



# **MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER**

**Journal of Maltese Living Abroad**

**Editor: Frank L Scicluna OAM MQR**



**We wish all our readers a happy and holy Easter**  
**Nixtiequ l-Ghid it-tajjeb u qaddis lill-qarrejja**  
**tghana kollha**



**Dr. Ian Borg - Minister for Foreign  
and European Affairs and Trade**



**NATASCHA MCELHONE**

# **CARMEN**

## **THANK YOU TO OUR READERS**

**YOUR JOURNAL IS  
CONNECTING COMMUNITIES**

**BUILDING BRIDGES  
NOT WALLS**

**The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora**





## Two religious icons paraded together in Valletta for first time in 40 years

### Large crowd gathers for national pilgrimage to mark Our Lady of Sorrows

Giulia Magri - Thousands gathered to take part in the National pilgrimage on Monday afternoon. Photo: Jonathan Borg

For the first time in nearly 40 years, two religious treasures were carried along the streets of Valletta as part of a national pilgrimage on Monday afternoon.

A large crowd gathered to watch as the Miraculous Crucifix of Ta' Ġiezu Church and the statue of Our Lady of Sorrows were paraded around streets in the capital, in what was one of the first outdoor mass events to be held without COVID-19 restrictions.

The national pilgrimage to mark the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows started at Ta' Ġiezu Church in Valletta and was led by Archbishop Charles Scicluna.

The procession was organised by the Archconfraternity of the Holy Cross, in collaboration with the Franciscan Friars of Valletta and the Archdiocese of Malta.

Our Lady of Sorrows is marked one week before Good Friday but this year's celebration was postponed for three days later to allow the public to take part. New regulations mean that, as of this week, outdoor events can be held without any COVID-19 restrictions.

Attendees were able to witness two of Valletta's most treasured religious icons paraded together, for the first time in a generation. The decision to bring the two out in procession together was to highlight the message behind the pilgrimage, to pray for world peace and the war in Ukraine.

During his Palm Sunday homily, Archbishop Charles Scicluna said the Ukrainian people are victims of "stupid decisions" by those hungry for power.

The last time the crucifix left the church of St Mary of Jesus was in 2013, and it was the first time since 1984 that the crucifix and the statue of Our Lady of Sorrows were brought out together.

The crucifix was taken out of its niche earlier on Monday morning and displayed near the main altar throughout the day. It was then taken out of the church to join the procession of Our Lady of Sorrows.

Restored two years ago, the 17th-century Ta' Ġiezu crucifix inspires much devotion, as many are drawn to it because of the way the artists managed to portray the intricate details of the crucifixion of Christ.

Its 'miraculous' tag derives from the legend that its sculptor, Frate Innocenzo, woke up one morning and found that the head of the effigy had been completed. (Times of Malta)





Easter is the most significant time within the Maltese Calendar year which begins with lent. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent and takes place 40 days before Easter Sunday.

### CAROB SWEETS

A hard-sweet confection that is made during lent is known as **Carob Sweets-Karamelli tal Harrub**. These sweets were available during the fasting period of lent and many children from decades of by gone days speak fondly of vivid childhood memories, eating copious amounts of the readily available sweet.

For those that like to make their own carob syrup rather than store bought, carob syrup is relatively easy to make. **Carob Syrup-Gulepp tal-Harrub** is also versatile for other applications. There are many health benefits derived from carob, including high nutrients and anti-oxidants that act as an anti-inflammatory. It also assists with digestive issues due to its tannin content and has been traditionally used as a natural remedy for coughs. Another way to utilize home-made carob syrup is to make Honey Rings – using it to replace the treacle or golden syrup. It is also delicious drizzled over ice-cream or freshly made hot pastries such as Zeppoli tal San Guzepp or even the Kwarezimal as a different option to honey.

Carob has been used for centuries as a natural remedy to treat many medical conditions. It has had a high resurgence in recent times, being rediscovered and recognized once again for its multiple health benefits with the ability to boost the immune system.

Carob contains calcium, helping the nerves, muscles and heart to function well. It is high in fibre, gluten free and caffeine free. Carobs nutrient and composition properties have anti-cancer, anti-

## Easter celebrations are the sweetest in Malta

Maltesesweets.com

diabetic and neuroprotective abilities. Talk about a Super food!

All obtained from a humble Carob tree in the Mediterranean also known as *Ceratonia siliqua* producing these wonderful pods. Carob pods are also called Locust bean or St Johns Bread. Carob is available from health food stores in a dried form all year round when it cannot be found fresh in season.

### FIGOLLI

Figolli are Character shapes and figures made of sweet pastry that are filled and baked. The word figolli was derived from the figures and shapes from which these sweets are created.

Due to Christs suffering, crucifixion and resurrection, Easter has long been associated with life and rebirth. Traditionally made during the holy week and eaten on Easter Sunday. Some children take their figolli to the risen Christ procession on Easter Sunday in order to be blessed.

Easter Sunday commemorates Christs rising from the dead. Special cutters can be purchased to create your favourite shapes, or you can create your own template by drawing your design on a light cardboard to allow you to trace and cut the pastry.

The classic almond filling is the most popular and traditional filling used. Other filling options include a date filling which is also suitable for those with nut allergies, or a fig filling which is used to make the sweet fig rolls. (Fig Roll Recipe in Volume 2 Traditional Sweet Recipes from Malta)

Figolli are traditionally decorated with Royal Icing or Chocolate. An older traditional Style of decorating the figolli includes a colourful paper character face of a male or female, (oleograph) which is adhered & positioned with icing. Some also use foil to which colourful royal icing piping is applied.

Marzipan can also be used to create plaques for Easter messages and smaller figurines to decorate the top for more elaborate designs.

Recent times have seen the use of sugar paste that is rolled out and applied as another decorating method. Many households make their own Figolli for family and friends, making it a special traditional family Easter event



## **Dr. Ian Borg** **Minister for Foreign and European Affairs**

Dr Ian Borg was appointed Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade in March 2022, at the start of the 14th legislature. His current role encompasses the responsibility for maintaining Malta's external relations and the management of its international diplomatic missions.

In June 2017, Dr Ian Borg was entrusted with a wide portfolio ranging from major infrastructural projects to the construction and maintenance of the country's infrastructure, land, air and maritime transport and property. Minister Borg's portfolio commitment towards a radical improvement in the country's infrastructure is visible in the continuous and persistent work being undertaken by the Ministry and the authorities falling within its remit. In the five years since his appointment of Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects, Dr Ian Borg has overseen an abundance of great projects, including the completion of the Kappara Junction, the completion of the ambitious Marsa Junction Project and Central Link Project, several extensive projects on main arteries and junctions all around the island, and the implementation of the unprecedented €700 million residential roads project. During the last legislature, Minister Borg has also seen to the setting up of the roads agency Infrastructure Malta, which has forever changed the way infrastructural projects are planned and implemented.

Minister Ian Borg has also undertaken several initiatives that aim to start creating a culture shift moving from the use of the personal vehicle to the use of alternative means of transport. His work in the transport scenario has included the enabling of initiatives that seek to incentivise the use of means including public transport, shared transport and cycling. This is being complemented by the infrastructural work that is being undertaken which also includes new infrastructure for the alternative means being promoted.

The maritime and aviation sectors also formed part of the Minister's portfolio. Both sectors have undergone a rapid growth with the maritime industry reaching new heights both with respect to the amount of ships and superyachts, reaching more than a thousand, that have been registered under the Maltese flag, thus making it the largest register in Europe and the 6th in the world. The aviation sector has also picked up its momentum

with the latest figure showing over 600 aircrafts registered under the Maltese aviation register 9H.

Community projects have also taken centre stage as part of the Ministry's portfolio.

