



## **POPE FRANCIS IN MALTA**

**2 - 3 APRIL 2022**



**Dr Ray Xerri**



**Denise Demicoli**

**The former and the new  
Consul-Generals for Malta  
in Canada**

**MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER**  
Keeping the Maltese Living  
Abroad connected

### **EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS 2022**



**Jenise Spiteri  
carried Maltese flag  
at Beijing  
Winter Olympics**



### **MEETING OF TWO PRESIDENTS**



**Roberta Metsola**  
European Union

**George Vella**  
Malta

**16th - 30th April 2022**

**Mediterranean Conference  
Centre, Valletta**

**Matilda**  
THE MUSICAL



**60**  
**BirdLife**

**MALTA**  
**1962**  
**2022**

## **Pope Francis to visit Hal Far migrant village in 2-3 April visit to Malta and Gozo**

Official announcement of the Pope's visit made by Archbishop Charles Scicluna during pontifical mass celebrating the feast of St Paul in Valletta

*by Kurt Sansone*

*Pope Francis kisses the foot of a refugee during a Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper at the Centre for Asylum Seekers in Castelnovo di Porto, in March 2016. The pope washed and kissed the feet of refugees, including Muslims, Hindus and Copts*

Pope Francis will visit the migrant open centre at Hal Far when he visits Malta on 2 and 3 April.

The official announcement of the Pope's visit was made at the end of the pontifical mass celebrating the feast of St



Paul in Valletta.

The message was read out by the Vatican's representative in Malta, Alessandro d'Errico.

The Pope will visit Valletta, Floriana, Rabat, Gozo and the Hal Far migrant centre.

Francis was due to come to Malta two years ago but the visit had to be postponed because of the pandemic.

During his homily, Archbishop Charles Scicluna dwelt on the importance of love and noted that Malta had a right to ask for EU solidarity in dealing with migration but it should do so while also showing love towards people in distress at sea by saving them.

The mass was attended by the country's highest authorities, including President George Vella, Prime Minister Robert Abela and Opposition leader Bernard Grech.

European Parliament President Roberta Metsola, on her first visit to Malta since taking on the role, also attended.

**Dear Frank, your Journal is a shining gem and I don't have enough words to describe the variety and depth of its contents. I have been a writer and a journalist for over 50 years but the content and presentation simply amazes me. I firmly believe it is one of the best online Journals in the world and I am sure that Maltese and Gozitans abroad as well as those having Maltese and Gozitan roots treasure this Journal. Keep up the splendid work and wishing you very best regards,**  
**ALBERT FENECH Malta**

## MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER 412

February 2022

**Daphne murder site shows respect for journalists**  
**Roberta Metsola -**  
**President of the European Parliament**



President of the European Parliament Roberta Metsola visited the site of Daphne Caruana Galizia's assassination and met with members of the Caruana Galizia family during her first official visit to the country since taking office. Speaking with The Malta Independent, she said that visiting this site was a natural choice to make during her first official visit.

"The European Parliament, from the day Daphne Caruana Galizia was assassinated, has had the same message, that we protect journalists everywhere and protect all those investigating corruption and criminality. The EU must be a space of protection and no corner in the EU should fail in that obligation. That is why I, as President of the European Parliament, chose to come here to pass on this message and give my commitment that, for the next two and a half years as President, I will continue in this work." Asked for her opinion about the progress in the assassination investigation, she said she welcomes all progress, "but the message is clear, that we will continue working until all the truth comes out."



On Sunday, during the 10:30am Mass at the St. Paul the Apostle Church – the Maltese-Canadian Community Parish, Toronto, the parishioners said farewell to Dr Raymond Xerri, as he ends his term as Consul General of Malta for Canada. They thanked Dr Xerri for all that he did during his time in Toronto, both for the Maltese Canadian community and for the parish. Dr. Xerri was very well loved and respected by all and they wished him well as he begins a new chapter in his life. They also gave a warm welcome to Ms Denise Demicoli, who is replacing Dr Xerri as Consul General for the Republic of Malta in Canada..



**OMG!!! Not another one!!!**

**MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER**

**The Journal of Maltese**  
**Living Abroad**

**maltesejournal@gmail.com**



### **Pope Francis prepares to visit Florence for meeting of Mediterranean bishops, mayors.**

#### **Lonnie Borg MSSP writes**

Later this month, Pope Francis will close a five-day meeting involving dozens of bishops and mayors from the Mediterranean region in the Italian city of Florence.

This meeting follows one held in Bari in 2020, just as the pandemic was starting, but only included the bishops of the region.

At the centre of the meeting will be the topic of migration: What can be done to save people from drowning in the Mediterranean Sea, which Francis has called the "Mare Mortum," meaning the Sea of

Death.

Participants will come from 20 countries, and at least 70 bishops and 60 mayors are expected to attend. The gathering was presented at an online press conference on Thursday, where organizers of the meeting said what made these gatherings unique is the convergence of civil and ecclesial authorities to discuss how they can cooperate with one another on a topic that impacts millions of people. Furthermore, they will engage in a dialogue of culture and civilizations and show that a peaceful coexistence between peoples from different backgrounds is not only desirable but actually possible.

As was the case of the Bari meeting, there is a goal of fostering the common connection with the great Mediterranean region. From a solely religious point of view, there is also talk of these meetings being the launching pad for a Bishops' Conference of the Mediterranean region, much like there are European Bishops' conferences or the Conference of Eastern Churches.

The challenge with this, the organizers have said, is creating the awareness of a common connection between the Mediterranean Churches, which has thus far been hard to accomplish due to rifts and sharply defined borders.

Mare Nostrum was the term used for the Mediterranean Sea by the Roman Empire. This area has geopolitical uniqueness of the Mediterranean: A basin of three continents, a melting pot that sums up the problems of the whole world. There are 21 countries that make up the Mediterranean region are: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, and Turkey.

Pope Francis won't only be meeting with bishops and mayors, but also with migrants who have arrived in Europe fleeing violence and famine, mostly traveling in rubber boats departing from Libya, Turkey and Morocco.

Pope Francis is also currently scheduled to meet some refugees and their families in his next visit to Malta in April. Cardinal Gualtiero Bassetti, president of the Italian Bishops' Conference said the meeting was "from the perspective of fraternity, to listen to each other. We restart from Florence with the desire to help the Mediterranean return to being what it was, that is, a place of unity and not of conflict, of development and not of death."

**IF YOU HAVE A GOOD STORY TO TELL – SHARE IT WITH  
THOUSANDS OF OTHERS – SEND IT TO US**

# Mass of Thanksgiving



Bishop George Bugeja, flanked by Fr Hayden Williams, OFM, (left) and Fr Gerard Buhagiar at the chapel of Our Lady Ta' Pinu. Photo: Charles Spiteri

Bishop George Bugeja, OFM, the Apostolic Vicar of Tripoli, concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving, together with Fr Hayden Williams, OFM, and sanctuary rector Fr Gerard Buhagiar at Ta' Pinu Sanctuary on February 5.

Mgr Bugeja was giving thanks to the Lord for the missionary life and ministry entrusted to

him and also as a special prayer to Mary, Mother of God, to help him throughout his pastoral ministry. Mgr Bugeja, who will be returning to Libya in the coming days, has been the Apostolic Vicar of Tripoli since February 2017.

Born in Xaghra on July 1, 1962, he entered the novitiate of the Friars Minor on October 2, 1978, and was ordained priest on July 5, 1986. Apart from his philosophical and theological studies, he holds a diploma in journalism and spirituality.

Mgr Bugeja started his ministry in Tripoli at a time when Libya was still going through civil unrest and political instability which followed the collapse of the Gaddafi regime in 2011.

Mgr Bugeja was consecrated bishop at the National Sanctuary of Our Lady of Ta' Pinu, on September 4, 2015.

