u t-tenur Luis Aguilar.

Taht id-direzzjoni eċċellenti ta' Mariella, li illum il-għurnata l-esperjenza tagħha fid-direzzjoni mużikali flimkien mal-hiliet artistiċi tagħha huma magħrufa biżżejjed, il-kunċert offra fuq siegħa ta' mużika mill-isbah. L-Ewfonija Ensemble paxxew widnejn l-udjenza bi tlett siltiet orkestrali, l-overture mill-opra *L'italiana in Algeri* ta' Gioachino Rossini, l-*Intermezzo* mill-*Cavalleria Rusticana* ta' Pietro Mascagni u l-*Pavane* ta' Gabriel Fauré.

Annabelle Zammit interpretat fost l-oħrajn, l-arias *Vedrai Carino* mill-opra *Don*



Mariella Spiteri Cefai tidderiegi l-kunċert

Giovanni, The Swan Princess arja mill-opra *The Tale of Tsar Saltan* u l-arja legġera *Art is Calling for Me* mill-operetta *The Enchantress*.

It-tenur Luis Aguilar, b'kunfidenza pal-koxenika, seraq il-qlub bl-arji *Questa o Quella* mill-opra *Rigoletto* u *Di Tu Se Fedele* mill-opra *Un Ballo in Machera*. Huwa interpreta wkoll *Mattinata*, l-ewwel kanzunetta li nkitbet espressament għall-*Gramophone Company*, illum *EMI Records Label*, u *Parlami d'Amore Mariù* mill-film *Gli Uomini, Che Mascalzoni*.

Il-lejla kienet imżewqa ukoll b'żewġ dwetti kontrastanti, wiehied romantiku u delikat bl-isem ta' *Ange Adorable* mill-opra ta' Charles Gounod, *Roméo et Juliette* u l-iehor festiv u allegru, il-*Brindisi* minn *La Traviata* li gabet il-kunċert fi tmiemu.

Il-kunċert ittella' bl-appoġġ tal-Kunsill tal-Kultura fi hdn id-Direttorat għall-Wirt Kulturali tal-Ministeru għal Għawdex.

Arti Ġuzeppina f'wiri fil-HAĠAR

L-Isqof t'Għawdex Anton Teuma inawgura wirja temporanja li l-mużew Il-HAĠAR, li jinsab fi Pjazza San Ġorġ ir-Rabat, qed joffri fl-okkażjoni ta' tmiem is-Sena Ġuzeppina proposta mill-Papa Franġisku għall-150 sena mid-dikjarazzjoni ta' San Ġuzepp bħala Patrun tal-Knisja Universali.

Il-Wirja li se tibqa' miftuħa sal-aħħar tax-xahar fiha għażla wiesgħa ta' statwi u pitturi, inklużi buzzetti (*uħud fuq il-lemin*).

Kif saret id-drawwa, "*San Ġuzepp ix-Xhud Sieket*" għandha magħha ktieb ieħor mis-sensiela Il-Haġar GEMS. Barra riproduzzjonijiet bil-kulur tal-esibiti minn kollezzjonijiet privati u pubbliċi, fih ukoll kitbiet interessanti dwar is-suġġett.





Il-Corte Capitanale fl-Imdina

Il-Corte Capitanale (fuq) kienet is-sede tal-Qrati tal-Kunsill Muniċipali (l-Università) tal-Imdina li tfasslet minn Charles Françoise de Mondion u nbni għall-bidu tas-seklu tmintax hdejn il-Palazz Magisterjali.

Il-faċċata monumentali għandha bieb imponenti b'żewġ kolonni li qed iżommu gallarija ċentrali u żewġ figuri li jirrappreżentaw il-Hniena u l-Gustizzja.

Il-palazz jagħti għal fuq misraħ żgħir li għal hafna snin kien il-post fejn kienet tiltaqa' d-dejma tal-Imdina.

Il-Corte Capitanale ġie mibni bejn l-1726 and l-1728 flimkien mal-bqija tal-Palazzo Vilhena, li kien ir-residenza uffiċjali tal-Grand Master. Kien ukoll iservi ta' Qorti u s-sede tal-hekk magħruf bħala l-Capitano della Verga.