Dr Ian Borg managed to implement a more cultural approach in our communities by regenerating and creating new open spaces in various localities and introducing the Malta National Park, coined as a national dream, of which two out of five phases have now been completed.

The Minister is persistent and ambitious in ensuring that his Ministry delivers optimum results for the benefit of local communities and for the benefit of Malta.

During the 12th legislature, as the youngest member of the Cabinet, Dr Ian Borg also served as Parliamentary Secretary for the EU Presidency 2017 and EU Funds. During this time, he was responsible for the national preparations for the successful 2017 Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU, together with the strengthening of the EU Funds absorption process towards a more efficient and transparent practice. In fact, in 2016, Malta recorded a 100% absorption rate in EU Funds for the programming period 2007-2013. His political career started in 2005 with his election as Mayor of his hometown Dingli, which was reaffirmed in 2008 and 2012.

Dr Borg graduated as a Doctor of Laws from the University of Malta in 2012, after successfully reading a Doctoral degree in Laws, a Diploma in Public Notarial Practice and a Bachelor's Degree in Law.



**The editor and readers of the Maltese Journal congratulate the new minister for foreign and European affairs, Dr Ian Borg, who has a great interest in Maltese living abroad**



Dear Mr Scicluna,  
Many thanks for the Maltese e-Newsletter, which I love reading;  
and especially for this edition specifically dedicated  
to the visit of Pope Francis to Malta and Gozo.  
You are right: the visit was a successful, joyful and spiritual experience!  
I'm glad you managed to follow all events.  
May God bless you and keep you in his care.  
+Joseph Galea Curmi Auxiliary Bishop of the archdiocese of Malta

*Dear Frahk Thank you for your recognition I have nothing but praise for that you are doing Many people do not understand the amount of your time dedicated to produce such a professional journal*

*Besides the day to day happenings being religious political sports etc etc. you are also researching old myths and general information about our beloved Malta and it's history. What is amazing too is how "The Maltese Journal" has spread it's wings around the four corner of the world not only amongst our brothers and sisters who like us left our beloved Malta but people of different nationalities What an achievement in such a short time*

*Thanks once again Wishing you Josie and all your Family*

*A HOLY AND HAPPY EASTER Harry Bugeja – Adelaide-Australia*

Għażiż Sur Scicluna, Din l-edizzjoni hi sabiha ħafna, forsi aktar minn oħrajn. Komplu b'din il-ħidma. Tiskanta, il-Ġurnal Elettroniku tiegħek jiġborna flimkien, aħna li qegħdin fil-gzejjer Maltin, u ħutna l-Maltin madwar id-Dinja. Inselli ħafna għalik, Pierre Mallai - Malta

## **Aboriginal WWI veteran recognised after 78 years in unmarked grave in Riverland cemetery**



© Provided by ABC NEWS Uncle Norman Wilson says commemorating his grandfather is a significant moment for his family. (ABC News: Sophie Landau)

An Aboriginal World War I veteran whose grave in South Australia's Riverland has been unmarked for 78 years has finally been honoured.

**WARNING: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are advised the following contains the name and images of a person who has died.**

Ngarrindjeri and Ramindjeri man Uncle Lush Wilson was born at Raukkan (formerly Point McLeay) near the mouth of the Murray River. Uncle Lush worked as a labourer and was 21 when he enlisted to serve on the Western Front in 1916. His grandson, Uncle Norman Wilson of the Ngintait, Ngarrindjeri, Ramindjeri and Nganguruku language groups, said war stories had been passed down.

"He'd seen a lot of his brothers, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, shot in front of him," he said. "[Uncle Lush] climbed up a tree when they started bombing — he was lucky he got out of it." Aboriginal Veterans SA said that in another battle Uncle Lush survived three gunshots to his arms and legs. He made a full recovery and insisted upon resuming his service. "That tells me how much heart he had for his brothers," Uncle Norman said.

"He wanted to fight for Australia and show his bravery ... show how strong he was to keep fighting." Resting place commemorated at last

After the war, Uncle Lush travelled up the Murray and eventually settled in the Riverland. He died in 1944. He was buried in an unmarked grave, so while family knew his final resting place was somewhere in Barmera, the exact location was never known.

Identifying Uncle Lush's plot at Barmera cemetery took a combined effort from the Headstone Project, Aboriginal Veterans SA and local resident Judy Bannear.

Around 18 months later, Uncle Lush's descendants gathered at his burial site to unveil a new grave and headstone, finally honouring his service to country. Uncle Norman said it was a day he would never forget. "This is the happiest day of my life — not only me, but me and my family.

"What they've done for us today, this is unbelievable. This will be a very special day to me for the rest of my life."

A black-and-white system

Uncle Norman said acknowledging his ancestor's service in the war contributed to a greater recognition of First Nations veterans.

Aboriginal diggers were treated as equals on the battlefield but faced discrimination upon returning home. "They were brothers over there," Uncle Norman said.

"But when they came home, the white people were given land of 200 acres, but for my grandfather and the other Aboriginal people, you'd go back to the nearest Aboriginal mission. "He should've been on an army pension because he fought the same war.

"To me they were still classifying you as a black-and-white system, it wasn't an equal system."

Thousands of veterans in unmarked graves

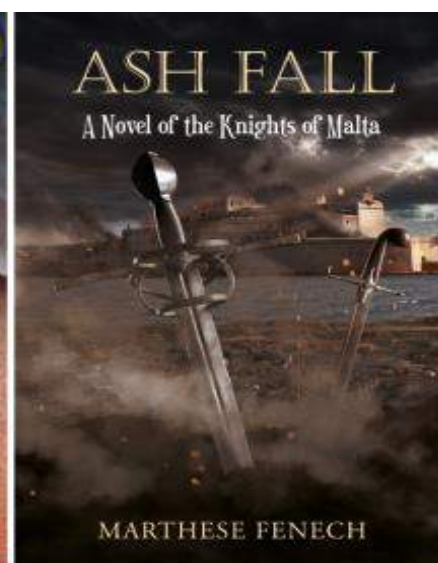
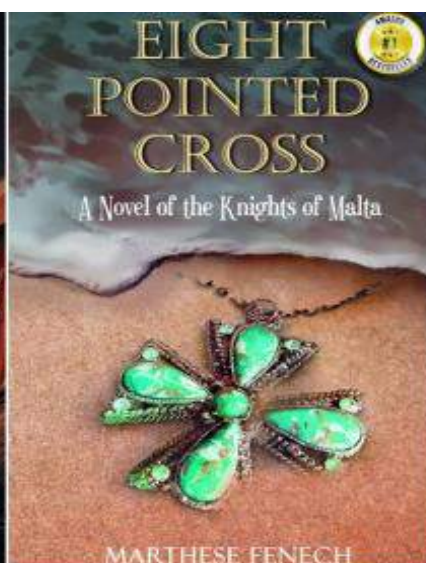
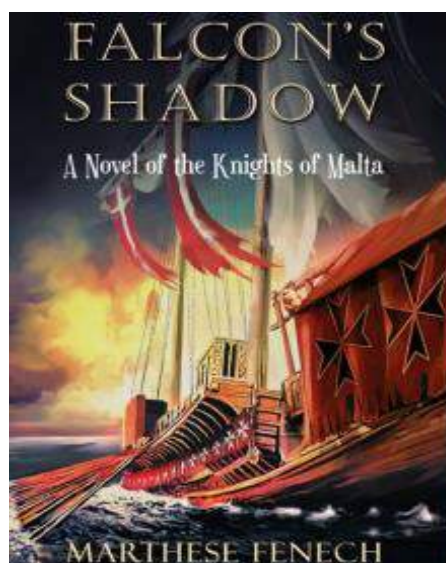
Many veterans experienced poverty and their families had no means of providing an ordinary burial when they died. Aboriginal Veterans SA co-chair Uncle Frank Lampard of the Ngarrindjeri and Kaurna language groups said this led to an abundance of unmarked graves.

