



The Voice of the Maltese

(We are for the Greater Malta)

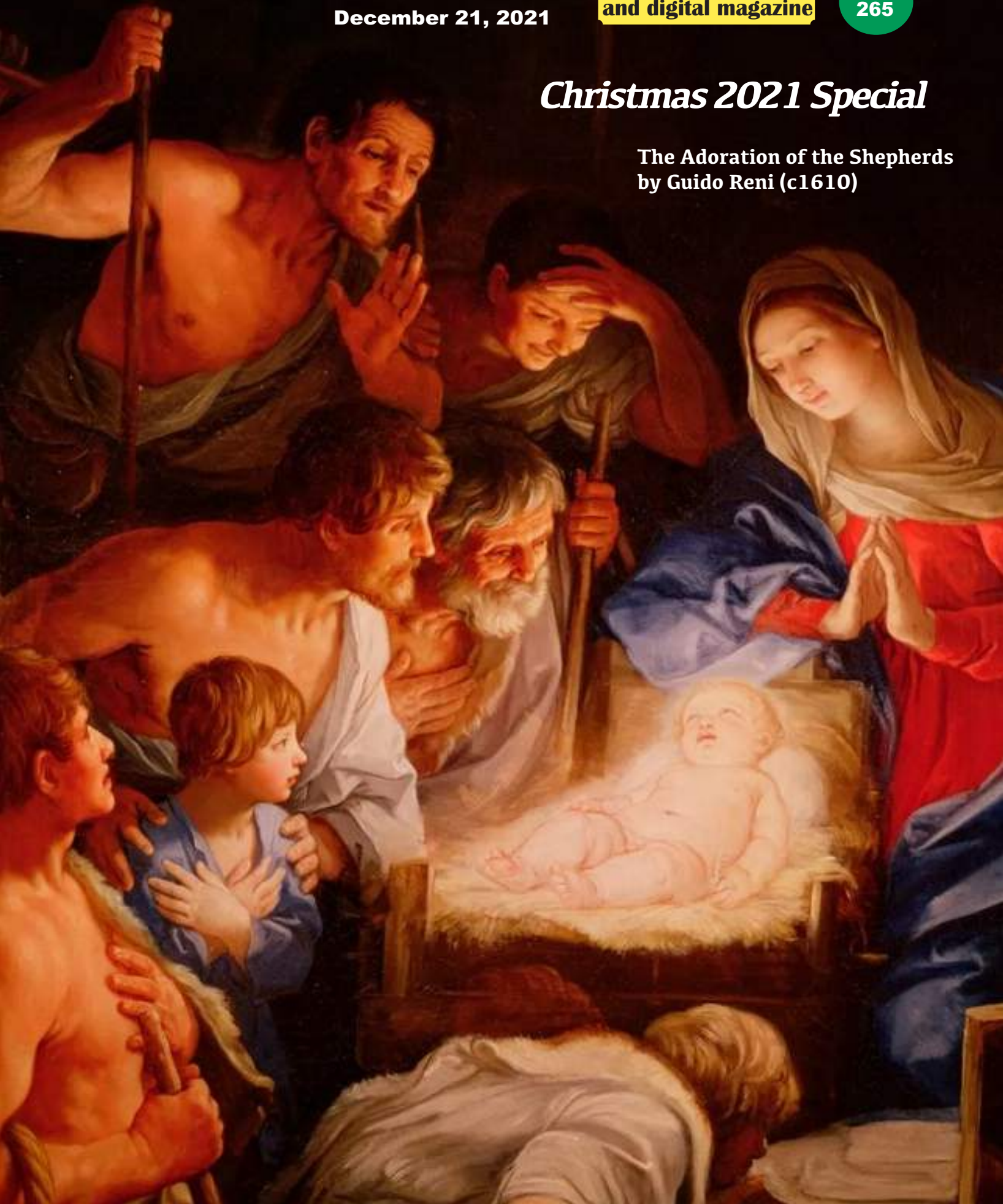
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Christmas 2021 Special

The Adoration of the Shepherds
by Guido Reni (c1610)



Il-Messagg tal-President tar-Repubblika ta' Malta, l-E.T. Dr. George Vella lill-Maltin li jghixu barra

Gheziez Maltin u Ghawdxin,

Minkejja d-distanza fizika u z-zmien li firidkom minn dawn il-gzejjer, intom tibqghu vicin taghna kemm fil-hsieb u kemm f'qalbna.

Ghalhekk, bi pjacir niehu l-opportunita' naqsam dawn il-kelmejn qosra maghkom u nawgura lilkom u lil grabatkom xewqat sbieh f'dan iz-zmien hekk specjali tas-sena.

Forsi kienu ftit dawk li bassru li s-sitwazzjoni fl-2021 se tkun qed tixbah hafna lil dik tal-2020. Nistqarr maghkom, li bhal hafna, nixtieq li nsibu soluzzjoni f'qasir zimien imma dejjiema biex neghlbu l-effetti hzieta tal-pandemija. Izda jidher li dan il-virus ser jibqa' johloq sfidi li kull ma jmur iktompli jinbidlu u li ser jiehdu fit-tul.

Nappella ghalhekk biex aktar nies jisimgu minn dak li qed tghidilna x-xjenza u jsegwu b'aktar attenzjoni il-pariri tal-professionisti, fosthom mezz ta' prekawzjoni, bhal ma huwa t-tehid tat-tilqim.

Nemmen li l-koperazzjoni internazzjonali, speċjalment bejn pajjizi sinjuri u dawk anqas sinjuri, hija kruċjali biex bhala familja wahda nkompli nimxu 'l quddiem. Minkejja d-distanzi geografici bejnietha, ahna lkoll nibqghu kommessi nilhqu l-miri tas-Sostennibiltà 2030, u nizguraw li ma nhallu 'l hadd barra, jew kif inhu maghruf il-motto bl-Ingiliz, *Leave no one behind*.

Minghajr ma' nnaqqas mill-emergenza medika li holqot din il-pandemija, inhares lejn is-sena l-gdida b'ottimizmu u nawgura li nsibu bilanc' ahjar bejn l-isfidi tas-sahha u l-harsien tad-drittijiet fundamentali tal-bniedem.

Ma nistax ma nsemmix lil dawk il-haddiema kollha li jahdmu fil-qasam tas-sahha u nsellmilhom ghad-determinazzjoni u r-reziljenza taghhom biex tul dawn l-ahhar xhur, komplew ikunu eroj ghalina lkoll.

Sinjuri, Hekk kif din is-sena waslet fil-ghabex taghha, ninsab fiducju' li l-grajjiet li komplew isawru lil gziritna ma nistghux inharsu lejhom minn lenti izolata, izda f'kuntest regionali u internazzjonali.

L-effetti tat-tibdil fil-klima, l-emergenza umanitarja li qed tiehu xejra serja f'certu partijiet tad-dinja, u l-livelli ta' inugwaljanza bejn il-pajjizi fit-tramuntana u dawk fin-nofsinar, qed iktompli jkatru sistema ingiusta u ta' hsara ghad-dinja taghna.

Il-bejgh u t-traffikar tal-armi, speċjalment f'zoni ta' gwerra u pajjizi jissieltu mal-forzi tal-estremizmu, iktompli jxekklu l-isforzi kollettivi taghna favur il-paci u l-ghaqda.

Nappella biex aktar pajjizi jaghrfu l-hsara li ggib maghha politika militarizzanti u jizguraw li l-ligi internazzjonali tkun ghodda favur id-drittijiet fundamentali u mhux arma ta' sterminju.

Nilqa' bi pjacir id-diskussjonijiet COP26 fuq l-emergenza tal-klima li saru ftit tal-gimghat ilu fi Glasgow. Permezz tad-djalogu u r-rispett reciproku, dawn id-diskussjonijiet jixhdu familja internazzjonali li ghalkekk thaddan bosta

divergenzi politici, lesta tahdem flimkien biex tinstab soluzzjoni.

Hija din l-ghaqda msawra fuq id-djalogu li twitti t-triq ghal bidla pozittiva u fit-tul.

Permezz tal-Ufficju tieghi, jien ukoll hdimt bis-shih biex insahha id-djalogu bejn partijiet differenti fis-socjeta Maltija. Minkejja r-restrizzjonijiet, bi pjacir nggid li matul l-2021, ippresedje fuq bosta konferenzi li jindirizzaw l-ghaqda nazzjonali minn angoli differenti. Il-Konferenza dwar l-Ghaqda Nazzjonali mtellgha fi Frar, il-Konferenza f'Gheluq il-Mitt Sena mill-Kostituzzjoni f'April, u l-Konferenza Dwar l-iStat tan-Nazzjon f'Gunju, kienu inizjattivi importanti u li gabu flimkien bosta organizzazzjonijiet, esperti u hassieba differenti.

Bi pjacir naqsam maghkom li bhalissa ghaddejjin il-preparamenti biex f'Marzu 2022, flimkien mal-Albertain Cultural Foundation, se nkun qed norganizza t-tieni Forum Dinji ghal Kultura ta' Paci. Permezz ta' partecipazzjoni internazzjonali, dan il-forum se jkun qed iservi ta' pjattaforma importanti ta' diskussjoni u katalist globali biex tkompli tinbena kultura ta' paci.

Nistedinkom biex anke intom tkunu parti mid-diskussjoni lokali u permezz ta' opportunitajiet varji tersqu grib il-grajjiet kurrenti tal-gzejjer Maltin u tkebbu fil-generazzjonijiet iz-zghar interess u mhabba ghal-kultura u l-lingwa Maltija.

Din tal-ahhar qiegghda ghal qalbi ferm ghax hija l-aktar espressjoni hajja tal-gens taghna u li komplet taqdina bl-ahjar mod, minkejja influwenzi minn barra u teknologija gdida. Huma ftit dawk il-popli li jistghu jiftahru b'islen uniku li kompli jevolvi matul is-snin.

Nifhem li kienu bosta dawk li soffrew mhux ftit minhabba n-nuqqas ta' safar lejn Malta u t-tghanniq u l-ferh li ggib maghha laqgha bejn il-familjari. Ghalkekk it-teknologija taffiet xi ftit il-firda, l-istampa fuq il-mobile jew il-komputer, ma jista' qatt ikun l-istess bhall-kuntatt uman.

Nawgura li matul ix-xhur li gejjin l-ivjaggar bejn il-pajjizi jkompli jkun permess u tkunu tistghu zzuru pajjizna bla xkiel. Anke jien, nittama li nkun nista' nerga' nibda biz-zjarat tieghi lill-komunitajiet ta' Maltin li Jghixu Barra.

Ftit tal-gimghat ilu, kelli l-pjacir inzur il-pazjenti Maltin li jinsabu rikoverati Londra u haad l-opportunita biex niltaqa' wkoll ma' ghadd ta' sorijiet u patrijiet li jahdmu fosthom. Dawn huma laqghat li jmissu l-qalb, izda huma wkoll laqghat li jnissu l-tama u l-kuragg ghal gejjieni ahjar.

Bhal ma kienet il-laqgha li kelli ma' numru sabih ta' konsulenti Maltin fil-Kirurgija u l-Medicina, li jikkupaw pozizzjonijiet gholja fl-aqwa sptarijiet fir-Renju Unit.

Naghlaq billi mill-gdid nawgura lilkom u lill-gheziez taghkom, xewqat sbieh ghal Milied Hieni.

Fuq kollox, ir-risq u s-sahha ghal sena mimlija hena, paci u mhabba.

Insellmilkom



The editors of The Voice of the Maltese wish all our readers and their families a wonderful and Blessed Christmas! May it bring you joy, happiness and all that you desire.

Happy Christmas

Also may the New Year 2022 be one of health, happiness, wealth, wisdom, peace and prosperity.

Happy New Year

The Voice of the Maltese will now take a break for the festive season.

This is the last issue for 2021.

We will be back with the first issue for 2022 (No. 266) on January 18.

Messagg mill-Prim Ministru ta' Malta Dr. Robert Abela

Għeziez ċittadini Maltin u Ghawdxin,

Għalkemm tgħixu 'l bogħod mill-gzejjer Maltin, ninsab ċert li żżommu Malta f'qalbkom kull fejn tkunu u kull fejn tmorru.

Sfortunatament din hija t-tieni sena konsekuttiva li qed niċcelebraw il-festi fl-isfond ta' restrizzjonijiet minhabba l-pandemija tal-COVID-19.

Filwaqt li l-għlieda tagħna kontra l-pandemija tkompli, irnexxielna nżommu s-sitwazzjoni taht kontroll permezz ta' programm ta' vaċċinazzjoni effettiv.

Iżda l-għadd ta' infezzjonijiet madwar id-dinja qed jerga' jizzied. Irridu nibqgħu attenti u niehdu l-prekawzzjonijiet kollha.

Għalhekk l-appell tiegħi lil dawk kollha li għadhom ma ħadux il-vaċċin, jew lil dawk li waslu biex jiehdu l-booster huwa biex titlaqqmu mill-aktar fis. Għax hu permezz tal-vaċċinazzjoni li nistgħu niproteġu s-soċjetà tagħna mill-pandemija.

Malta għandha l-ogħla numru ta' persuni mlaqqma mill-pajjiżi kollha Ewropej, u ninsab sodisfatt li salvajna ħafna ħajjiet propju minhabba l-programm ta' vaċċinazzjoni li implimentajna.

Huwa permezz ta' dan l-istess programm li stajna nibdew ngħixu egreb għan-normalità.

U fi spirtu ta' solidarjetà f'dawn iż-żminijiet diffiċli, għamilna donazzjoni ta' test kits u dożi ta' tilqim lill-pajjiżi girien tagħna t-Tuneżija u l-Libja, lill-Irwanda, il-Ghana u l-Iran.

Ninsab kuntent li l-isforzi tagħna ġew rikonoxxuti mill-Organizzazzjoni Dinjija tas-Saħħa, u li pajjiżna huwa l-ogħla donatur tal-vaċċinazzjonijiet per capita tal-Unjoni Ewropea.

Malta se tkompli taħdem fil-għlieda globali kontra l-pandemija tal-COVID-19, billi nagħtu l-appoġġ tagħna fejn ikun hemm il-bżonn, b'sens ta' solidarjetà u anke multi-lateralizmu.

B'dan il-mod, inkunu qed nagħmlu ħilitna biex nevitaw id-differenzi bejn il-pajjiżi madwar id-dinja.

Minhabba l-pandemija, l-inter-dipendenza bejn il-pajjiżi



ssahhet aktar filwaqt li d-distanzi fiżiċi ma baqgħux daqstant qawwija. U hawnhekk naraw l-importanza u r-rilevanza tal-multi-lateralizmu.

Meta nħares lura lejn is-sena li qed tintemm, nikkonferma kemm l-2021 kienet sena impenjattiva għall-aħħar.

Il-Gvern ħadem fuq għadd ta' proġetti u inizjattivi bħala parti mill-Pjan ta' Rkupru u Reżiljenza ta' pajjiżna.

Malta wkoll kompliet tagħti s-sehem tagħha fl-avanz tad-drittijiet tal-bniedem madwar id-dinja, hekk kif inkompli l-isforzi tagħna għal soċjetà aktar ġusta u ekwa. Ninsab kburi li għandna rekord eċċellenti f'dan ir-rigward.

Barra minnhekk, il-gvern għandu l-viżjoni biex Malta jkollha futur ħieles mill-karbonju, biex nillimitaw l-impatt tat-tibdil fil-klima u nwaqqfu milli ssir ħsara irreparabbli.

Din il-mira hija wkoll waħda mill-ħames pilastri tal-Viżjoni Ekonomika għal Malta, flimkien mat-tkabbir ekonomiku sostenibbli; standards għoljin ta' kontabilità u governanza tajba; edukazzjoni; u infrastruttura u investiment ta' kwalità għolja.

