



Maltese eNewsletter

Journal of Maltese Living Abroad



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We wish our readers and all Maltese living in Malta and Gozo and Abroad
a healthy, peaceful, merry and blessed CHRISTMAS

Nixtiequ lill-qarrejja taghna u 'l Maltin kollha Milied hieni, fil-paci u b'kull barka

DREAMING OF A
MALTESE CHRISTMAS



President of Malta George Vella
MESSAGE TO ALL MALTESE
LIVING ABROAD



I'M DREAMING OF A MALTESE CHRISTMAS



Dreaming of a Maltese Christmas is very important to the people of Malta and its sister Island of Gozo. Most people on Malta are Catholics and go to a Midnight Mass. Usually the churches are full with people. In Maltese Happy Christmas is 'Il-Milied it-Tajjeb'.

The Churches are decorated with lights and nativity cribs, 'Presepu', built by the churchgoers. The cribs are decorated with figurines, called 'pasturi' (representing figures like the shepherds and angels). Today some of the cribs are mechanical and the figures in them move! The figure of the baby Jesus is put on the main altar at midnight on Christmas night. At epiphany it is traditional to put the three figures of the Magi in the crib. There is a group on Malta called 'Friends of the Crib' who help to keep the Maltese crib tradition alive. Cribs were first introduced into Malta from Italy by rich noblemen. They were not popular at first and most were burnt. The first true Maltese crib is believed to have been made in Malta in 1617 and was displayed in the Dominican Friars Church in Rabat. In St Peter's Monastery in Mdina, there is a crib dating back to 1670. This is treasured and looked after by the Benedictine Nuns who live in the monastery.

At about the same time, another Maltese man made a crib with moving parts powered by water! As cribs became more popular they also became more 'Maltese' with people replacing the Italian looking buildings and trades people with local ones. (Flour windmills were and are still popular buildings to feature in a crib scene.) The first imported Italian 'pasturi' were very expensive

and most people couldn't afford them. So people started making their own 'pasturi' from rough clay and plaster.

Some of these figures still exist today. (Modern pasturi are now often made of plastic.) By the early to mid 20th century, cribs were thought of as old fashioned and not very popular anymore. To stop the decline of Christmas, in 1907, a priest called George Preca founded children's charity and society called 'MUSEUM'. In 1921 he started a tradition of having a Christmas Eve procession with a life size figure of the Baby Jesus being carried at the head of the procession. At sunset on Christmas Eve in 1921, Fra Diego Street in the town of Hamrun was crowded with children and adults ready to take part in the first procession.

In those days, street lighting was very poor in Malta and so many people brought lanterns with them to help them see their way during the procession and to shed light on the statue of Baby Jesus carried shoulder-high by four boys. The different types of lamps included, gas powered bicycle headlamps, oil lamps used on farmer's carts, coloured paper lanterns, Venetian lights, palm fronds and olive branches. The idea became very popular with people of all ages and so the very special Maltese tradition started.

These processions are still popular today and form part of the Christmas Eve celebrations. In 1986 the 'Friends of the Crib' society was formed and now they have over 500 members. Every year, in the weeks running up to Christmas, the Friends put on an exhibition of about 100 cribs of all shapes and sizes. Maltese houses are often also decorated with cribs with 'pasturi' (which are small plastic or clay figures representing figures like the shepherds and angels). Large figures of the baby Jesus are sometimes put behind windows or in balconies and lit at night. Houses are also decorated with Christmas wreaths, candles and all sorts of other decorations. Every household also has a Christmas Tree decorated with light bulbs, tinsel and Christmas decorations.

**NINNI, LA TIBKIX IZJED,
NINNI, GESU' BAMBIN. HALLIH GHALINA L-
BIKI, GHAX AHNA MIDINBIN**

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF MALTA

**H.E. DR. GEORGE VELLA**

Fellow Maltese, Despite the physical distance, and the time you have spent away from these Islands, you remain close to us both in thought and in our hearts. I am therefore pleased to take this opportunity to share these few words with you and

wish you and your loved ones good wishes at this very special time of year. Perhaps few expected that the situation in 2021 will be very similar to that of 2020. I admit that, like many, I hope we find a speedy and lasting solution to overcome the adverse effects of the pandemic. It however seems that this virus will continue to pose challenges that will keep changing and will likely last for a long time. I appeal to everyone to listen to the advice given to us by science and to follow more closely the advice of professionals, including precautionary measures, such as vaccinations. I believe that international cooperation, especially between affluent and less affluent countries, is crucial for us as one global family to move forward. Despite the geographical distances between us, we all remain committed to achieving the 2030 Sustainability Goals and ensuring that we leave no one behind. Without detracting from the medical emergency created due to this pandemic,

I am optimistic about the new year and wish for a better balance between the health challenges and the protection of fundamental human rights. I must mention all the workers in the medical field and salute them for the determination and resilience they've shown over the last few months as they have continued to be heroes for us all. Ladies and gentlemen, As this year approaches its end, I am all the more convinced that the events that continue to shape our country cannot be viewed from an isolated perspective, but in a regional and international context.

2 The effects of climate change, the humanitarian emergency which is becoming serious in some parts of the world, and the levels of inequality between the northern and the southern countries, continue to sustain an unfair system that is causing

harm to our planet. The sale and trafficking of weapons, especially in war zones and countries fighting extremist forces, continue to hamper our collective efforts for peace and unity.

I appeal for more countries to recognise the damage caused by militarising politics and to ensure that international law is used as a tool to safeguard fundamental rights and not as a weapon of extermination. I welcome the COP26 climate emergency talks held in Glasgow a few weeks ago. Through dialogue and mutual respect, these discussions show an international family that, although embracing many political divergences, is ready to work together to find a solution. It is this dialogue-based unity that paves the way for a positive and lasting change. Through my Office, I have also worked hard to strengthen dialogue between different sections in Maltese society. Despite the restrictions, I am pleased to say that during 2021, I chaired several conferences addressing national unity from different aspects.

The Conference for National Unity held in February, the Conference marking 100 Years Since the Granting of the Constitution in April, and the Conference on the State of the Nation in June, were important initiatives that brought together many different organisations, experts, and academics.

I am pleased to share with you that preparations are currently underway so that in March 2022, together with the Albabtain Cultural Foundation, I will be organising the second World Forum for Culture of Peace. Through international participation, this forum will serve as an important platform for discussion and a global catalyst for further building a culture of peace. I invite you to be part of the local discussion as well and, through various opportunities, to get closer to the current affairs of the Maltese islands and to kindle in the younger generations an interest and love for the Maltese culture and language.

I am very fond of the latter as it is the most living expression of our nation and it continues to serve us in the best way, despite outside influences and new technology. Few people can boast of a unique language that has continued to evolve over the years. 3 I understand that many people have suffered greatly because they could not travel to Malta and experience the warm embraces and the joy of meeting family members. Although technology has eased the separation, a picture on

Special Christmas Edition



the phone or computer can never replace human contact.

I hope that over the coming months travel between countries will still be permitted and that you will be able to visit our country without issues. I, too, hope to be able to resume my visits to the communities of Maltese living abroad. A few weeks ago, I had the pleasure of visiting Maltese patients receiving treatment in London and I also had the opportunity to meet several nuns and monks assisting them. These are heart-warming encounters, but they also

instil hope and courage for a better future. As was the meeting I had with a good number of Maltese consultants in Surgery and Medicine holding high positions in the best hospitals in the United Kingdom.

In conclusion, I want to once again wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas. Above all, I wish you prosperity and health for a year full of happiness, peace, and love. All the best

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

**from the Hon. Evarist Bartolo, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs - 2021
Bringing Maltese and Gozitans together**



We might be a small country in size, but we have a big family spread all over the world and it is my pleasure to talk to you today and wish you a good year ahead, knowing full well that we will still be faced by the challenge of Covid-19 both to our health and livelihood. It has turned our lives upside down. Please stay safe and take all the necessary precautions to protect your health and that of those around you.

Maltese and Gozitans have been emigrating to all corners of the world for centuries. At first most of our people who had to emigrate because of unemployment and poverty, sought a better life in neighbouring Mediterranean countries.

Then since the 1800s they started venturing in faraway countries like Argentina, the United States and Australia. Today there are Maltese and Gozitans and their descendants in around 194 countries, practically in every country in the

world. Like thousands of other Maltese and Gozitans I have relatives in at least three other countries on different sides of our planet.

There are about 120,000 first generation and 300,000 second and third generation Maltese living in other countries. This means that we have a diaspora of about 420,000, as many Maltese and Gozitans as we have in our islands. A 2019 World Bank report shows that even today 24 per cent of all Maltese live outside Malta, putting the rate of emigration for the Maltese population as the highest out of any EU country. The destinations have changed as today we have new diasporas in Brussels and Luxembourg reflecting our membership of the European Union.

Despite all this I still feel that in our islands we are still not aware enough of the reality and history of emigration of our people throughout the centuries. I still feel that we still consider our history and reality of emigration as parallel to our history and reality on the islands.

I think that we need to address this and move towards becoming more aware and forging more links among the Maltese and Gozitans in the whole wide world and considering ourselves as one.

The technology of communication is at least making it more possible to have a closer community and to be more in touch with each other across the continents. We must strive to get even closer. May I wish you a healthy and prosperous 2022.



COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE
15th December 2021
137/2021

RELIGIOUS CELEBRATIONS BY THE ARCHBISHOP DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON AND THE NEW YEAR 2022



The religious celebrations led by Archbishop Charles Jude Scicluna during the Christmas season will start on Christmas Eve. These services are open to the public in accordance with the measures and restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Friday 24th December, Christmas Eve, at 5:15 p.m. the Archbishop presides over the first vespers of Christmas at St John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta, and then celebrates the Vigil Mass.