"There are so many of them that ended in that way ... it's so tragic," he said.

Uncle Frank said dedication ceremonies helped to raise public awareness.

"We had a huge turnout. That's going to assist us to get more support to address lots of those unmarked graves in the future." Already, a number of veterans resting in unmarked graves have been found across the state — 22 at Port Pirie, 19 at Port Augusta and nine in Adelaide.

The Headstone Project South Australia believes there could be more than 2,500 unmarked graves of Indigenous and non-Indigenous veterans in the state.



## **Marthese Fenech: a Canadian Maltese author**

One of the most promising "Maltese" writers comes from Canada: her name is Marthese Fenech, known as Mar, and she is the youngest of five siblings born in Toronto to a pair of Maltese parents, both active in the Maltese community in Canada.

Marthese is a writer, screenwriter, professional editor and high school teacher. Her repertoire includes a series of bestselling historical novels, set in 16th century Malta.

*"Since my novels are set in Malta, it is more than gratifying to have the support of the Maltese community and my biggest dream would be to see these novels come to life on the big screen. For years, I have*



wished that someone – a director, a producer, an actor – would contact me to adapt my books. For every new film produced in Malta, I would pray that the director would walk into a bookshop, pick up one of my novels and contact me.”

Since this dream was not coming true, however, Fenech thought she would start trying on her own. She took a screenwriting course and started adapting her first novel. She wrote the pilot episode and mapped out seven seasons worth of episodes, hoping to present a film project that is currently only on paper to directors and producers.

Marthese Fenech finally dreams of presenting her third novel set in Malta at the Toronto International Festival of Authors, an event she has wanted to attend since the beginning of her career. Twenty years ago, she attended this event as an aspiring writer, dreaming of one day being a featured author. And now she is hoping for the opportunity to raise awareness of a great moment in Maltese history such as the Great Siege of 1565.

In Australia, *Eight Pointed Cross* and *Falcon's Shadow* can be purchased from Amazon Australia: <https://www.amazon.com.au/Eight-Pointed-Cross-novel-Knights/dp/B085RNP1RM> or from my publisher, BDL's website: <https://bdlbooks.com/product/eight-pointed-cross/>

Her third novel, **ASH FALL** will be available for pre-order from Amazon on May 18. The official release date will be released soon. The third novel reads as follows: On May 18, 1565, heavy shots echo across the Maltese Islands. The vast, formidable Ottoman fleet lands. An army, fifty-thousand strong, marches ashore. The desperately outnumbered Maltese garrison braces for the incoming storm--in an all too familiar and current scene. On May 18, 1565, the Great Siege begins... On May 18, 2022, Ash Fall: a Novel of the Knights of Malta will be available for **PRE-ORDER**.

## **VIGIL FOR VICTIMS OF PARENTAL ALIENATION**



**HAPPY PARENTING - MALTA (FOR HAPPIER CHILDREN)**

**INSISTS ON FAMILY COURT REFORM:**

**INNAQQSU L-ABBUŻ!**

**Corradino Correctional Facility**

**25th April 2022 19:30**

**Press Release**

### **International Parental Alienation Awareness Day (IPAAD)**

With silent compassion towards inmates who are victims of Parental Alienation.

Happy Parenting – Malta (For Happier Children) has made various proposals for changes in the law and improvements in the Family Court procedures. It has been proposed that parents – fathers or mothers – who fall victim to parental alienation should not be sent to prison on grounds of allegations or because they genuinely cannot pay maintenance.

There should be a dedicated board made up of legal professionals and others who are experts in the field of social welfare. It is they who should advise the Judicature.

Looking back, we remember clearly certain cases, covered by the media, in which victims

were sent to prison for no just reason. We can mention, for example, the cases of Emmanuel Camilleri and Nicholas Azzopardi. But there are more!

In these matters, our Maltese nation should be more conscious of the irreparable harm inflicted on parents and especially children. Children do not deserve to have one of their parents sent to prison unjustly. The stigma that this causes is in itself a heavy burden.

Who can recover the days, weeks, months and years spent in prison?!

Who can restore the mental and emotional health of those involved? And this applies not only to the parent who ends up in prison, but also to close family members.

[vigil@happyparentingmalta.com](mailto:vigil@happyparentingmalta.com)

**Happy Parenting - Malta (For Happier Children)**

HPM4HC VO/1819 HappyParentingMalta.com

## The Order of Malta's commitment in response to the war in Ukraine

More than a month has passed since the beginning of the war in Ukraine. In these difficult days, I would



like to thank everyone who has donated to our appeals for the Order of Malta relief effort for those affected during this crisis. As an Order globally we have seen a massive and choral response from all the structures of the Order of Malta. Primarily within Ukraine - where the courage and commitment of our volunteers is commendable - and neighboring countries who immediately stepped in with a multiplicity of assistance activities for the refugees.

Since day one of the war, people like you have been filling abstract concepts like **solidarity, humanity, and empathy** with life. We and our colleagues in Ukraine, as well as in the neighbouring regions, are overwhelmed and grateful for the incredible

support that has reached us in the past weeks.

Thanks to countless donations and offers of help, we have been able to provide:

Around **4,000 tons of relief supplies** to Ukraine with more coming every day

Around **1,000 meals** for displaced people in Ukraine every day

Help to more than **275,000 people** fleeing across the borders of neighbouring countries

I invite you to watch a 3 minute video here [www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJXXVIYayoE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJXXVIYayoE)

that illustrates our work to help Ukrainian refugees and to reveal the commitment that animates our mission and the values of Christian solidarity that we embody.

The Order of Malta family appreciates your help and says thank you from the bottom of our hearts. I ask that you join Pope Francis in prayer, who consecrated Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary asking for peace in the world.

Yours sincerely **The Hon James Douglas KHD** President (Sent by Chev. Stephen Gatt)

## The Nuns of the Order of Malta



Not everyone knows that the Order of Malta's large religious family boasts very ancient contemplative communities in Spain and Malta: the **enclosed nuns of St John of Jerusalem** still live in the monasteries of St Jean d'Acre in the Salinas de Añana and Zamora districts in Spain and that of St Ursula on Malta. Scholars date the origin of the female branch to the Order's foundation in Jerusalem in the 11th century and to the first consecrated nuns of the Hospital of St Mary Magdalena. The nuns were needed in the hospitals to tend the female pilgrims and patients and were led by the Servant of God Agnese of Alix. Over time they increased in number and organisation; they continued to embrace the ideal and charisma of the Order of St. John and to spread out across most of Europe

to Italy, Spain, Portugal, Great Britain, France, Denmark, Holland and Rhodes.



Other historians give the year 1153 as the official date for the establishment of the Order's female branch: it was then that Pope Eugene III approved the **Sijena convent community**, founded by Queen Sancha of Aragon, widow of Alfonso II, and her daughter Dulce. Thus one of the oldest communities of nuns in Christendom was born. At the beginning they were exclusively relatives of the Knights of the Order with the specific mission to pray for them all and for the Grand Master. As in the other monasteries in previous centuries, the nuns were called "Sorores" (like "Fratres" for the Knights).

The **Monastery of St Ursula in Valletta**, Malta was founded by Grand Master Verdalle in 1582, in the Grand Master's Palace in Birgu, which had been left vacant since the Order established itself in Valletta. In 1595 the monastery was transferred to Valletta. The nuns were equal in rank to the chaplain brothers of the Order, observed the rules of the cloister, and were under the Grandmaster's jurisdiction. In their religious solemn profession the nuns vow to observe the Rule of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, following the practice established at their foundation, which continues uninterrupted up to the present day.