Malta qed tħares 'il quddiem lejn ġejjieni aħjar – u rrid li lkoll kemm intom tkunu parti mill-futur ta' pajjiżna.

Intom tistgħu tkunu parti mir-riformi li qed nimplimentaw. Id-distanza fiżika m'għandhiex għalfejn twaqqafna milli niehdu inizjattivi flimkien.

Nistedinkom biex iżżommu kuntatt ma' art twelidkom, mhux biss fi żmien il-festi imma tul is-sena kollha. Ejja nngożżu t-tradizzjonijiet, il-kultura u l-identità tagħna, billi nkompli nrawmuhom u ngħadduom lil uliedna.

Nixtieq ukoll nirringrazzja lil dawk il-Maltin li qed jaħdmu bħala missjurnarji madwar id-dinja, li xogħolhom huwa li jtejbju ħajjet dawk li huma mcaħħda mill-affarijiet l-aktar bażiċi u essenzjali. Id-dedikazzjoni tagħhom għandha sservi ta' ispirazzjoni għalina lkoll.

Flimkien ma' marti Lydia, nixtieq nawguralkom l-isbaħ xewqat għal Milied ħieni, u sena mimlija saħħa, ferħ, u prosperità.



Messagg minn Evarist Bartolo, il-Ministru għall-Affarijiet Barranin u Ewropej

Aħna pajjiż ċkejken fid-daqs imma għandna familja kbira mxxerda mad-dinja kollha. Hu pjaċir tiegħi li ngħid kelma magħkom illum u nix-tiqilkom is-sena t-tajba waqt li nafu li xorta se nibqgħu niffaċċjaw il-pandemija Covid-19 li qalbitilna

ħajjitna ta' taht fuq.

Hudu ħsieb ħarsu saħħitkom u dawk tal-għeziez tagħkom u ta' madwarkom.

Il-Maltin u l-Ghawdxin Ilhom sekli jemigraw lejn pajjiżi oħra. Għall-ewwel, minhabba l-qgħad u l-faqar li kellna n-nies fittxew ħajja aħjar fil-pajjiżi girien tal-Mediterran.

Imbagħad fl-aħħar mitejn sena bdew jemigraw lejn il-pajjiżi aktar il-bogħod bħall-Argentina, l-Istati Uniti u l-Awstralja, u illum għandna Maltin u Ghawdxin f'xi 194 pajjiż, kwazi f'kull pajjiż tad-dinja.

Bħal eluf oħra ta' Maltin u Ghawdxin jien għandi graba f'mill-inqas tliet pajjiżi differenti f'kull naha tal-pjaneta.

Għandna xi 120,000 Maltin u Ghawdxin tal-ewwel generazzjoni jgħixu f'pajjiżi oħra. Magħhom hemm 300,000

oħra tat-tieni u tat-tielet generazzjoni. Jiġifieri għandna 420,000 Maltin u Ghawdxin f'pajjiżi oħra, Daqskemm għandna fil-gzejjer tagħna.

F'rapport tal-Bank Dinji ta' sentejn ilu ngħad li anke llum għandna kwart tal-Maltin jgħixu f'pajjiżi oħra, jiġifieri bil-pajjiż fl-Unjoni Ewropea bl-akbar għadd ta' emigranti f'pajjiżi oħra. Id-destinazzjonijiet illum inbidlu għax minhabba d-dħul tagħna fl-Unjoni Ewropea għandna komunitajiet fi Brussel u l-Lussemburgu.

Xorta nhoss li f'pajjiżna għadna ma nafux biżżejjed dwar ir-realtà u l-istorja tal-emigranti tagħna tul is-sekli. Xorta nhoss li l-ħajja tal-emigranti tagħna nqisuha apparti u mhux parti mill-istorja u r-realtà tagħna fil-gzejjer tagħna.

Hemm bzonn li nsiru nafu iżjed l-istorja u l-ħajja tal-emigranti tagħna, tal-Maltin u l-Ghawdxin fid-dinja u naraw kif nersqu aktar lejn xulxin u nqisuna familja waħda f'dinja waħda.

It-teknologija tal-lum tippermettilna iżjed li nsahhu r-rabti tagħna bħala komunità li tgħix f'kontinenti differenti. Għandna naħdmu biex nersqu iżjed lejn xulxin. Nixtiqilkom Milied ħieni u sena ġdida ta' riżq u saħħa.

More Christmas and New Year messages



Year 2021 has been an extraordinary year. Australians have been challenged in many ways, but we've also risen to those challenges. We are a strong and resilient people, and if you ask Australians to stand up, take action and play their part, they will – and they have.

I thank all Australians for doing their bit – the nurses, doctors, mental health professionals, retail staff, cleaners, truck

drivers, farmers, teachers and public servants.

What we have achieved together – saving more than 30,000 lives, supporting over three million Australians through JobKeeper, and getting one million Australians back into work – it's something every Australian can be proud to share.

To date over 20 million Australians have had a vaccination, and over 18 million have had two.

I want to thank our multicultural communities for rolling up their sleeves to get the job because, under the National Plan, that means we can open safely and we can remain safely open as we go into 2022. It means those jobs come back, the businesses come back and the livelihoods come back.

Our multicultural communities have played a vital role in our national success.

H.E. Ms Jenny Cartmill High Commissioner for Australia in Malta

What a year it's been for all of us, in Malta, Australia, and elsewhere, including for so many people separated from family and friends due to the pandemic. I hope the Christmas and New Year period will provide some opportunity for reunions and rest for everyone.

At the High Commission, we've been busy assisting people to return home from both Malta and Tunisia, and helping consular clients, including many passport inquiries as travel conditions ease.

We weren't able to celebrate Australia Day 2021 or commemorate ANZAC Day with the usual large gatherings. Instead, on ANZAC Day, the President, HE George Vella, and Mrs Vella honoured us with their presence at Pieta cemetery to lay a wreath, along with the New Zealand Honorary Consul Kevin Bonnici, in a very small ceremony.

It was a sunny morning, and in the quiet, we could hear the bird-songs and reflect on everything those young men gave up. Malta continues to care for them in the well-kept and very touching Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemeteries on the island.

Next year, we may have to continue to hold small, symbolic



It is once again that time of year when we look back and evaluate our successes and failures, hoping for a better New Year.

At the beginning of 2021, my family and I moved to Canberra for my appointment as High Commissioner for Malta. As the world grapples with post-pandemic recovery, Malta has made incredible

achievements. Boasting of the fifth best public healthcare service in the world, Malta is currently the second highest in the EU with the booster.

The economy continued to outperform expectations, and the last budget for 2022 set the ground for an increase of eligible elderly persons who receive a non-contributory Maltese pension and more favourable conditions on inheritance for pensioners.

In 2021, I had the pleasure to meet the Governors-General of Australia and New Zealand and the Governor of New

Message from the Prime Minister of Australian Hon. Scott Morrison

I know it's been difficult for so many to be separated from family and friends, and not be able to celebrate traditions and religious ceremonies as you normally would.

But you've stayed the course. You've done whatever it takes to keep each other safe. You've kept going, stayed strong and helped keep our nation together.

That's why Australia is the most successful multicultural nation in the world. A place where we all buy in and draw strength from our shared values – such as mutual respect and individual responsibility.

Your efforts have helped the country that we all love and care about respond so magnificently to this pandemic. I can't thank you enough. This is why our country can open safely and stay safely open.

As we reclaim our lives and reunite with each other again, we can put 2021 in the rear-vision mirror and move forward to 2022 with confidence.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas, a bright and happy summer, and a hopeful New Year.

events until large public ones can be held safely again - we'll see how things progress over the Northern Hemisphere winter.

Malta achieved very high vaccination rates early on, and I was struck by the excellent coverage of the health care system and the resilience of the Maltese people in coping with restrictions to keep us all as safe as possible.

I've been lucky to have been able to see some more of Malta and Gozo on weekend hikes – to Wied Babu, Wied iż-Żurriq, and to the tower and salt pans near Xlendi. Next on the list is Wied il-Ghasel in Mosta, with its Chapel of St Paul the Hermit.

In September, Deputy High Commissioner Susie McKellar and her family returned to Australia after four years, and her successor, Jenn Kingsman, has settled in happily with her husband Phil.

Due to the Australian borders partially re-opening in November, both Jenn and I will have young adult children joining us for Christmas this year, making it a really happy time as we explore the festive season, Maltese-style (and keep restocking the fridge and cupboards!)

It's great to see that the Christmas Markets are back in Valletta, along with the beautiful cribs, decorations and lights in every town. We'll be thinking of you all in Australia, and wishing you all a very happy and healthy Christmas and a much better New Year.

H.E. Mario Farrugia Borg High Commissioner of Malta in Australia, New Zealand

South Wales, where we reaffirmed our great bilateral relations based on solid foundations.

As interstate borders reopened, I visited our communities in New South Wales, and will be visiting Victoria before end of year and other states in 2022.

I would like to thank our Deputy High Commissioner, Ms Denise Demicoli, who has served in this capacity since 2017, for her continuous support and dedication and welcome Ms Gail Demanuele, who will take over in January. I would also like to thank my staff and Consulates-General, as well as our Honorary Consuls for their cooperation and commitment.



Christmas is a celebration; a time for giving and not simply a day we exchange gifts. The spirit of Christmas is in the 'togetherness', it's in the thought to which you put into thinking about others, it's a selfless time, where we forgive, take stock of what's important and become 'better' versions of ourselves.

What is the Christmas spirit?



Without any doubt, Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year! Once we've had our fill of food and welcomed the holiday season properly, we're constantly encouraged to get into the Spirit of the season.

This phrase is most heavily tied to Christmas in particular, but it would be hard to deny that similar themes aren't attached to other December holidays.

In general, we're encouraged to be joyful, charitable, generous, kind, and forgiving—which are all behaviours that run counter to our inclined responses to the stresses caused by holiday shopping, holiday travel, and general holiday interactions.

One is bound to ask, but where does the idea of Christmas spirit come from and why does it hinge so much on behaviour?

The message of Christmas spirit is derived from a few general experiences. The first is an actual spectre. In the seasonal classic A Christmas Carol Ebenezer Scrooge is confronted by several apparitions that force him to confront his miserly ways and open his heart.

If there is anyone who does not embody the alleged Christmas spirit, it is truly Scrooge:

- In response to a request for a charitable donation, he famously asks whether the prisons and the workhouses are not still open for those who seek charity; and says, for those who cannot get to the workhouses or would rather die than seek out these places, "If they would rather die, they had better do it, and decrease the surplus population."

- He manages the office coal supply and refuses his workers anything but the smallest fire to stay warm.

- He nearly refuses his workers the day off for Christmas—at first negotiating for a half day and stating that he would dock them half a day of pay. When he relents to the full day off, he demands that they come in earlier on the next day to compensate for the lost time.

When Scrooge gets home on Christmas Eve, he is visited by the spirit of his former partner who warns him of the coming of three spirits. One of these phantoms is Christmas Present—a jolly, jovial, generous essence. In the original version of the story, Scrooge is taken around town and shown that people are invested in sharing and being grateful for whatever

they have, and looking for merriment in each other's company, regardless of their means.

The Ghost of Christmas Present bears a resemblance to St. Nicholas, who is the physical embodiment of Christmas spirit—and our second example for consideration.

Both figuratively and literally, on the darkest of days, people wish for light. As the days grow shorter and sometimes colder, and the earth stands barren until growth can begin anew, people's thoughts turn to warmth, life, and light.

We have been taught through traditions what we should expect and how we should behave during this time of year in particular. Why this time of year? Undoubtedly these principles should be present all year round, but the emphasis here on connectivity with your neighbour is probably tied to the natural rhythms of the seasons.

No one other than us enforces the code of generosity, kindness, and charity toward others. There are places where this code is strong, and these places (or people) are said to have strong Christmas spirit. And there are places where the opposite is true. This variation is acceptable provided that the rest of the local community buys into it.

When we "act out" Christmas spirit, we're making visible this collective force, and we give it power.

It is this power that charities draw on during this time of year when they try to collect donations.

By being physically present, they're invoking the moral code. For those who wear Santa hats or whose donation kettles are red, they're presenting symbols of Christmas spirit that we technically should not avoid, regardless of what we ourselves may believe.

With the growing secularization of the holiday season, the Christmas spirit is something we should all be able to relate to because it speaks to the social-rights and social obligations that we have to each other in order to maintain a civil society.

Another form of Christmas spirit exists in the forms of Christmas decorations. Lights and evergreens in our homes drive away the imagery and meaning associated with the colder, longer days that mark the end of the growing season.

Message from Hon Alex Hawke MP Australia's Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services, and Multicultural Affairs. (Federal Member for Mitchell)



Christmas: a time for hope and love

Year 2021 continued to be impacted by COVID-19. We have excelled during these difficult times over the past year.

Thank you for your perseverance, sacrifice and good spirit you have shown to get through this period.

Christmas is a time when we come together to celebrate the birth of Jesus. A wonderful opportunity for families, friends and neighbours to come together and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and Australia's Christian heritage.

Christmas is a time to be grateful for the blessings of peace and prosperity we enjoy as a nation.

On behalf of my family, Amelia, Jack, Lachlan, Thomas, Jonathan, I would like to wish you and your families a happy and holy Christmas, and a safe and prosperous New Year.



Minkejja ż-żmien 'modern' li bhall-bqija tad-dinja Malta ghaddejja minnu, u l-fatt li ghadd ta' drawwiet barranin ghal żmien il-Milied mhux biss dahlu imma wkoll ma' xi whud hadu post xi drawwiet tradizzjonali, b'danakollu, imqabbel ma' hafna pajjiżi ohra, l-aktar fl-Ewropa, Malta ghadha tiffestegġja bil-kbir il-

Milied Nisrani u għad baqa' hafna li wkoll jimxu ma' dak li kienu mdrorrijin bih dawk ta' qabilna. Anzi fl-aħhar snin anke reġghu bdew jiġġeddu whud minnhom. Il-hsieb wara dan l-artiklu hu biex jekk hawn min isihom, nerġghu nfakkru f'hafna mit-tradizzjonijiet li kienu jsawwru l-Milied hieni Malti.

Titwila lejn it-tradizzjonijiet Maltin fil-Milied

Ghal hafna Maltin, hi x'inhil l-età tagħhom, il-Milied għadu wiehed reliġjuż b'diversi attivitajiet reliġjużi organizzati fl-iskejjel u mis-Socjetà tad-dutrina Nisranija, il-MUSEUM. Imma minhabba xi użanzi li ddahlu fil-pajjiż, uħud mill-generazzjoni żagħżugħa għalkemm jattendu għall-Quddiesa ta' Nofs il-Lejl tal-Milied, jagħtu wkoll hafna importanza lit-tbahrid.

Halli naraw ftit x'huma t-tradizzjonijiet ta' dan iż-żmien tal-festi f'Malta.

In-Novena

Jingħad li kienu l-patrijiet Dumnikani tal-Belt Valletta li bdew jagħmlu n-Novena, jiġifieri disat ijiem ta' thejjiya għall-Milied b'Quddiesa kantata kuljum. Din bdiet fi żmien il-Kavallieri ta' San Gwann. Wara hafna żmien bdiet ukoll issir fil-parroċċi mmexxija mil-Kleru Djoċesan.

Illum, hafna parroċċi jiċcelebraw in-novena fil-quddiesa ta' filgħaxija bis-schem tat-tfal tad-dutrina u għaqdiet ohra.