Later in the evening at 11:15 p.m. at St Paul's Cathedral in Mdina, the Archbishop leads the Office of Readings during which Christmas carols are sung and the child's sermon is delivered. At midnight he will walk in procession with a statue of baby Jesus to celebrate the Solemn Midnight Mass of the Nativity of our Lord. The celebration will be broadcast on **TVM**, Church.mt and Newsbook.com.mt. Due to space restrictions, anyone wishing to attend is invited to call on 21456620 or 21454136 or send an email at parrocchia.mdina@maltadiocese.org.

Saturday 25th December, Christmas Day, at 9:30 a.m., the Archbishop celebrates the Christmas Day pontifical mass at St Paul's Cathedral in Mdina. The celebration will be broadcast on **TVM**, Church.mt and Newsbook.com.mt.

Friday 31st December, at 5.30 p.m., the Archbishop celebrates the annual thanksgiving mass at the end of which the Te Deum is sung, at St John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta.

Saturday 1st January 2022, at 9:30 a.m., the Archbishop presides over mass on the Solemnity of the Holy Mother of God and on World Day of Peace, at Dar tal-Providenza in Siggiewi. The celebration will be broadcast on **TVM**, Church.mt and Newsbook.com.mt.

Sunday 2nd January, at 9:30 a.m., the Archbishop concludes the Christmas festivities as he celebrates the Epiphany of the Lord at St John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta. During mass the Archbishop will confer the Ministry of Acolytes on three seminarians. The celebration will be broadcast on **TVM**, Church.mt and Newsbook.com.mt.



A WORD FROM THE EDITOR – Frank Scicluna

I would like to thank the hundreds of readers who sent me messages for to be published in this Christmas Season. I received emails from the four continents. Unfortunately, I have not enough space in this journal to publish them all. I can assure you that I read and appreciate every one of them. I take this opportunity to show my gratitude to all of you who, not

only read and enjoy this journal but share it with others. I thank all those who send me articles, photos, poems other contributions for publication. Our family is connected, friendly, encouraging and very cooperative. Although we live thousands of kilometres away from our homeland we still love, are proud of and promote the rich history, culture and heritage of the Maltese Islands. I am proud of the many Maltese who live abroad and made a good name for themselves and their homeland.

I SINCERELY WISH YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES A HAPPY AND HOLY CHRISTMAS



**We wish our sisters and brothers
in Malta and Gozo happiness, unity,
peace and harmony this Christmas
and during next year 2022**
Maltese Living Abroad



GREETINGS FROM.....Sandra Grech, Carmen Galea, Joe Chetcuti, Felix and Rita Demicoli, Eric Scerri, Mary Gauci, Connie Buhagiar, Margaret Mifsud, George Brimmer, Joe Caminzuli, Emanuel Fenech, Louis Parnis, Tess Jane Agius, Joe Monsigneur, Frank and Jane Grima, Saviour Ellul, Harry and Mary Bugeja, Marcelle Hammond, John and Mary Caruana, John and Grace Calleja, Henry Berry, Denise Demicoli, Mario Sammur, Roderick Bovingdon, Alex Sciberras, Judy Hughes, Margaret Abela, Gioconda Schembri, John Zammit, Freddie Tonna, Mr & Mrs M Mallia, Tarcisio Zarb, Franco Davies, Anthony Grima, Alex Farrugia, Albert Marshall, Lina Brockdorff, Anglu Farrugia, Greg and Agnes Caruana, Charles Micallef, Doris Caruana, Dianne Mallia, Jim Borg, Herbert Manfred Lenicker, Godwin Gauci, Lawrence Xerri, Peter Borg, F. Busuttil, Donna Scicluna, Joe Pavia, Tonio Portuguese, Marisa Privitera, Louis Mercieca, Sr. Lorraine Testa, Martese Wright, Nancy Borg Serg, Micelle Olliffe, Miriam Friggieri, Noel Bianco, Lawrence Buhagiar, Joe Portelli, Patrick Sammut.. more.....

OUR JOURNAL IN BRAZIL - MICHAEL PACE - Salesian

Dear Mr. Scicluna, I've just got to know your journal, through my friend Fr. Joseph Agius of Rolândia, Brasil, originally from Munxar. I liked it very much and would like to subscribe. My name is Michael Pace, from Hamrun, and have lived in Brazil since 1969. I came as a seminarian and was ordained priest in July 1972 (next year it will be 50 years). I live, with a Brazilian colleague, in a small parish by the name of Lobato in the southern state of Paraná, and we also minister to the nearby parish of Nossa Senhora das Graças, which has had three other Maltese parish priests in its 63 year existence. I would very much like to start receiving your (our!) journal. Is there any payment involved? I would like to send a wonderful Milied it-Tajjeb to all Maltese, especially those who, like us in Brazil, are hindered from travelling to Malta because of the pandemic. Keep up the good work. Michael Pace

OUR JOURNAL IN ALBANIA – ARCHBISHOP FRENDU OP Christmas message to our readers

"Do not be afraid". These words are so common in the Advent liturgy. Isaiah proclaims them to a desperate nation; the angel repeats them to Mary and again to Joseph; and yet again to the shepherds of Bethlehem. We imagine that because of progress, we have become self-sufficient; just to realize that we are more fragile than ever before. This society is in need of angels carrying the same message: "Do not be afraid, because God is the Emmanuel, God-with-us". We have to be these angels. Having had a personal experience of God, having met him in his fragile majesty at Bethlehem, we can proclaim the same good news made known two thousand years ago.

Special Christmas Edition



St. Sebastian Seniors Association Vic. Australia

the president. 11th December 2021, St Sebastian Seniors Association celebrated Christmas Dinner at the Green Gully Soccer Club. I would like to thank everyone that attended and shared this fantastic evening with us. I would like to thank my committee for their continued hard work and commitment to make this event another resounding success. Thank you to Ray Galea our DJ who provided the music and

entertainment for the evening. Thank you to all the staff at Green Gully Soccer Club who also made this a fantastic evening. Thank you to Santa for bringing much joy and happiness to the children and children at heart. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf St. Sebastian Seniors Association to wish everyone a safe and Merry Christmas. God Bless, Viva St. Sebastian. **Patrick Caruana-Smith**

Għażiż Frank, M'ghandix kliem biex infisser l-apprezzament tiegħi lejn dan il-journal li inti ilek tiegħu ħsieb għal għadd sabiħ ta'snin u jirċevuh eluf ta' qarreja mxerrda mal-globu kollu. U dan ma jistax ikun mod ieħor meta nara li inti tagħmel ħiltek biex tinkludi fih aħbarijiet minn kull qasam tal-ħajja u jitratta bosta suġġetti li jolqtu l-gosti ta' kulhadd. Nemmen li jeħodlok ħafna xogħol imma naċċertak li qed jintlaqa' tajjeb ħafna għax int qed tkun ħolqa bejn tant popli. Nieħu gost ninnota li għalkemm m'intix Għawdx i u qatt ma ltaqjna wiċċ imb wiċċ, xorta tagħzel li ddaħħal materjal minn Għawdex li nemmen bih jieħu gost kulhadd. Nappellalek biex tkompli f'din it-triq u nwieghdek l-appoġġ sħiħ tiegħi sakemm il-Mulej jogħġbu jżommni fuq wiċċ din l-art (fl-1 tas-sena nagħlaq 76). Nieħu l-okkażjoni biex nixtieqlek u lil martek u lil tant qarreja Milied hieni u qaddis u sena ġdida kollha risq u saħħa. Awguri u tislijiet minn qalbi lilkom ilkoll. **KAV JOE M ATTARD, VICTORIA GĦAWDEX.**

Hello Frank Pray you and your family are well. I have been thinking of sending you a message of thanks for a long time. I enjoy reading the Maltese Journal, which has interesting and informative articles. Good journals should be shared! So I tell my friends about it! Your dedication is much appreciated. Wishing you and your family a Holy Christmas and a Blessed New Year. **FR. JOHN TALIANA MSSP**



Christmas is a magical time. It brings memories of family gatherings and wonderful traditions that have been passed down through the generations. Christmas carols, gift exchanges and family feasts are just some of the enduring traditions that make the season one of the world's favourite celebration.

Christmas means something different to every person and family. And whilst all those traditions are delightful and evoke great enjoyment, the true meaning of Christmas will not be found under a Christmas tree.

My Christmas wish for each of you is the precious love of your family, the bond of true friendship and the hope for a brighter future. Let the Christ child enter your hearts and find the true meaning behind this special time. On behalf of my husband Venny and myself, I wish you a blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous new year to all the readers of the Maltese journal. **Carmen Spiteri – Honorary Consul in South Australia**

Special Christmas Edition



Dear Frank and Maltese Community throughout the world. Wishing you all a very Holy and Blessed Christmas. May the light and Peace that the birth of Jesus has brought into the world will be with you and your families during this Holy Season and throughout the New Year 2022. I take this opportunity to thank Frank Scicluna for the wonderful Newsletter that he graciously sends us. God bless you all.

Sr Vittoriana DeBattista and the Franciscan Sisters of the Heart of Jesus, Lockleys, South Australia.

Emma Muscat performs in Vatican for annual Christmas Eve concert



Monique Agius

Emma Muscat. Ritratt: muntagg: Facebook -Emma Muscat / Canva

Singer Emma Muscat will perform in this year's Christmas Eve Concert which is held annually at the Vatican and which will be aired on Canal 5 on Friday 24 December at 9.20pm.

This will be the 29th edition of the concert and will be hosted by Federica Panicucci. The programme will be aired again on

Christmas Day at 1.40pm.

The pianist and singer-songwriter rose to fame in Italy as a star on Canale 5 programme 'Amici', an Italian talent show hosted by presenter Maria De Filippi.

Rita Pavone, Enrico Ruggeri, Francesca Michielin, Andrea Griminelli, Federico Rossi, Bugo, Giò Di Tonno, Arianna, and Il Piccolo Coro le Dolci Note, together with 2Cellos (Croatia), Ian Anderson (UK), Shaggy (Jamaica), Anggun (France), Ana Mena (Spain), Jimmy Sax (France), and il Virginia Union Gospel Choir feat. David Bratton (USA) will also perform. The performers will be accompanied by the Orchestra Italiana del Cinema conducted by Maestro Adriano Pennino.