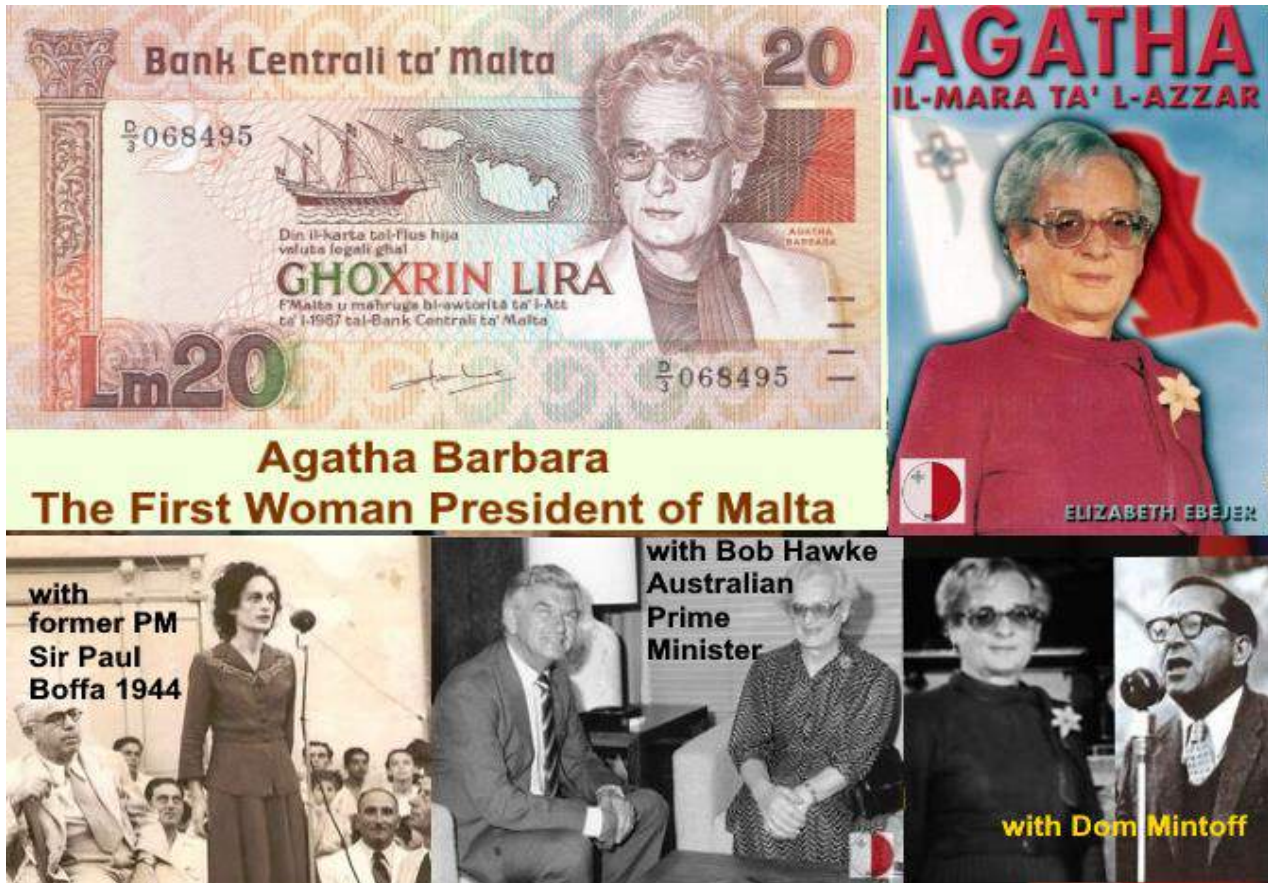


Over the years Calypso Radio became an established name in Maltese households and businesses alike. Launched as a community station in 2004 and nationwide in 2005 Calypso Radio remains the nation's favourite music station and aims at entertaining its audience not just through music but also by offering a warm and homely feeling to its listeners thanks to the cheerful line up of presenters!

Calypso Radio is Malta's only Retro Music Station giving its priority to the massive decades of the 60's, 70's and the 80's playing the greats such as 'The Beatles', 'ABBA', 'BeeGees', 'Hot Chocolate', 'Lionel Richie', 'Rod Stewart', 'Tina Turner', 'Air Supply', 'Percy Sledge', 'Duran Duran', 'Madonna' and others... Italo Hits are certainly not absent, where an array of Italian music is played daily. Our music menu is never ending and this is the reason why Calypso Radio remains Malta's favourite!

Calypso Radio gives the opportunity to its listeners to request their favourite tracks, receiving an immense amount of texts daily, mainly selecting their favourite songs from the 60's, 70's and 80's... This has naturally made Calypso Radio the Nation's Favourite radio station.

**Calypso Radio 101.8FM** 28, New Street in Valletta Road, Luqa (+356) 2180 1403



**Agatha Barbara**, KUOM (11 March 1923 – 4 February 2002)<sup>[1]</sup> was born in Zabbar and she was a Maltese politician, having served as a Labour Member of Parliament and Minister. She was the first woman to serve as president of Malta, and remains the longest-serving woman Member of Parliament in Maltese political history.

Agatha Barbara achieved several significant firsts for women in Malta.

During her long career devoted to social and economic reform, she became the first female MP, the first woman to become a Minister and the first female President of the Republic. As Education Minister, full-time schooling was made compulsory for all children under the age of 16.

She oversaw the establishment of a teacher training college, free tuition, special bus services for school pupils, and the first schools for children with hearing or sight impairments. Perhaps most important, Miss Barbara ensured that science classes were open to girls as well as boys.

Later on in her career, she abolished university fees and introduced equal pay for both men and women, followed by paid maternity leave.

As Employment Minister, the working week was restricted to 40 hours, and retirement pensions and unemployment benefits were introduced.

From 1982 to 1987, she served as President of Malta, becoming the first Maltese woman to achieve that distinction.

Miss Barbara followed in The Queen's footsteps when her image appeared on Malta's banknotes for the first time in 1986.

They were withdrawn from circulation in 1989.

She passed away in Zabbar in February 2002, 20 years ago, at the age of 78.

A statue in her memory was unveiled in her home town in 2006 by Dr Eddie Fenech Adami.

# MALTA PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA



*For over half a century, the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra has been Malta's foremost musical institution.*

The orchestra was founded in April 1968, when musicians from the defunct "Commander-in-Chief" (C-in-C) orchestra of the Malta-based British Mediterranean Fleet regrouped as the Manoel Theatre Orchestra. It continued to serve as the theatre's resident orchestra until September 1997, when it became an independent orchestra, taking up the name National Orchestra of Malta. The orchestra became the MPO in 2008 when it expanded into a full-size symphony orchestra, bringing together the best of Maltese talent and musicians from Europe and beyond.

Joseph Sammut, the C-in-C's last conductor, was the orchestra's first conductor, remaining at the helm until 1992. Since then, the orchestra has also been under the direction of Joseph Vella, John Galea, Michael Laus, and Brian Schembri. In 2019, the MPO has

appointed Sergey Smbatyan as Principal Conductor, joining Resident Conductor Michael Laus as part of the orchestra's Artistic Team. The MPO also works with local and international guest conductors and soloists including Lawrence Renes, Michalis Economou, Guy Braunstein, Alexei Volodin, Camilla Tilling, Joseph Calleja, and Enrico Dindo.

As Malta's leading musical ensemble, the MPO averages more than one performance a week including symphonic concerts, opera productions in Malta and Gozo, community outreach and educational initiatives, as well as various concerts of a lighter nature.

The orchestra has performed in leading venues across the globe, including in the United States, Russia, Germany, Austria, China, Italy, and Belgium, and presently embarks on at least one international tour each concert season.

The MPO is a keen exponent of Maltese composers, regularly performing their works in Malta and overseas, as well as frequently premiering and commissioning new compositions

Through the MPO Academy and the Malta Youth Orchestra, which regularly give concerts across Malta, the MPO is also responsible for the training and professional development of the next generation of Maltese musicians.