Il-Purċissjoni bil-Bambin

Kien il-qaddis Malti u fundatur tal-Mużew, San Gorg Preca, li ħadem hafna biex tinxtered id-devozzjoni lejn il-misteru tal-Inkarnazzjoni, tant li sa mill-1920 ha hsieb li lejlet il-Milied, f'kull rahal u belt, tiġi organizzata l-purċissjoni, jew id-dimostrazzjoni li tonora lil Ġesù Bambin.

Din tal-purċissjoni li fiha jieħdu sehem l-aktar it-tfal u li fiha tingarr mit-tfal stess statwetta ta' Ġesù tarbija f'maxtura, titqies minn hafna bhala fost l-isbaħ użanzi u li dahlet sew fost id-drawwiet sbieħ tal-Milied Malti. Hasra li minhabba l-pandemija tal-Covid-19, ma setgħetx, issir imma disena se tithalla ssir taht sigurtà.

Ix-xewqa ta' San Gorg Preca kienet ukoll li fil-Milied, kull tifel u tifla li jattendu l-MUSEUM jingħataw, u jieħdu d-dar

magħhom grotta b'Ġesù tarbija mahduma mis-soċji.

Fl-1920, Dun Gorg kien gabar lis-soċji tal-Mużew tal-Hamrun, fejn kien jgħix, biex jaqsam magħhom x-xewqa li kellu, li ssir dimostrazzjoni bil-Bambin tal-Milied fejn it-tfal u s-soċji johorġu mat-toroq tal-Hamrun ikantaw u jgħajtu l-aħbar tat-twelid ta' Ġesù Bambin

Ix-xewqa tiegħu kienet li dawn johorġu f'purċissjoni bix-xemgħa, il-weraq tal-palm u ż-żebbuġ f'idejn it-tfal iduru mat-toroq tal-Hamrun u jkantaw innijiet tal-Milied. Ried ukoll li jgħidu lil xi rġiel jiġu jimxu magħhom wara Bambin li kienu ssellfuh mill-Knisja tal-Frangiskani tal-Belt.

Wara, il-purċissjoni bil-Bambin inxterdet f'xi 66 lokalità ma' Malta u Għawdex u anke fl-artijiet l-ohra fejn hemm il-Mużew u l-komunità Maltija, fosthom fl-Awstralja, fil-Kenja, il-Perù, l-Ingilterra u l-Albanija.

Il-qofol tal-purċissjoni hu bambin f'maxtura, bandalora bil-kliem bil-Latin *Verbum Dei factum est*, fanali tal-mantell biex jagħtu d-dawl u fanali bl-arkett bi kliem relattiv mal-ġrajja f'festegġjata tal-Milied.

Matul il-purċissjoni jtkantaw għanji tradizzjonali, jekk jista' jkun akkumpanjati minn strumenti tal-mużika li jindaqqu mis-soċji, it-tfal, inkella mill-ħbieb tagħhom.

Għanji tal-Milied

In-Ninni la tibkix iżjed

Il-Benniena ta' Ġesù Bambin jlejn, kif inhi magħrufa, in-Ninni la tibkix iżjed, hija l-aktar għanja magħrufa tal-Milied fil-Gżejjer Maltin. Inkitbet fl-1846 mill-patri Ġiżwita Indri Schembri minn Ħal-Luqa.

Kien kitibha, meta kien Alġeri għall-Maltin li kienu emigrar lejn Tuneż u saret ferm popolari mindu bdiet titkanta fil-purċissjonijiet tal-Milied. Ta' min jgħid ukoll li din l-għanja tan-Ninni anke nqalbet bit-Taljan

Is-suġġett ewlieni fil-Milied, it-twelid tal-Bambin Ġesù



u titkanta fl-Italja.

*"Ninni la tibkix iżjed
ninni Ġesù Bambin
Halli għalina l-biki
ghax ahna midinbin."*

Ninu Ninu tal-Milied

Għanja ohra ferm popolari hi *Ninu Ninu tal-Milied*, taqbla popolari hafna tat-tfal li saret għanja.

*"Ninu Ninu tal-Milied,
Ommu għamlet il-qagħqiet.
Il-qagħqiet tal-qastanija,
Santu r-Rokku bit-tigrija.
Għaddew il-Festi kollha,
Baqa' biss Santa Marija."*

O Ġesù Helwa Tarbija

Għanja ohra li titkanta hafna hi *O Ġesù Helwa Tarbija* fuq melodija Maltija mik-tuba minn G.Mallia

*"O Ġesù helwa tarbija
Ejja twieled ġewwa fija
Ġesù tfajjel, frott l-imħabba
Twieled f'qalbi, miegħi trabba."*

Preseppi, grotti u bambini

L-eqdem preseppu f'Malta kien inħadem fl-1617 fil-kunvent tal-patrijiet Dumnikani fir-Rabat. Fil-monasteru tas-sorijiet Benedittini fl-Imdina għad wiehed jista' jara preseppu mahdum fl-1826.

Fl-istess żmien inħadem l-ewwel preseppu mekkanizzat f'Malta minn Antonio Muscat Fenech f'Hal Qormi, u kien jithaddem bit-taqir tal-ilma.

L-istil tal-preseppu Malti origina mill-istil Sqalli iżda matul iż-żmien inbidel. Fil-bidu l-pasturi kienu tat-tafal u mlibbsin id-drapp waqt li l-preseppu nnifsu kien tal-gagazza jew tal-gebel.

**ikompli fil-pagna li jmiss*



Il-purċissjoni bil-Bambin

It-tradizzjonijiet Maltin fil-Milied

*Ikompli minn paġna 6

Illum hafna drabi l-presepu jsir tal-karta pesta u jintużaw pasturi artistici magħmulin mill-plastik.

Dun Gorg Preca kellu mhabba kbira lejn il-presepu u f'kull Milied hu stess kien jarma wiehed imdaqas f'kamartu biex ikun jista' jimmedita quddiemu..

Il-presepu reġa' ha popolarità straordinarja fil-Gżejjer Maltin u anke jsiru kompetizzjonijiet għall-isbah presepi.

Il-Priedka tat-Tifel

Id-drawwa tal-priedka tat-tifel fil-quddies ta' nofs il-lejl bdiet fl-1883 meta t-tfajjel, Gorg Sapiano għamilha fil-knisja parrokkjali ta' Hal Luqa. Fl-imghoddi, it-tifel kien jagħmilha minn fuq il-pulptu. Warajh kien ikollu s-suggeritur li generalment kien ikun dak li għallmu l-priedka. Daż-żmien din qed issir minn fuq l-artal, ferm aktar qrib in-nies.

Dejjem kienet tintuża l-istess frazi bil-latin fil-bidu: *Annuntio Vobis Gaudium Magnum* (Se nagħtikom aħbar ta' ferh kbir). Wara l-quddies ta' nofs il-lejl it-tifel jissejjah mill-kappillan u jiġi mogħti rigal speċjali.

Il-Barka tal-Papa bil-Malti

Nhar il-Milied filghodu, ma' miljuni ohmadwar id-dinja, hafna Maltin isegwu minn fuq it-televiżjoni l-Barka *Urbi et Orbi* li l-Papa jagħti lin-nazzjonijiet kollha minn Pjazza San Pietru fil-Vatikan. Kienet bdiet tiġbed iktar interess mill-Milied tal-1980 meta l-Papa Gwanni Pawlu II beda jagħti l-awguri tiegħu ukoll bl-ilsien Malti.



L-eqdem presepu f'Malta (1826) għand il-Benedittini fl-Imdina

Ikel Malti tal-Milied

Hafna familji Maltin għad għadhom id-drawwa li jingabru flimkien għall-ikel speċjali, tal-Milied. Snin twal ilu kienu jibbażaw hafna fuq l-imqarrun il-forn, il-qagħaq tal-ghasel u anke l-pastizzi u l-qassatat.

Barra hekk, kien hemm ukoll ix-xarba shuna tal-imbujuta wara l-Quddies ta' nofs il-lejl. Kienet tikkonsisti mill-qastan, il-kokotina, l-imsiemer tal-qronfol, zokk tal-kannella u qoxra tal-mandolin. Kien hemm ukoll l-ixkumvat, speċi ta' spagetti moqlijin u miksini biz-zokkor.

Illum, u wkoll kif ilu jsir għal hafna snin daż-żmien, x'aktarx li l-aktar ikla popolari tal-Milied hija d-dundjan jew serduk il-forn u l-pudina tal-Milied.



Tifel jagħmel il-priedka minn fuq pulptu

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Have your say/Xi trid tgħid?



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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.

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**Now you can also
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Your letters/ L-ittri tagħkom ...

The Voice of the Maltese wishes to thank all the readers who have sent season's wishes. We have acknowledged and reciprocated directly. We shall not publish personal messages.

– The Editors.

Għajnuna kull tant zmien?

John Vassallo minn Sunshine Victoria jikteb:

Qed nikteb bil-Malti għal raġunijiet ovvj. Prosit lill-Gvern ta' Malta li għal darb'ohra ghen lill-komunità Maltija fl-Awstralja billi wieżen lill-FMLA b'somma ta' flus (The Voice Nru 264).

Tajjeb li nifirhu li kull tant zmien il-Gvern Malti jiftakar fina, iżda din l-għajnuna għandha tkun fuq bażi permanenti u skont

kemm ahna kapaċi nattiraw studenti biex jitgħallmu l-Maltin fl-Awstralja.

Kumment iehor li hu kemm xejn inkrepattiv. Jekk l-Università ta' Malta qed toffri lezzjonijiet tal-Maltin online "It-taħdit u il-kitba bil-Malti bħala lingwa barranija", min huma dawk li jridu jitgħallmu online li se jagħzlu l-lezzjonijiet bil-Malti mtella lokali?

Nittama li ma jigrix hekk.

Like the Phoenix the Eagles will rise again

Tony Grima from Granville South NSW writes:

There is confusion galore where Parramatta Melita Eagles Sports Club is concerned. They are still active and recently attracting real youths to their committee.

There would have been some drastic changes, but due to COVID-19 an important meeting had to be postponed to January. It is indeed sad that Granville District Association allowed the famous Parramatta Melita Eagles' teams to virtually disappear from the scene and under their care to be demoted to Division Four.

It is obvious that they were only interested in acquiring the Melita Stadium. But I am informed that like the Phoenix (in classical mythology) Melita Eagles will be rising again from the ashes with renewed youth to live through another cycle. Watch this space.

My greatest regret

Anthony Cassar from St Albans, Vict. writes:

Like many people, not just from my state, but also from all over Australia, I am disappointed for the way the government handled the Covid-19 pandemic. However, I would never make a great fuss. Like most of us, I accepted that I had to grin and bear it. As we are now on the way to recovery I just hope that there won't be more mistakes.

Regrets? I have a few. My greatest regret has been, that after I planned to travel to Malta with my kids and grandchildren two years ago, we had to postpone the visit on at least two occasions. We are now keeping our fingers crossed that we could make it in the spring.

I want to show my grandchildren in particular, where their grandparents come from. I want them to see for themselves that all my boasting about my Malta was not just idle talk and they too should be proud of the country that I call my true home.



Merry Christmas

Hugh McDermott MP and Family
STATE MEMBER FOR PROSPECT

Electorate Office: 2/679, The Horsley Drive, Smithfield
Phone: 9756 4766 Email: prospect@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Another service offered by The Voice of the Maltese providing legal information to our readers

A collection of curious Christmas laws and tales

by Paul SANT

17th century legal bans of Christmas: England & America

In 1643, an Ordinance was passed in England discouraging celebratory feasts and solemnising Christmas. 1644 saw an ordinance abolishing Christmas (and Easter) feasts and Christmas became illegal and was banned as a holiday.

In 1656 shops and markets were told to remain open on 25 December, and soldiers patrolled London with orders to seize any food being prepared to celebrate Christmas.

Conversely, in 2004, the UK Parliament created a law banning shops over 3000m² from opening on Christmas Day in England and Wales after Unions and religious groups united in voicing opposition to the increasing amount of major retailers trading on Christmas Day (Scotland passed a similar law in 2007).

The ban on Christmas in England was reversed in 1660.

In Massachusetts Christmas was banned from 1659 to 1681, with fines of 5 shillings for anyone who did not go to work or attended a Christmas feast.

The bans were instigated under Puritan rule to reduce frolicking anti-social behaviour and increase contemplation and reflection.

The Christmas Tree

Coming from a place of safety, rather than bah humbug, some states in America have laws banning natural Christmas trees due to the fire hazards they pose:

In New York, real trees are banned from being displayed in retail stores.

In Philadelphia, real trees are prohibited under the official fire code from around 160,000 homes in apartment blocks, high-rises, and dwellings designed to house multiple families, due to heightened fire risks from central heating units.

Elsewhere in America, in Michigan it is

illegal to transport a Christmas Tree without proof of purchase of the tree.

Everywhere in America, on 8 November 2011, a 15 cent tax or levy was introduced on each domestically produced or imported Christmas Tree, under the 'national research and promotion program for Christmas Trees' which aimed to strengthen and grow the fresh cut Christmas Tree market.

Meanwhile, in Western Australia

The Sunday Entertainments Act 1979 prohibits paid public entertainment, amusement and the opening or use of premises to make money from entertainment or amusement on Sundays, Christmas Day, and Good Friday.

Permits can be applied for single events and venues can apply for general exemptions.

The Sunday Entertainments Repeal Bill 2019 proposes to repeal that Act so that paid entertainment and amusement can occur without permits. The Bill has not as yet been made into law.

Joy to the world, Joy to Finland

At noon each Christmas Eve, the city of Turku, Finland, holds a formal ceremony and reading of the Declaration of Christmas Peace, which found its roots in Swedish legislation from the 13th century.

The peace declaration includes a statement that any behaviour jeopardising Christmas joy or being contrary to acting harmoniously with one another will, when punished under Finnish law, be done so under **aggravating circumstances** (so, by virtue of the offence occurring on Christmas Day, the offence is considered more serious) – and concludes with wishing a joyous Christmas feast to all inhabitants of the city.

Christmas truce at Flanders

Digressing to a different type of law and diving into history, at Flanders in World War I, the 'law of unanticipated con-



The World War I Christmas truce in 1914

sequences' saw a truce on Christmas Day in 1914 (pictured above).

It started with German soldiers putting trees on the top of their trenches and lighting candles atop them. They sang carols that had familiar tunes and shortly, English and French soldiers were singing carols.

The Germans then put up signs saying 'you no fight, we no fight' or 'Merry Christmas'.

For a period of time, German, English and French soldiers intermingled in No Man's Land on the battlefield celebrating Christmas.

By New Year's Day, Commanders ordered the troops to resume being hostile and shooting each other or face legal penalties by way of the court martial.

Apparently, for a few days, many rounds of ammunition were shot at stars in the sky before going on to being shot at each other over the next near four years.

Mexico law for Christmas bonuses

By 20 December each year, businesses must pay employees a Christmas bonus, which is called an Aguinaldo. There are significant fines – going to more than 300x the legal daily minimum wage – if companies do not pay the Aguinaldo.

Employment laws in Mexico introduced in 1970 provide that employees are entitled to receive 15 days pay as their Aguinaldo so the Christmas bonus is the amount an employee would receive for 15 days of work.

If an employee did not work for the full year, the law provides they are entitled to receive an amount proportional to their time in their position.

Christmas Wishes

On behalf of Longton Legal myself and my team we wish all of you and your families, and those who make The Voice possible, a safe and Merry Christmas.



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Maltese Spoken



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-qattusa l-ghaġġelija

Ftit jiem ilu, fil-ħmistax ta' Diċembru, inbidlu r-regoli soċjali fi NSW dwar l-imġieba waqt il-pandemija tal-COVID. Kien hemm diversi tibdiliet, imma t-tema ewlenija kienet li nies li ma kinux ħadu t-tilqima kontra l-COVID jibdwu jithallew jattendu għal attivitajiet soċjali u jmorru f'postijiet ta' divertiment bħal dawki u jkunu ħaduha.