L-assoċjazzjoni tal-palazz kienet bhal biex tissimbolizza r-rabta tal-qrati li kienu taħt il-gurisdizzjoni tal-Ordni ta' San Ġwann.

Il-Qorti kellu wkoll rabta mal-Palazz tal-Isqof permezz ta' passaġġ taħt l-art, illum imblukkat, biex juri s-sehem importanti li kellha l-knisja mal-qrati.

Illum il-binja hija s-sed tal-Kunsill Lokali tal-Imdina u meqjusa bħala Monument Nazzjonali ta' Grad 1.



Bejn il-ħamsinijiet u s-sebghinijiet, il-Paramount Kiosk fil-pjazza ta' Raħal Ġdid kien fost l-aktar postijiet popolari għal min kien irid iqatta' f'tit hin fil-pjazza u fl-istess waqt jitrejjaq b'xi pizza, timpana, patata ċipps jew xi biċċa tiġieġa. Hafna li kienu jiffrekwentawh jgħidu li l-ikel li kien jipprovdli kien ikun ġenwin u tajjeb daqs tal-aqwa ristorant. Fl-isfond jidher kampanar tal-knisja parrokkjali tal-post iddedikata lil Kristu Re.

A feast of literature, music, and satire in Valletta

For the Valletta Cultural Agency, VCA November is a feast of literature, music, and satire. It offers a great attraction for families in the heart of Valletta.

The month kicked off with the *TNAX - 'Triqitna'* photo exhibition (Nov.1 to Dec 6) in St John Street) created and produced by VCA in collaboration with the Valletta Local Council.

It was followed in the first week at the Royal British Legion, Melita Street, with *Bil-Malti Pur*, an evening of Maltese satire with *Čikku l-Poplu* under the guise of a musico-literary evening.

It consisted of a selection of literary works from the National Secret Archive and included letters from Piyale Pasha to the Sultan Suleiman during the Great Siege of Malta, and epistles of St Paul to the Maltese which, alongside with original songs were presented to the public for the first time. During the sessions, everything and everyone was targeted for the songs including politics, the environment, culture, and society.

This is being followed, from November 11-14 in various locations in Valletta, by the Malta International Double Bass Days,

a festival for all bass lovers in all levels of playing - from absolute beginners to professionals, playing the double bass, bass guitar and mini bass. It features The Double Bass - by Patrick Suskind, a monodrama performed by Christopher Spiteri and a performance of California Duets by Diego Zacharies and Gjorgji Cincievski in the streets of Valletta. Internationally acclaimed double bassists and performers would also be holding masterclasses.

Then on November 18, VCA will organise the *Stejjer Stretti Jirxoxtax* concept in collaboration with a group of *ghannejja* for a performance dedicated to the re-telling of infamous stories that characterise the history of Strait Street.

The evening is bound to provide an insight to the personalities of Marija s-Sewda, Cleric Nazju Falzon, Corsair Lorenzi, and Caterina Vitale, amongst other renowned names and occurrences associated with Strait Street, such as Caravaggio's brawl and the murder of the young Twanny.

In close collaboration with VCA and Esplora Interactive Science Centre, on November 20-21, MICAS will present the

Shadow Colour Pavilion event, an immersive sensorial experience, offering visitors the opportunity for playful creative engagement.

Visitors from all age groups are being invited to actively participate and explore their creativity by moving within the pavilion and generate multiple coloured shadows.

Then as part of VCA's Christmas in the City programme, from 22nd November people would be invited to enjoy the Christmas Tree in Freedom Square, in front of Parliament and the Christmas lights in Republic Street and Merchants Street, Archbishop Street and Strait Street.

The last few days of the month are set for, the 1920s *Capitol Cinema - Vintage Reels* at the Bibliotheca, Republic Square, Valletta (Nov 26-27).

Meanwhile, *Ejj'Oqghod*, the new installation in South Street immerses passers-by into a fun and colourful vibe. It is inspired by the architecture of Valletta, light artist, Carl Caruana who has created a hanging lamp exhibition that can be enjoyed by the public until mid-January.