**Thank you**

**Maltese  
e-Newsletter**



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## Michael Laus **RESIDENT CONDUCTOR**

Michael Laus graduated in piano, harpsichord, composition, and conducting at the Conservatorio Giuseppe Verdi of Milan in 1982. He later participated in master classes in conducting given by George Manahan in the United States and Vladimir Delman in Bologna.

Principal Conductor of Malta's national orchestra for twenty-five years and now its Resident Conductor, he has conducted the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra in symphonic concerts both in Malta's main concert venues and on tour in Belgium and Italy. He has conducted several opera productions which include the Mozart/Da Ponte trilogy, *Die Zauberflöte*, *L'Elisir d'amore*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *Rigoletto*, *La Traviata*, *Otello*, *Falstaff*, *La Bohème*, *Tosca*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *Roméo et Juliette*, *Werther*, *Pagliacci* and *L'amico Fritz*, as well as lesser-known titles such as Cimarosa's *Il matrimonio segreto* and Nino Rota's *La notte di un nevrastenico*. His performed repertoire includes the major symphonies of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, Handel's *Messiah*, the Mozart and Verdi Requiems, Jenkins' *Mass for Peace* and other works from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries with several first performances of works by contemporary composers.

In July, 2016, he conducted the first European performance of Arvo Pärt's *Greater Antiphons*, in the composer's presence, and in November 2016 he conducted a highly acclaimed performance of

Verdi's *Requiem*. He opened the first edition of the Valletta International Baroque Festival in 2013 with Vivaldi's *Quattro stagioni* together with Carmine Lauri, and the second edition with Handel's *Messiah*. Other soloists with whom he has collaborated include Katia Ricciarelli, Cecilia Gasdia, Joseph Calleja, Brigitte Engerer and Andrea Griminelli, while he also works regularly with his wife, the soprano Miriam Gauci.

Michael Laus has guest-conducted prestigious orchestras such as the Bournemouth Symphony, the Slovak Philharmonic, the New Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Belgrade Philharmonic, the Orquesta Sinfonica de Asturias, the Berne Symphony Orchestra, L'Orchestra Sinfonica di Pesaro, the Sibiu Philharmonic Orchestra, the Moldavian Symphony Orchestra and the Croatian Chamber Orchestra. He has appeared as music director in operatic productions at the Berne State Theatre and in Oviedo.

He regularly appears in the double role of pianist/harpsichordist and conductor in a concerto repertoire ranging from baroque to twentieth-century works. In this double role, he has won international critical acclaim for his recording of Cyril Scott's *Harpsichord Concerto*.

Michael Laus has recorded works for the piano and orchestra as well as orchestral music on CD, which have been released on Discover International, Unicorn-Khanchana and Cameo Classics labels. He has appeared on Rai 3, France 3 and Mezzo television channels. He is Associate Professor in Music Studies at the University of Malta. He was the founder and first music director of the Malta Youth Orchestra, and also the founder and director of the Goldberg Ensemble, a choral and instrumental group specializing in the performance of baroque music



Canadian-born Shannon Galea representing Malta

## 'dream' job with Canadian Olympic Committee

By Kathryn Fraser -

Shannon Galea says she tries to implement Canadian ideals and values into her international work. Photo credit: Photo supplied

After spending years as an elite softball player and coach, a Durham College and UOIT grad is now using her knowledge to support other athletes.

Oshawa native Shannon Galea, 30, joined the Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) as a Game Plan specialist last September. "It's a dream come true, it really is," Galea said. Game Plan is a program created in collaboration with the COC, the Canadian Paralympic Committee (CPC) and the

Sport Canada and Canadian Olympic and Paralympic Sport Institute Network (COPSIN).

Game Plan helps both current and retired athletes find other passions and transform them into well-rounded individuals. "It's a very interesting program, it's one of the only programs in Canada and it really aligns our sport system," she said.

Game Plan offers support through five areas: medical resources, skill development, education, networking possibilities and career opportunities.

Game Plan advisors are at the forefront, working with athletes and supporting players through the five areas. The advisors are psychologists, life coaches, career counsellors, mental performance coaches and other wellness leaders. Galea's role, as a specialist, is to oversee the work of the advisors, provide resources and develop programs.

Galea earned her degree in Geography and Earth Sciences at McMaster University before graduating from UOIT in 2011 with a Bachelor of Education. Following that, Galea taught health and physical education with the Durham District School Board (DDSB) before continuing to teach internationally.

"Teaching is the foundation for everything that I do, it's full circle," she said. "It's been the foundation for what I create and what I change."

During her tenure at UOIT, she participated heavily in campus athletics. Galea was a member of the Ridgebacks' rowing and squash teams and helped create the women's flag football extramural league, a joint league between UOIT and DC.

Galea also graduated from DC's Sport Business Management Program in 2012, then completed her master's degree in Olympic Studies and Policy at the German Sport University Cologne.

As a result of her connections, passion and education, Galea travelled to more than 40 countries. She lived in Holland, Italy, Belgium, Malta, New Zealand and Australia and played in their respective International Softball Federations.

Galea, 28, received the gold medal in softball at the European Cup in Most, Czech Republic. She played for Caserta, Italy: a team representing Malta at the European Cup. Photo credit: Provided by: Shannon Galea "With the coaching opportunities, I've been able to develop softball in my second nation — I'm actually a dual citizen in Malta," Galea said. "I was able to develop softball in my country which allowed for NCAA coaches to come over and create better opportunities for sport for young women."

Galea said her international travels have made her think more critically about Canada and her involvement at the COC.

"I think about the bigger picture in a different way," she said. "It's really helped me grow into, 'How can I bring this back to Canada? What can I do to bring my Canadian idealism and values [to other countries?] How can we unite Canada? What can we do to make a more active Canada?' That's where my motivations come from."

Galea's work takes her all over the world. She travelled to PyeongChang, South Korea for the 2018 Winter Olympics as a photographer. Photo credit: Provided by: Shannon Galea

Initiatives, programs and projects are always being developed and created to help athletes across Canada, Galea said.

“Right now, we are working on a mental health strategy for our athletes,” she said. “We have a partnership with Morneau Shepell (a human resources company) and it’s a transition program for athletes who are looking to understand themselves outside of sport. [It will help athletes] re-identify and understand the changes they’re going to go through after competing at a high level for many years.”

When she reflects on her own athletic success, Galea misses the “physical tenacity and challenge” of softball. But she also misses coaching and teaching.

“The impact you can have on a child and a young elite athlete, you can’t describe it,” she said. “I spent seven years travelling internationally, working with children in every international federation I’ve played in. I wanted to be a role model for the young athletes that I coached and for the people that I love

## Jenise Spiteri places 21st in snowboard halfpipe qualifiers at Beijing Olympics



Jenise Spiteri made her debut at the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing as the Maltese snowboarder was in action in the women’s half pipe qualifiers at the Yunding Snow Park, Zhangjiakou City in Beijing.

Malta is best known for its Mediterranean sun but Beijing Olympic snowboarder Jenise Spiteri is on an unlikely mission to get her island nation into winter sports.

The rainbow-haired Spiteri, who was born in California, has Maltese heritage and is the only athlete representing Malta in the Chinese capital.

She has more than 30,000 subscribers on her YouTube channel and said Wednesday she has been up until “four or five in the morning almost every night”



**JANISE SPITERI**  
From living in a van to the Winter Olympics and carrying the Maltese Flag at the Beijing Winter Olympics 2022

updating fans on her Olympic adventure.

“It’s really cool to see the reaction from people,” said the 29-year-old, who finished 21st out of 22 in qualifying for the women’s halfpipe, missing the final.

“I’ve had Maltese people all over the world saying it’s so cool to see a Maltese person competing in snowboarding. It’s been cool to just reach out.”

Spiteri fell on her first run in qualifying but managed to complete her second attempt cleanly. Her score of 25.25 was well behind defending champion Chloe Kim’s 87.75 in first place.