For over 800 years the nuns of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem have been praying for the Order's members and until the 19th century they were under the jurisdiction of the Grand Master. They have provided the Church with admirable models of sanctity such as St Ubaldesca Taccini (1136-1206), St Toscana Canoculi (1280-1343), St Flora di Beaulieu (c. 1300-1347). The beatification process is underway for Sister Patrocinio Chillida Manes and Sister Visitacion Solè Yvern, Spanish civil war martyrs.

"The mission of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem religious," wrote the Servant of God Primitiva del SS. Sacramento, "is to give glory to God through personal sanctification, by observing the Holy Gospel, their vows, the Rule and the Constitution, by practising hospitality in the manner consented by papal enclosure and by praying for the sanctification of our brothers the Knights". Despite being an enclosed order, in accordance with their tradition the Spanish nuns manage a house close to the monastery in which spiritual retreats are organised for visitors and parishioners.

The **Spanish monastery of St Jean d'Acre at Salinas de Añana** was founded when the Order was still present in Acre in the Holy Land. In Valletta, the monastery of St Ursula is one of the Republic's historic monuments and a milestone in Malta's religious life



**Firstly I must thank you on behalf of my 92 year old mother who enjoys your newsletter with old and new.**

I have a request...we were going through old photos and found the attached. Mystery – my mother knows it is of her father Joseph Falzon (second from right at the back) but cannot make out why they are dressed as they are. She thinks it might be Carnivale or student group. He studied in Egypt through 1920 to 1925) They are all wearing makeup and the ? is the mystery.

I was wondering if you would put in your newsletter and maybe someone will know something. I will totally understand if this is not possible – you are never short of news.

Thanks Stella O'Malley for Yvette Double (nee Falzon)

## **Husband will ask for wife's "release papers" if aged care lockdowns return**

Jim Borg is the principal co-ordinator of the Friends of Providence House Group NSW which was formed in 2011 and its main aim is to promote and raise funds in Australia for Id-Dar tal-Providenza – Malta.



**As the sole carer of his beloved wife Carmen, Jim Borg felt defeated when a specialist at the local hospital told him that his wife would need to be**

**moved to an aged care facility**

Only four years earlier, the Malta-born couple Jim and Carmen Borg from NSW, had been overseas raising money for an institution that cares for people with disabilities, when the first signs of Carmen's dementia began to appear.

But now faced with the reality that his wife would not be returning home, Jim reluctantly agreed that his wife would be better suited to an aged care environment.

Although understandably apprehensive, the caring nature of the staff at Fresh Hope Care Pendle Hill helped to put Jim's mind at ease.

**Jim and Carmen Borg**

"They call her Mum," said

Jim. "I feel blessed that my wife is there. The way that they look after her, I have nothing but praise for the staff and the whole organisation."

To say that Jim is a frequent visitor at his wife's home would be an understatement. In fact, Jim spends just as much time at Fresh Hope Care Pendle Hill as anyone – outside of the residents.

However, recent lockdowns at the home due to government COVID protocols have pushed Jim and many other families of aged care residents to breaking point.

"I have visited my wife every day for the last three years. Sometimes I visit twice a day," Jim told HelloCare. "Of course, you want the residents to be safe from COVID, but at this point, I think lockdowns are doing more harm to people in these nursing homes than good."

"I love everyone working at my wife's nursing home, but if they are forced to go into lockdown again, I am going to ask for release papers."

### **Value of visitors and flexibility**

Prior to the pandemic, understaffing in nursing homes was already commonplace in Australia, according to the Royal Commission. The presence of visitors within these homes allowed many providers to paper over the cracks of having a workforce spread so thin.

With this safety net now removed from many aged care facilities for the best part of two years, the systematic failures of aged care have been laid bare for the entire country to see. Aged care needs better funding. Better leadership. Nuanced guidelines that seek to avoid blanket lockdowns, and most importantly, aged care residents surrounded by loved ones as often as possible.

"I am fully vaccinated and I already had the booster," shared Jim. "I'm probably safer than most of the workers anyway."

"This virus is here to stay. If we are going into lockdown for 14 days every time there is an infection, then lockdowns are going to be permanent. Then it becomes like a prison."

Jim added, "These people are human beings and I have done training for dementia and I know how important it is for these people to have interaction. When you stop that, you're killing their ability to feel like a human."

### **Realities of lockdown**

After being forced to endure close to three weeks away from his wife, Jim felt as though he witnessed her mental condition decline considerably, while observing her during video calls.

Once lockdown restrictions had been lifted and Jim was allowed to return to the home, he noticed an immediate improvement in her mood, which highlights just how important family interactions are for people living in aged care facilities. "My wife doesn't talk much, so speaking on video calls is not the same at all. Many people with dementia are non-verbal, so video calls don't really work for them. They need human interaction," explained Jim.

"It was hard to see my wife like that. We've been together for 56 years, so I know when she is not well. I can probably diagnose her better than any



RN [registered nurse] in there because I know her so well."

"When I was finally allowed back into the home, she was waving her arms and smiling again. We can't stop these moments between people. Nothing should ever be able to stop me from holding her hand."

While Prime Minister Scott Morrison and other state leaders have spoken publicly about their willingness to avoid lockdowns for the greater public, unfortunately, nursing home residents are not afforded the same level of freedom or assurances from government.

Upon accepting the majority of recommendations by the Aged Care Quality and Safety Royal Commission, the government vowed to adopt a "human-rights-based" and "person-centred" approach to future aged care regulatory framework and governance. However, current lockdown restrictions in aged care have yielded results that could be categorised as human rights abuse.

While lockdowns are a simplistic way of managing risk in regards to COVID in aged care, Jim believes that a flexible approach that allows providers to manage their own risk would be far better suited to meet the needs of individual residents.

"The homes know the residents a lot better than the government," Jim told HelloCare.

"The people at Fresh Hope Care are very transparent and I even have a direct line to the CEO, Lynn Bailey, who is always happy to speak with me. She knows the impact that this is having on the people, but they receive guidelines from the government."

With COVID now closer to an endemic in Australia rather than a pandemic, the reality is that many more aged care residents are likely to die as a result of the disease. According to Jim, the optics of aged care residents dying from COVID, and the fear of being deemed responsible for those COVID deaths, has left the government scared to make any changes to lockdown regulations – despite the toll that they take on residents' mental health. "If there's an outbreak, and a few people happen to die in a nursing home, everybody's up in arms and they start to blame the government," said Jim. "But in reality, what are they going to do? The virus is here to stay. I honestly think the reason that nothing is changing in these homes is because everybody is scared of being sued. People with family members in aged care need to be speaking up about this."



**Maltese Historical Association**

Meet up with other like-minded individuals who have a passion or curiosity to learn more about Maltese history, stories, people

**MALTESE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION (AUSTRALIA)**  
Għaqda Storika Maltija (Awstralja)

### **The Maltese Historical Association (Australia)**

Dear MHA Members & Friends Our Zoom presentation for this month will be at the usual time of 7.30pm on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022. The speaker will be Giacomo Muscat. Giacomo has a keen interest in Maltese history, especially the history of corsairs in Malta. He works as an accountant and is based in Malta. We hope you will be able to join us on the

night. Best regards Mario Bonnici MHA Treasurer



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

**MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER**

The Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

maltesejournal@gmail.com

The Maltese Journal is unique because it is the only one published entirely in Australia

## **A NIGHT TO REMEMBER**

The George Cross Falcons Community Centre of Cringila, NSW continues to grow from strength to strength. On Saturday 9 April 2022 a great number of members of the association attended a special function for the official opening of the new facilities including an accessible bathroom for the handicapped funded in part by a community-building partnership grant for the Wollongong electorate. The centre hosts a wide range of groups at its Cringila facility including a men's shed and the Port Kembla Country Women Association. Paul Scully member of the NSW State Parliament for Wollongong did the honours.