Intom tafu li kont ktibt dwar ir-riskju li qed jiehdu dawn in-nies, kemm lejhom u lejn dawki ta' madwarhom,¹ uħud minnhom involontarjament għal reġunijiet mediċi u oħrajn le, u m'inx se nirrepeti hawnhekk.

Madankollu, naħseb li ż-żmien tassew wasal fejn is-soċjetà tidda tiritorna lejn xi haġa li tqarreb ir-realtà li kienet teżisti qabel ma ħarġet dik l-aħbar kerha minn Wuhan sentejn ilu f'dawn iż-żminijiet.

Wara kolloxx, nistgħu nġid li ġeneralment il-poplu sema' l-ghajta u l-istedina tal-gvernijiet ta' madwar id-dinja sabiex jiehdu l-prekawzjoni imperfetta iżda bil-wisq effettiva tat-tilqim.

Fi NSW, 'il fuq minn 90% ta' dawki ta' iktar minn sittax-il sena għamlu kif kien irrakkomandat lilhom, u l-istati oħra tal-Awstralja jew qabzu din il-figura jew huma qrib.

L-Awstralja hija pajjiż fost l-iktar għoljin f'din l-istatistika, u hija ta' dieqa li hemm tant pajjiżi oħra mhux daqshekk għonja li għadhom tant lura, li tirrifletti għal darb'ohra diżugwaljanza kbira fit-tqassim tar-riżorsi madwar id-dinja.

Fl-istess ħin, fi NSW, tneħħew ukoll r-restrizzjonijiet ta' densità, jiġifieri dik ir-regola ta' persuna kull żewġ metri kwadri.

Fl-istess ħin ukoll, tneħħew ukoll il-bżonn tal-ilbis ta' maskra li issa huwa biss rakkomandat, għadu ta' bilfors biss f'xi postijiet pubbliċi bħat-trasport pubbliku, u tneħħa l-bżonn li tirreġistra l-attenzenza tiegħek f'lokalitajiet bl-użu ta' QR Codes.

Dawn it-tnejn tal-aħħar inqis li huma żejda, jew talinqas prematuri, u żball kbir.

Din id-deċiżjoni kienet ittiehdet ġimghat ilu, u għalhekk mhix ġdida, imma giet ikkonfermata speċifikament fil-jum tad-daħla fis-seħħ fil-15 ta' Diċembru, minkejja li l-ghadd ta' każijiet fil-ġimgha ta' qabel reġa' beda tiela ftit ftit, u dakinhar għamel qabza kbira għal livelli li rajna tliet xhur ilu.

Kien mistenni li l-każijiet ta' infezzjoni bil-COVID jergħu jibdwu telgħin iktar ma l-ekonomija terġa' tidda tinfetħa, u din iż-żieda ta' infezzjonijiet fil-fatt damet ma tidher. Madankollu, issa ż-żieda bdiet tinħass, u hawn il-varjant il-ġdid tal-Omicron li ġie



Il-Premier Dominic Perrottet: għaġġel wisq?

ġimghat ma jfisser xejn.

Ma kienx ikun iktar prudenti li l-gvern iżomm miżura tant effikaċi bħall-ilbies tal-maskri bħala prekawzjoni għal ftit ġimghat oħra, talinqas sakemm naraw x'effetti qed ikun hemm ta' din ir-raba' mewġa tal-marda?

Ġeneralment nistgħu nġid li din il-miżura kienet indrat mill-biċċa l-kbira, għalfejn l-ghaġġla biex inneħħiha?

L-istess jista' jingħad dwar ir-registrazzjoni bil-QR Codes. Dawn huma tant utli sabiex jistgħu jkunu identifikati malajr min seta' kien espost għal xi infezzjoni.

Dawn il-miżuri jdejqu, imma kont inħares lejhom bħala prezz li kont lest inħallas biex ikollu l-libertà li mmur fejn ridt immur. Għamilna avvanz tant kbir li neħhejnihom hesrem?

Jien jidhirli li l-Premier il-ġdid Perrottet ha deċiżjoni politika biex jingħoġob ma' dik is-sezzjoni tal-popolazzjoni li hija liberatarja, dawki li huma kontra t-tilqim, dawki li ma jaċċettawx il-bżonn ta' registrazzjoni meta tattendi xi lokal.

Huwa ċar li għamel dan kontra r-rakkomandazzjoni tal-esperti tas-saħħa tal-istat, li għadha kif starret li riedet li n-nies ikomplu jilbsu l-maskri.²

Il-Premier ta' qabel, Gladys Berejiklian kienet iktar toqgħod fuq il-pariri tas-saħħa, il-Premier Dominic Perrottet li kien Ministru tal-Finanzi, huwa ċar li qed ixaqleb lejn l-ekonomija.

Għalija qed jgħaġġel. Il-qattusa l-ghaġġelija frieh għomja tagħmel. Jew jisogħlu.

Referenzi

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A journey across cultures well travelled

Our selection for this month is Nancy Serg-Borg, another prominent Maltese migrant, this time from NSW. From winning a beauty contest some 54 years ago at the Trocadero, Sydney, to becoming a very active and successful advocate for her community culminating in being honoured with Australia's highest award in 2013.

Nancy Serg-Borg OAM

Nancy, the eldest of ten children arrived at Wharf 7 Woolloomooloo in Australia on m/v Sydney on the 17th August 1964, and received her Australian citizenship in 1990. She presently lives in Baulkham Hills. She received her education in Malta and Australia. She is married to Austria-born Felix and is the mother of three, and grandmother of eight.

Nancy had a varied career. For ten years, she was an administrative manager to the Chief Inspector of Police in Windsor and Parramatta Districts, worked with Unifam Marriage Counselling Services Parramatta and was also a Bi-Lingual Teacher's Assistant, Riverstone and secretary to the Chief Medical Superintendent, Cumberland Hospital.

Nancy's work in the Maltese community started by assisting Josephine Zammit at the beginning of the Maltese Radio 2EA programme, later becoming SBS, and with Sister Mary Ann Grima and Sr Catherine Buhagiar on many projects. She also served as secretary of the Maltese Women's association for many years.

Nancy was one of the originals of the Maltese Elderly Thanksgiving Day and co-founded the event bringing elderly from their nursing home for the day. For about ten years, she was a group leader at the Merrylands Community Health Centre as Multicultural Health Education Officer.

As the Maltese Community Development Officer for the MCC of NSW, she established the Botany Maltese group that is still active today. She was Patron of the Young Australian Maltese Youth Social Group (1993/95).

Between 1995-97 she was a broadcaster and acting presenter on SBS Radio with John Borg. Her activities with SBS Radio included episodes for Home Reach and Maltese/English language lessons. Between 1994/2007, she was a member of the Maltese Sub-Committee on Transcultural Mental Health and contributed many articles to The Maltese Herald.

As an actress and singer she took part in four Good Friday Pageants produced by Eddie Busuttill that have been shown all over NSW, was a chorist with the Macquarie University Choir, Blackheath Choir Festival, Artes Christi, and with World Festival, and sang in Luciano Pavarotti's concert in Stockholm, Sweden. She also toured with the Beethoven Society Choir at Manoel Theatre in Malta, Taormina, Salzburg, Budapest Prague and Sydney Opera House.



PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH OF THE WOMAN

Never a dull moment for the mother of three and grandmother of eight kids

Nancy is a member of the Boxing Kangaroo Group organised by Paul Zammit OAM the ex-Member of State Parliament. She assisted him with the initial meetings of the Catholic Breakfast Group held at Parliament House. In 1972 Nancy was a finalist in the

Lovely Motherhood Quest (Deaf & Blind Society of North Rocks) that was televised on Channel 10.

In a life so hectic, Nancy Serg-Borg explained to The Voice of the Maltese her added experience as a grandmother looking after her eight grandchildren, particularly during the COVID-19 lockdown, whilst her three daughters worked from home. She took the opportunity to teach them Maltese

history, taste Maltese food, and other life skills.

Nancy also frequently visits her mother, Agnes who is nearly 103, at her home in St Clair, where she is cared for by her sister and brother.

Equal time was shared with Felix's mother at the German-run St Raphael's Blacktown until three years ago.

She said "I now consider myself as an Australian woman with heritage. I feel quite privileged and complete. I hope I have been an inspiration and help along the way".

Nancy remembers another unique experience; teaching the Maltese song "Tini jdejk" as part of the Nations in Harmony choir to welcome the 2000 Olympic Torch Relay at Parramatta Stadium.

In January 2013 she was honoured with the Order of Australian Medal for her volunteering in the Maltese/Australian community of NSW. In 2007 she also received a Quite Achiever Award from the Maltese Welfare (NSW)



Roundup of News About Malta



Malta Prime Minister attends European Council meeting

Robert Abela points out importance of vaccine

Prime Minister Robert Abela emphasised the importance of the vaccine, at the European Council meeting that had the pandemic on top of the agenda. He highlighted the fact that although Covid-19 cases have gone up, hospitalisations have decreased.

Abela said that various leaders were worried. However they agreed that there is a common ground, including the importance of the booster dose.

Due to international pressure on energy supply and prices the meeting also discussed the energy sector with the Maltese Prime Minister saying that the soaring energy prices is shocking, with gas prices going up from day

to day.

He said that most importantly, energy prices must be kept stable. This is why in Malta the government has decided to keep sustaining residents and businesses.

Abela stated that Europe should seek long-term solutions that consider alternative energy sources like hydrogen, which are better for the environment and more affordable.

Other discussions focused on the economic recovery with leaders agreeing on sustaining the recovery.

The PM also participated in the Eastern Partnership Summit, meetings between EU and Eastern leaders took place.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister announced that businesses that have been benefiting from the wage supplement will continue



Dr Robert Abela in Brussels to receive it until the end of next January.

He explained that the Government was committed to seeing that the Maltese economy continues to grow against the backdrop of various international challenges, therefore it has decided that this scheme should remain in place so as not to lose jobs and not to leave businesses alone to face the problems brought about by the pandemic.

Malta becomes the first country in Europe to legalise cannabis for personal use

Malta, the smallest country in the European Union, has legalised cannabis for personal. Parliament passed the Responsible Use of Cannabis by 36 votes in favour and 27 against.

The bill, which was signed by President George Vella to become law, allows for the possession, purchase and cultivation of marijuana. It makes it legal to possess 7 grams of cannabis in public and keep up to 50 grams at home.

Residents can grow up to four plants and buy cannabis products for personal use.

People with criminal records for cannabis possession can apply to have the charges expunged.

Prime Minister Robert Abela said on twitter that the law regulates the use of cannabis to avoid treating its users as criminals. He added, "We are not encouraging use, rather we are recognising the realities of our society and legislating responsibly."

Singer Enzo Gusman passes away aged 74

Popular Maltese singer and broadcaster Enzo Gusman, has died in Canada where he has been living, at the age of 74.

His wife Carmen announced his death on her Facebook page. She wrote: "Our beloved left his long suffering behind, to join the risen Lord where he will suffer no more".

The Sliema-born singer and five-times winner of the Malta Song Festival also won the Festival Kanzunetta Maltija in 1995 and the 1997 edition of L-Ghanja tal-Poplu. In 2011, he was honoured with the 'Midalja għall-Qadi tar-Repubblika'.

He leaves to mourn him his wife Carmen and children, Johanna u Greta.

Central Bank revises upwards economic forecast for Malta

The Central Bank of Malta has revised upwards the forecast for the country's economic growth for these three years, and said that inflation will grow because of the impact of the increase in export prices, and the economic activity will recover.

It stated that this year the Gross Domestic Product will grow by 6%, having been revised upwards by 0.9%. It adds that for next year the rate of growth is forecast to

be 6.5%, which is 0.7% more than the projected amount, and 5.3% in 2023, being 0.5% more than forecast.

The Central Bank said that the upward revision for this year and next year have been spurred mainly by stronger growth in investment and consumption by Government and by a stronger recovery in private consumption. It is also forecasting more positive tourism than anticipated.



**On behalf of the Prezsee Family,
we wish the Maltese community
a safe, Holy Christmas and a
Happy New Year!**

Shaun Bonétt,
Founder & Chairman





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Roundup of News About Malta



Malta commemorates 47th Anniversary of Republic Day

On the occasion of the 47th Anniversary of Malta's Republic Day on December 13, the President of the Republic George Vella appealed to the politicians to 'Respect the people's intelligence' and to put before the people unequivocal working programmes and policies they would be implementing if they are chosen to lead.

At the beginning of his speech the President said that above all, this is a celebration of the people of this nation, who throughout its history have built on their ancestors' foundations, keeping pace with the times, and adapting as needed.

He added, "The Republican status declares our will to choose and our sovereign right, as Maltese citizens, to rule our country, free from any interference."

The President explained that it is customary that on this day, apart from taking the opportunity to recognise and decorate those who in one way or another have contributed to uphold the good name of our country, he shares his thoughts with the people on what our country is going through, as well as on his hopes and wishes about the future of the country.

In his address the President touched on a number of issues of concern for the nation, including the pandemic. He warned that the Covid-19 pandemic was not yet over and that it would be premature for anyone to make any predictions about the future.

He applauded the professionals and front liners that throughout the pandemic implemented their plans to control the virus spread.

President Vella said that the country would always be grateful to them. He also saluted the memory of the victims of COVID-19 and said that their passing "has caused great sadness, frustration, and regret among their loved ones."

Turning to the murder four years ago of Daphne Caruana Galizia, he pointed out everyone's desire for the investigative and judicial processes to lead to finding out those responsible for the act ensuring that justice is served.

He added, "No one is above the law. And the rule of law and the protection of human rights must remain crucial tools for the fair and democratic functioning of our country."

President Vella also touched on poverty



Photo-DOI -Jeremy Wonnacott

President Vella tells politicians to respect people's intelligence

and racism and said that one cannot turn a blind eye to these challenges and pretend they do not exist.

"The country could build on the value of solidarity as witnessed during the pandemic and annual charity events like L-Istrina," he said, adding that, "We must build on such examples in the hope of getting closer to each other in other areas."

He addressed the environment problems faced by the country and transport and said that Malta faced the threat of extensive building and construction works taking up more agricultural and virgin land.

The President also spoke about climate change that he described as a major threat to the planet, and that can only be averted by achieving the goals set out by scientific studies.

He said it was good to hold conferences and to make promise, but if we fail to act, all would be in vain, and noted that that although Malta's impact on climate turmoil was insignificant, it does not exempt it from

doing its duty and "from being an example to countries much larger than ours".

He wrapped up his speech by expressing the need for EU solidarity on migration and pointed out the importance of respecting international laws when dealing with asylum seekers.

At the end of his speech, President George Vella presented medals to a number of distinguished personalities for their service to the Republic.

(For the list of honourees turn to page 24)



President George Vella laying a wreath at the foot of the Republic monument

Merry Christmas!

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Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

Il-Purċissjoni tal-bambin ma ssirx

Minkejja l-ħafna tiddiliet li saru matul iż-żminijiet fil-mod kif niċċelebraw il-festi tal-Milied, meta f'ħafna postijiet is-sigra tal-Milied u tiżjin iehor hadu post il-presepu, il-bambin fil-maxtura, il-grotta.... meta ħafna mill-kartolini tal-Milied, fihom kollox barra l-bambin.... meta fil-lejl tal-Milied jiddominaw l-ikliet, għalkemm f'ċerti lokalitajiet il-quddies ta' nofs il-lejl għada popolari.... insomma nbidlu tant affarijiet, xorta f'Malta baqgħet popolari il-purċissjoni tal-bambin Ġesu.