A section of the gathering. Mary Abela, the organiser is third from the right, standing

Maltese gathering at Shellharbour

The last Sunday of October (the 31st) was a bright sunny day with a beautiful breeze. It was a perfect day for the Maltese of Shellharbour and the Illawarra to enjoy a day in the park, by the seaside.

Mary Abela organised the *Mejda Maltija* with more than eighty people of all ages in attendance. Both the theme of the day and lunch were on par with the style we used to enjoy when spending days by the sea in Malta before emigrating to Australia. It must have brought a lot of memories from back then to the not so young.

The lunch offered was well planned. It

was plentiful, including Maltese bread, baked on the day especially for the occasion, sweets, tea and coffee. Anybody wanting something stronger had to supply his or her own.

The Maltese Consul General of NSW Lawrence Buhagiar and Mrs Buhagiar, the President of the Maltese Community Council of NSW, Ms Miriam Friggieri, the retired Fr. Leonard Testa and the Franciscans Sisters from St. Joseph convent of Port Kembla also attended. I was also present as treasurer of the Maltese Community Council.

It proved to be a terrific and relaxing day

in the park. Looking forward for the next one.

George BARTOLO OAM

*Note:

The Illawarra is a coastal region in the Australian state of New South Wales, nestled between the mountains and the sea. It is situated immediately south of Sydney and north of the South Coast region. It encompasses the three cities of Wollongong, Shellharbour and the town of Kiama. Wollongong is the largest city of the Illawarra with a population of 240,000, then Shellharbour with a population of 70,000 and Kiama with a population of 10,000.



Supporters of Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg (inset), including kids who skipped school during the demonstration in Glasgow

Activist Greta Thunberg tells mass protest COP26 has been a 'failure' and 'a green washing festival'

It amounted to little more than “a two-week-long celebration of business as usual and blah, blah, blah” She even went as far as to brand the United Nations climate summit in Glasgow a “failure” during a mass protest in the Scottish city demanding quicker action from leaders to address the emergency.

Ms Thunberg said pledges from some nations made during COP26 to accelerate their emissions cuts amounted to little more than “a two-week-long celebration of business as usual and blah, blah, blah”. She went on to tell the thousands of people at the protest, “It is not a secret that COP26 is a failure,” adding: “This is no longer a climate conference. This is now a global green-washing festival.”

Delegates from nearly 200 countries were in Glasgow to hammer out how to meet the Paris Agreement goals of limiting temperature rises to between 1.5 and 2 degrees Celsius.

The first week of talks saw countries announce plans to phase out coal use and to end foreign fossil fuel funding, but there were few details on how they planned the mass decarbonisation that scientists say is needed.

The promises followed a major assessment that showed global CO2 emissions

are set to rebound in 2021 to pre-pandemic levels. “They cannot ignore the scientific consensus and they cannot ignore us,” said Thunberg. “Our leaders are not leading. This is what leadership looks like,” she said gesturing to the crowd.

Two days of demonstrations took place by activist groups to highlight the disconnect between the glacial pace of emissions reductions and the climate emergency already swamping countries across the world. “Another world is necessary”.

Onlookers to the march lined the streets and hung out of windows to watch the stream of protestors, who held banners reading “No Planet B” and “Climate Action Now”.

“I’m here because the world leaders are deciding the fate of our future and the present of people that have already been impacted by climate crisis,” 18-year-old Valentina Ruas said. “We won’t accept anything that isn’t real climate policy centred on climate justice.”

Students were out in force, with some schools allowing pupils to skip lessons to see the march and one young green warrior holding a placard that read: “Climate change is worse than homework”.

Experts say a commitment made during the high-level leaders’ summit at the start

of COP26 by more than 100 nations to cut methane emissions by at least 30 per cent this decade will have a real short-term impact on global heating. But environmental groups pointed out that governments, particularly wealthy polluters, have a habit of failing to live up to their promises.

Vanessa Nakate told the crowd that people in her native Uganda were “being erased” by climate change. “People are dying, children are dropping out of school, farms are being destroyed,” she said.