The attendees were served with baked dinner and Italian dessert. The entertainment was provided by the popular singer Charles Muscat. It was a great night due to the hard work of the president, Louis Parnis, the committee and the volunteers.

President Louis Parnis took this large project head-on and as always, the results are incredible and within budget. The project costs \$70,000 and was funded by numerous Government bodies and the Centre's major sponsor (The Builder Club Wollongong). Another donation was given by the Centre's friends the Country Women Association.

The president thanked all those who made this memorable night a huge success and thanked the special guests and dignitaries and all those who attended.







Times of Malta

Screengrab from the film's trailer.

Maltese film *Carmen* has won the best feature film award at this year's Canadian Film Fest.

Inspired by real events and set in a village in Malta, *Carmen* is the story of a woman who found her voice.

*Carmen* (played by Irish actress Natascha McElhone) has looked after her brother, the priest at the local church, since she was 16-years-old.

Now almost 50, she is suddenly left to start a new life. Facing her past, *Carmen* brings colour to the lives of the villagers.

Shot in Malta, the film was described by jurors as "divine from start to finish... it has a kind of fairytale feel but is rooted in honest and authentic characters".

They found the film funny, charming and whimsical: "It was life-affirming in a time when we needed most. It was a story that told us that happiness can be found even in the darkest of times... We're thrilled to award the best feature to *Carmen*..."

The film, directed and written by Valerie Buhagiar, was produced by Pierre Ellul, Anika Psaila Savona and Coral Aiken.

Ellul and Psaila Savona said: "It has been a long road for us to get this film released. It shows glimpses of a Malta that once was and bringing to life a story inspired by a little known tradition. We are delighted that the film is being so well received in Canada creating interest and curiosity about our

## Maltese film *Carmen* gets best feature award in Canadian Film Fest

islands whilst at the same time showcasing the talent of our cast and crew. The collaboration between the Maltese and Canadians worked so well to bring Valerie's story to life, and we can safely state our belief that co-productions are the way in which we can build a film industry and take it to that next level."

The film is currently set to be released later on in the year in Malta, Canada and the US.

This is Buhagiar's third feature film as a director. She first burst on the scene as a performer in such classic Canadian films as *Roadkill* (1989) and *Highway 61* (1991).

The cast also includes Steven Love and Michaela Farrugia.

*Carmen* adds to the growing list of acclaimed Maltese films which include *Luzzu*, Malta's Oscar contender for best

international feature film, *Simshar*, *Limestone Cowboy* and *Is-Sriep Reġġħu Saru Velenużi*.

Director Valerie Buhagiar.

Malta-born, Toronto-raised filmmaker Valerie Buhagiar came up as part of the Toronto New Wave, starring, alongside Don McKellar, in Bruce McDonald's first two features, *Roadkill* (1989) and *Highway 61* (1991). She continued to work as an actor in theatre and film for several years before directing her first short, *The Passion of Rita Camilleri* (1993), which marked the beginning of a very personal filmography unlike anything else in Canadian cinema.

Inspired by August Strindberg's *A Dream Play* and drawing upon her experiences growing up in a devoutly Catholic, immigrant, working-class family in the Junction, Buhagiar's ninth film and second feature, *It's Hard to Be Human*, follows Agnes (Nina Gilmour), a young woman in a downward spiral who regards her largely absent father (musician Tom Wilson, of Junkhouse and Blackie



and the Rodeo Kings) as God. Agnes experiences moments of grace, despair, fury, addiction, loss and hospitalization, though not necessarily in that

order: the film unfolds in a series of brief, visceral, visually arresting scenes that fuse objective reality with the fantastical.

## A Monday at the Main Guard



Photo : Anthony Spagnol - Twanny

On Monday 18th April, which is Easter Monday and UNESCO's International Day for Monuments and Sites, **Heritage Malta will once again offer the public the opportunity to visit the Main Guard building in Valletta.**

This unique building has lately undergone extensive restoration and conservation works, through which a new lease of life has been given to the hundreds of small paintings adorning the walls of the room which used to be the Officers' Mess. Visitors will be able to meet conservators and ask them questions. In

the afternoon, military expert Denis Darmanin will also be present to provide further insight on this historical building.

**The Main Guard was probably built towards the beginning of the 17th century by Grandmaster Aloff de Wignacourt to serve as quarters for the guards of the Grandmaster's Palace, just across the square. This function was retained for more than 350 years, until the early 1970s.**

During British rule, hundreds of pictures were painted on the Main Guard walls, mostly in the Officers' Mess, where the guards ate and rested between shifts. Painting was one of these soldiers' pastimes, and in fact there are over 300 pictures, some of which were recently discovered during conservation and restoration works.

**On the 18th of April the Main Guard will be open from 10.00am till 4.00pm. The admission fee is €2 for adults, seniors and students. Heritage Malta members and children under 11 will be admitted free of charge. Tickets will only be available at the door.**




Nazzarene Zen is in Zurrieq.

This is our same street in daylight at Zurrieq but just a bit further in from the corner of the previous photo. The door on the left was our next door neighbour. This is what happened when a car tried to drive through our street. I knew all those kids but I was just a few years older. I was the same age as the taller boy on the right who was my friend


The following sites and museums, which are usually closed on Monday, will also be open on the 18th of April: Ġgantija Temples, Ta' Kola Windmill, the National Museum of Archaeology, MUŻA, Fort St Elmo, Fort St Angelo, Tarxien Temples, Haġar Qim and St Paul's Catacombs.

*content was supplied by Heritage Malta.*

**MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER**



Thank you for  
making the  
Maltese Journal  
Number One



**Journal of the Maltese Living Abroad**



## Innu ta' Merħba lill-Papa Frangisku f'Għawdex Li tkanta waqt iz-zjara tal-Papa Frangisku

Merħba bik Papa Frangisku  
sieħeb twajjeb tal-bnedmin  
li tal-merħla ħadt ir-riħa  
taħseb int, fiha f'kull ħin.

Bik jifirħu Malta w'Għawdex  
int Missier għalina, tant għażiż  
li tfakkarna t-teżor ngħozzu  
ta' twemmin sabiħ u qaddis.

***Ejja f'dil-gżira ta' Pawlu  
kun għaliha bħala Missier;  
tal-Imsallab roxx fuqna l-ħniena  
fuq il-Malti u l-istrangier.***

F'dan il-jum qed nilqgħuk fostna  
taħt il-mant t'Ommna l-Għawdxin  
fejn mill-qedem sibna l-faraġ  
meta sfajna imġarrbin.

Int ta' Pietru triegħi d-dgħajsa  
qalb il-ħalel u tant taħbit  
mal-barrani u mal-imsejken  
tridna nimxu lkoll id f'id.