Tant hi popolari din il-purċissjoni li bdiha San Ġorġ Preca 100 sena ilu, li ssir f'66 lokalità f'Malta u Ghawdex – ma saritx waqt il-pandemija. Bis-saħħa tal-membri tas-Socjetà tal-Mużew (MUSEUM) saħansitra ssir ukoll f'ħames pajjiżi barra min Malta.

Forsi, anke dawk il-Maltin u Ghawdxin li jgħixu barra minn Malta, u li għandhom ċerta eta', jiftakru l-kant tal-inniet: *Ninni, la tibkix iżjed, O lejl ta' skiet*, u għanjiet tradizzjonali oħra.

Hu permezz tas-soċji tal-Mużew li din bdiet tinfirex fil-bliet u l-irhula Maltin u Ghawdxin. Izda dak li sar għal daqs-hekk snin, bħall-purċissjonijiet kollha, inklużi dawk tal-Milied twaqqfu hesrem is-sena l-oħra minhabba l-Covid-19



mizuri kien diffiċli li jintlaħqu.

Is-Socjetà kienet qalet li ir-restrizzjonijiet jagħmluha prattikament impossibbli biex id-dimostrazzjoni bil-Bambin tiġi organizzata u tilhaq l-għan tagħha. Kif imxejna dejjem, bħala Socjetà, nibqgħu infittxu li nimxu mal-istandards tas-Suprentendenza tas-Saħħa Pubblika biex niehdu hsieb is-saħħa ta' xulxin, taż-żgħażaġh u tat-tfal.

Fost dawn kien hemm li f'attivitajiet bil-wieqfa, l-għadd massimu ta' parteċipanti irid ikun ta' mitt persuna, u li l-ispazju fejn issir l-attività jrid ikun maqtugħ għalih b'mod li persuni li ma jkunux qed jiehdu sehem ma jistgħux jingabru.

Hu diżappunt kbir għal ħafna, imma fiċ-ċirkustanzi aħjar wiehed joqgħod lura minn ċerti affarijiet milli jbatu l-konsegwenzi.

Fuq kollox jistgħu jsiru

Imm'issa d-Deputat Prim Ministru u Ministru tas-Saħħa, Chris Fearne, qal li l-purċissjonijiet tal-Bambin setgħu jsiru u ma kienx meħtieġ li jsiru barrikati fejn issir il-purċissjoni. Issa xi parroċi ddeċidew li bħas-soltu joħorġu l-Bambin.

Fost dawn hemm il-parroċċa tal-Isla bl-Arcipriet, Fr Robin Camilleri, jgħid: "Ladarba kif thabbar li l-purċissjoni tal-Bambin tista' ssir mingħajr barrikati, aħna se naghmluha. Grazzi ħafna lil kull min ta sehm u lil awtoritajiet li fehmu il-concerns tagħna."

Miljun vaċċin u issa jmiss lit-tfal

S'nofs il-gimgha li għaddiet f'Malta in-Sqabeż l-għoti ta' aktar minn miljun doża tal-vaċċin kontra l-Covid-19, filwaqt li din it-tilqima, f'doża addatta, bdiet ukoll tingħata lit-tfal ta' bejn il-5 u t-12-il sena.

Wiehed jittama li dawn id-dożi jissoktaw iħallu r-rizultat pożittiv li jidher li kellna s'issa, billi filwaqt li żdiedet ir-rata ta' dawk li qed ikunu nfettati, l-għadd ta' dawk li jispiċċaw fl-Isptar huwa limitat ħafna.

The Maltese Cultural Association of NSW wishes the Maltese community and the readers of The Voice of the Maltese a Merry Christmas and good wishes for the New Year full of warmth, good health and cheer.

Nixiequ l-Milied it-tajjeb lil kullħadd.

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Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri



Niffestegġjaw!

Il-Jiem tal-Milied u l-Ewwel tas-Sena dejjem kienu mistennija għax fl-eqel tax-xitwa jagħtuna daqsxejn tan-nifs, mhux għax tbatti l-kesha, imma għax nistgħu nġid li kulhadd, min ħafna u min ftit, jidhol fl-ispiritu tal-Milied, li

għalkemm forsi mhux għal kulhadd huwa daqshekk spirtu reliġjuż, xorta għandu s-sabih tiegħu.

Għal xi wħud għandu wkoll il-kontribut finanzjarju tiegħu, speċjalment għal-lukandi u r-ristoranti li jaraw il-postijiet tagħhom mimlijin bin-nies kulhadd jiekol u jixrob. L-istess il-hwienet.

Sfortunatament il-Covid-19 qatlet ħafna minn dak l-ispiritu, għalkemm jidher li din i-sena l-affarijiet inbidlu xi f'it, u għalkemm mhux daqs is-soltu, ħafna qed jagħmlu l-isforz tagħhom biex dan l-ispiritu jerga' jqu. Hekk rajna l-hwienet iżejnu, it-toroq jinxteghlu u n-nies isebbhu darhom minn ġewwa u minn barra.

L-Awtoritajiet ukoll qed jagħtu mbutatura bl-attivitajiet li qed jorganizzaw l-aktar fil-Belt u l-Furjana... u minkejja

Il-'Festa' Maltija-Ingliza

Ta' min jgħid li l-kelma Maltija "Festa" sabet ruhha fid-dizzjunarju magħruf Ingliż ta' Oxford (Oxford English Dictionary) bil-plural tagħha "festas".

Waħda mill-ewwel kliem b'għeruw Maltija li ġew inkluzi f'dan id-dizzjunarju, kienet il-kelma 'spitchered' li ġejja mill-kelma Maltija 'spicċa'. Din giet inkluzi fid-dizzjunarju fl-1920 wara li għal xi żmien kienet użata l-aktar mill-bahrin Ingliżi.

l-kesha u x-xita mdendla xorta ħafna nies, qed iżuru l-hwienet jixtru r-rigali u dak li l-festi jgħibu magħhom.

Sintendi, il-Lukandi u r-ristoranti qed iħossu n-nuqqas tat-turisti. Għalkemm fl-aħhar xahrejn l-għadd żdied sew, imma xorta għadu bogħod minn daww ta' qabel. Biss il-Maltin u l-Għawdxin qed ipattu f'it għal dan in-nuqqas għax jidher li l-ibbukkarjar għall-iklet miexi ħafna, dan minkejja li ta' kuljum qed naraw zieda fl-għadd ta' nies xorta qed joqgħod xi f'it ura milli joħorġu jiekol fi gruppi.

Sahansitra minħabba l-protokollu l-Knejjes qed ikollhom id-diffikultajiet biex jorganizzaw il-festi fil-parroċċi u bdejna nisimghu xi kappillani u l-Arciprieti jheggu lil min irid jattendi għall-quddies ta' bil-lejl biex jibbukka, inkella jista' li jiġi rifjutat jiehu sehem fil-quddies.



L-Ghana Malti Wirt Kulturali tal-Umanità

Fil-laqgħa tal-Kumitat Intergovernattiv tal-UNESCO li qed issir f'Parigi, b'mod unanimu approva l-applikazzjoni ta' Malta biex l-Ghana Folkloristiku Malti jitpoġġa fuq il-Lista tal-Wirt Kulturali tal-Umanità.

Dan hu t-tieni element tal-wirt kulturali intaġibbli Malti li qed jikseb dan l-għarfien internazzjonali wara li s-sena l-oħra, il-Ftira Maltija wkoll kisbet dan l-għarfien mill-UNESCO.



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Shaun Bonett
CEO & Managing Director



A quick glimpse at Australia

Fertility rate drops to lowest level on record

The uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has contributed to Australia's fertility rate falling to its lowest level on record, with warnings it may never recover. Through 2020, 294,369 births were registered across the country, a 3.7 percent, or 11,500, fall on 2019. The fertility rate dropped almost five percent to an all-time low of 1.58 births per woman, a fall larger than Australia experienced during the darkest years of the Great Depression.

It was the lowest number of births registered in the country since 2007 and down by 6.6 percent on the peak number of births recorded in 2018.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics reported that the biggest falls were in Victoria, where there were 3846 fewer births, a 4.9 percent drop, and in South Australia where births also fell by 4.9 percent or 952.

Across NSW, there was 3.4 percent fall, or 3330 babies. Tasmania defied the trend, up by 1 percent or 54 births.

Demographer Liz Allen, from the ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods, said the nation's fertility rate had been falling for the past 50 years, but a range of factors were now making it even more difficult for prospective parents to start a family.

She said the financial insecurity caused by the COVID recession now overlaid ongoing issues including the high cost of housing, which required both parents to work to raise enough money to buy a home, anxiety over climate change and growing gender equality.

Ms Allen said that the pandemic would have a "life-long impact on our population".



Births are down by 6.6 percent

Vaccines facility in Victoria

Up to 100 million mRNA vaccines could be manufactured each year by 2024 at a new facility in Victoria to protect the country against future pandemics. It will be built in Victoria and is a joint venture between the Australian government, the Victorian government, and US pharmaceutical and biotechnology company Moderna.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said in a statement mRNA technology would play a significant role in tackling health issues in the future and building sovereign on-shore tech-

nology was crucial.

Once operational, the facility will help meet Australia's ongoing needs for COVID-19 vaccines, and for other respiratory mRNA vaccines as they are developed and approved by Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration TGA.

"This investment will mean world-leading clinical trials, a strong local workforce and creating opportunities through supply chain activities, helping to drive Australia's economy forward," Minister for Finance Simon Birmingham said.



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*Rita Zammit OAM
and
Paul Zammit OAM
FAICD wish all our
friends in the
Australian-Maltese
community a
Merry Christmas
2021 and a healthy,
safe and
prosperous 2022*



A quick glimpse at Australia

Julian Assange can be extradited to US

Wikileaks founder, Australian-born Julian Assange has moved a step closer to facing criminal charges in the United States for breaking spying law and conspiring to hack government computers, after Washington won an appeal over his extradition in a British court.

The US challenged the decision made in January that the 50-year-old Australian would be a suicide risk if he was transferred to its justice system. Mr Assange is wanted to face trial for the publication by WikiLeaks in 2010 of classified military documents relating to the US wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The case will now go back to the lower court to be considered again, and will likely end up in the Supreme Court, the final court of appeal. Mr Assange, who denies any wrongdoing, was not in court. He remains in London's high-security Belmarsh prison, where he has been for more than two and a half years. His partner, Stella Moris, said his legal team would appeal the decision.

The long-running case has become a cause celebre for free speech, with Mr Assange's supporters arguing WikiLeaks has the same rights as other media to publish secret material in the public interest.

The US government has indicted Mr Assange on 18 charges relating to WikiLeaks' release of 500,000 secret files on the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. If extradited, tried and convicted, he could be jailed for up to 175 years, although the exact sentence is difficult to estimate and could be shorter.

Mr Assange has been in custody since 2019, despite having served a previous sentence for breaching bail conditions in a separate case. The maverick publisher



spent seven years at Ecuador's embassy in London to avoid being removed to Sweden to face sexual assault allegations that were later dropped.

While at the South American country's mission, he fathered two children with Ms Moris, who is a member of his legal team. British prison authorities last month gave the couple permission to marry at the Belmarsh high-security prison in southeast London.

Australian Federal Independent MP Andrew Wilkie urged Prime Minis-

ter Scott Morrison to "end the lunacy" and to pick up the phone to his counterparts in the US and UK, and urge them to release Mr. Assange immediately and allow him to return to Australia. He is a hero, not a villain, and journalism is not a crime."

Mass on TV will continue



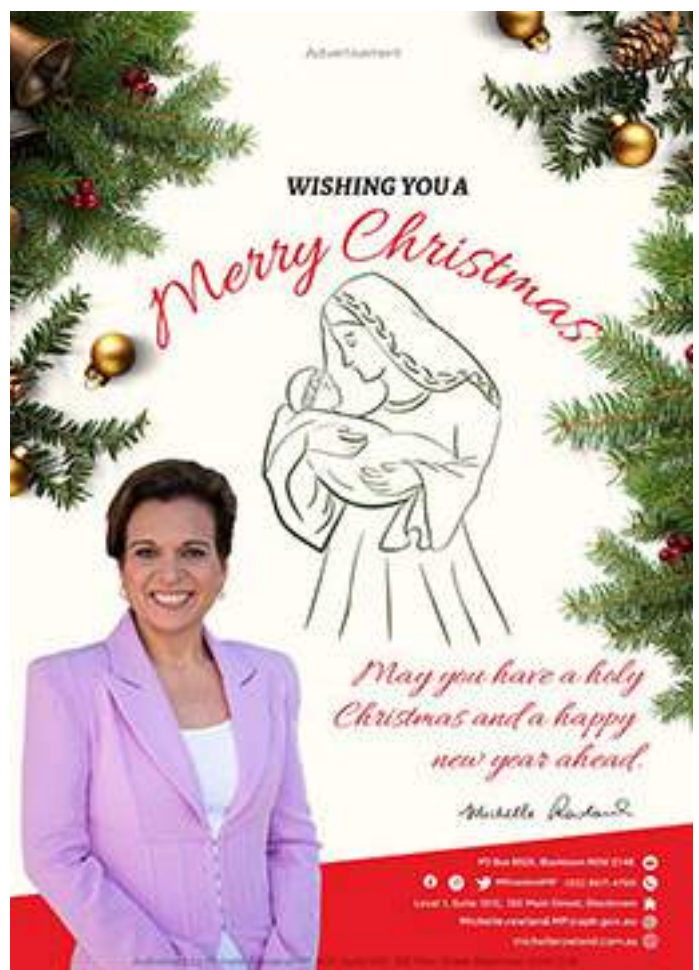
The commitment to sustaining the faith of those unable to attend Mass and the generosity of Catholic individuals, families and organisations means Mass for You at Home will continue in 2022.

"When the Diocese of Wollongong and the Bishops Conference inherited this responsibility from the Archdiocese of Melbourne, we believed there remained a need to support people who rely on Mass on their television screens to receive spiritual nourishment," Wollongong Bishop Brian Mascord (pictured above) said.

"That belief has proven true, and it has been expressed in letters, emails, social media posts and phone calls. It has also been shown in your generosity through financial gifts."

A national fundraising program was launched in April, inviting support for the significant cost of broadcasting and producing Mass for you at Home.

"What we didn't fully understand was the impact Mass for You at Home was having in people's lives and how that impact might be lived out through donations of all sizes," Bishop Mascord said.



Tagħrif dwar il-kitba bil-Malti



Il-varjanti tal-ortografija

Inkomplu ngibu għall-attenzjoni tal-qarrejja d-deċiżjoni-ijiet tal-Kunsill Nazzjonali tal-Ilsien Malti dwar forum li għandhom jintużaw fil-kitba bil-Malti halli jkun hemm uniformità.

Nissoktaw nittrattaw il-prepożizzjonijiet ma', sa, ta' qabel vokali, gh jew h.

NOTA: In-negattiv tal-pronomi personali bil-ma mqassra jinkiteb hekk:

Singular: 1. [jiena] m'jiniex, m'iniex – m'jiena [jien] m'jienx – m'jien

2. [inti] m'intix – m'inti [int] m'intx – m'int

3 maskil: [huwa] mhuwiex – mhuwa [hu] mhux – mhu

3 femminil: [hija] mhijiex – mhija [hi] mhix – mhi

Plur.al: 1. [ahna] m'ahniex – m'ahna

2. [intom] m'intomx – m'intom

3. [huma] mhumix – mhuma

EŻEMPJU: Dan mhux ir-riżultat li kont qed nistenna.

Ix-xemx mhux dejjem issaħħan.