DAR TAL-PROVIDENZA – MALTA

The Friends of Providence House NSW Were Unable to have their annual Fund Raising in aid of Id-Dar Tal-Providenza Malta for the last 2 years! So I Am Asking My FB Friends In Australia- More Than 3000 Of Them to please make a donation At Any Commonwealth Bank! If each of you donates \$2 That's \$6000 raised!

A/C Name Friends of Providence House NSW

BSB 062 416 A/C : 1019 9448

Pls supply contact details for acknowledgement

You may contact me (Jim Borg NSW) on 0418825591 Merry Christmas!

It is indeed an honour for me to address your numerous readers with best wishes from my wife, Josephine Zammit Cordina MQR, AM and myself for this year's Christmas and the New Year 2022. A few weeks ago I congratulated you Frank on achieving that great milestone of the 400th edition of your journal. After having visited Australia tfor 13 times, we still treasure all the lovely memories we experienced during those visits and can never forget the welcome in the various states we visited. May the joy of a Blessed Christmas be always with you.

HARRY AND JOSEPHINE ZAMMIT CORDINA – HAMRUN, MALTA



Order of Malta archive of documents nominated for UNESCO list

Archive could end up on UNESCO Memory of the World List

Ray Bondin (left) with Fackson Banda, head of the Documentary Heritage Unit of UNESCO.

The archives of the Order of Malta at the Bibliotheca of Malta, consisting of over 7,000 documents from 1107 to 1798, and in particular, the *Papal Bull* of 1113 by which the Order was established, have been nominated for the Memory of the World List of UNESCO. This is a special list for documents or archives that have left an important impact on the history of the world.

The dossier was presented by Ray Bondin, the chairman of the Malta National Commission to UNESCO, and Ugo Leone, the permanent observer of the Order to UNESCO. (The Sovereign Military Order of Malta has only an observer status at UNESCO.)

The nomination dossier has been in preparation for the past three years and was mainly prepared by archivists of the Order together with the assistance of the Bibliotheca in Valletta and the National Commission for UNESCO. The dossier has now to be studied by experts and presented to a special commission.

Bondin presented the dossier to Fackson Banda, head of the Documentary Heritage Unit of UNESCO, who welcomed the nomination of what he described as a vast collection of unique documents that are an important collection of the history of mankind. The *Papal Bull* by itself is of particular importance and is singled out in the nomination dossier.



"Nitolbu lill-Mulej biex hu jifihlna qalbna dejjem għalih, jagħtina qalb sinċiera; u jgħinna nagħrfu s-setgħa tiegħu, li mhijiex setgħa li hu juża biex iġegħelna nemmnu jew biex nagħmlu xi ħaġa, imma hi setgħa li juża għall-ġid tagħna stess, biex ħajjitna tkun aħjar" - L-Isqof Joseph Galea-Curmi

Hi Frank, On behalf of MONASH MALTESE SENIORS SOCIAL GROUP, congratulations on your very special milestone the 400 issue of the Maltese E-Newsletter.

I enjoy reading your Newsletter, no matter which corner or page of it there is always an interest for me especially when you mention things of the past or the Maltese history. On this Newsletter you mentioned marriage by proxy, I still remember as a little girl people in our streets talking about certain people going to Australia because they are being married by proxy. I thank you again and wishing you all the very best for the Festive Season and a Joyous New Year 2022 JANE GALEA, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

Just like to let you know how much my friends and I enjoy your Maltese Journal. I live in Sydney, Australia. Love to read both your Maltese and English language articles. This keeps me in touch with my Maltese language and news in Malta.. I don't have many Maltese people to speak to in our native language. My Australian friends are very interested in the Maltese history and are fascinated with the beauty and culture of our islands. I do hope that you will continue to produce your journal and the pleasure you give us migrants all over the world is unsurpassed. Thank you again and kindest regards, Michelle Olliffe NSW

JIKTEB VICTOR VELLA MINN N.S.W.

IL-MILIED FIL-POEZIJA TA DUN KARM u tlieta ohra.

F'dan l-esej Victor V. Vella B.A., M.A. se jaghti harsa lejn is-suggett tal-Milied fil-poezija tal-poeta Nazzjonali taghna Dun Karm u tliet poeti ohra Maltin Awstraljani.

Madwar 80 sena ilu insibu lil Poeta Nazzjonali li bhala Sacerdot u Monsinjur ma setghax ma jdaħħalx il-Milied fil-kitba tieghu. Fil-fatt Dun Karm kif nafu kiteb żewġ poeziji fuq il-Milied. F'sunett ta 14 il-vers, Milied u Missjoni, Dun Karm iva jibda bil-Milied fl'ewwel erba versi imma imbagħad idawwar il-ħsieb tieghu lejn il-missjoni ta Kristu u wkoll lejn it-twaqqif tal-Knisja. Imma fil-poezija l-oħra twila jisimgħa IL-MILIED Dun Karm jidhol iżjed fil-fond ta l-istorja tal-Milied u fi 48 vers mimlijin b'vinjetti jew kwadri bil-kliem jagħtina deskrizzjoni qasira tal-fatt jew l-istorja tal-Milied storja.....imħawra hafna bl-isfond reliġjuż u bl-istorja ta kif twieldet l-idea tas-salvażżjoni.

Dun Karm jagħti harsa storika u jibda mil-profeti tat-testament il-qadim sakemm il-profeżiji seħħew ... nħar il-Milied. Din hi poezija milquta minn kollox u fiha għandek fejn titmieraħ kemm imħabba il-għażla tal-kliem, jew il-komposizzjoni tar—rima jew tar-ritmu kif ukoll bis-sinfonija tal-ħoss tal-kliem li timla il-poezija..... bi ħsieb għoljin u reliġjużi. Biss dawn l-ideat u l-ħsieb mħux bħal dawki li insibu fis-santi u f'hafna kwadri tal-pitturi bil-Madonna u San ġużepp u bil-Bambin u b'xi baqra tberraq minn wara. Dun Karmu dan hu is-sabieħ u l-effett ta din il-poezija mħux għax jiddeskrivi imma għax iqanqal lil min jaqra u jappreżza, bil-lingwa figurattiva li uża.

Jekk nieħdu vers wieħed bhala eżempju niftehm u aħjar. . Fir raba' stanza insibu dan il-vers li fiħ x'tifhem Isimgħuħ
haqq u sliema taw bewsa 'l xulxin'

F'dan il-vers naraw il-qawwa tal-poeta kif bl-istil u l-ħsieb fond tieghu daħħal u kkompona din il-personifikazzjoni qawwija billi ta il-ħajja lil xi haġa bla ħajja bħal '.....
 haqq u sliem' u imbagħad ikompli idahħal il-'bewsa' li tagħtik idea ta mħabba, ta intimata ta twelid u ta għaqda li huma kollha temi jew sugġetti li għandhom x'jaqsmu hafna ma l-istorja tal-Milied.

Imbagħad ikompli fit-tielet u r-raba vers :
Reġġet xirfet it-taġhma sabieħa
Bħal qawsalla fuq ras-il-bnedmin' li mingħajr ma jagħti hafna dettalji fit-tul Dun Karm f'dawn il-versi jagħtina żewġ ritratti jew kwadri tant effettiva dik ta tnejn jtbewsu u dik tal-qawsalla li toqgħod hafna ma idea ta 'firxet it-tama li daħħal il-Milied . Imma f'idejn s-surmast u mingħajr ma jinsa is-sugġett u t-tema tieghu, Dun Karm ikompli iħawwar is-sugġett billi iktar l-isfel fl-istess poezija idahħal il-'veduta' Maltija mħux b'deskrizzjoni twila bil-'biżilla' b'kolloxx imma billi juża is-simboli taġħha fl-istanza li jkolli naqraħalkhom: Isimgħuħom u nnotaw ukoll ir-repetizzjoni tal-kelma 'tama' li ma tantx trid tkun għaref wisq biex taraw u tifhem kif din ir-repetizzjoni taġħmel enfazi fuq it-tama li għab miegħu it-twelid ta Kristu u li wkoll tiftaħlek widnejk. Din il-kelma u r-repetizzjoni taġħha bil-ħoss u t-tifsira taġħha tinstema bħad- ding -dong , jew bang bang ta qanpiena... U għeżieħ semmigha tafu biżżejjed kemm il-qniepen jilgħabu parti importanti fil-kultura u l-istorja tal-Milied li delwaqt nittarxu nisimgħu Jingle Jinle bells ...Jingle bells u sejrjn. Mela isimgħu l-erba versi ta Dun Karm :

Reġġet xirfet it-taġhma sabieħa

Bħal qawsalla fuq ras-il-bnedmin' li mingħajr ma jagħti hafna dettalji fit-tul Dun Karm f'dawn il-versi jagħtina żewġ ritratti jew kwadri tant effettiva dik ta tnejn jtbewsu u dik tal-qawsalla li toqgħod hafna ma idea ta 'firxet it-tama li daħħal il-Milied . Imma f'idejn s-surmast u mingħajr ma jinsa is-sugġett u t-tema tieghu, Dun Karm ikompli iħawwar is-sugġett billi iktar l-isfel fl-istess poezija idahħal il-'veduta' Maltija mħux b'deskrizzjoni twila bil-'biżilla' b'kolloxx imma billi juża is-simboli taġħha fl-istanza li jkolli naqraħalkhom: Isimgħuħom u nnotaw ukoll ir-repetizzjoni tal-kelma 'tama' li ma tantx trid tkun għaref wisq biex taraw u tifhem kif din ir-repetizzjoni taġħmel enfazi fuq it-tama li għab miegħu it-twelid ta Kristu u li wkoll tiftaħlek widnejk. Din il-kelma u r-repetizzjoni taġħha bil-ħoss u t-tifsira taġħha tinstema bħad- ding -dong , jew bang bang ta qanpiena... U għeżieħ semmigha tafu biżżejjed kemm il-qniepen jilgħabu parti importanti fil-kultura u l-istorja tal-Milied li delwaqt nittarxu nisimgħu Jingle Jinle bells ...Jingle bells u sejrjn. Mela isimgħu l-erba versi ta Dun Karm :

Tama fissret id-dija tal-kwiekeb Tama l-ħdura tas-siġar fir-drum

Tama tkellmet il-mewġa tal-baħar Tama habbret ix-xemx ta kuljum.