In between runs, Spiteri reached into her pocket and took a bite of a bean-paste bun that she had forgotten she put there. “When I was strapping in to drop into that second run I felt in my pocket and had my dumplings in my pocket,” she said. “I thought having a little bite of it would soften the blow of falling on that run and give me something sweet to enjoy.”

Spiteri, who did not take up snowboarding until she was 18, said she was hoping to inspire sporting late-starters and also promote winter sports in Malta. “It’s not hard to go from Malta into the Alps,” she said. “If there’s someone there who really wants it, they can move not too far away.”

February 2022



**NUTELLA: Positivity as a main ingredient**  
After World War II, cocoa was extremely scarce. Ferrero family, originally from Piedmont in Italy, turned this tricky problem into a smart solution, creating a sweet paste made from hazelnuts, sugar and just a little of the rare cocoa. The ancestor of Nutella® was born.

### A STORY OF A FAMILY

The



history of the Ferrero Group is a story of success in its third generation, in which the development of a multinational company perfectly combines with the past, present and future of a tenacious Piedmontese family.

### THE BEGINNING IN ALBA AND THE FOLLOWING YEARS

We have to return to the '40s to discover the roots of this success. These were the years when Piera and Pietro, Michele's parents, transformed a pastry shop into a factory. The Ferrero'

Family was the first Italian manufacturer after World War II to open production sites and offices abroad in the confectionary sector, turning the Company into a truly international Group. These first and decisive steps forward were thanks to the products "invented" by Pietro Ferrero and his son Michele, who was then very young. Another key to success was the effective sales network organized by Giovanni, Pietro's brother, who died in 1949.

### A WORLDWIDE SUCCESS

Following the success of the company in Italy, Michele Ferrero decided to start producing also abroad. In 1956 a large plant in Germany was inaugurated and a short time later a plant in France. It was the prelude to a rapid expansion of Ferrero in Europe, with the establishment of commercial offices and production centers in Belgium, The Netherlands,

Austria, Switzerland, Sweden, United Kingdom, Ireland and Spain. In the following decades Ferrero becomes global, with companies and plants in North and South America, South East Asia, Eastern Europe, Africa, Australia; and, more recently, in Turkey, Mexico and China.



### The apple pastizzi

They offer the infamous Nutella pastizzi – but get the apple pastizzi. It's just like a crispy, flaky Apple strudel, minus the sugar dust and plus the Maltese-ness.

### the Nutella pastizzi

On the other end of the price scale, head to Jon's Pastizzeria for some authentic Nutella pastizzi, then cross the road and stroll along the Msida marina to burn off some of it.

### The pastizzi ice-cream

OK – pastizzi-flavoured ice-cream may not be actual pastizzi, but come on – pastizzi-flavoured ice-cream y'all!

This place changes its specials regularly, so best to call first and confirm they are serving the delectable nectar of the Maltese gods before making the trip to Sliema.

#### **Pastizzi Gourmet literally everything**

The undisputed queen of alternative pastizzi, Pastizzi Gourmet has been serving up the most impressive alternative version of pastizzi for some years now. Expect everything from lamb and mint to blueberry and strawberry – and most of it comes in gluten-free form as well.



#### **Maltese mix pastizzi, pancakes and Nutella**

Do you know that we can combine Nutella pastizzi with Nutella pancakes, to make Nutella pastizzi pancakes.

Vinu Muscat from Sphinx Pastizzeria are delivering their fresh pastizzi everyday to create something original, crazy, and super tasty.

“It’s the three best things in life together: pastizzi, pancakes, and Nutella!”

The warm pastizzi come with a chocolatey nutella centre wrapped in the flaky texture of the pastizzi to create a dish the likes of which have never been seen before. And people are already losing it over this excessive dessert.

## Maltese in Rome celebrate feast of St Paul’s Shipwreck

Monique Agius



Dun Frans Bonnici

The Maltese community in Rome commemorated the feast of Malta’s national patron saint on February 11, the day after its celebration here in Malta.

The Embassy of Malta to Malta to Italy invited the Maltese community living in Rome to a Mass presided over by Mgr Maximilian Grech at the Carmelite church in Via della Conciliazione.

In his homily, Mgr Grech

reflected on St Paul’s Shipwreck and said St Luke detailed the voyage for us to understand its meaning.

He remarked that like St Paul, the faithful are also in the middle of a storm, as he recalled that St Paul’s had spoken to those who were traveling with him using the words of the Gospel. St Paul had urged them to celebrate the Eucharist and remain united, Mgr Grech said, and added that once they arrived in Malta, they were welcomed by the locals.

Ambassador Carmel Vassallo and his wife attend the Mass, together with 50 Maltese and foreign nationals, and 15 priests serving at Churches in Rome and the Vatican.

**L-ISBAH HIN WAQT IL-CORONVIRUS****CHEV TONY C. CUTAJAR OAM**

Il-Coronavirus gabet magħna hafna miżerja, biża', dwejjaj u qtiegħ il-qalb. Anke l-kelma biss kienet twerwer lil dak li jkun. Kont qiesek qed issemmi l-pesta jew xi

flagell li fl-imghoddi kien qatel eluf ta' nies. Hafna hekk bdew jikkonsidraw din il-marda gdida u qerrieda speċjalment hekk kif jisimgħu l-aħbarijiet tal-ġurnata. F'Malta konna xi ftit aktar ixxurtjati iżda xorta waħda kulhadd kien imbeżża'.

Jiena spiss bdejt inħossni qisni magħluq f'gagga, bilkemm nista' niehu nifs. Kultant kont inħossni qed nifga u noħroġ fil-bitħa biex inderri xi ftit. Bdejt inqum f'nofs ta' lejl, ma nistax norqod iżjed. Kont ninzel isfel, nipprova nsib xi programm interessanti fuq it-televiżjoni iżda kollu għalxejn. Għalxejn kont nipprova naqra xi ktieb b'għajnejja nofshom magħluqa bin-ghas. Ġieli rnexxieli norqod fuq il-pultruna quddiem it-televiżjoni. Imma s-sodda ma ridtx naf biha għax moħħi kien jibqa' jaħdem il-ħin kollu. L-uniku sfog li sibt kien meta kont naqbad nilgħab logħba wara l-oħra tal-Codebreaker sakemm forsi ngħejja u norqod. Kont immur fil-kamra ż-żgħira ta' wara biex ma nqajjimx lill-mamà. Darba minnhom irnexxieli norqod biss wara l-ħamsa ta' filgħodu.

Kont naħseb wisq fuq is-sitwazzjoni kerha li konna ninsabu fiha. Ma stajt insib kwiet imkien. Kont ngħid hafna rużarji imma t-thewdin u l-anżjetà hemm jibqgħu. Bdejt

nibza' li se niġġennen u nsib ruħi fl-isptar tal-moħħ. Ġibna t-tabib darbtejn u tani hafna pilloli u vitamini biex jikkalmawni. Bdejt norqod aħjar imma xorta nqum fit-tlieta jew fl-erbgha. Kont inkun qisni bla saħħa u ma niflaħx nimxi. It-tabib naqqasli l-pilloli u beda jħossni aħjar. Allaħares ma kinitx il-Mama li ħadet ħsiebi u għamlitli l-qalb. Lanqas kienet torqod u tistrieħ minħabba fija. Kienet tqum kemm-il darba bil-lejl biex tfittixni u tara fejn qiegħed. Jiddispaċini hafna għaliha.

Insomma, kienet esperjenza kerha li marridx nerġa' ngħaddi minnha. Sadattant, qattajt il-ġurnata billi qrajt hafna kotba li kont ili nżomm is-snin biex xi darba jirnexxieli naqrahom kollha. B'hekk għaddejt hafna ħin tal-ġurnata biex ma noqgħodx naħseb. Kont indur il-Facebook u nikteb mill-kollezzjoni ta' ċajtiet li ili nġemma' biex nagħmel kuragg lill-ħaddieħor. Skont kif kitbuli kienu jieħdu pjaċir bihom. Il-kumplament tal-ġurnata kont naħdem fuq il-Codebreaker.