Il-kwistjoni mhija ċara xejn.

M'ahniex qed naqblu.

Naf li m'intomx daqshekk boloh.

Maltija (It-tmien parti)

Il-prepożizzjonijiet go, ma', sa, ta' mal-artiklu:

Il-prepożizzjonijiet go, ma', sa u ta' jin-ghaqdu dejjem mal-artiklu anke quddiem kliem li jibda bil-vokali, bil-gh u bl-h.

EŻEMPJU: tal-Amerikani, mal-erbat ir-jieh, sal-Italja, tal-orsijiet, ġol-università, sal-ghalqa, tal-hena.

Il-prepożizzjoni kontra bil-pronomi mehmuzin:

Meta l-pronomi personali jinhemžu mal-prepożizzjoni kontra jinkitbu hekk: kontri-ja, kontrik, kontrih, kontriha, kontrina, kontrikom, kontrihom.

Il-kitba tal-għerq u z-zkuk

Billi l-Malti ha mill-morfologija tas-Semiti-ku u tar-Rumanz, xi kliem Malti jinbena bl-għerq u xi kliem biz-zokk. Fil-kitba tal-għerq u f' dik taz-zokk japplikaw regoli differenti.

**Fli jmiss f' din is-sensiela, fin-Nru 267, u bi tkompli ma' dan is-uggett tal-għerq u z-zkuk, nittrattaw speċjalment u għali-hom, l-għerq, u z-zokk.*

It-tifsira tasew tal-Milied – L-Inkarnazzjoni ta' Alla

F'dawn il-jiem li fihom kważi d-dinja kollha b'xi mod jew iehor tfakkar, partikolarment fil-knejjes kattoċi, wiehed seta' jisma' tidwi aktar minn darba l-espressjoni "Inkarnazzjoni" ta' Alla, biex tfisser il-verità li niċcelebraw fil-Milied Imqaddes: l-Iben ta' Alla sar bniedem, kif jiġi mistqarr fil-Kredit.

Imma din il-kelma centrali għall-fidi Nis-ranija Inkarnazzjoni xi tfisser fil-verità? Il-kelma ġeja mil-Latin "*incarnatio*". Lejn tmiem l-ewwel sekl kemm San Injazju ta' Antjokja u wkoll San Irinew użaw dan it-terminu meta kienu jirriflettu fuq il-Prologu tal-Vangelu ta' San Gwann, b'mod partiku-lari l-espressjoni: "*U l-Verb sar laham*" (Ġw 1:14).

Hawn il-kelma "laħam", skont l-użu tagħha fl-Għebrajk, tindika l-bniedem b'mod shih, kollu kemm hu, imma sewwa sew fl-aspett tal-limitazzjoni u t-temporalità tiegħu, tal-faqar u l-kontinġenza tiegħu.

Dan biex jgħidilna li l-fidwa li għabilna Alla li sar bniedem f'Ġesù ta' Nazareth tmiss il-kundizzjoni umana biex tfejjaqha minn dak kollu li jifridha minnU, biex tagħtina li nsejhulu, fl-Iben Wahdieni tiegħu, bl-isem ta' "*Abbà, Missier*" u nsiru tassew ulied Alla.

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Christmas in Australia – in summer

Since Australia lies in the Southern Hemisphere at this time of year it has summer rather than winter. Yes, it's the onset of summer in some countries whereas in other states of Australia; the temperature may rise up to 30°C. That means Australians celebrate warmer Christmas.

For anyone who has spent the silly season in the northern hemisphere, it's clear Australians do things differently. With the lack of snow and a quirky take on the holiday, it's more likely you'll see Santa surfing than a group of carollers wandering the neighbourhood.

While no two Christmas tables look exactly the same in this country, a pretty typical Aussie Christmas is sure to have at least a few of these things.

Surfing Santa

Traditional Santas wear bright red fleecy suits, lined with white fur and big black boots to fight off the northern winter, while in Australia, as it's summer at Christmas time, you're much more likely to see a board short-wearing Santa on a surfboard.

So where will you see a surfing Santa? It's not an official tradition by any means, but if you find yourself on a beach on Christmas day, you'll probably catch an early morning surfer in a Santa hat.

Eating prawns

While Australia's Maltese, British and



American friends are feasting on roast turkey, baked potato and hot chocolate, the Aussies are packing up the Esky for a picnic or setting up folding tables to eat outside. Most families in Australia will send someone to do a 'prawn run' in the morning.

Carols by candlelight

Most cities in Australia host their own Carols by Candlelight and there will usually be a few celebrity performers. Proceeds from the performance are usually donated to a charity.

There's often a main Carols By Candlelight performed in a major city but other cities will often host their own events too. Families pack picnics, blankets and mosquito spray and spend the evening outdoors listening to music.

Christmas lunch

If we were to believe everything we see

on television, it would appear that most Christmas meals happen at dinnertime. Not in Australia – where they are mostly Christmas lunch people.

Unless you have to spend Christmas with more than one family, in which case you're likely to have Christmas breakfast, lunch and dinner, Christmas is an all-day affair in Australia, with lots of eating, and time spent playing fun Christmas games for kids and big kids.

Christmas lunches in Australia are very relaxed, mostly casual affairs that can include breaks for a spot

of cricket or a splash in the backyard pool.

Christmas crackers are a must – as is the need to wear of colourful paper crowns and telling of bad-jokes from the goodies found within.

On Christmas Day, Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus. Different denominations have a range of traditions and types of Church service around Christmas Day. Catholics often attend midnight mass, which starts at midnight as Christmas Eve leads to Christmas Day. Other denominations attend special church services during the day on December 25.

There are a number of native Australian plants that include "Christmas" in their popular names. This is usually because they flower during the Christmas period. Examples include: Christmas bells, Christmas Bush, the Christmas tree and the Christmas orchid.

ADVERTISEMENT

Paul Scully MP

YOUR MEMBER FOR WOLLONGONG

I wish the Maltese community throughout New South Wales a safe and happy Christmas and New Year

Office G2, 51 Crown Street, Wollongong NSW 2500
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 @paulscullymp paulscullymp www.paulscullymp.com.au

Ċentinarju tad-dimostrazzjoni bil-Bambin

Mill-Gżira
Għawdxija

Charles Spiteri



Fil-1921 Dun Ġorġ Preca introduċa l-manifestazzjoni bil-Bambin li ma damitx ma stabilixxiet ruhha bħala tradizzjoni soda anki lil hemm minn

pajjiżna – anki jekk għaddew għoxrin sena qabel ma bdiet f'Għawdex.

Iċ-ċentru kulturali fi Pjazza San Ġorġ fil-kapitali Għawdxija, ir-Rabat, IL-ĦAĠAR, flimkien mas-Socjetà tad-Duttrina Nisranija (il-Mużew) qed itellghu wirja kumpatta li se tibqa' miftuħa sad-9 ta' Jannar li tfakkar f'meta San Ġorġ Preca introduċa l-manifestazzjoni bil-Bambin.

Fil-wirja hemm tagħrif storiku (bil-Malti u bl-Ingliż) f'għaxar posters attraenti mdendlin mal-hitan, fanali (jew "skudi") jixegħlu, lampi qodma ("mislufa" minn tal-vjatu), *Verbum Dei* impittra fuq il-ħgieg u plakka mwahhla mal-Qasam, kif ukoll żewġ oġġetti mill-kollezzjoni li 'Ħaġar' harġu għall-ewwel darba: ittra awtografa tal-Qaddis u abbozz ta' bust tiegħu (minn Ċensu Apap).

Ġorġ Cassar sellef statwa kummissjonata li turi l-manifestazzjoni; f'kamra oħra fl-istess sular, intrama presepu tipiku Naplitan. Iżda tispikka wkoll xbiha ta' Spanja tal-Bambin armata fuq bradella reċenti tal-

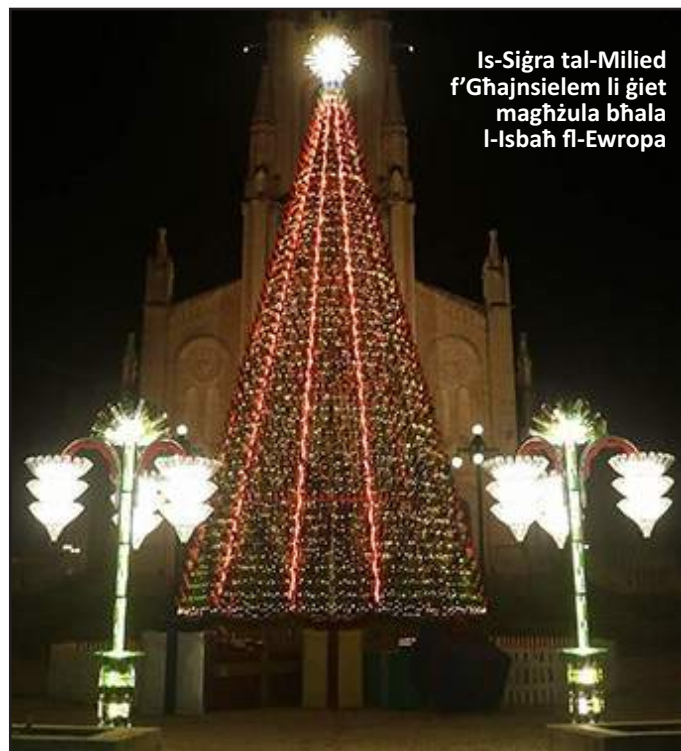
injam. Min iżur (bl-ebda hlas tad-dhul) ikun

jista' jsegwi żewġ vidjos.

Lejlet il-ftuħ, is-Segretarju Ġenerali Ruben Pace SDC kellu taħdita bis-sugġett "San Ġorġ Preca, Appostlu tal-Inkarnazzjoni". Inizjativa importanti oħra konnessa ma' dan hi l-produzzjoni ta' 14-il kartolina, eskusivament ta' natura artistika u reliġjuża.



Il-Bambin ta' Spanja fil-wirja tal-'Ħaġar'



Is-Sigra tal-Milied f'Għajnsielem li giet magħzula bħala l-Isbah fl-Ewropa

F'Għajnsielem Sigra tal-Milied b'madwar 4600 flixxun tal-ħgieg

Fil-pjazza ta' Għajnsielem il-Ministru għal Għawdex Clint Camilleri, xeghel is-sigra tal-Milied magħmula minn flixxun tal-ħgieg (*xellug*) li l-*European Best Destinations* ikklassifikata bħala l-isbah fl-Ewropa.

Il-kobor tal-installazzjoni, innovattiva u b'materjal riċiklabbli, li hi ta' daqs 19metru bi 8, saret b'madwar 4,600 flixxun. Fiha wkoll 7,200 *fairylights* u 14,000-il *led bulbs*.

L-attrazzjoni l-ġdida ta' din is-sena hi ż-żewġ brazzi li jikkumpliementawha fid-daħla tal-pjazza, strutturi tal-hadid u flixxun tal-ħgieg. Kull brazz fih aktar min 600 flixxun u jinxteghlu bi 3,600 *led bulb*. Apparti hekk ždiedu hames rigali kbar taht is-sigra, u fid-19 ta' Diċembru se ssir attivita' bil-wasla ta' Santa Klawns.

Il-proġett kellu warajh għadd ta' nies, voluntiera u entitajiet li kollha ngħataw ħajr mill-viċi-Sindku tal-lokal, Franco Ciangura, li hu l-moħħ waraj dan il-proġett.

Sadanittant, thabbar li bil-ghajnuna ta' hafna, fosthom tal-Ministeru għal Għawdex, tal-Gvern Lokali u ta' għadd ta' voluntiera, wara nuqqas ta' sena minhabba l-pandemija, se jerġa' jsir Bethlehem f'Għajnsielem. Imma din id-darba f'forma ta' *walkthrough*.

Barra minhekk biex jiġi limitaw l-influss ta' viżitaturi u jiġi oservat il-protokoll u jimxu mar-restrizzjonijiet tas-sigurtà, giet introdotta s-sistema ta' *booking* li tinsab fuq il-*website*. Fl-istess ħin qed tingħata l-faċilità u servizz ta' *booking* lir-residenti ta' Għajnsielem biss li ma jibbukjawx online.

Presepji fil-Knisja tax-Xagħra

Presepju magħmul min ġebel rustiku u tafal, xogħol artistiku taht id-direzzjoni ta' Mons Anton Refalo Zammit, mghejjun minn Elvin Borg, Manwel Micallef u Ibnu Jack, jinsab għall-wiri fil-Kappella tal-Knisja Bażilika ta' Marija Bambina fix-Xagħra. Tbierek mill-Arcipriet tal-Parroċċa, Mons Carmelo Refalo.

Minbarra dan il-presepju, fuq kull artal fil-ġnub hemm erba' presepji oħra għall-wiri, xogħol ta' Joe Stellini, Aaron Agius u Fabio Azzopardi, Joe u Matthew Theuma, u Victor Agius.



Żewġ xeni mill-presepju tax-Xagħra



The three cities of Malta (Part 2 and final)



Joseph LANZON

wrecked off the coast of what is now known as St. Paul's Bay in the northern part of the island.

However, legend has it that he departed to continue his voyage from the inlet in Cospicua because this part is sheltered

The Acts of the Apostles tell the story of how, in 60 AD, on his way to Rome to face charges, Paul the Apostle was shipwrecked on an island that Chapter 28 identifies as Malta. Tradition maintains that Paul was ship-

from the high winds prevailing in winter and because its inhabitants were boat builders and seafarers who built his ship. This area is still known officially as St. Paul's area.

In this stretch there's a church dedicated to St. Paul. The story goes that before this church was built, there was a stone cross to commemorate the event of his departure.

Senglea is named after Grand Master Claude de la Sengle who constructed the fortifications surrounding the city. It played a very important role in the Great Siege when it was repeatedly attacked by Ottoman forces, but did not fall. As a result, because of its valiant part in the Siege it was given the title of 'Citta Invicta' (Unconquered City).

During World War II, Senglea was the most bombed city in Malta. On the 20th June 1943, wearing his naval uniform, King George VI, visited the devastated city (right) while church bells rang out a steadfast welcome.

He was visibly saddened to see the heavily damaged church and the ruins that once were magnificent palaces and houses of character.

This city's peninsular location provides spectacular views of the Grand Harbour. The feast of its Patron Saint - the Little Madonna - known as 'Il-Bambina', falls on 8th September. But Senglea reflects Malta's heritage in many ways, particularly for its miraculous statue of Jesus Christ the Redeemer known as *Ir-Redentur*.

Senglea's residents are called *Ta Ċaċu* be-



June 1943: King George VI walking through the streets of Senglea accompanied by Canon Emmanuel Brincat

cause they are considered to be boastful and indulge in exaggerated self-praise.

The Three Cities suffered terribly in the last war. As they were very close to the Grand Harbour and the dockyard, which were the prime targets and were subject to continuous bombing day and night by the German *Luftwaffe* and Italy's *Aeronautica*.

As such, almost 400 years after the first siege of 1565 they had to live a second siege. Many residents lost their life, while many others were maimed for life. Thousands others suffered the destruction of their homes and possessions.

My family returned to Cospicua in late 1944 when the Allies were pushing back the Germans. We discovered that our old house had been destroyed. Therefore we had to transfer to a much smaller abode until reconstruction.

My friends and I used to play hide and seek among the ruins and the pulled-down hanging walls. We also dug out for shrapnel that we collected, and sought out for things in the rubble and debris. For an eight-year-old boy, that was heaven!



On behalf of the Committee and Members of the Maltese Welfare (NSW) Inc I wish you a Holy, Joyous Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

It has been a difficult year for everyone due to Covid 19. Our association looks forward to next year to continue our work and serve our community.