Jssa nħallu lil Dun Karm u ngħaddu għal-poeta ieħor li bħalna hu jew kien emigrant ukoll. Tafu biżżejjed għeżieħ semmigha li parti importanti tal-Milied huma x-xewqat li jaqsmu is-snin u l-ibħra u l-ispażju . Dawn ix-xewqat igibu qlub imbeġħdin flimkien . Din hi estensjoni tax-xewqat sbieħ li jgħib miegħu il-Milied, bhala sinjal li il-bniedem mħux waħdu. li l-bniedem irid jaqsam il-ferħ u n-niket tieghu bħal ma għamel Br. Michael Buttigieg fil-poezija tieghu XEWQAT TAJBA għALL-

Special Christmas Edition

MILIED li kiteb għad unur poeta ieħor ġorġ Chetcuti fil-Milied ta l-1962. Din il-poeżija hi kif jidher fit-titolu , mimlija xewqat sbieħ għal-Milied u għas-sena il-ġdida li fiha Bro Michael jixtieq lil sieħbu b'dawn il-versi li kite ' Riżq , Barka Ferħ u Sliem matul is-Sena l-ġdida ... poeżija li bi kliem semplici li tixbaħ ħafna lil dawk il-poeżiji qosra imdawrin bis-silġ fuq xi kartolina tal-Milied. L-istess xewqat u still insibuħom fil-poeżija 'Xewqat tal-Milied' ta ġorġ Chetcuti ..li hi poeżija li tixbaħ ħafna lil dik ta Buttigieġ bid-differenza li ġorġ jifha xibka ikbar biex jinkludi lil kulhadd fix-xewqat tiegħu għax fil-versi tiegħu

... 'ninsabu fejn ninsabu nibqgħu f'taqlib tal-ħajja fil-qalb u r-ruħ Maltin Inħobbu -art twelidna . u nqhożzu l-ġesu Bambin. '

fejn Chetcuti għaqqad ukoll l-ispirtu patrijottiku ma dak tal-Milied. Li wara kollox tistenniha minn emigrant li jlhoss dak li jhossu ħafna għal-pajjiżhom li fi żmien il-Milied jiftakru u jimmissjaw lil familja u lil ħbieb u jiftakru fil-Milied b'certu nostalgia. Isimġħuħa:

J'alla s-sena il-ġdida Bħas-sena li għaddiet

Terqa l-messaġġ twassliln Li jgħib miegħu il-Milied.

Ninsabu fejn ninsabu matul meded is-snip

Nibqgħu f'taqlib il-ħajja fil-qalb u r-ruħ Maltin

Inħobbu l-Art twelidna U nqhożzu 'l ġesu Bambin.

Naħseb li ma naġħmilx ħazin jekk nispicca din il-parti ta din is-sensiela billi nersqu iżjed lejn l-Awstralja , u lejn il-belt ta Melbourne u nidhlu fl-istudju ta l-SBS fil-Federation square u insibu lil Joe Axiaq le mħux se jtkellem imma joffri l-kontribuzzjoni tiegħu fuq is-suġġett ...Iva fil-qosor imma fil-qosor ta l-erba versi li kiteb jaqsam l-ibħra u wkoll is-snin u fil-poeżija tiegħu jisimġha 'Dicembru 'jgħidilna:

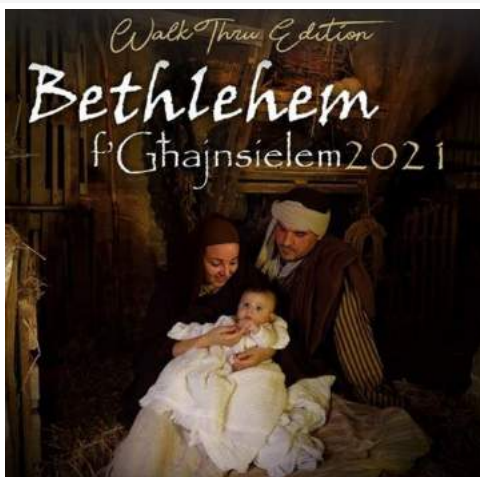
Nissajjar bis-sħana ta Dicembru fl-awstralja

u nqattar il-holma kiesha ta Milied f'Dicembru Malti.

fejn il-poeta joħloq dak il-kuntrast bejn is-sħana ta Dicembru Awstraljan mal-'holma kiesha '

Bethlehem f'Għajnsielem – Special ‘walk-thru’ edition opens next week

BY [GOZO NEWS](#)



This year's Bethlehem f'Għajnsielem, will be a special "walk-thru" edition of the nativity village, which is spread over 25,000sqm of land at Ta' Passi Fields, where visitors can experience the greatest story ever told.

Visitors will be requested to book their entrance online for this 12th edition of the Nativity Village, whilst a Vaccine certificate will be required upon entrance (under 12 years not required to present certificate however booking is still necessary).

The visit will take place in the form of a walk-thru experience of around 30 minutes, on the 18th, 19th, 26th, 27th, and 28th of December, and the 1st and 2nd of January. To book your visit [please click here](#).

Places are limited and visitors will be asked to wear a face mask at all times and the walk-thru is one-way only.

The organisers said that, "whilst we hope you understand the limitations and measures we had to implement in this year's edition, we hope you will enjoy this experience."

They have expressed their gratitude to the Ghajnsielem Local Council and the Ministry for Gozo 'for the encouragement and support to ensure that this event returns to the cultural calendar. Without their support this event could not take place.'

For more information please call +356 21561515.

www.darwin.catholic.org.au

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF DARWIN

ONLINE MASSES

MONDAY TO FRIDAY : 0830 AM ACST
SATURDAY (VIGIL MASS FOR SUNDAY) : 12 PM ACST




DARWIN AUSTRALIA

On the plane back to Darwin. It has been a blessed time here in central Australia.

28 Baptisms of Adults, teenagers, children and infants, Barring two all were First Nations people.

Several Confirmations and First Communions.

Spent time with the people of God, in the Parish, including Schools and Catholic Care. I am thankful for so many good people.

The SVD community of Priests do a great Ministry. Good to spend fraternal time with them conscious of the encouragement of the Vatican to be both brother and father to them. Since they are all young enough to be my sons the latter is not so hard to imagine!

As I fly on the plane back to Darwin I am conscious of our huge Diocese and the need to be a Pastor on a permanent pilgrimage.

There is sadness in parting. Indeed the whole of life is a pilgrimage. Life is full of enriching encounters. It is also full of 'being with' and partings.

St Augustine reminds us that our hearts can only rest in God. In God, we encounter all of creation and more. In the heart of God, we learn to live with unconditional love. We learn to love all and not to hold on to anyone or anything.

Yet in God we belong to all and all belongs to us. In God, we continue to learn more about the amazing mystery of Unconditional Love.

We are on an ongoing journey of growth in true freedom.

He who gave all for all calls us to learn from Him who is meek and humble of heart.

He reminds us that commitment brings true freedom.

In Christ, all distance is sacred distance filled with love and not distance at all!

Image credit: Eva Darron via Unsplash

Special Christmas Edition

10th December 2021

**HAPPY 44th
ORDINATION
ANNIVERSARY
BISHOP
CHARLES
GAUCI**

MAY GOD CONTINUE TO
BLESS YOU NOW &
ALWAYS!



Dear Brothers & Sisters,

Today, Bishop Charles celebrates his 44th anniversary of Priesthood.

What a wonderful moment in his journey of life, and ours. Bishop Charles, like so many of our Priests in this Diocese, was born overseas. He was born in Floriana, Malta and came to Australia with his family at age 13.

Bishop Charles was Ordained a Priest in Adelaide, by Archbishop Leonard Faulkner, in 1977. After serving in the Archdiocese for more than 40 years, he was Ordained as Bishop of the Darwin Diocese on 26th September 2018.

Bishop Charles has brought passion and energy to his work here, as our Bishop. Despite the magnitude of our Diocese,

Bishop Charles spends himself generously, travelling to be with various communities. This has enabled him to celebrate moments of profound importance with so many of our communities, both urban and remote.

We thank God for Bishop Charles and his family. We pray for Bishop Charles, that God will continue to bless him with all the gifts he needs, to lead this extraordinary Diocese.

Congratulations Bishop Charles. Ad multos annos.

Yours in Christ, Bishop Emeritus Eugene Hurley



**The President, George Stagno Navarra, and Council of
Administration of The Association of Lyceum Past
Students ALPS send thoughts that fill this greeting and
wishes in it,**

**to make this Christmas Season be full of Warmth and
Happiness for you and all the readers of the Maltese Journal.**

**Wishing you a peaceful Christmas
and all the best for the New Year 2022**

Traditional Maltese Christmas food



Food is a big part of Christmas tradition in Malta. If you are currently taking English courses in Malta and spending the holiday season here, you might have noticed how important Christmas is. Maltese and foreigners alike are cheered up by the

joy of Christmas music, Christmas decorations and festivities all over the islands. Maltese people love food and take pride in their national specialities, you might have already had the chance to try the famous rabbit, the legendary pastizzi or traditional sweets during festas.