IŻDA... Mhux kollox kien iswed u ikrah. L-isbaħ u l-aqwa ħin tal-Coronavirus kien kull meta niftaħ il-laptop u nsib ma' wiċċi lil Fiona u t-tfal. Kont naħseb fihom u nixxennaq għalihom il-ġimgħa kollha. Dak ir-ritratt tagħna lkoll għand Al Oglio b'wiċċ daħqani u ferħanin flimkien iferraħni bla qies għalkemm isewwidli qalbi u jxennaqni għal meta nkunu nistgħu nerġgħu iltaqgħu wiċċ imb wiċċ u ngħannqu lil xulxin.

Imbagħad jiġi l-ħadd filgħaxija meta niltaqgħu lkoll flimkien u mal-familja ta' Owen b'mod virtwali fuq Skype. Kien

## MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER 412

**February 2022**

iħossni fis-seba' sema u ma nkunx irid li jispiċċa l-ħin. Dik issa hi l-ħolma tiegħi li forsi ma ndumux ma nerġgħu niltaqgħu fuq it-terrazzin, fil-kampanja jew ħdejn il-baħar, nieklu flimkien u nieħdu pjaċir bil-kumpanija ta' xulxin.

Issa ha nikteb xi haga bl-Ingiliz.

I stopped writing for a week and now I'm starting to continue my little story after my son-in-law Roderick's insistence that I finish what I started. He had asked me for a poem but I was never in the right mood. Prose will have to do. And suddenly I realise that I am now writing in English and Roderick is to blame because he always sent me messages in English. I'm sure you don't mind, Sam.

Yes, every time I open my laptop and see the family photo with those lovely smiling faces, I feel so relaxed and out of this world until I realise that there's many more than two metres between us to embrace and kiss for a very long time. But before I come to that point, I feel a flutter in my chest and my heart skips more than one beat at that wicked thought.

That virtual Sunday meeting brings me back to my senses. Once again I feel utter pleasure and joy just to watch the whole family together. That's the only thing Mamà and I are going to miss so much this year – the planned holiday together before summer. It's certainly my last wish before I close my eyes for good. Please,

God, make it happen, even if it's a week in Gozo. Thank you, Fiona, for that first foretaste Mama and I had on that Saturday of 9th May, the eve of Mothers' Day, after 9 weeks of being locked up at home.

It has always been pure pleasure for me to be with my family, whether at home, on the terrazzin, on the beach, in a restaurant, in Gozo or abroad. Those have always been my happiest memories. Mama and I travelled all over the place, including twice to Australia, once to USA and Canada and even went on a cruise which took us as far as St. Petersburg in Russia. I always enjoyed every minute but my most memorable trip was the one we took with Owen and Fiona, especially on our tour of Sorrento, Amalfi, Capri and Positano when they were 13 and 15, together with a bunch of students. However, nothing beats our beautiful holiday in that villa surrounded by lakes in Lithuania together with our five grandchildren. I enjoyed every minute of that holiday. We were hoping to have a repeat performance this year but was marred by the damned Coronavirus. However, we can always meet at least in Gozo this year, what do you think, Fiona? And we leave the grand family holiday for next year, being our 50th Wedding Anniversary. It may be our very last grand meeting.

**DEAR FRIEND  
IF YOU HAVE AN INTERESTING STORY TO TELL SHARE IT WITH YOUR  
MALTESE FRIENDS ALL OVER THE WORLD. WE WOULD LIKE  
TO READ IT ON THIS JOURNAL.**

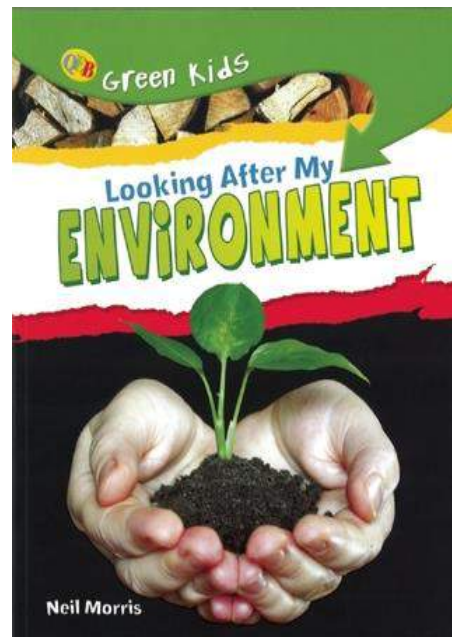


## **BirdLife Malta turns 60!**

It was on 25 January 1962 that BirdLife Malta was set up, at the time known as the Malta Ornithological Society (MOS). From humble beginnings as an organisation focused solely on birds and their habitats, we have today become Malta's oldest and largest environmental NGO.

This anniversary year (2022) will be a time to reflect on the past 60 years, with particular appreciation to all those who dedicate time and energy for the protection of birds and their habitats, from the founders to the various volunteers along the years. We will celebrate the success stories such as the early education work in schools, the setting up and running of four nature reserves, the various bird studies and the professional running of the BirdLife Malta Ringing Scheme.

BirdLife Malta promises to remain the flag-bearer of nature protection and will be on the frontline to push for positive changes in our country's approach towards biodiversity. We are also proud to be part of the BirdLife family – a partnership of over 115 national organizations which form the world's largest and oldest nature conservation partnership. BirdLife International is this year also celebrating its 100th anniversary! Read more in the press release we issued to mark our 60th anniversary: [www.birdlifemalta.org](http://www.birdlifemalta.org). To mark the occasion, CEO Mark Sultana was invited for an interview with MaltaToday. As well as narrating his childhood memories as the son of one of BirdLife Malta's founders, he also spoke about the changes brought about thanks to BirdLife Malta's lobbying and advocacy, educational projects and scientific studies throughout all these years. Click [www.birdlifemalta.org](http://www.birdlifemalta.org) to read the feature online or click below to read the two-page spread in print!



## **Malta pool national teams maintain winning form at Euro Championships**



The Malta Pool national teams extended their winning run in the European Championships that are currently being held in Ireland to stay on course for a place in the final stages of the competition.

The men's team, formed by Kevin Mercieca, Lydon Debono, Dylan Cassar, Jesmond Schembri, Johan Attard and Clayton Castaldi, strengthened their hopes to reach the semi-finals of their category when they edged

past Northern Ireland 8-7.

In the Over 50 category, the Maltese selection managed by Brian Grech and led by former world champion Christ Mills, Ray Caruana, Antoine Aquilina, Joseph Psaila and Tony Muscat, maintained their impressive form when they clinched their seventh win from eight matches after defeating Ireland 9-6. In the Under 25 category, Malta A, formed by Dejan Grech, Alessio Magro and Ryan Pisani, secured another prestigious win when they defeated England A 6-3.

On the other hand, Malta B, which is composed by Elcid Aquilina, Chris Zaffarese and former category European Singles Champion Scott Muscat, thrashed Scotland 8-1.

Continue reading this article on SportsDesk, the sports website of the Times of Malta



### **RYAN HILI – X FACTOR WINNER**

It's Official! Ryan Hili has been crowned champion for season 3 of X Factor Malta!

The news comes in the wake of a series of stunning performances that blew the judges and audiences away. Performances that saw the humble teacher sing his heart out and take no prisoners.

Ryan's entry in the competition was written in the stars. Fun fact: he had to be pushed into entering by his colleagues at school.

**“Either you apply, or we apply for you,” they said.**

Reaching the final was already a big win, in his eyes.

Despite his talent, which even on his worst days, trumps the greatest in the game, we can all remember him as the shy and

nervous man whose concerns were only too relatable.

Now his journey sees him start a potentially lucrative music career, and with a €50,000 winner's prize too.