Countries came into COP26 with national climate plans that, when brought together, put Earth on course to warm 2.7C this century, according to the UN. With just 1.1C of warming so far, communities across the world are already facing ever more intense fire and drought, displacement and economic ruin wrought by the Earth’s heating climate.

“Scientists have done what they need to do, they’ve told us about the problem. Young people have done what they need to do by calling attention to this issue,” said Natalie Tariro Chido Mangondo, a Zimbabwean climate and gender advocate.

“And it’s just up to our leaders to get their act together.”

**Read also Maltese Prime Minister Robert Abela’s speech at COP26 on page 12*


Community News



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La Valette Social Centre

La Valette Social Centre Inc. 175 Walters Road, Blacktown Tel. 96225847

NOTICE: La Valette Social Centre has started operating again on Thursdays and Saturdays. Upon entry patrons will need to prove that they have received a double dose COVID-19 vaccination approved in Australia. Until further notice, no masses will currently be held, while rosary will be recited on Thursdays from 10:15am. Mask wearing is mandatory indoors.





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Event for 2021
Sunday December 5:
Festa San Nikola

Tune in to Radio and Television

MELBOURNE: on 3ZZZ 92.3FM or on www.3zzz.com.au. Mondays 5-6 pm, Fridays 5-6 pm and Saturdays 10-11am.

MELBOURNE: on 98.9 North West FM, every Friday 6.00 - 7.00p.m. and Mondays 7.00 to 8.00pm. Presenter: Emmanuel Brincat.

On SBS Radio
Day Time Analogue and Digital Tuesdays and Fridays: 12:00-13:00 97.7fm SBS 2.
(To tune into digital radio you need a receiver or device with a DAB+ chip. Tuning in is by station name not frequency. 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-Kunsill Malti ta' NSW minn fuq l-is-tazzjon 2GLF 89.3FM. Also On Demand on I-Internet: www.893fm.com.au)
On Demand: Ethnic Maltese Council 11am)
Il-Hadd 11.00 am: l-aħħar aħbarijiet minn Malta, mużika, tagħrif, kultura, avvizi u suġġetti ta' interess.

SBS Radio 2 on Channel 38. Programmes can be accessed online (live/catch up) at: sbs.com.au/maltese (mobile), using the SBS Radio app.

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

SBS MALTESE NEWS: L-Aħbarijiet are now on SBSTV Viceland HD Chan-

nel 32 every Sunday at 8.00 a.m. and on Thursday at 8.00 a.m.

BRISBANE listen to the Maltese Programme on 4EB on Tuesdays 6.00 - 8.15am; Sundays 4.15pm to 5.15pm.

Maltese Community Radio Adelaide: Maltese Programmes on 5EBI 103.1fm: **Sunday:** 7.30am; **Monday:** 8.00 am; **Monday:** 6.00pm.

Contact: Bernadette Buhagiar: 0420 944 205. Email bernadettebuhagiar@gmail.com 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

Programmes on 89.3 Fm 2GLF
Maltese voices: One hour of Maltese talent, songs from Maltese artists. Sundays @ 10.00 am to 11.00 am. Marthese Caruana: 11.00 a.m.: MCC programme

These programmes are also on Demand for 4 weeks from the website of 2GLF 89.3 FM - follow - Ethnic - Sunday 10.00am and 11.00 am



Malta's final commitments in World Cup 2022 qualifiers

Malta will be playing its last two remaining fixtures in football's 2022 Group H World Cup Qualifiers when it takes on Croatia, this coming Thursday, and Slovakia on Sunday 14th, both at the National Stadium at Ta' Qali.

Malta's next opponents will be tough opponents. They occupy second and third positions in the group with Croatia even well placed to challenge Russia to win the group. Russia currently occupy the top position, two

points ahead of Croatia (19 to 17).

Both matches are return ties to those played away. Croatia won their home match rather convincingly, by 3-0, while Malta managed to hold Slovakia to a 2-2 score.

Malta have so far managed five points from eight outings and especially when it comes to the Slovakia tie, expectations are quite high. Not so Thursday's match with Croatia, although an improvement has been made.

Team Coach Devis Mangia himself has also

noted that confidence among the players has grown but it does not mean that one can raise the expectations.