Christmas is yet another occasion to celebrate in the kitchen. You will be able to enjoy delicious treats if you happen to be in Malta this Christmas. It is very common for Maltese families to enjoy homemade meals for Christmas and New Year. You can also enjoy amazing dishes if you plan on eating out. Families are close and large here, they often celebrate together and there can be over 20

Special Christmas Edition



people at the dinner table; it's common to have so much food on the table that it could feed an entire family for a week!

Malta has also inherited the British tradition of baking minced pies for the Christmas season. They are small, sweet pies, filled with a combination of spices and dried fruits. If you are offered one, warm it and eat it with ice cream, it's a delicious combination! IELTS Malta students will be offered mulled wine (another British Christmas tradition!) and mince pies on December 20th at 12:30pm by the leisure desk, mark your calendars if you're at the school!

Traditional desserts include the famous Christmas log and Christmas cake. The latter was introduced in Malta by the British who occupied the Maltese Islands from 1814 to 1964. It is a very Christmassy combination of sultanas, raisins, currants, dates, cherries, brandy and orange; a perfect mix for the holiday season.

Many countries made Christmas log a tradition, even though it originated in France, as the "Buche de Noël". The Maltese Christmas log, made with lots of chocolate, cherries, nuts, biscuits and a bit of whisky, is traditionally baked for Christmas and eaten throughout the day. The Maltese Christmas

log is a little similar to the Italian and Portuguese dessert known as chocolate salami. If you are interested in the recipe, you can find it on IELTS Facebook page.

Another traditional dessert served at Christmas are Treacle Rings (Qagħqa tal-Għasel), sweet pastry rings filled with a treacle mixture. Literally translated they are 'honey rings', but there is absolutely no honey in the recipe.

Imbuljuta tal-Qastan is a traditional Maltese drink made of hot chestnut and chocolate. It is served after Midnight Mass on Christmas as well as on New Year's Eve.

In addition to Christmas presents, little ones enjoy popular Maltese sweets, "Il-Milied iġeb il-Ħelu", at Christmas. Adults with a sweet tooth also love the traditional sweet pastries served with coffee, namely chestnut pie ("torta tal-qastan"), treacle rings ("qagħqa tal-għasel") and chestnut puree ("imbuljuta").

Whether you are currently studying with IELTS or plan to learn English in Malta, Christmas is an amazing time to discover the Maltese Islands. It is an occasion to discover century-old traditions and share Christmas spirit.

SBEJHA

Ħmara Żgħira b'Qalb Kbira



BEAUTY
(The Little Donkey
with a Big Heart)
Author: Michael Cini

Publisher: www.merlinpublishers.com.

This is the story that never grows old, that comes to life every year, and which everyone likes to read or listen to. Especially this year, since it is being recounted by a little donkey which took part in the whole Christmas story.

However, Joseph was not always the owner of this humble donkey. He bought her from a cruel farmer who treated her very badly. But the poor donkey's life soon turned into a happy and joyful one, especially

when Joseph's future wife, Mary, often came to cuddle her and bring her fresh tasty apples. Mary was very fond of her, and it was actually she who named her *Sbejħa* (Beauty).

Her adventures continue when Joseph and Mary have to take a long and tiring journey to Bethlehem. It was a good thing though that half way through, they stopped at Elizabetta and Żakkarija's house, where *Sbejħa* soon made many friends with the farm animals. However, they had to keep on going until on a cold wintery evening, they finally arrived in Bethlehem.

But nobody welcomed them. Nobody offered to help. No one had sufficient room to take them in. So they sought shelter from the cold and rainy weather in a cave which was used to keep animals, where *Sbejħa* soon



makes friends with a lonely cow. There they were both astounded when in the middle of the night, they heard the shrieks of a new born baby!

The next day, several people came peeping along to see what all that baby crying was coming from. First and foremost came Gakbu x-xabbatur, while Menzja appeared with the large pottery jar on her head from which she poured fresh water. Tumas brought them freshly baked bread, while Sara gave them some of her hot broth. Even Pietru came along with a large flock of sheep, who offered to give them fresh milk. Then in the evening came Nikodemu the shoemaker with baskets of fruit and vegetables for Mary to cook. After a hard day's work, he was very happy to exchange a few words with Joseph while Nikodemu mended some shoes and sandals for people. These were just a few of the personalities who came to visit baby Jesus in the manger.

Even three kings came from very far away to worship and bring presents to Jesus, with whom there was also a very handsome donkey full of mischief. However, Mary was not very happy when the musicians came close to the cave, since she was afraid that they might wake up her baby with their music and joyful singing.

But *Sbejħa*'s adventures resume when God's Angel warns Joseph and the three kings that King Herod was looking for baby Jesus. He wanted to get rid of him since he was afraid that eventually, the boy would take over his throne. So Joseph, Mary and their holy baby, together with the three kings and their handsome donkey, escape to Egypt. On their way, they often had to hide in order to avoid being discovered and caught by King Herod's soldiers.

But were *Sbejħa*'s adventures going to end? Was she to remain with Joseph and Mary? Would Jesus still be able to ride on her back? And also, was she still going to be able to play with her handsome and mischievous donkey friend, with whom she had by now grown so very fond of?

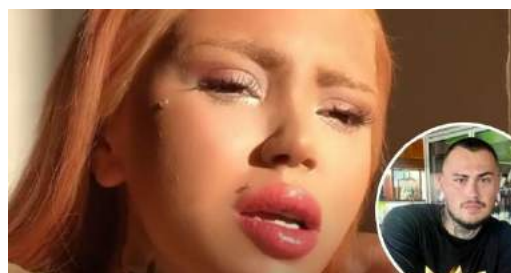
When writing this book, Cini's primary aim was to highlight the fact that we should keep Jesus in the centre of the Christmas season. As such, he delivers various messages which we should keep in mind while celebrating Christmas. And for the children to enjoy this book even more, they will come across carols which they can sing and even play along with, since the musical notes are written at the end of the story. This is Michael Cini's first book for children after publishing seven novels for adult readers. He has contributed in the children's magazine *Sagħtar* for the past two scholastic years, and considers writing more stories for young readers.



Shyli Rose Releases Emotional Track Dedicated To Ismael Grima And 'All The Young People Who Left Us Too Early'

By **Julian Bonnici** Lovinmalta.com

Shyli Rose, a well-known musician in the Maltese scene, has released a new track dedicated to the scores of young people who have lost their lives in Malta, including Ismael Grima, who died in a recent car crash. 'L-Inkwatru' and its accompanying music video dropped on 8th December, and it's already starting to leave a mark.



"I would like to dedicate this record to all those young people who left us early. With a black heart, some of these young people were my great friends, including Igor, Ismael, Denilson, and Warren," she wrote on social media.

The song's title, she said, is a reminder that the last moments we have with people that have left us early is just a memory. Shyli Rose dropped her first official single in nearly half a decade earlier this year and is working on a new album.

Ismael lost his life in Malta's most recent fatal traffic accident in November. Ismael, better known as Iz-Zy, was beloved by many over the island, with many paying tribute to the 21-year-old in various ways.

MILIED SPEĊJALI

Din is-sena dit-tifkira
tat-twelid ta' dit-tarbija
qed iggib il-ferh tas-soltu...
ma' xi ftit malinkonija.

Ghaliex intom tafu daqsi
b'din l-imbierka pandemija
illi harbtet dinja shiha -
minna ghosfrot l-armonija.

Izda dak li gara f'Betlem
stampat jibqa' ghal dejjem f'qalbna,
Gesù, Guzeppi, Marija
fuq xufftejna jibqghu f'talbna.

Ghaliex dik il-grajja kbira
ma nistghu ninsewha qatt,
dahlet f'darna sabiex tibqa',
minn hemm ma johrogha hadd.

Ta' kull sena l-grotta nibnu,
fl-għar inqiegħdu lill-Bambin,
ghan-nifs shun ta' baqra u hmara
imdawwar b'ragħajja fqajrin.

Il-familja hdejh tingabar
matul il-jiem tan-Novena,
tifraħ, tkanta, u tiččassa,
b'qalbha tfur kollha bil-hena.

It-tfal kollha tal-iskejjel
izejnu l-klassijiet;
ikantaw il-carols hienja,
jaqbzu fuq il-bankijiet.

Tal-hwienet bil-gugarelli
igennu lill-kbar u ż-żghar,
u tal-helu fil-vetrini,
kaghak tal-ghasel, tondi, kbar!

Tal-Mużew il-purčissjoni
toħroġ f'lejjiet il-Milied,
ghax Dun Ġorġ xtaq li dan jagħmlu
mal-irhula u l-ibliet.

U minn fosthom jagħzlu tfajjel
biex jinseg erba' kelmiet
dwar dal-Bambin helu, čkejken,
li ghalina bata u miet.

Fid-djar, čentri u każini,
dlonk jinbena l-Presepju
illi niesna tmur iżżurhom -
tal-Milied dan l-aqwa eżempju.

U l-Għaqda Hbieb tal-Presepju
tlaqqa' kollha l-membri tagħha,
tagħmel wirja li f'Diċembru
il-folol iduru magħha.

Christmas Tree tixghel u titfi
u mzejna kif imiss
tilmaħ f'kull pjazza u wesgha,
ljieli ddawwal mingħajr hiss!

U d-drawwa tal-kartolini
ghadha shiha fost in-nies
u minn dawn mijiet jintbagħtu,
flus jintefqu mingħajr qies.

Importanti illi x-xbieha
tal-helu Gesù Bambin
tkun tispikka fil-faččata
imdawwar bl-aṅgli helwin.

Għalkemm dan il-mishut virus
qerdilna kull armonija,
Gesù čkejken fi ftit hrieqi
hu s-sigriet ta' kull tgawdija.

Bambin helu, idħol f'darna
u kun magħna f'din is-siegha,
fostna regga' t-tbissima,
ehlisna mill-pandemija.

B'hekk ikollna Milied hieni
mimli b'pači u ferh ġenwin
illi biss jista' jagħtihom
it-twajjeb Gesù Bambin.