## **Maltese Doctor in Malawi – Karen Chetcuti** **ProjectMalawi is up and running!**



In Malawi, limited access to radiology expertise and equipment makes it difficult for healthcare workers to give patients the proper care they desperately need. With growing numbers of patients requiring urgent treatment, the pressure on hospitals that are already deficient in resources is only increasing, putting patients at greater risk. Here at Worldwide Radiology we have a vision of a world where all people have access to diagnostic imaging services and the professionals trained to use them.

We are therefore excited to announce Dr Karen Chetcuti, a Maltese medical doctor and our

paediatric radiologist, has returned to Malawi with her family to take up a permanent post as a radiologist for the Malawi College of Medicine.

Karen shares our vision for Malawi, having worked there previously as a volunteer at the Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital in Blantyre and she will lead the WWR project to build imaging capacity in Malawi.

After a 29-hour long journey from her doorstep in The Hague, via Frankfurt, Addis Ethiopia and Lilongwe to their new front door in Blantyre, Karen and her family quarantined on arrival for 14 days before her work began.

Under Karen's local leadership we will be helping her deliver much needed diagnostics and care, as well as teaching and research.

"Malawi has a severe shortage of radiographers, qualified ultrasound practitioners, radiologists and functional radiological equipment"

You can follow Karen's journey and stay up to date with all the project news on our social media accounts searching hashtag [#ProjectMalawi](#).



**WE ARE PROUD OF THE MALTESE ACHIEVERS  
ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO LIVE ABROAD**



### AUSTRALIAN MARKU THE MALTESE FROM GOZO,

Mark Andrew was born in Melbourne, Australia and spent most of his childhood in Malta in the Mediterranean. He started performing to large audiences in plays and festivals when he was 8 years old. On his return to Australia in 1983, he appeared on the television show New Faces. Throughout his career he has been acting, entertaining, and now a host at a property called 'MALI' he shares with his wife Lisa Curry in the Sunshine Coast Hinterland, Queensland.

Mark studied acting and has had a few roles in TV drama such as : NEIGHBOURS, RUSH, SECRET LIFE OF US, FAT PIZZA, and others and

has appeared in TV commercials as well, but he is well known for his Character Impression Roles.

In early 2020, Mark created a Maltese comical Character named 'Marku The Maltese from Gozo' and has engagement on social media from all around the world. With a few video blogs per week his following is increasing daily.

Mark's entertainment career kicked off in 1992 when he formed a Rock n Roll band, Blue Suede Dudes, playing many Melbourne venues and also supporting Chubby Checker on his Australian tour.

In 1995 he featured as Buddy Holly in a Legends Revival Concert at Dallas Brooks Hall. He then created his own Dead-Set Legends show performing as Buddy, Lennon, Jim Morrison and Elvis.

Elvis Leaves his Mark was launched in 1998 and has proved to be one of the best Elvis tribute shows worldwide with Mark having the honour of touring with Elvis Presley's own friends and entourage including Joe Esposito &

Linda Thompson

In 2009 Mark was invited to perform his Elvis Tribute for Joe Esposito, Elvis' own Road manager and best Man at his wedding, Joe's comments were:

"Mark You did an absolute fantastic tribute to Elvis and it brought back so many memories, You sang from the heart just like Elvis did"

Mark, a trained actor has a natural versatile talent to capture the essence of many characters such as: Austin Powers, Dean Martin and Tom Jones, performing his signature show "Legends Showcase" and on other occasions performs as Buddy Holly, John Lennon & Jim Morrison. He also makes a true to character impression of Danny Zuko in his Grease Tribute Show.

In recent years, Mark has been invited many times including 3 years in a row to headline "The Parkes Elvis Festival", he has also toured Canada & USA performing various versions of his LEGENDS & ELVIS shows, selling out consecutive shows with



**MARKU -THE MALTESE FROM GOZO  
with Lawrence Buhagiar, Consul General  
for Malta in NSW**

standing ovations.

"I'm very impressed, you do great justice to my Good Friend's Legacy, and I don't say that very often" ( Jerry Shilling, Elvis's closest friend) – a guest of the WINTERSUN Festival 2011 and Mark Andrew's show.

"I'm really impressed Mark, Elvis would be pleased!" Linda Thompson, Elvis' long time girlfriend.

Mark has also organized events including 3 Cruises on the Rhapsody of the Seas, Daydream Island and short Cruises in Sydney & Melbourne. He is currently organizing a trip to Memphis in 2017 and sold out 2.5 coaches already.

Mark has the respect from the fans entertainers and VIP's who worked with Elvis and has organized VIP's to come out to Australia previously. [www.markandrew.com.au/](http://www.markandrew.com.au/)



## **NOSTALGIA THE TRAMPS**

**'Midalja għall-Qadi tar-  
Repubblika'**

The Tramps was a pop group from Gozo, Malta achieving prominence in the 1970s with their hit song **Xemx**. This was released under the Circle lable by R. Brizzi in 1975. Its lyrics and

music were written by vocalist Dominic Grech. **Xemx and Inti Djamant** has remained popular and is also used as the signature tune for the Gozitan television program *Għawdex Illum*. The B side had the track **Lilek Irrid** with lyrics by Emmanuel Ellis and music by Grech. It also featured Gozitan singer Spiro Sillato. In 1976 they released another single, under the Canadian lable Duke's Town, which included **Kif Qatt Nista** and **Tfulija**. This single was produced by Jo Debono.

'**Xemx**' is also probably the most locally covered song, with practically all top artists and bands recording the classic or featuring it in live concerts. This song remains one of the biggest hits in Maltese music history.

The members of 'The Tramps' were - singer and main songwriter Dominic Grech, Joe Cassar on keyboard, Spiru Sillato on Bass and Carmel Portelli on Drums. Sadly, Dominic Grech passed away on 23rd August 2005.

In 2020 the music group The Tramps was honoured with the 'Midalja għall-Qadi tar-Repubblika' during the Republic Day ceremony presided by President George Vella.

Other hits include **Sinjur Ġib Il-Paci**, the winning song of the 1st International Malta Song Festival, in 1981, and **Kif Qatt Nista'** which are today still considered classics. In 1976 & 1978 The Tramps performed for the Maltese communities in Toronto, New York, Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide - Australia.



**Il-Korrispondent Taghna Joe M. Attard**

**Joe Attard mal-Kardinal  
Mario Grech**

Twieled ir-Rabat Għawdex fl-1 ta' Jannar 1946 u ħa l-edukazzjoni primarja tiegħu fl-iskola tal-Gvern fir-Rabat Għawdex. Kompla fil-Liceo Ninu Cremona ta' Victoria, u wara xi zmien Gwida tat-Turisti, u iktar tard pustier; għamel sentejn ta' taħriġ għal Għalliem f'St. Michael's Training College of Education f'Ta' Giorni, San Ġiljan (1967 – 69). Studja wkoll fil-Collegio Universitario Mario Bracci ta' Siena fl-Italja fejn segwa kors ta' Perfezzjonament fil-Lingwa Taljana fl-1972.

Għalliem il-Malti għal fuq minn tletin sena fl-iskola Sekondarja tal-Kumpless Ninu Cremona Victoria u l-Malti lil residenti barranin li jgħixu f'Għawdex. Għal għadd ta' snin Assistent Kap kif ukoll Agent Kap tas-6th Form f'Għawdex. Għadna nsibuh bħala Eżaminatur fl-Orali tal-Malti tal-Matrikula fil-livell Ordinarju u u Intermediate. Membru tal-Akkademja tal-

Malti u awtur ta' bosta poeziji, essays u features letterarji (wħud minndawn nstemgħu fuq ir-Rediffusion u anke fuq Calypso Radio matul il-Gimgħa Mqaddsa u fi żmien il-Milied).