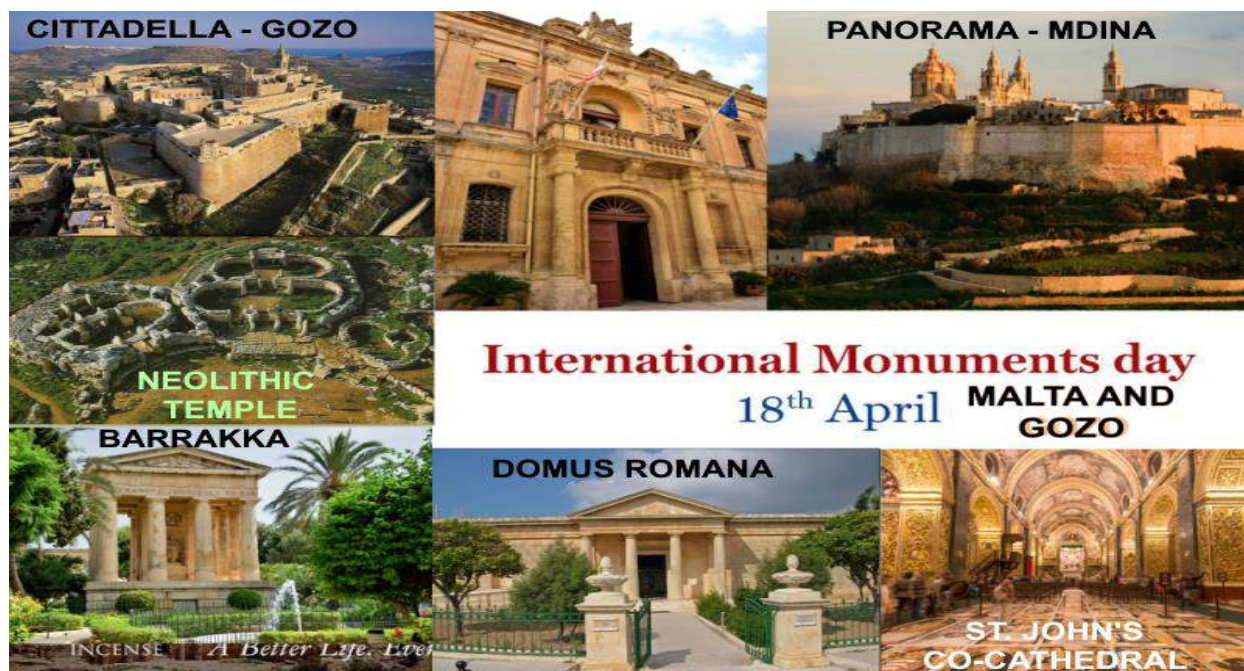
***Ejja f'dil-gżira ta' Pawlu  
kun għaliha bħala Missier;  
tal-Imsallab roxx fuqna l-ħniena  
fuq il-Malti u l-istrangier.***

Kelmtek safja tkun għalina  
B'pinnur qalb bosta rjieħ  
biex fost ħafna ilħna mqarrqa  
nagħrfu 'l Kristu, r-Ragħaj sabiħ.

Int minn Ruma ġejt tkellimna  
Ħalli aħna widen nagħtuk sħiħ  
biex għal ġensna żżernaq għodwa  
li mill-ġdid troddilna l-ġieħ.

***Ejja f'dil-gżira ta' Pawlu  
kun għaliha bħala Missier;  
tal-Imsallab roxx fuqna l-ħniena  
fuq il-Malti u l-istrangier.***

Miktub minn  
Fr. Geoffrey Attard – Victoria GOZO





## **AIR MALTA HOSTS AN EDUCATIONAL FLIGHT FOR CHILDREN FROM CHURCH HOMES**

Around 40 children from various residences of Fondazzjoni Sebħ and St Patrick's Home were hosted on a 75-minute educational flight. The Air Malta flight, KM1952, flown at an altitude of 20,000 feet to Sicily and back, included a flyby of Mount Etna where the children could see the snow-clad top of Europe's largest volcano. The flight was operated by an Airbus 320NEO, one of the most environmentally friendly aircraft in use.

Before the flight, the enthusiastic children, many of whom had never been to the airport or boarded an aircraft, were given brief talks on airport processes by Air Malta staff and members of the Malta International Airport team. The children, together with their carers, then proceeded to check-in and board the aircraft, passing through all the formalities as regular passengers. During the flight, they were served breakfast and a 'figolla'.

Upon arrival, the children were taken to the airline's engineering hangar where they had the opportunity to ask questions to an Air Malta engineer who also explained some technical features of the aircraft. The group also visited the airport's Rescue and Firefighting Services (RFFS) Team who briefly explained the importance of airport safety whilst taking a look



at MIA's newest firefighting vehicles, which allow the team to handle any crisis ranging from fires and fuel spills to rescue operations.

Air Malta's Chairman, David G. Curmi, welcomed the children next to the aircraft before departure. Commenting on this initiative he said, "We organised this flight as part of Air Malta's Corporate Social Responsibility whereby we aim to support initiatives and events that contribute towards the wellbeing of the Maltese community. We aim to put this event on our annual calendar so that we can continue to extend this experience to as many children in Residential Homes as possible."

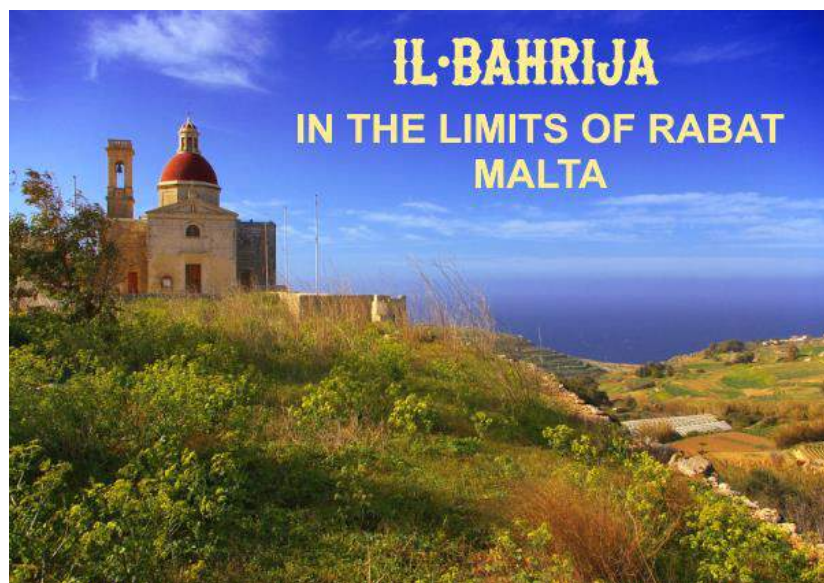
The visit was made possible with the assistance given by Enemed, which supplied fuel for the aircraft, Malta International Airport, which assisted with the overall logistics at the terminal and hosted the group at the airport's fire station, SkyGourmet, which offered the breakfast, and Maypole for the 'figolli'. Every year many local schools take the opportunity to organise similar educational flights on Air Malta for their students.



**First Trade Exhibition, Valletta 1947. Princess Elizabeth watching gozitan Betty Grima working lace (Bizzilla)**

**THE MALTESE JOURNAL IS AVAILABLE AT**  
**The Malta Migration Museum – Valletta**  
**The Maltese-Canadian Museum – Toronto**  
**Maltese Consulate for Canada**  
**On these websites**  
**Ozmalta.com**  
**Maltese Community Council of Victoria**  
**Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Malta)**  
**At several Maltese Clubs in Aust., US and**  
**Canada**  
**Aged Care Facilities and at some schools**  
**and libraries**





**Baħrija** is a village in [Rabat, Malta](#), with a low population density. The name Baħrija means *moth* in [Maltese](#). It is also known in English as Baħria, of which the Counts Muscati had owned the fiefdom that was granted by the Grand Master of Malta

Overview

Two churches are present in Baħrija, an old one (which was re-inaugurated on Saturday 19 October 2013), and the newer church, built in 1984, which is dedicated to [Saint Martin of Tours](#) and which is currently in use. The main feast in Baħrija is that of Saint Martin of Tours, which is celebrated annually on 11 November. This feast is associated with an old tradition where a bag full of an assortment of nuts, sweets and fresh fruit is given to young children on the day.

Another tradition present exclusively in Baħrija is the annual fair which is held on the Sunday before the feast, where an assortment of goods are given away in a number of lotteries.

Baħrija is also famous for its rabbit cooking restaurants.

Baħrija is one of the highest places in Malta, therefore the weather here is cooler than that of the lower land (it is also exposed to the cold northern winds coming over the sea). Most of the north of Malta is visible from this village, but the south west of Gozo (including Xlendi) is also visible, and on clear still nights, a line of street lights is visible on the horizon to the north, where Sicily is.