He said that this is part of a project and the team would not reap immediate benefits but has to go through a process step by step.

Mangia has recalled Hibernians' pair Andrei Agius and Bjorn Kristensen. Both had been left out of the last internationals because of suspension. They could even form part of the team from the start

Hibernians retain three points lead at the top

At the end of Day 8, before the break for the national team's commitments, Hibernians retained their three points lead on top the BOV Premier League ladder following their 1-1 draw against their closest rivals

DAY 8 RESULTS

Hibernians v Birkirkara	1-1
Floriana v Gzira Utd	2-1
Valletta v Sta Lucia	5-3
Hamrun S. v Sirens	1-0
Balzan v Gudja U	3-1
Mosta v Sliema W	3-2

STANDINGS

Teams	P	W	Pts
Hibernians	8	5	18
Birkirkara	8	4	15
Floriana	8	3	13
Valletta	8	4	13
Hamrun	8	4	12
Balzan	8	4	12
Sirens	8	3	11
Gzira U	8	2	9
Mosta	8	2	9
Gudja U	8	2	7
Sta Lucia	8	0	6
Sliema W.	8	0	4

Birkirkara. Victory also helped the Paolites to extend their unbeaten run to eight matches.

Birkirkara drew first blood by scoring after 43 minutes from a penalty by Luke Montebello with Hibernians levelling in the 46th through Leandro Almeida.

Floriana came back from a goal down to beat Gzira United 2-1 that gives them a share of third posi-

tion with Valletta. For Gzira this back-to-back defeat leaves them a lowly eighth. Took the lead in the 4th minute and four minutes later Justin Haber denied Floriana the equaliser when he saved their penalty.

However, eight minutes in the second half, Gzira were reduced to 10 players when Luke Tabone was red carded. Floriana took advantage of that by first levelling (78th min) and then getting the winning tally (89th).

Following their disappointing start, Valletta are now back in the reckoning and are now sharing third pot after beating Santa Lucia 5-3 with Shaun Dimech getting a brace for them within the first five minutes.

In other matches, Hamrun narrowly defeated Sirens 1-0 with a Joseph Mbong goal, Balzan narrowly defeated Gudja 1-0, and Sliema, in bottom spot keep searching for their first win after losing to 2-3 to 10-men Mosta.

Verry Elleegant wins Melbourne Cup 2021

Reigning Australian horse of the year Verry Elleegant, ridden by James McDonald (*below*) won this year's Melbourne Cup, the race that stops the nation at Flemington racecourse. It finished three-and-a-half lengths in front of the overwhelming pre-race favourite Incentivise

On the way to victory in front of a 10,000-strong fully-vaccinated crowd, trainer Chris Walker's mare won the \$A8m race over 3,200m. UK-trained Spanish Mission crossed the line in third.



Malta to host Special Olympics Games 2022

Next year, Malta will host the Special Olympics Invitational Games Malta 2022 to be organised by Special Olympics Malta, SOM, hosting around 1300 athletes from 25 countries across Europe and beyond for a five-day event (May 13-18) competing athletics, bocce, football, swimming, table

tennis and tenpin bowling.

Special Olympics is a global organisation that each year serves athletes with intellectual disabilities working with hundreds of thousands of volunteers and coaches.

SOM provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of

Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. It gives the participants with intellectual disabilities continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics Athletes, and the community.

In an informal meeting with the around 40 coaches, Special Olympics Malta president Dr Lydia Abela said coaches are crucial for the development and training of the athletes, particularly those who work closely with kids and youths with special needs and particular challenges.

Sue Abela becomes Euro Tenpin Bowling champ

Reigning Malta National Tenpin Bowling Ladies Champion Sue Abela added another title to her long list by winning becoming European Champion after she defeated Danish Champion Mika Guldbæk in a thrilling best of three final in Chania, Greece.



The president of Special Olympics Malta Dr Lydia Abela (*centre*), the Minister for Inclusion and Social Wellbeing, Julia Farrugia Portelli and the Secretary for Sport, Recreation and Voluntary Organisations Clinton Grima (*front*) with the coaches