Kiteb mill-ġdid ir-rumanz storiku Nikol Abdul b'malti rivedut tal-Akkademja u stampat mill-KKM u li daħal ukoll bħala wieħed mit-text books għal eżami tal-Matrikola. Mahtur Kavallier tal-Ordni Unione Cavalleria Cristiana Internazionale (UCCI) fl-1984 u huwa s-Segretarju tal-Għaqda Gurnalisti u Kittieba Għawdxin sa mit-twaqqif tagħha fl-1960. Għal snin twal membru fl-Astra Dramatic Company u President tal-fergħa tal-Irġiel tal-Azzjoni Kattolika, Victoria. Għal dawn l-aħħar 20 sena Preżentatur ta' Chat Show fuq Calypso Radio darba fil-gimgħa u fuq LBV, ir-radio tal-Kommunita' parrokkjali ta' San Gorg Victoria.

*Joe Attard huwa wieħed mill-korrispondenti intelligenti u akkaniti tal-gurnal għall-Maltin li jgħixu barra minn Malta.* Miżżewweġ lil Maria nee Zammit u għandhom tlett itfal: Nathaniel, Kap tat-taqsimha tal-Aħbarijiet ta' Stazjon Televisiv lokali, Fr. Geoffrey, għalliem u Viċi Parroku, u Francesco Pio.

**Malta Buses feature on latest MaltaPost issue of four stamps**

BY [GOZO NEWS](#)



MaltaPost is to resume its philatelic series "Malta Buses" by the issue of four stamps illustrating

Malta's iconic coloured buses of past years.

The stamps set is designed by MaltaPost. Photographs by Frans Galea, Richard Stedall, Manuel Cutajar and Leo Grech.

These buses were characterised by their high level of customisation and detailing. Individual owner-drivers would add their personal touch throughout the vehicle.

MaltaPost said that owners would add chrome accessories to their 'trucks,' paint messages using the elaborate local 'tberfil' calligraphy, hang objects associated with specific village patron saints and of course, horseshoes for luck.

The stamps will be issued in a sheet of 10 stamps, with each stamp measuring 44mm x 31mm, a comb perforation 14.0 x 13.9 and bearing the Maltese Cross watermark. The sheets measure 118mm x 185mm and were produced by Printex Ltd in the offset process.

The issue consists of 500,000 of the €0.30 stamp, 40,000 of the €0.51 stamp, 48,000 of the €0.59 stamp and 80,000 of the €1.00 stamp.

These stamps will be available from all Post Offices in Malta and Gozo from today, Saturday, the 12th of February. Orders may be placed online at [www.maltaphilately.com](http://www.maltaphilately.com) or by mail from the Philatelic Bureau, MaltaPost p.l.c. 305, Qormi Road, Marsa MTP 1001; Telephone: 2596 1740, e-mail [info@maltaphilately.com](mailto:info@maltaphilately.com)

# Dinosaurs Roam in Valletta in First Trailer for Jurassic World Dominion

[www.timesofmalta.tv/2022/02/10/dinosaurs-roam-in-valletta-in-first-trailer-for-jurassic-world-dominion/](http://www.timesofmalta.tv/2022/02/10/dinosaurs-roam-in-valletta-in-first-trailer-for-jurassic-world-dominion/)



Dinosaurs seem to have taken over urban Malta in the first trailer for Jurassic World Dominion, showing velociraptors leaping over churches and chasing people through the streets of Valletta.

The first glimpse of the Hollywood production appears to feature Malta heavily as dinosaurs chase actors Bryce Dallas Howard and Chris Pratt through the ins and outs of Valletta alleyways, coming to a stop to show us a St George's Square completely overrun by dinosaurs of all kinds.

The film was filmed partly on location in Malta, with scenes shot in Valletta, Vittoriosa, Mellieħa and Pembroke in the summer of 2020.

Originally meant to hit theatres in June 2021, the film ran into delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A raptor chases after Bryce Dallas Howard over the rooftops of Valletta. Still Image: Universal Pictures Franchise favourites Sam Neill, Jeff Goldblum and Laura Dern all make an appearance in the trailer, with the production hitting for the nostalgia factor, as John William's original theme for Jurassic Park is played as dinos roame free all over the globe.



The film's predecessor, Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom, raked in \$1.3 billion at the global box office. The new Jurassic World film is set to premiere in cinemas on June 10. Still image: Universal Pictures

In a Facebook post, film commissioner Johann Grech thanked director Colin Trevorrow for bringing the production to Malta.

"For the first time in our history, Malta has found itself in a blockbuster script," he said.

"Thanks to Colin Trevorrow, in his film Jurassic World Dominion, Malta becomes the home for the Dinosaurs."

*Independent journalism costs*

*money. Support Times of Malta for the price of a coffee.*



**Michela Deguara, Michela Caruana and Leah Grech**

### New dates, cast and early bird offer for **Matilda The Musical**

**Masquerade Malta**

**has lined up a top new cast and a great deal on tickets for the Malta debut of the much-loved musical this April**

The long-awaited Malta premiere of *Matilda The Musical* is set to open this April - and for a limited time only, audiences can book tickets at a discount with an exclusive early bird offer.

The multi-award-winning musical, which features book by Dennis Kelly and original songs by Tim Minchin, has been adapted from Roald Dahl's incomparable children's novel. Described by Time Out London as 'smart, quirky and sublimely good fun', *Matilda The Musical* has delighted audiences the world over with its timeless tale of a little girl who, armed with a vivid imagination and a sharp mind, dares to take a stand and change her own destiny. The show premiered in the UK in 2010 and has since won 99 international awards - including 24 for Best Musical - and enjoyed sell-out tours of Australia, New Zealand, the US, the UK and Ireland, among others.

Having secured the professional rights to the world-renowned production, Masquerade Malta had originally planned to stage the show in April 2020 - a run postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, audiences can at last experience *Matilda The Musical* for the first time in Malta, between 16-30 April.

"As the official producers of *Matilda The Musical* in Malta, it has been a long wait to stage this smash-hit musical," says Masquerade's artistic director anthony bezzina. "The cream of Malta's performance talent has come together in a cast worthy of the show's local debut and of the international hall of fame for such a global phenomenon."

The first Malta cast of *Matilda The Musical* features Rachel Fabri as Miss Honey, Katherine Brown as Mrs Phelps, Alan Paris as Mr Wormwood and Thomas Camilleri as Miss Trunchbull, as well as Damian Buhagiar, Sean Borg, Sarah Micallef Muscat and Francesco Nicodeme. Meanwhile, rising stars Leah Grech, Michela Caruana and Michela Deguara will alternate the lead role of Matilda.

Supporting the extraordinary cast is an equally impressive creative team, including director anthony bezzina, musical director Kris Spiteri, choreographer Ewan Jones, set designer Romualdo Moretti and costume designer Ernest Camilleri.

Plus, audiences for this unforgettable musical experience who book early are in for an extra treat: a 15 per cent discount. The incredible early bird offer applies to tickets bought online at [showshappening.com](http://showshappening.com) - for a limited time only!

*Matilda The Musical* opens at the Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta, at 7.30pm on Saturday 16 April 2022, with further performances throughout April on Sunday 17 at 4pm, Monday 18 at 7.30pm, Friday 22 at 7.30pm, Saturday 23 at 7.30pm, Sunday 24 at 10am and 3pm, Friday 29 at 8pm and Saturday 30 at 3pm and 8pm. Booking opens on 16 February at [www.showshappening.com](http://www.showshappening.com). Further information is online at [www.masquerademalta.com](http://www.masquerademalta.com).

**SOURCE:** [www.independent.com.mt](http://www.independent.com.mt)





### **The George Cross Falcons Community Centre Inc. in Cringila**

This is the journey in the last 15 years under the leadership of Mr. Louis Parnis and the

committee continue with the changes in the club, making this association a great place to visit.

The President is always looking for ways to refurbish the building which has a history taking us back to 1951.

Many programs have been implemented, and presently many groups utilise the building supporting the core beliefs of the association. The Men's Shed on the property in Cringila are a great concept attracting numerous volunteers from many different ethnic groups and they produce toys to be distributed among the sick children.

Dancing classes are also held for free and recently the Maltese Language classes commenced with Tracey

Mercieca as the language teacher. The students attending these language and culture classes at no cost.