Although Baħrija has little rich soil, much of its land is used for agriculture, mostly growing grape vines and other common fruit that can withstand the harsh heat of the summer and the lack of soil. Baħrija is a good place to search for walks. For a cliff climb, there is the Fomm ir-Rih walk, or for Maltese heritage, the Victoria lines start at Kuncizzjoni.

Baħrija country walk starts at the west side of [Rabat](#), at the Nigret roundabout towards Fiddien, and is a long and beautiful walk that will take you through tranquil countryside, valleys surrounded by hills as well along breath-taking costal cliffs with views over the small natural reserve islet of Filfla. You will discover small farmhouses build in the cliff, old Roman excavations and maquis and pass through **Baħrija - Baħrija Valley - Mtahleb - Tal-Vigarju Cliffs - Fiddien Valley - Rabat**.



# The 'Great Wall' of Malta



(Image credit: Charles O. Cecil/Alamy)

By Adam Alexander

**The 12km network of fortifications stretches across the entire northern end of the island, but for decades, few people knew it existed.**

With a population density predicted to reach **6,700 per sq km in the next 10 years**, Malta is easily one of the European Union's most crowded countries. And with more and more visitors flocking to the scenic Mediterranean archipelago every year, it's hard to imagine that any corner of this destination remains undiscovered.

Yet there is one. Across the northern portion of the isle of Malta is a spectacular defensive line which has incredibly lain abandoned for decades.

Known as the Victoria Lines and strategically built on the edge of a natural fault, this continuous defensive wall spans the entire width of Malta, some 12km from Fomm ir-Riġ in the west to Madliena in the east. But unlike the stately Grand Harbour of Valletta or imposing medieval town of Mdina, few will have even heard of the Victoria Lines, let alone seen them.

"What a revelation, to find so much nature and tranquility," said Helen Jones Florio, long-time Malta resident and keen Rambler who didn't even know of the Victoria Lines' existence until she walked the entire length recently. "From our starting point in a small village near Mgarr, on the west coast of Malta, we walked across the entire country."

Malta's answer to China's Great Wall, the Victoria Lines are a network of fortifications built by the British Army during the second half of the 19th Century, consisting of forts, batteries, entrenchments and howitzer positions, and a continuous infantry line that connects them all together.

"From the bastions we had panoramic views of the island, and north on the horizon we could see the rocky outline of Malta's sister islands of Gozo and Comino," said Florio's husband, Jason, who walked the Victoria Lines with her. "Then just east of Mosta we walked down into the craggy Wied il-Għasel – Valley of Honey – where tucked into an overhanging cliff we found the tiny Chapel of St Paul the Hermit."

*The Victoria Lines, a network of forts, batteries, entrenchments and howitzer positions, is Malta's answer to China's Great Wall.*

Begun in the late 1800s by the Royal Engineers, and inaugurated in 1897 (the same year as Queen Victoria's jubilee), the wall was designed to link together a number of detached forts and to provide one long, continuous path for British military patrols. At the time, Britain was wary that some other country – primarily France and the newly created kingdom of Italy – might seek to hijack its vital bases in the Mediterranean.

But it was the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869, which allowed European powers to access their territories in India and Asia without circumnavigating Africa, that was probably the most significant factor behind the building of the Victoria Lines. With more and more ships traversing the Mediterranean Sea, Britain's stronghold on Malta became increasingly strategically important.

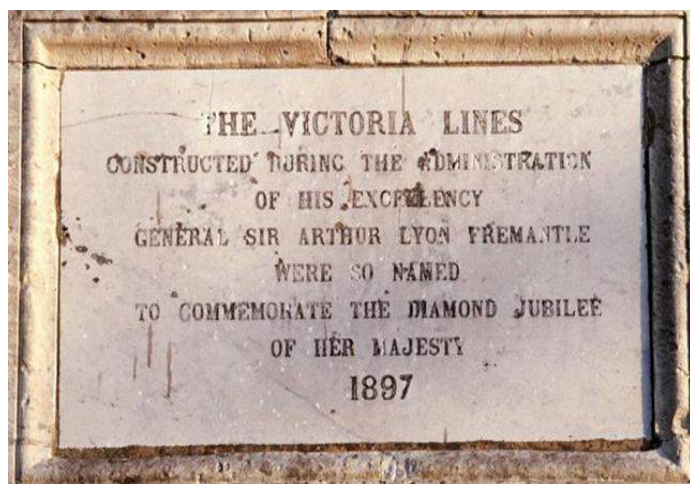
*Nowhere in the Maltese islands is geography so emphatically exploited for defence*

Natural cliffs in the west and a string of forts in the south protected the rest of the island, but the fear was that any land attack on the rear of Valletta's Grand Harbour in the east and her naval installations could prove devastating to the British fleet. That left the north end of Malta as the only vulnerable area – save for the Great Fault line along which several infantry entrenchments had already been fashioned in the early 18th Century by the Knights of Malta.

"Nowhere in the Maltese islands is geography so emphatically exploited for defence than along the line of natural escarpments known as the Great Fault," writes military historian Dr Stephen C Spiteri in his book *A Guide to The Fortifications of Malta*.

Despite Britain's fears, the Victoria Lines were never put to the ultimate test of an enemy invasion, and by 1907, had already been abandoned and troops relocated to the island's coastlines. When a Nazi invasion looked likely during World War Two,





the lines were rehabilitated with new guard posts built along them as a second line of defence. But once again, the fortifications escaped skirmish.

*Inaugurated in 1897, the Victoria Lines never saw battle (Credit: Charles O. Cecil/Alamy)*

The Victoria Lines' anonymity is about to change, however. Just as hiking and rambling are surging in popularity, only now is Malta beginning to wake up to the fact that they have a glorious untapped treasure on their hands. By the end of the year, the Maltese Tourism Authority hopes to introduce visitors to this hidden gem with the designation of the nation's first national walkway, which will lead hikers along the historical battlement.

"We are currently working on setting up two trails along the Victoria Lines from Kuncizzjoni to Mosta, and from Gharghur to Pembroke," said Stephanie Attard Grech, who is overseeing the new project as assistant manager at the Maltese Tourism Authority.

The long-awaited launch of the [Victoria Lines trail](#) will be met with particular excitement by those enthusiasts in Malta – particularly in the north-central Maltese town of Mosta – who have been pushing steadily for its creation for more than 20 years. Mosta's residents were inspired to preserve the battlement by the UK's effort to promote Hadrian's Wall as a continuous walking trail, kicking off their own efforts with a celebration of the Victoria Lines' centenary anniversary in 1997.

Those familiar with the project hope a national trail will attract a new form of responsible, high-quality tourism; put Malta on the European ramblers' map; and ensure a greater level of protection for this piece of the archipelago's cultural heritage and the landscape surrounding it.

"This is something that can only be fully appreciated if one actually walks along the Victoria Lines," said Ray Cachia Zammit, who created the Facebook

page, [Friends of the Victoria Lines Trail](#). "Dedicated trekkers and ramblers already manage to do this despite the many current obstacles, but a managed national trail would extend this experience to the wider public, both locals and tourists," he said.