Stay safe and enjoy your family and friends.

Nathalie Gatt
(President Maltese Welfare (NSW) Inc)

MARK
TAYLOR MP

Merry Christmas to the Maltese community across Western Sydney! I hope everyone has a terrific Summer full of family gatherings. If there are any State or local issues I can assist you with across the Seven Hills electorate, please contact me.

E-mail: sevenhills@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Phone: 02 9831 8022

Address: 166 Best Road, Seven Hills NSW 2147

Authorised by Mark Taylor MP, 166 Best Road Seven Hills NSW 2147.



Maltese tenor Joseph Calleja's message to his fans in Australia

"To all of my Australian fans who have shown incredible grace and patience, I am indeed coming in October and November of 2022 and you have no idea how much I am looking forward to singing for you all. I promise to make my tour memorable with the most popular arias and songs in my repertoire. See you soon!"



New Zealand added to the tour

Meanwhile, as part of Joseph Calleja's tour in Australia in 2022, Andrew McKinnon Presentations will also be presenting the Maltese tenor at the Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre in Auckland, New Zealand on 27th October at 7.30 p.m. It has just gone on sale to NZ Opera subscribers. <https://nzopera.com/2022-season-whats-on/>.

It will go on sale to the general public early next year.

On Malta's foreign policy strategy



Chris CUTAJAR

*Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign
and European Affairs*

The pandemic has completely changed the world as we know it, bringing in a new element of uncertainty. Malta will need to adapt to such changes and new realities, such as the uncertain global economic climate

Whether we like it or not, we are part of a global community, and our foreign policy determines our place in it. No country can prosper and fulfil its interests by being in isolation. Citizens tend to concentrate and focus more on our domestic policy, on issues

that affect their daily lives. Most often, the significance of foreign policy goes unnoticed.

However, choosing between domestic and foreign policy and priorities is a false choice. Both are equally important, and they determine each other.

Our foreign policy is shaped to serve the country and its citizens, even those living abroad. This week, the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs has launched 'Malta's Foreign Policy Strategy' for public consultation, whereby for the first time our foreign policy is laid out in a strategic document.

Malta pitches 'voice for moderation' in United Nations Security Council bid

Malta's foreign policy is based on our interests and value system, underpinned by the constitution, the rule of law, equality of opportunity and sustainability.

As a small state, Malta is a bridge-builder, committed to neutrality, disarmament, peace and consensus through dialogue with all. While not being pretentious, and acknowledging our constraints, our size should not be perceived as a limitation either.

Small states can surprise by launching initiatives that mobilise and galvanise the international community. In fact, in 1988, Malta was the first country to formally table the issue of climate change as a political agenda item during the 43rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Today, climate change is a priority for the international community, considered as a global threat.

In a globalised world, characterised by political, economic, environmental and technological change, it was necessary for Malta's foreign policy to reflect and adapt to new global realities, and thus be agile and inclusive, guided by clear goals, and supported by domestic policy. This is even more relevant against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The pandemic has completely changed the world as we know it, bringing in a new element of uncertainty. Malta will need to adapt to such changes and new realities, such as the uncertain global economic climate.

Another important aspect of Malta's foreign policy is that of coherence between domestic and foreign policy. A credible foreign policy requires coherence and close coordination between all actors within the government, external stakeholders and activities, to ensure a clear and consistent message.

This is the basis of Malta's foreign policy strategy, reinforced by three strategic goals on the following themes: prosperity; peace, security and dialogue; and influence in strategic regions and multilateral fora.

Through the strategic framework and identified objectives, Malta aims to translate words into actions, which in return can achieve tangible results for its citizens.

Foreign policy should be regarded as an integral part of Malta's decision-making process. The way Malta interacts with the wider world, and what happens outside Malta's shores, is likely to have an impact domestically.



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AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

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X'ghandu x'joffri La Valette SC lill-komunitá Maltija f'Sydney

Waqt waqfa li *The Voice of the Maltese* għamilna fiċ-ċentru Malti La Valette li jinsab f'Walters Rd Blacktown NSW madwar 31km bogħod mill-belt ta' Sydney ltqajna ma' Godfrey Sultana, il-president ta' dan iċ-ċentru li minhabba l-pandemija, bhal hafna lokalijiet soċjali oħra għadda minn sentejn ta' ansjetà u qtugħ-il qalb. Minn gimgha għall-oħra u minn xahar għall-iehor, hadd ma kien jaf x'se jiġri.

Sultana spejgalna dak li iċ-ċentru għandu x'joffri lill-komunitá Maltija u lill-ħbiebhom. Qalilna li fiċ-ċentru hemm joperaw tliet entitajiet differenti, indipendenti minn xulxin u mmexxija minn kumitati u individwi differenti.

L-akbar entitá hija l-La Valette Social Centre, LVSC, l-akbar ċentru tal-Maltin fl-Awstralja imwaqqaf fil-1964. Iċ-Ċentru hu kburi li l-art u l-binja huma tiegħu. Fih hemm ukoll ċentru reliġjuż fil-qalba tal-Maltin fi Blacktown.

Il-LVSC jorganizza attivitajiet speċjali u jiffestegġja wkoll ċerti festi tradizzjonali Maltin, fosthom dik ta' San Pawl, San Gorg Preca, id-Duluri, l-Imnarja u l-Milied. Barra minhekk iċ-ċentru jaħdem ukoll ma' għaqdiet oħra biex ihegħiġhom jorganizzaw l-attivitajiet tagħhom fih, u xi għaqdiet illum anke għamlu dan iċ-ċentru d-dar tagħhom.

Meta tkellem dwar il-Maltese Respite Care Services Godfrey Sultana qal lil *The Voice* li dan is-servizz ilu joperaw min dan

iċ-ċentru għal aktar minn 25 sena bi grants tad-Dipartiment tas-Saħħa. Is-servizzi ta' Respite (*Centre-based Respite*) isiru kull nhar ta' Hamis, fosthom li jgħin lill-anzjani li jittiehdu għal appuntamenti tat-tobba u speċjalisti, u anke biex jagħmlu x-xirjiet.

Għal dawk li ma jistgħux joħorġu minn djarhom, tal-La Valette joffru ukoll viżiti fi darhom stess. Dawn huma magħrufa bħala l-Flexible Respite. Kull min hu rreġistrat ma' MyAgedCare jista' jiġi referut lis-servizz tar-Respite Malti u wara li jiġi assessjat, ikun jista' jgawdi minn dawn is-servizzi.

Il-president tal-LVSC qal li l-Maltese Respite Care Services joffru wkoll trasport bi ħlas baxx hafna għal kull servizz.

Fl-aħhar nett il-LVSC għandu wkoll il-parti tan-negozju permezz tax-Chef's Lounge immexxi minn Lalit Mishra li jiehu ħsieb il-kċina. Lalit huwa kok kwalifikat kif ukoll għalliem tal-kċina. Fuq il-menu tiegħu wiehed isib fost l-oħrajn anke l-ikel Malti.

Min jiffrekwenta iċ-ċentru b'mod regolari, jista' jsib pastizzi, ravjul, u platti differenti, fosthom il-fenek timpani, ross il-forn, braġoli, torti tal-irkotta, u sopop tal-qargħa ah-mar u l - F a z o l a .



Godfrey Sultana, il-President tal-La Valette Social Club fi Blacktown

Wiehed jista' jibbukja għal kwalunkwé okkażjoni kemm direttament ma' Lalit, kif ukoll maż-żentru, li jaħdmu id fid.

Il-president tal-LVSC ha wkoll l-okkażjoni biex jagħti ħajr lill-voluntiera kollha kemm ta' La Valette kif ukoll tal-MCC tax-xogħol li għamlu, lill-isponsors, u wkoll lil Father Tarcisio Micallef li jiġi minn Sydney biex iqaddes fiċ-ċentru kull nhar ta' Sibb u f'okkażjonijiet oħra speċjali.

Fl-aħhar nett, habbar attivitá li se tiġi oganizzata fiċ-ċentru, il-ballu tal-aħhar tas-sena (*ara avviz tal-LVSC f'pagna 27*).

Fost kollox il-Milied hi, u tibqa' festa Nisranija

Speċjalment għall-Maltin, il-festa tal-Milied, minbarra li hija okkażjoni ta' btala fil-25 ta' Diċembru li jkun ilhom ihejju għaliha jiem jekk mhux gimghat, hi t-tifkira tat-twelid ta' Ġesù, li huwa l-figura ewlenija tal-Kristjaneżmu.

Skont xi studjużi dan il-jum ta' ferħ jista' ma jkunx tassew il-jum tat-twelid tal-Bambin Ġesù imma jista' jkun li ha post il-festa qadima tas-solistizju tax-xitwa fil-kalendarju antik Ruman.

Minkejja li qabel kollox il-Milied hu festa Nisranija, din tiġi ċelebrata wkoll minn hafna li t-twemmin tagħhom mhux dak Nisrani. b'danakollu huma wkoll jieħdu l-okkażjoni li jorbtuha mal-ghoti tar-rigali, mal-Father Christmas, il-mużika u l-għanjiet tal-Milied b'kull lingwa, il-kartolini b'xewqat għall-festa. u wkoll is-sigra tal-Milied (*Christmas*

Tree).

Fid-dinja Nisranija, tingħata wkoll importanza kbira fost iċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet reliġjużi l-quddies ta' nofs il-lejl. Imbagħad hemm l-ikket speċjali fil-pajjizi diversi. Hemm anke t-tiżjin, kemm fid-djar u wkoll fil-berah fejn hafna drabi tiddomina s-sigra tal-Milied, tant li f'għadd ta' bliet u rhula Maltin, din is-sigra b'mod esaġerat saret tiddomina l-pjazez ma' xi grotta.

Attivitá li t-fal jogħxew biha, x'aktarx li f'kull pajjiż, tkun ġeneralment l-ghoti tar-rigali, filwaqt li n-negozjanti u sidien tal-hwienet jifirhu għax hi okkażjoni oħra għalihom li tkabbar l-attivitá ekonomika u l-kummerċ li tohloq ġeneralment jisboq il-bejgħ ta' sena shiħa. Xi haġa tajba, imma hażin jekk dan inessi s-sinifikat tal-jum.

JULIA FINN MP
Member for Granville



Wishing the Maltese Community a Happy and Blessed Christmas

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F: 9897 1434

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9 am to 5 pm - closed between 12.30pm to 1.30 pm

Authorised by Julia Finn MP, funded using parliamentary entitlements.

On Republic Day 13th December during the Investiture Ceremony at The Palace in Valletta, on behalf of the government and people of Malta, the President of the Republic George Vella paid public tribute to a number of Maltese citizens who distinguish themselves in different fields of endeavour. He honoured 27 individuals and a volunteer organisation.

Two of the honourees received the *Midalja għall-Qlubija*, 15 The National Order of Merit, or the *Xirka Ġieħ ir-Repubblika*, and 11 others, the *Midalja għall-Qadi tar-Repubblika*. Among the last mentioned was Charles Muscat former High Commissioner for Malta in Australia and New Zealand.

The honourees are:

NATIONAL ORDER OF MERIT

Reno Calleja who served for 20 years as a Labour MP. Renowned for his assiduous endeavour to promote Malta internationally, particularly with China.

Profs. Sir Alfred Cuschieri, an academic and surgeon known for pioneering contribution to the development and clinical implementation of key-hole surgery.

Profs. Ludvic Zrinzo: A neuroradiologist and neurosurgeon who introduced neurosurgery to the Maltese Islands.

HONORARY MEMBER

Darrin Quiroz Camilleri born in the USA to a Maltese father. Became the first-ever Maltese American and youngest Latino to serve in the Michigan Legislature.

Profs. Lino Bianco is an architect an engineer, an academic and a diplomat. He is currently the Ambassador of Malta to Romania and the Republic of Moldova

Profs. Joseph Cacciottolo Introduced and led for many years bronchoscopy within a specialist pulmonary medicine service.

Frederick Fearn. He played an important role in the setting up of technical education in Malta.

Norman Hamilton for 60 years a broadcaster in Radio & TV and served as Malta's High Commissioner to the UK.

Dr. Jonathan Joslin a Consultant Emergency Physician and Specialist.

Dr Michael Spiteri has specialising in the field of Emergency Medicine.

Fr. Gwann Xerri (Posthumous) since 1974, worked in a number of parishes in Brazil where he died from COVID-19.

Profs. Edward Zammit has worked incessantly towards the democratisation of labour and industrial relations.

St John Rescue Corps, a voluntary organisation a new branch of St John Malta.

Profs. Sante Guido, art historian and art conservator.

George Procopiou is a most influential persons in the maritime industry.

MIDALJA GHALL-QLUBIJA

Dr. Raymond Grixti distinguished himself for his rapid act of bravery.

Sean Meli rescued a 14-year-old swept to sea at Qui-Si-Sana, Sliema.



Charles Muscat, Malta's former HC in Australia

MIDALJA GHALL-QADI TAR-REPUBBLIKA

Charles Muscat served for seven years as High Commissioner for Malta in Australia where he has lived since 1962.

Neil Agius a long-distance swimmer.

Philip Chircop militating in the Health and Elderly sectors.

Lino Farrugia is a Producer/ Director, of radio/TV programmes.

Anton Grasso author of several books.

Lilian Maistre a broadcaster for 60 years.

Jane Marshall for 50 years household name in theatre and television.

Michael Pace known in the field of local Physical Education and Sport.

Connie Vella who for 30 years helping patients receiving treatment in Britain.

Dr. Ethel Vento Zahra is a dental surgeon.

Dr. Joe Zammit Ciantar a teacher by profession and Senior Lecturer with the University of Malta Junior College

Season's Greetings
Wishing you and your family peace and happiness this Christmas.

Contact me if you need help with pensions, Medicare, NBN, immigration, or other Federal Government issues.

SUSAN TEMPLEMAN MP
 FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MACQUARIE
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Dahlet għall-kariga fl-aqwa tal-pandemija

Li titlaq minn gżira ċkejna biex tibda xogħol gdid f'kontinent vast u f'belt multikulturali hija trawma biżżejjed, iżda li tasal fi Stat Awstraljan l-aktar milqut mill-pandemija u l-iktar belt li għaddiet minn kontroversja minhabba l-lockdowns, żgur li thallik imkedda u li thossok xi ftit jew wisq "sfortunata".

Hekk għalha Chirelle Ellul-Scicluna meta waslet fil-belt ta' Melbourne, flimkien ma' żewġha u binha biex tokkupa l-pożizzjoni ta' Konslu Ġenerali tal-Gvern Malti fl-Istat ta' Victoria. Iżda minkejja li taht kundizzjonijiet straordinarij stqarret ma' *The Voice of the Maltese*: "Ilni Melbourne flimkien mal-familja minn Mejju, u wara ftit jiem li hriġna mil-kwarantana mandatorja li kienet imposta fuq kulhadd dak iż-żmien, esperjenzajna l-ewwel lockdown f'Mejju stess. Minn dakinhar, fis-seba' xhur li ilni f'Melbourne esperjenzajt tliet lockdowns."

"M'hiex faċli li tgħix f'pajjiż gdid f'din l-atmosfera hekk diffiċli, l-aktar fl-ewwel ftit xhur li qed tissetilja f'pajjiż gdid. Is-sitwazzjoni tal-Covid u lockdowns għamlitha aktar diffiċli minhabba l-fatt li ma tista' tiltaqa' ma' hadd. Iżda d-determinazzjoni, ir-reżiljenza u speċjalment l-appoġġ mill-familja kienu fatturi importanti biex imexxieli ngħix f'din ir-realtà preżenti".