One of the signatures that make this Centre from other Community groups is that every Monday those who attend the club are provided with free tea & coffee and cakes. They also enjoy a cooked hot lunch, bread and dessert. It is also an understanding that Cringila is one of the few organising a weekly raffle without selling of tickets. A minimum cost is \$8.00 only for the whole day.

Recently the committee embarked on two projects at

a cost of \$65,000, firstly a new toilet for the disabled and an extension of the existing backroom.

The committee members wish to thank all those who support the Centre regularly and attend regularly especially many others who travel from outside the Illawarra region.

The future of the association and the centre is bright and we are happy to assist other associations in strengthening and unite our Maltese Community in Australia.

Louis Parnis President.



### **One of Australia's skinniest homes on the market for over \$1million**

One of Australia's skinniest houses, measuring just short of three metres wide, is set to go to auction next month with a hefty asking price.

The pint-sized two-bedroom, one-bathroom home is tucked away down a narrow alley in the Sydney inner city suburb of Surry Hills.

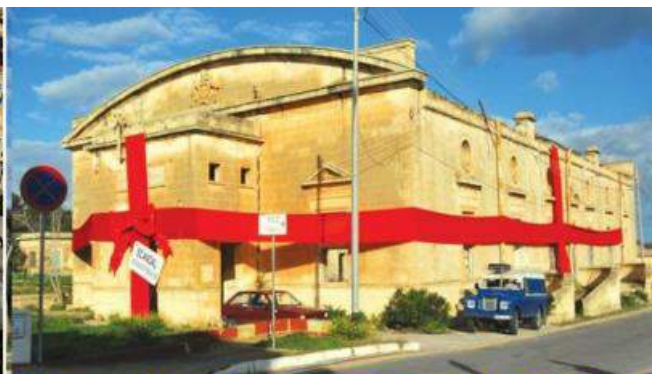
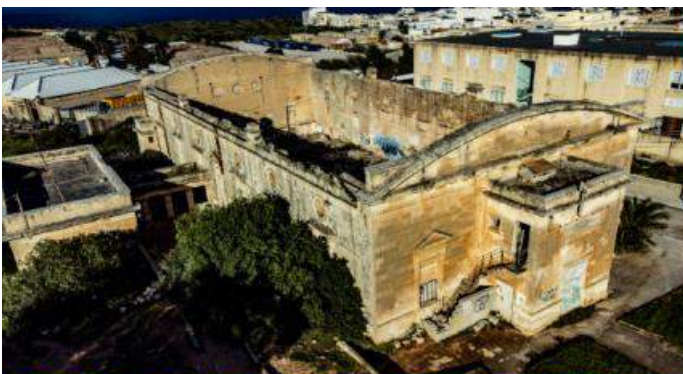
With an internal area of just 38 square metres, the narrow terrace house at 27 Terry Street, has a price guide of a whopping \$1.2million - \$1.3million.

# MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER 412

## February 2022

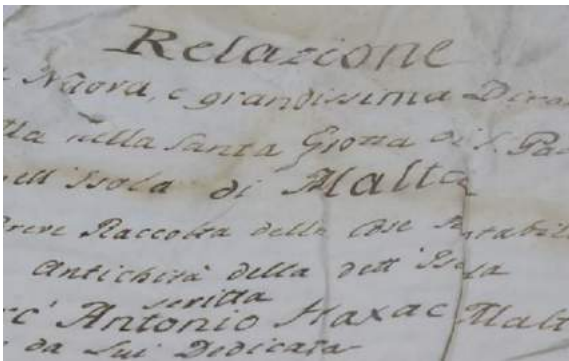


**ST. PAUL'S BAY AND BUGIBBA**



**AUSTRALIAN HALL IN MALTA IS IN A PITIFUL AND SHAMEFUL STATE**  
**Please, don't destroy this ANZAC icon - WHO CARES?**

### Document of the Cult of St Paul found in National Archives



A document has been found in the National Archives that dates back to the 17th Century and describes the devotion of the Cult of St Paul throughout the Maltese Islands, from the time of his shipwreck up to the time of the Grandmaster Wignacourt. The document, the first of its kind found in the Archives, is one of six existing copies of this document.

From the arrival of St Paul to the story of hermit Juan Benegas de Cardoba who lived in St Paul's Grotto at Rabat, events are described in detail in the document from the

manuscript of Marc Antonio Haxac dating back to the 17th Century. ,

Haxac documents in detail the devotion of the Maltese to St Paul and highlights the life of Benegas in the Rabat grotto. The document is classed as being of great importance because it details the evolvement of the Cult centred around the grotto.

National Archivist Dr Charles Farrugia said the finding of this document in the collection of the Archives was the result of research documenting Court cases from the 17th Century.

He said that one of the researchers, Dr Victor Bonnici, who is also an expert in Latin and the study of languages, discovered this document.

Dr Farrugia said the discovery of this document will now enable a study of any variance from the other existing five documents.

An analysis of the document may enable obtaining further information of the history of the Cult of St Paul in the Maltese Islands and enable further the development of the Maltese identity.

**kids**  
**EASTER**  
**BONANZA**  
SUNDAY APRIL 10 @ 1:30pm

Balloon Animals \* Cotton Candy  
Face Painting \* Temp Tattoos  
Bubble Games \* Singing & Dancing \* Music  
Clown \* Magic Show \* Easter Bunny

All provided by professional entertainers

**The Maltese Center**

RSVP is a must  
by April 1st  
[www.themaltesecenter.com](http://www.themaltesecenter.com)  
MEMBER'S PRE-SALE  
\$15 per member child  
Tickets for non-member child  
on sale March 1st \$20  
Limit 30  
No walk ins

### MALTESE CENTER NY



27-20, Malta Square,  
Hoyt Ave. South,  
Astoria, NY 11102

tel: (718) 728 - 9883



# MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER 412

## February 2022



**MALTESE GUILD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**  
Members and friends meet every Tuesday  
at the Maltese Cultural Centre  
6 Jeanes Street, Beverley SA 5009  
for lunch, bingo, billiards, cards  
and social gathering  
from 10am till 3pm



**MALTESE SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION**  
Members and friends meet every Friday  
at the Council Hall  
49 LeHunte Street, Kilburn SA 5084  
from 9.30am till 3.30pm  
Lunch, billiards, bingo and other entertainment

### La Valette Social Centre Inc.

#### Grape-picking Bus Tour at the Hunter Valley

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Bus leaves Greystanes at 6am & Blacktown at 6.30am

Cost \$65 includes coach, morning tea and lunch.

Lunch at Kurri Kurri Bowling Club.

**\* Bookings and deposits BEFORE 18 February 2022 \***

\$35 Deposit when booking (non-refundable after  
18 February 2022).

You can also buy fresh Wine, Figs, Olives, Olive Oil and  
Grapes of course.

For any information ring Frances 0412 320 432

or La Valette Social Centre 9622 5847.

Please book early as seats are limited.



**MALTESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL OF NSW**  
A division of the Maltese Community Council of NSW Inc.  
Established in 1999

### Learn Maltese Online!

## 2022 Term 1 Enrolment Now Open

Learn the Maltese language and about the culture, lifestyle,  
cuisine, traditions, and the amazing history of the  
magnificent Mediterranean islands of Malta and Gozo.

Classes available for students from 6 yrs to adults

Online Classes for Term 1 will commence early February 2022

Registration by email

Various classes available throughout the week

Positions also available for Maltese Language Teachers and an Admin role

For more details or to request an enrolment information pack

Please email: [malteselanguageschoolnsw@hotmail.com](mailto:malteselanguageschoolnsw@hotmail.com)

mobile: 0419 476 924

### Maltese Language for Beginners

at

George Cross Falcons Community  
Centre Cringila

**Adult and Childrens Classes  
Available**

Commencing in February 2022

*For More Details:*

email - [grea50@gmail.com](mailto:grea50@gmail.com)

mobile - 0417 425 400



**Thank you for your support  
See you next week**