Il-Kav. Joe M. Attard
Il-Belt Victoria, Għawdex
2021

PUBBLICITA 'ONLINE' GHALL-EMIGRANTI DWAR IL-KTIEB TAT-30 SENA TAL-FURJANA – Il-gurnal 'Il-Furjana' Dicembru 2021



Bħala parti mill-ewwel fażi tal-kampanja ta' pubbliċità għall-ktieb li d-Direzzjoni tal-gazzetta 'IL-FURJANA' fi nsiiebha tippubblika fl-2024 fl-okkażjoni ta' għeluq l-ewwel 300 sena mit-twaqqif tal-belt tal-Furjana, xi xhur ilu kienet

maħruġa stqarrija li fiha tħabbar uffiċjalment dan il-proġett ambizzjuż u t-tnehdija ta' skema ta' bbukkjar bil-quddiem marbuta ma' roħs fil-prezz.

Din l-istqarrija ngħatat prominenza fil-midja nazzjonali, kemm dik stampata kif ukoll dik online. L-istqarrija kienet ippubblikata kemm fil-verżjoni bil-Malti kif ukoll bl-Ingliż.

Linformazzjoni f'din l-istqarrija, kienet akkumpanjata minn mappep antiki tal-inħawi fejn twaqqfet il-Furjana. Bħalma kien ġara fl-okkażjoni tal-istqarrija li kienet inħarġet meta kien ippubblikat il-ktieb dwar l-Ark ta' San Publu, din id-darba wkoll ittagħrif kien ippubblikat online fuq il-Maltese E-Newsletter li hu l-journal of Maltese living abroad. Id-Direzzjoni tal-gazzetta 'IL-FURJANA' tixtieq tirringrazzja lil Frank Scicluna OAM MQR, Editur tal-journal elettroniku għall-emigranti Maltin, li għoġbu jippubblika l-istqarrija f'paġna 9 tal-ħarġa nru. 391 ta' Settembru li għadda. Dawk li jixtiequ jinfurmaw lill-qraba tagħhom imsefrin b'dan il-journal, l-indirizz elettroniku hu maltesejournal@gmail.com Freddie Tonna – Floriana, Malta

Investiture Mass at St. Aloysius in Cronulla welcomes new members and those taking the promise



On Saturday, members of the Order of Malta came together for an Investiture Mass at St. Aloysius in Cronulla.

The investiture, originally scheduled in June but postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions, welcomed three chaplains, five new members, one member promoted to Knight and five members taking the Promise of Obedience.

Special thanks to our Principal Celebrant, Bishop Richard Umbers and Con-celebrants: Frs James McCarthy, Anthony Casamento, Paul Nulley and Master of Ceremony, Fr Anthony Robbie.

What is the Promise of

Obedience:

Taking the Promise and "Obedience" binds in conscience, occurs in a formal ritual and obliges members to a life leading to Christian perfection in the spirit of the Order and in the sphere of its works. Members must diligently observe the divine law and the precepts of the Church so as to be a constant example of piety and virtue, of apostolic zeal and of devotion to the Holy Church, and undertake to utilize their temporal goods according to the spirit of the Gospel. "Obedience" means "It is not the person's will, but God's that should be followed at all times."

Special Christmas Edition



Dear Frank, Delighted to receive your excellent Newsletter as always! I wonder whether you can help with this Malta related item. I have learned of a book about the Maltese in Egypt which was reviewed in the Times of Malta

<https://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/a-detailed-narrative-of-the-maltese-in-egypt.585186>

However all my attempts to purchase this book have failed. The author does not respond and it is not listed on Amazon and the other usual online places.

Do you know how to obtain a copy or do you know of anybody I might contact?

The author appears to live in Oz according to his E-mail at the end of the book review. All the best
Eric Scerri scerri@chem.ucla.edu

Myth Debunked: 'Christmas or Xmas Myths'

The popular carol 'Jingle Bells' is actually not about Christmas.

It's the season to be jolly, tra la la la tra la la la. There are many myths surrounding the festive season, so let us dispel some of them.

Myth: **WRITING 'XMAS' IS A MODERN THING.** People will tell you that using the short version, Xmas as opposed to Christmas, "takes Christ out of Christmas". The first letter of 'Christ' in Greek translates to 'X', as it also does in the Roman alphabet. The word Xmas is much older than you would think and it dates all the way back to the 12th century, when it was used in the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*.

Myth: **JESUS WAS BORN ON DECEMBER 25.** The exact date the Son of God was born is not stated anywhere in the Gospels, so we cannot say for sure when the event occurred. It almost certainly did not take place during the colder months of the year, as realistically shepherds would not have been tending their flocks in deep winter. So why do we celebrate Christmas on the 25th of December? Some historians believe it was because that date fell during the winter solstice, an already-established pagan tradition that was later Christianised.

Myth: **JINGLE BELLS IS A CHRISTMAS SONG.** Written in 1857 by American James Pierpont, the song was originally called *One Horse Open Sleigh* and was meant to be about Thanksgiving. If you listen carefully, the song never mentions Christmas (or Xmas).

Malta's first Christmas village at the Marsaskala Family Park



Parks Malta's *Christmas in the Park* has been launched, kicking off this year's festive season at the Marsaskala Family Park.

Families and friends can enjoy Christmas activities and entertainment in a safe and open space.

The park has been transformed into a Christmas village offering various attractions such as a live crib and Santa's Grotto.

Visitors will have the opportunity to buy local artisanal products. Additionally, visitors will also have the opportunity to personalise their own Christmas ornaments, against a donation that will be given to L-Istrina.

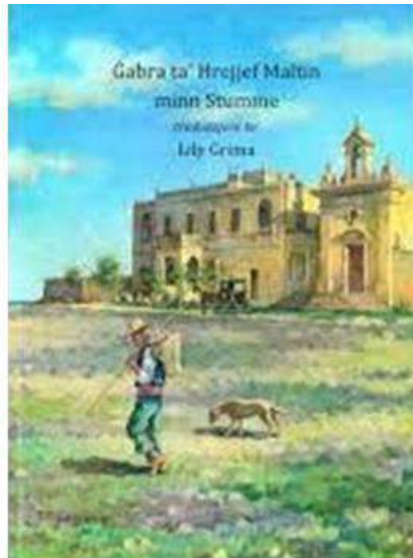
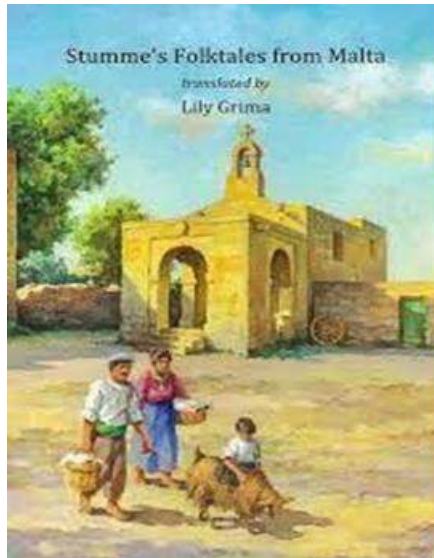
The Christmas village will also be offering different entertainment on a daily basis by renowned local artists. Minister for Energy, Enterprise and Sustainable Development Miriam Dalli explained that this initiative will also serve as a platform to support local businesses and artists.

"This festive season is an opportunity to support our businesses and local talent. And now more than ever, it is even essential to show support towards our businesses and artists. It brings us satisfaction to see local artists exhibiting their work and entertaining families and friends in this Park", said the minister.

The public is encouraged to visit *Christmas in the Park* and enjoy the festivities with various entertainers. The Christmas village will be open daily between 5:00pm and 11:30pm, as of 17 December until 30 December.



Discovered century-old forgotten Maltese tales – translated for the first time from phonetic script & published separately in English and Maltese



Lily Grima's Publications

Lily Grima has just published in November 2021: *Gabra ta' Hrejjef Maltin minn Stumme* (ISBN: 978-99909-44-86-0 available from reginald.bartolo@muhc.com.mt and at many Malta bookshops such as Agenda in Republic Street Valletta, & some newsagents, priced 14 euros - postage excluded).

Similarly, in November 2019 she had published her translation of this same collection of Maltese folktales for the first time into English, entitled: *Stumme's Folktales from Malta* (ISBN: 978-99909-44-80-8 also available from the above email address, priced 12 euros - postage excluded) and in Malta bookshops & some newsagents. The publisher is University of Malta Press.

This is a collection of 37 tales recorded in 1904 by Dr Hans Stumme (of the University of Leipzig) in phonetic script asking mostly illiterate peasants in the Maltese Islands to narrate tales which they knew by memory. The importance of these tales is that they were a means of entertainment and instruction for ordinary simple folk and thus interesting in many aspects because they reveal how people thought, what they felt, their wishes, dreams, fears, ambitions, humour, and the way they expressed themselves a century ago. Stumme's 1904 work transcribed the tales in the original village dialects which Grima translated into standard Maltese.

The Hal Saflieni Hypogeum

Journey into Mystery where time stands still

Hypogeum: missing children, alien skulls and 7,000 skeletons



The **Hal Saflieni Hypogeum** is an underground prehistoric burial site. Discovered in 1902 during construction works, the site was first excavated by Fr Emmanuel Magri between 1903 and 1906. Fr Magri died in Tunisia and his excavation notes have not been found. Excavations were taken over by Sir Themistocles Zammit, who continued works until 1911.

The Hal Saflieni Hypogeum is a complex made up of interconnecting rock-cut chambers set on three distinct levels. The complex was used over a span of many centuries, with the earliest remains dating back to about **4000 BC** and the more recent remains found dating to the Early Bronze Age (ca 1500BC).

The uppermost Level consists of a large hollow with burial chambers on its sides. This area may have been originally exposed to the sky. Excavations in the early 1990s indicate that there probably was a monumental structure marking the entrance.

Special Christmas Edition



A doorway leads to the Middle Level which contains some of the best known features of the hypogeum. These include intricate red ochre wall paintings and beautifully carved features that recall architectural elements common in contemporaneous megalithic temples.