The Voice stassejna kif, taht kundizzjonijiet u atmosfera tant diffiċli nrexxielha tibda xogħol gdid li jinvolvi hafna komunikazzjoni fizikali. Wieġbet: "Nemmen li huwa importanti ferm li wiehed dejjem jara l-opportunitajiet, anke fiż-żminijiet diffiċli tal-hajja, u hekk għamilt."

"Ix-xogħol xorta tkompla billi addattajna għaċ-ċirkostanzi. Konna aktar kreattivi fil-mod ta' hidma għalkemm konna limitati fil-kuntatt mal-pubbliku. Iżda fl-istess hin ridna li għalkemm konna f'lockdown xorta nippruvaw nilhqu lill-komunità Maltija, biex nuru li bħala Konsulat xorta wahda konna għadna għaddejjin bil-hidma u li qegħdin għas-servizz tal-Maltin."

"Fil-fatt bdejna serje ta' programmi fuq irradjijiet dwar tagħrif konsolari. L-għan hu li l-programmi jtkomplew fiż-żmien li ġej għax intlaqqu ferm tajjeb. Minn Gunju 'l hawn fuq il-midja soċjali bdejna wkoll il-paġna tal-Konsolat u bqajna f'kuntatt kontinwu permezz ta' dik il-pjattaforma wkoll."

"Għalkemm l-appuntamenti għal passaporti u servizzi oħra kienu weqfin, ix-xogħol huwa ferm aktar minn hekk. Fil-fatt, bqajna għaddejjin b'hidma minn wara l-kwinti u haddna l-opportunità li jsiru thejijiet għal-proġetti fil-qasam għall-promozzjoni ta' Malta f'hafna oqsma varji, li l-frott tagħhom se jidher fiż-żmien li ġej".

Osservajna li minhabba l-kumplikazzjonijiet tal-Covid xejn ma kien faċli li tithallat mal-komunità Maltija. Imma Chirelle qaltilha li wiehed għandu jaċċetta s-sitwazzjoni li kulhadd kien jinsab fiha minhabba r-restrizzjonijiet.

B'danakollu, għalkemm ma tantx kellha ċans li tintegra mal-komunità Maltija, digá kellha merħba sabiha mill-Maltin li ltaq-ghet magħhom meta setet bejn il-lock-

Niltaqqu mal-Konslu Ġenerali gdid f'Melbourne

downs. "U hekk bi hsiebni nkompli naghmel, li nibqa f'kuntatt u li nkun qrib tal-komunità Maltija f'Victoria" qaltilha.

Il-Belt ta' Melbourne fejn hemm tgħix l-akbar komunita' ta' Maltin barra x-xtut Maltin, hija wkoll multikulturali u fiha firxa sewwa tal-lingwi u drawwiet u temp xi ftit iktar differenti minn Malta. Kif sabet ruhha quddiem dan kollu?

Wieġbet li biex tissetilja f'Melbourne ma kienx hemm wisq diffikultajiet. "Kien hemm xi persuni li għenu biex stajt nissetilja u nirriloka ruhi fosthom. Nixtieq nirringrazzja lill-E.T Mario Farrugia Borg il-Kummissarju Għoli ta' Malta għal Awstralja, lill-kollegi fil-Kummissjoni Għolja ta' Malta f'Canberra u dawk fi hdan il-Konsolat f'Melbourne, u wkoll lis-Sur Joe Borg."

L-akbar sfida

"Iżda l-akbar sfida kienet il-kwarantana u lockdowns, speċjalment meta trid tiffaċċjahom kif tkun għadek wasalt go pajjiż gdid. Hu grazzi tas-sostenn u l-appoġġ mill-familja li wkoll stajt inkompli bil-hidma f'dawn iż-żminijiet."

Mill-ewwel daqqa t'għajn kif tpingi l-Maltin ta' Melbourne? "Il-komunità Maltija f'Melbourne hi wahda organizzata fis-sens li hawn hafna assoċjazzjonijiet Maltin li huma stabili. Nirringrazzjahom tal-hidma kontinwa tagħhom u wkoll tal-kontribut li jagħtu lill-komunità Maltija f'Melbourne."

"Niehu din l-opportunita' li ngħaddi messagg dwar l-importanza li bħala Komunita' nahdmu lkoll flimkien għal għan wiehed, biex immexxu l-interessi tagħna l-Maltin fl-Awstralja."

"Biex tkompli tis-saħħah din it-tradizzjoni Maltija f'dan il-kontinent jinhtieg nilqghu fi haddna wkoll demm gdid ta' ulied il-Maltin għaliex huwa b'dan il-mod biss li rridu nibqghu vibranti u relevanti għaż-żmien tal-lum, biex dak li nbena matul iż-żminijiet ma jintilifx iżda jibqa' jkollna l-assigurazzjoni li l-Identita' Maltija ma tintilifx u tibqa' għal ġenerazzjonijiet ġejjiena".

Finalment Chirelle Ellul Scicluna aw-



Il-Konslu Ġenerali Chirelle Ellul-Scicluna

gurat il-Milied u s-Sena t-Tajba lil kulhadd, li jkunu mimlija ferh u paċi mhux biss f'dan iż-żminijiet iżda matul is-sena kollha. Hi temmen ukoll li s-sena diehla se ggib jiem aħjar mimlija opportunitajiet biex tkun tista' tkompli tiltaqa' mal-komunità Maltija b'mod partikolari f'Victoria.

*Chirelle Ellul Sciberras hija career diplomat. Hi serviet għal erba' snin fil-Kummissjoni Għolja f'Londra. Hi ggradwata BA Hon European Studies u anke fl-MA fid-Diplomatic Studies. Kitbet ukoll kiteb bl-isem ta' On the verge of losing its Christian Identity.

ADVERTISEMENT

Julie Owens MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR PARRAMATTA

Merry Christmas AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

If I can be of any help please phone me on 9689 1455 or write to 1/25 Smith Street, Parramatta NSW or email: Julie.owens.mp@aph.go.au
www.julieowens.com.au www.facebook.com/julie.owens.mp

Authorised by Julie Owens MP, ALP, 1/25 Smith St, Parramatta

A very successful social gathering post-Covid lockdowns

How do you turn a Social Connection lunch into a very entertaining, informative, and pleasant day? Well, it was achieved without much fuss by gathering under one roof all active ageing groups under the auspices of the Maltese Community Council of NSW at the La Valette Centre in Blacktown. It was a long time coming. Covid-19 and the enforced lockdowns were the main cause.

The main purpose of the event was completely achieved as Maltese groups active in the localities of Greystanes, Merrylands, Fairfield, Bankstown, Landillo, and Daceyville, some 170 of them, personally interacted; some had never been to the Maltese Centre. The Maltese group from the Sutherland area was unable to attend.

It started with a mass celebrated by Fr Tar-cisio Micallef MSSP, it was after all il-Festa tal-Kuncizzjoni celebrated in Malta at Bormla. Most of the attendees received Holy Communion in person for the first time in months. Morning tea followed. Then, *ross il-form* was served for lunch by the Chef's

Lounge, now operating from the Centre.

Miriam Friggieri, Antoine Mangion from the MCC, and Godfrey Farrugia from the La Valette Centre addressed the gathering. It was quite evident from the speeches that there is a very close and workable relationship between the MCC and La Valette SC, although the Centre is not a member of the MCC.

Marisa Previtera, the community welfare officer of the MCC and the inspiration behind this gathering conducted the proceedings with usual efficiency and thanked all those that assisted, particularly the leaders of each group located at various suburbs of metropolitan Sydney. The volunteers received unanimous acclamation for their efforts when presented to the gathering.

Dorothy Gatt, a member of the

Maltese Choir presented Marisa Previtera, the former Choir Master with a token of appreciation for service rendered, while entertainer Charles Muscat cheered everybody with his popular music. His music evokes many happy memories.

In a comment to *The Voice*, Marisa Previtera said "And so, with their spiritual needs met and traditional food that was shared as well as the joy that the music and dance was able to bring to them, the Social Connection Luncheon was indeed a great success and a great way to end almost two years of social isolation"

The MCC and its hard-working committee continue to play a significant and active role in the community and the executive team and its committee are to be commended for its many initiatives for the good of all Maltese communities of Greater Sydney.

The event was sponsored by COVID Community Support Grant from Multicultural NSW to realize its vision of bringing all its Social Welfare Groups together to reconnect after the enforced lockdowns of 2020/21.

Those attending this event received a complimentary printed copy of *The Voice of the Maltese*.

(Photos courtesy: Lawrence Gatt)



The group leaders (from left): Sam Mifsud (Bankstown), Doris Scicluna (Daceyville), Francis Montesin (Greystanes), Dorothy Gatt (Fairfield), Helen Azzopardi (Llandilo), Salvina Falzon (Merrylands)



Marisa Previtera (left) receiving a gift (for services rendered to the Maltese Choir) from Dorothy Gatt. Below: All enjoying themselves



Community News



A Christmas Message from the Maltese Community Council of NSW

After yet another challenging year we now approach Christmas and the New Year ahead with a renewed enthusiasm and hope that we all be able to meet and enjoy the company of family and friends as we continue to progress to our new "normal".

This year we were not able to host our annual Australia Day function but we were able to commemorate *Sette Giugno* ahead of the major restrictions in NSW. Despite being plunged into lockdown once again, the work of the MCC continued by phone and virtual meetings.

Our Welfare service supported the community via phone calls and Zoom. Maltese Language lessons were delivered online with renewed interest and a boost in enrolments. Our listeners were kept informed and entertained via our weekly radio programme on 2GLF every Sunday morning. We give thanks to all our members and volunteers for their hard work and support.

As for Covid, please don't become complacent. The pandemic is not yet over and we still need to take precautions and follow health guidelines. We look forward to representing and supporting the Maltese Community in the year ahead.

We wish you all a very happy and Holy Christmas with very best wishes for a safe and prosperous 2022



The Maltese Community Council

MALTESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL NSW

A division of the Maltese Community Council of NSW Inc. Established in 1999

Learn Maltese

Due to the covid restrictions, we are only conducting lessons online.

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Listen live or on demand. Also available on tunein



La Valette Social Centre

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



Thursday activities at La Valette Social Centre are now suspended over the Christmas period and will restart on 20th January 2022.

The Saturday activities are also suspended and will restart on 8th January 2022.

UPCOMING EVENT:

New Year's Eve dinner on Friday 31 December from 7.30pm. Tickets \$60 for members, \$65 non-members, includes 3-course meal, wine & soft drinks. Entertainment by Charlie Camilleri.

Phone Frances 0412320432, Antoinette 96712992 or the centre.

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' I-programm tar-radju bil-Malti mill-Kunsill Malti ta' NSW minn fuq l-istazzjon 2GLF 89.3FM. Also On Demand on I-Internet: www.893fm.com.au

On Demand: *Ethnic Maltese Council* 11am

Tune in to Radio and Television

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

BRISBANE listen to the Maltese Pro-

gramme 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 drawn to meet Cyprus/Estonia and San Marino in UEFA 22/23 Nations League

Malta has been drawn to meet the winners of the match between Cyprus and Estonia, and San Marino in Group D2 of the 2022-23 Nations League campaign that kick starts in June.

The competition will consist of three leagues of 16 teams each and a fourth of seven, the make-up decided by promotions and relegations from that second running.

At the draw for UEFA's competition in Nyon, Switzerland the 55 European football body's members were divided into four separate leagues: A, B, C and D and would be taking part in the third edition of this competition.

Malta's group is made up of three teams, while Group D1 has four. Both group winners in League D will be promoted for

the 2024-25 competition.

Leagues A, B and C all have 16 teams, which were drawn into four groups of four for the league phase. The remaining seven teams, in League D, were split into two groups, one of four and the other of three.

In all cases, teams will play all their group opponents home and away in June and September 2022. Four of the six matchdays will be in June due to the winter scheduling of the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

The four group winners in League A will advance to the knockout Finals in June 2023. The group winners in the other three leagues will all be promoted for the 2024/25 edition.

The teams finishing fourth in the groups in Leagues A and B will be relegated. The teams finishing fourth in the League C

groups will enter the play-outs in March 2024, with the two teams defeated in those ties moving to League D.

The first two matchdays of the 2022-23 UEFA Nations League are scheduled for June 2-8, 2022, to be followed by two more matches later in June and another two in September.

Since Malta is in a group of three teams it will play two less games, however it is obliged to instead play two extra friendly matches.



Premier League football Hibernians sail on regardless

Day 13 of Malta's Premier League once again went Hibernians' way as they defeated Gudja United 2-1. The win also enabled the Paolites to maintain their unbeaten run and helped them to increase their lead at the top to eight points over nearest challengers Floriana as Hamrun Spartans' match with Birkirkara was postponed.

Hibernians were a better side in the early stages, took the lead but then conceded the equaliser only to score the winner three minutes into added time.

In the absence of Hamrun, Floriana took their chance to replace them in the runner up position thanks to their 2-0 win over 'Old Firm' rivals Sliema Wanderers, who stay bottom still in search of their first victory after 12 outings.

Sliema play again on Thursday when they face Balzan after their previous week's game was postponed.

In other matches, Balzan inflicted the second successive defeat on Valletta, who in the previous round had also lost to champions Hamrun, giving the Spartans momentarily the runner up spot. Sirens leapfrogged over Gzira with a 3-2 win over Mosta, and Gzira came back from 0-2 down to draw 2-2 with Santa Lucia.

DAY 13 RESULTS

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

Postponed

Hamrun S v Birkirkara

DAY 12 RESULTS

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

Controversy surrounds Max Verstappen's first F1 World Championship victory



The Formula 1 racing season has been described as the season to end all seasons as it came down to the last lap in the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix to be decided with Red Bull's Max Verstappen (left) narrowly beating seven-times World Champion Lewis Hamilton in a controversial finish. Mercedes bagged their eighth Constructors' title.

Formula 1's newest world champion Max Verstappen appeared in Paris last

Thursday to claim his World Championship trophy, following his victory at Yas Marina Circuit. It meant him securing his first-ever drivers' title, and Red Bull's first since 2013, at the end of a season-long battle with title rival Lewis Hamilton.

In some ways, it shouldn't have been a surprise that a remarkable see-sawing title fight was settled by a remarkable see-sawing finale. After 1,296 laps, it all turned on the 1,297th and final. For two hours, Lewis Hamilton was on course for an unparalleled eighth title. But one lap from the end, one lap from history, it all swung – and it was Max Verstappen who emerged triumphant in both the race and the championship.

At the price-giving ceremony, Mercedes celebrated victory in the constructors' championship. Lewis Hamilton lost out on the 2021 drivers' championship, following the controversial conclusion of the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix that saw Verstappen pit under the Safety Car for new soft tyres as leader Hamilton stayed

out – with Verstappen then able to attack Hamilton on his fresher rubber on the final lap to claim the victory that assured him of the title.

Verstappen deserved this title. But so too did Lewis. Both men drove sublimely all year, their level never dipping below phenomenal. But one man had to win – and one had to lose.

Max Verstappen called competitor Lewis Hamilton an "amazing" driver after winning out in an astonishing season-long battle with the seven-time champion. "I have a lot of respect for Lewis, but you know, I'm just very happy that I won in general because it's been of course a very tough season fighting against Mercedes and Lewis. But I don't want to sound... arrogant or whatever, to say that it's a great satisfaction to win against him," said Verstappen.

"I just have a lot of respect for him, and I know he's an amazing driver in terms of what he's achieved but I'm just very happy that we won it."

Verstappen had taken pole position, lost the lead, and regained it in a last-lap shootout after a late Safety Car was called in Abu Dhabi.

Mercedes lodged a pair of protests against the outcome of the race – both of which were later dismissed by the stewards, and in the end did not proceed with the protest.