The deepest of the three levels, known as the Lower Level, is accessed down seven steps from the chamber which is popularly known as the 'Holy of Holies'.

The Hal Saflieni Hypogeum was first opened to the public in 1908 and since then, it has been visited by thousands of people. Unfortunately, this has had a toll on its delicate microclimate, affecting the preservation of the site and the unique red ochre paintings.

For this reason, after a conservation project which saw the site closed for ten years between 1990 and 2000, a new environmental management system was established. Following years of monitoring and study, the system was replaced and updated in 2017.

The Hypogeum is open for 10 visitors per hour for a maximum of 8 hours a day. This precaution is complemented by an environmental control system which keeps temperature and humidity at required levels, thus ensuring that the site is preserved for future generations.

The Hal Saflieni Hypogeum is the only prehistoric burial site which is accessible to the general public and it is inscribed in the **UNESCO World Heritage List**, as a site that "bears a unique testimony to a civilization which has disappeared" (Criterion iii). Due to the high demand, visitors are recommended to buy tickets early as the guided tours are often fully booked weeks in advance.

The story that I am about to recount happened before the break out of World War 2. This event was recorded in the National Geographic - magazine (August 1940 edition). It reports about a group of 30 children vanishing in the Hypogeum of Hal Safliene, Malta. The children were roped together, with the end of the rope tied to the opening of the cave (to find their way when they returned) but as the last student turned the corner the rope was clean cut and the walls caved in.

Miss Lois Jessup is believed to have entered the same entrance sometime before it collapsed. Her guide reluctantly gave her permission. Jessup notes that she saw a procession of tall Humanoids with white hair covering their bodies, and when they sensed that Jessup was looking at them a strong wind began to blow through the cavern. She also notes that that something slippery and wet moved past her as well. Eventually she returned back and the guide gave her a knowing look that he knew what Jessup saw down there. A few days later the students entered in the same entrance and it caved in. Now the underground entrance to the caves in Malta have been sealed off and nobody is allowed to investigate the site.



The people buried in the Hypogeum were not extra-terrestrials – they just happened to have long heads due to their long skulls, one of the three main types of skull.

This can be traced back to Sir Themistocles Zammit's first report about the Hypogeum in 1910.

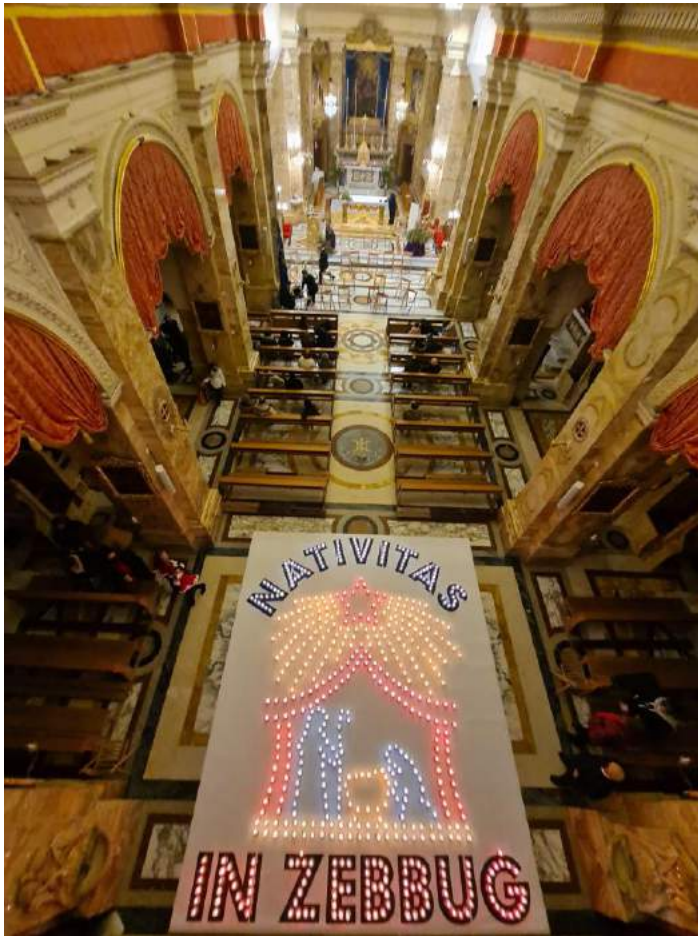
Apart from skeletal fragments found there, the site in fact yielded the remains of some 10 skulls. Since Sir Zammit was a doctor, he recorded their measurements. But this came at a time when there was an ongoing phrenology debate linking different skull sizes to different ethnicities.

Of the three main shapes of skulls, those at the Hypogeum were of the long-headed type.

But as the years rolled by, people interpreted this to mean that the skulls were "elongated".

For some time, these were linked to what is known as "snake" or "serpent" priests, while in the 1980s, some said that those buried at the cemetery were aliens.

To their disappointment, those who actually saw the skulls on display (they were still exhibited at the National Museum of Archaeology in the 1980s), realised that the skulls were, in fact, not elongated.



“Nativitatis in Żebbuġ”

Kav Joe M Attard - Ghawdex

Dan huwa l-isem tal-ewwel edizzjoni ta' dan il-programm mużikali tal-Milied li għadu kemm. Organizza l-Kunsill Lokali taż-Żebbuġ fil-Knisja Parrokkjali tar-raħal. Għadd sabiħ ta' parruċċani kienet preżenti għall-għadd sabiħ ta' Christmas Carols li kienet żewġ korijiet tal-parroċċa, 'Santa Marija' u 'Regni Angelorum' taħt it-tmexxija tas-Sinjura Maria Cefai. Kantaw akkumpanjati mill-Banda Santa Marija taħt id-direzzjoni Mr Dr Joseph Grech li nhar il-Gimgha ista' dan ix-xahar se tesegwixxi programm mużikali Pjazza Indipendenza Victoria fl-okkażjoni ta' Jum il-Repubblika fis-7pm taħt il-patroċinju tal-President ta' Malta Dr Gorg Vella. L-istess Banda se ddoqq fil-knisja parrokkjali taż-Żebbuġ fit-23 ta' Diċembru f'atmosfera sabiħa tal-Milied. Intant waqt is-sera ta' 'Nativitatis in Żebbuġ' il-Banda Santa Marija flimkien mal-kor tawna numru sabiħ ta' Christmas Carols popolari li kienu jinkludu Ninni Ninni, Mill-Għoli nazzjonalista, Once in Royal David's City, While Shepherds Watched, Ninni la tibkix Iżjed, O Gesu' Helwa Tarbiġi, Lejl ta' Skiet, Fuq Tiben f'Maxtura, Ga kien wasal il-Żmien, u Good King Wenceslas.




Kif intemm dan il-programm li kien ipprezentat mill-Kav Joe M Attard, mill-ewwel ingħata bidu għall-Finland Concert organizzat mill-Malta International Organ Festival, 'Organ and Brass – Pomp and Christmas' bi sehem ta' Mro Franco Cefai fuq l-organ flimkien mal-'Majestic Brass Ensemble' magħmul minn Jason Camilleri – Trumpet, Mark Anthony Cassar – Horn, George Camilleri – Trombone u Daniel Gauci – Euphonium. Taħt id-direzzjoni ta' Franco Cefai il-kunċert fetaħ bi 'Traditional French Melody' u wara smajna 'Somewhere in my memory' mehuda mill-film magħruf 'Home Alone'. Franco Cefai imbagħad daqq fuq l-orgni tal-knisja Traditional French Carol – 'Les Anges dans nos campagnes' fuq arrangament tiegħu stess u wara l-hames mużiċisti tawna s-'Silent Night' ta' Frans Gruber. Kien imiss imbagħad li nisimgħu l-Organ u l-Trumphet flimkien jagħtuna 'Ghawdex Intrada' ta' Amy Dunker (1964) li kienet qed tindaqq għall-ewwel darba. Ma naqsitx is-'Sinfonia Pastorale', għanja ferm qadima u popolari li tismagħha kull Milied ta' E. Galea (1790-1850) u dritt wara, smajna 'The First Noel'. Mill-gdid l-organista Franco Cefai tana 'Christmas Fantasia' fuq arrangament tiegħu stess u wara l-popolari 'Jingle Bells'. Din is-serata helwa għalqet l-Ensemble idoqqu għalina l-'Adeste Fidelis' u 'Christmas Fanfare' taħt id-direzzjoni ta' Mro Franco Cefai dejjem mill-gallerija tal-Orgni li nsibu fil-knisja parrokkjali taż-Żebbuġ Ghawdex.

**IF YOU HAVE AN INTERESTING STORY,
POEM OR AN ESSAY**

SHARE IT WITH OTHERS

**SEND IT TO US
FOR
PUBLICATION**

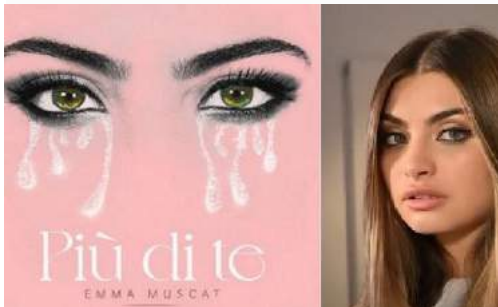
maltesejournal@gmail.com

**If you are of
Maltese descent
and living
overseas THIS IS
YOUR JOURNAL**



Maltese singer Emma Muscat launches new song



'Più di te' is about finding one's self-confidence

Più di te is the title of Emma Muscat's latest song, out on all music platforms on November 24.

It narrates the personal rebirth of a young woman who puts away her fears and focuses on finding her self-confidence.

The launch follows on the success of *Sangria*, featuring Astol, and her latest hit single *Meglio Di Sera*, featuring Astol and the Spanish singer-songwriter Alvaro de Luna, both certified gold for their sales by FIMI (*Federazione Industria Musicale Italiana*).

Muscat is a 21-year-old Maltese singer-songwriter and pianist who has been playing the piano and singing since the age of five. Her first album *Moments* entered the top 10 of the FIMI chart for three consecutive weeks, preceded by the single *I Need Somebody*.

Emma attended Isle of MTV2018 together with Jason Derulo, Hailee Steinfeld and Sigala and in 2019 with Martin Garrix, Bebe Rexha and Ava Max.

She also duetted with Eros Ramazzotti at the Joseph Calleja concert and opened a concert for Rita Ora and Martin Garrix. Muscat can boast a string of successful releases that have embellished her music career.



Il-Malti: A Glimpse into the fading world of Gozitan Dialects

By [Sasha Vella](#)



As the modern lifestyle continues to claim different areas of our culture, Gozo's particular dialects are fast on their decline.

Dialects can be easily described as the variety of the same language within a particular location.

They are often dependant on a number of factors, such as, demographic changes, youths, and immigrants that return back to Malta.

While many tend to confuse dialects with accents, they are not the same.

In the Gozitan dialect, there are many phrases and words which are different from those used in Malta. Differences in dialects are found not just in the vowels, but also in the consonants of the word. For example, many residents in Xewkija tend to pronounce the q as k, so for example instead of saying 'qattus' (cat) they would say 'kattus'.

In the dialect of Għarb and some other Gozitan dialects, the Maltese silent għ (referred to as għajn,) is also pronounced as r, for example dgħajsa (boat), is pronounced as drajsa.

In the dialect of Żebbug and San Lawrenz, the Maltese h (akka) is still pronounced as ħ, for example, instead of dahru (his house), they pronounce it as daħru.

Gozitans also make use of the interjection 'ħajz', which has the same meaning of disgust as 'jaqq', which is 'yuck' in English.

Author Joe Camilleri also spoke about these different phrases and sayings where he explained their meaning while used in a Gozitan context, in an interview with [Newsbook](#).

"Traditional dialects nowadays have their own threats as well, with failing to keep up with the current times," he said. Camilleri also brought the example of Gozitan's pronunciation of the word 'bath', which they pronounce as 'baff' due to the differences in speech.

A phrase such as 'qisek ix-xuxana' also originally came from Gozitan dialects, and it is used when someone's hair is unruly or out of place.

Speaking about the present situation of the Gozitan dialect, Camilleri said that a language that is alive, and a dialect that is alive, will be constantly susceptible to change



Christmas Maltese Fruitcake - A dark, rich, well spiced old fashioned English style fruitcake that can be made weeks in advance of Christmas.

Ingredients

- 1 1/4 cups chopped dried prunes (6 oz), chopped
- 1 1/4 cups chopped dates (6 oz), chopped
- 1 1/2 cups dark raisins (8 oz)
- 1 1/4 cups golden raisins (6 oz)
- 1 1/4 cups currents (6 oz)
- 3/4 cup butter
- 1 cup dark brown sugar
- 3/4 cup molasses
- 1/2 cup coffee liqueur, or 1/2 cup strong black coffee
- Zest and juice of 2 oranges
- 1 cup chopped glace cherries
- 1 cup candied citrus peel
- 1 1/2 cups toasted pecans (7 oz), roughly chopped
- 2 tsp allspice
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- 2 tsp powdered ginger
- 1 tsp cloves and 2 tsp nutmeg
- 3 tbsp cocoa and 3 eggs
- 1 1/3 cups all purpose flour
- 1/2 cup ground hazelnuts or almonds
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp baking soda

Instructions

1. In a large saucepan melt the butter over medium heat and add the raisins, dates, prunes, currents, brown sugar, molasses, spices, coffee liqueur (or coffee) and the orange zest and juice.
2. Bring to a gentle boil and very slowly simmer for 10 minutes.
3. Remove from heat and allow to cool for 30-45 minutes.
4. When cool stir in the beaten eggs.
5. Sift together, flour, cocoa, baking powder, baking soda.
6. Add the ground nuts and fold through the boiled mixture. Fold in cherries, citrus peel and pecans. Pour into prepared baking pan. You can decorate the top with additional pecan halves, cherries etc., if you like.
7. Bake at 300 degrees F for 1 1/2 to 2 hours depending upon the size of your pan. Mine took the full two hours in a 10 inch spring form pan. The cake should feel firm to the touch at the centre and a wooden toothpick inserted into the center should come out clean. The cake should be cooled completely in the pan on a wire rack before removing.
8. At this point you can poke small holes in the top and bottom of the cake with a fork and pour on 4 ounces of dark rum or your favorite whiskey, half on the top, wait ten minutes, then flip it over and pour the remaining half on the bottom.
9. Soak several layers of cheesecloth in additional rum if you like and wrap completely around the cake, then cover with several layers of plastic wrap and store in a COOL place.
10. When serving, you can add a layer of marzipan or if you have decorated the top with fruit and nuts, brush with a simple glaze of equal parts water and sugar boiled together for about 10-15 minutes.



THE FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN

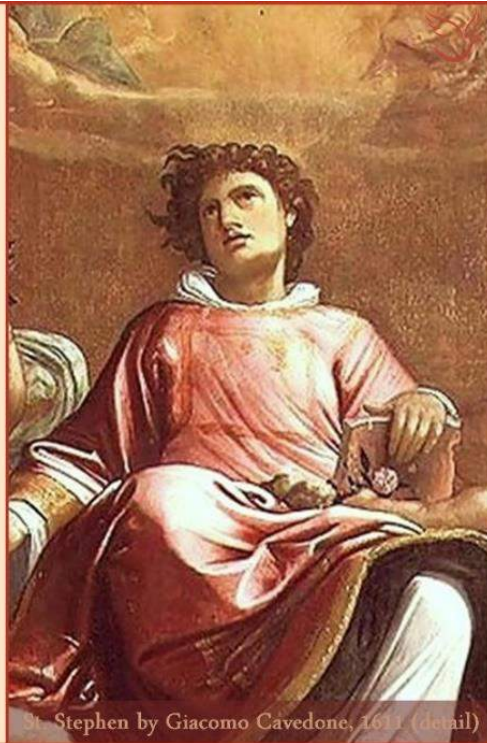
26TH DECEMBER

St. Stephen, the first of the Martyrs, d. c. 34AD, was a popular deacon in the early Church of Jerusalem, who distributed alms to the orphans and poor. He was falsely accused of blasphemy and stoned to death by the Jewish Authorities.

His martyrdom was witnessed by the Pharisee, Saul of Tarsus—who would later convert to Christianity and become St. Paul the Apostle.

St. Stephen is the Patron Saint of deacons, and stonemasons, and is usually shown with a martyr's palm and three stones. His Feast Day is celebrated as 'Boxing Day' in New Zealand, Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom.

The Guild of St. Stephen traditionally award their crosses, medals and awards to altar servers on this day.



St. Stephen by Giacomo Cavedone, 1611 (detail)

**THIS
SPACE
COULD
BE
YOURS**

During these difficult times, we need to keep our spirits up and celebrate Christmas as normal as possible. I would like you to remember in your prayers all those who died during this pandemic period and their families, relatives and friends. I thank God that this journal has been a helping hand to many people who were and still suffering pain and loneliness as a result of this wicked virus. Our EMAIL LIST during this year has doubled and I am pleased that I have reached our objective i.e. connecting communities and building bridges.

Thanks to our correspondent



Special Christmas Edition



The Maltese Journal is archived at
 Malta Migration Museum - Valletta; Website-ozmalta.com
 Maltese-Canadian Archives Toronto; Facebook;
 Maltese Associations in Australia, Canada, USA and UK
 Nursing Homes - Schools - Libraries
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MALTESE CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWS

Renew your membership at the Malta Band Clubs
 Malta Band Club Announcement
 The President and the Executive Committee are reaching out to everyone including Club Members, Bands-People, Committee Members, Lifetime



Members and Possible New Members to inform you of the Financial challenges we are facing.

The Committee is working hard to try and keep our dream alive "Il Klub tal Familja Maltija". We are one of the few remaining Clubs with their own premises that remains active. With the current situation expenses are amounting, monthly payments need to be met. We must sustain and strive to weather these difficult times. In order to accomplish this we need your Financial support. We are asking everyone to renew their 2021 Membership and also accepting any donations.



Il-Milied it-Tajjeb

Merry Christmas

Feliz Navidad

Joyeux Noel

Buon Natale

Frohe Weihnachten

عيد ميلاد مجيد

**WE THANK ALL THE MALTESE ASSOCIATIONS
 IN MALTA AND ABROAD FOR YOUR
 COOPERATION AND SUPPORT**

Special Christmas Edition



WISHING YOU A VERY MERR CHRISTMAS FROM THE MALTESE CENTER
NEW YORK - USA



La Valette Social Centre Inc.

**** Upcoming Events ****

Friday, 31 December 2021

New Year's Eve Dinner

3 Course Meal

Entertainment: Charlie Camilleri

Tickets: Members \$60 - Non-Members \$65

**** More details to follow soon ****

And Something NEW

In February 2022

MALTESE DAY LUNCHEON

All Maltese Food & Entertainment

**** More details to follow soon ****



On behalf of the Maltese
Community Council of
Victoria

**MERRY CHRISTMAS &
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

May the Christmas season
fill your home with joy,
your heart with love
and your life with laughter

**IL-KUNSILL MALTI TAL-
VICTORIA**

**JIXTIEQULKOM
IL-MILIED IT-TAJJEB U SENA
GDIDA MIMLIJA**

Risq, hena u Sahha t'Alla
L-isplirtu tal-Millied jimla
qalbkom u djarkhom
u tbissima dejjemna

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MALTESE JOURNAL**



DO YOU?



The life that touches others lives on forever

In loving memory of

*Leone Joachim
Gambin*

Born in Senglea, Malta 15 September 1929
Died in Adelaide, Australia 4 December 2021