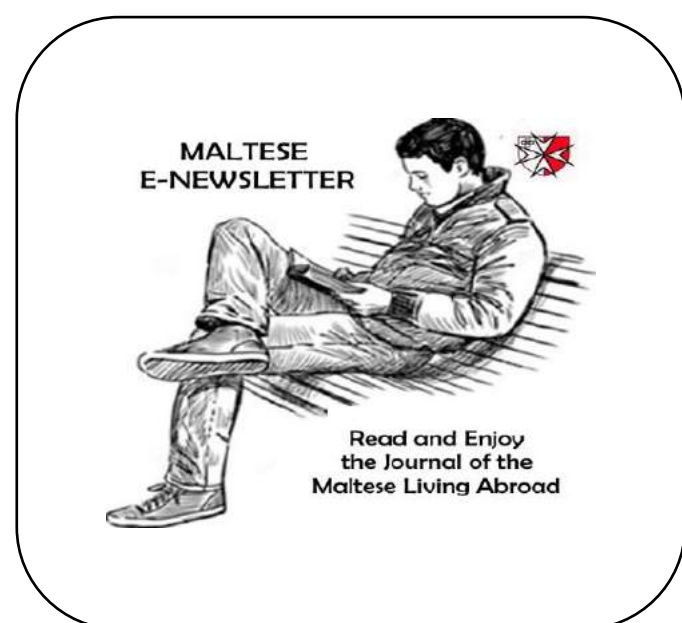
*A new national trail will allow hikers and ramblers to enjoy dramatic views of Malta from the Victoria Lines (Credit: Charles O. Cecil/Alamy)*

Zammit is the first to admit walking along various parts of the Victoria Lines can be difficult because of overgrown vegetation and other hazards (there are places where parts of the wall have collapsed and even a tract that has disappeared altogether). However, a walk along the Victoria Lines is "a unique experience through the stunning beauty of Malta's landscapes, offering breath-taking views", he said.

*If you haven't walked the Victoria Lines then you have not seen Malta*

The battlement is at its most spectacular where it snakes dramatically up and down a number of valleys. "At times we were left gripping the wall in fear that a misplaced step would lead to a tumble," Jason said. "But the joy of walking the Lines is the variation. The smooth flat sections around the forts giving way suddenly to tight, crumbling paths and finally those rugged snaking ramparts along cliff edges that give it the look of a diminutive Great Wall of China."

His views are echoed by the growing number of followers on the Friends of the Victoria Lines Trail Facebook page, all hoping to preserve the lines for future generations. After all, according to member George Wayte: "If you haven't walked the Victoria Lines then you have not seen Malta."



## An exhibition of traditional Maltese clay Good Friday statuettes

George Buttigieg (Lija) | Alfred Camilleri (Iklin)



**IL-HAĠAR  
HEART OF  
GOZO  
MUSEUM**

St George's Square,  
Victoria

**5 March to  
18 April 2022**

Monday - Sunday,  
09:00-17:00



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA  
MINISTRY FOR GOZO



Cultural Heritage Directorate



**IL-HAĠAR**  
HEART OF GOZO

**FONDAZZJONI BELT VICTORIA VO/0762**

*Gozo NGOs Association founding member*

**Pjazza San Ġorġ, Victoria VCT 1101**

**Media release Good Friday Statuettes @ IL-HAĠAR**

In one of its level2 rooms, Il-Haġar museum (in Victoria's Pjazza San Ġorġ) has a very seasonal exhibition: traditional Good Friday Statuettes in imitation of those carried in the Passion processions. They are the work of prominent artists George Buttigieg (Lija) and Alfred Camilleri (Iklin). Other current highlights include Papal items (such as the last cassock worn by Pope Francis as a cardinal) and "Architect as Artist", a huge retrospective by Professor Richard England. The permanent collection of course offers "lenten" exhibits too. There is no entrance fee at this cultural centre, open 9am to 5pm seven days a week. Institutional support is forthcoming from the Malta Tourism Authority and the Gozo Ministry's Cultural Heritage Directorate.

**IF YOU HAVE  
A STORY TO  
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POEM OR A  
PHOTO OR  
OTHER NEWS  
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SEND IT TO  
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WITH  
OTHERS**

**WE  
ENCOURAGE  
ALL MALTESE  
LIVING  
ABROAD TO  
SUPPORT THEIR  
LOCAL  
MALTESE  
ASSOCIATIONS  
TO PRESERVE  
THE MALTESE  
CULTURE  
AND HERITAGE**





### Minn Michael Spagnol KELMA KELMA - FACEBOOK

Il-Patrun ta' Malta. Insejnhulu Missierna. Niċċelebraw xi ħames festi f'ismu. Għandna bosta mkejjen imsemmijin għalih. Saħansitra żewġ gzejjer żgħar. Mhux ta' b'xejn li nsemmuh f'għadd ta' idjomi u espressjonijiet Maltin! Bħal dawn li ġejjin.

### GHAŻŻIEN DAQS IS-SEJF TA' SAN PAWL

Idjoma perfetta għal min iħobb jitnikker, jintelaq u jitgħaẓen. Insomma għal xi ħadd manġapassiġġa u skansafaċendi. Jgħidu li, wara li San Pawl ikkonverta u ma baqax jippersegwita lill-Insara, is-sejf m'użahx aktar. Kien iħallih dejjem fl-għant. U minn hemm nibtet l-espressjoni. Faqqha, hux?

### IQALLEB DAQS IT-TEMP F'SAN PAWL TA' JANNAR

Skont qawl antik, nhar San Pawl it-temp iqalleb (jew ibiddel) seba' darbiet. Jgħidu li fil-festa ta' San Pawl, jiġifieri fil-25 ta' Jannar, l-ajru jinbidel kemm-il darba. Għalhekk dan l-għajdut nużawh għal min ikun pinnur, idur ma' kull riħ, ma tistax torbot fuqu għax daqs tazza ilma biex jerġa' jibdielu.

### ILSIEN SAN PAWL

Qatt iltqajt ma' xi sinna ta' kelb il-baħar ffossilizzata fil-ġebbla Maltija? Dik hi l-famuża *Isien San Pawl*. Kienu jemmnu li dawn il-fossili huma xbieha ta' Isien San Pawl, tant li kienu jużawhom kontra xi mard jew iqegħduhom madwar għonq it-tfal biex itellgħu s-snien. Ġieli kienu jpoġġuhom fl-ilma jagħli u meta jibred jixorbuh. Kieku illum insibu xi waħda, nintefgħu niżfnu l-Baby Shark. Żgur, mhux forsi.

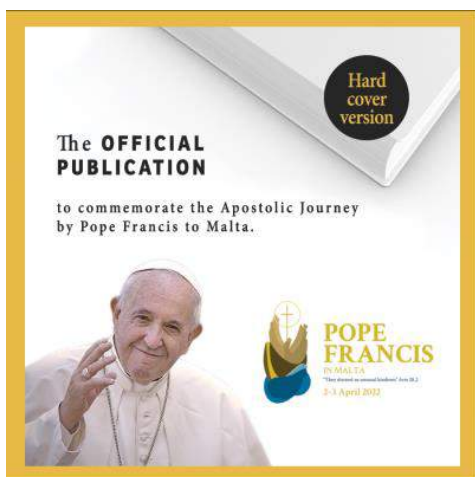
### SAN PAWL HA L-VELENU MIL-LIFGHA...

Dan l-għajdut Enzo Gusman jiġbru fi strofa tal-kanzunetta *Żep u Grezz*: "San Pawl, ja Missier tagħna, Li mis-sema tieqaf magħna, Int neħhejt il-velenu 'l-lifgħa

U mort tfajtu f'ħalq in-nisa!" Jekk ma jkollniex espressjoni sessista ma nkunux aħna. Toqgħod tgħid, l-irġiel li ħarġu biha, taz-zokkor ilsienhom!

### TAWH XEBGHA TAL-BEATI PAWLI

Qlajna damdima tal-Beati Pawli. Inqadna f'maltempata tal-Beati Pawli. Biex nevitaha, kelli ndur dawra tal-Beati Pawli. Nużawha għal xi ħaġa kbira u goffa, speċjalment jekk tkun negattiva bħal xi xebgħa jew kedda. Ħafna jorbtuha ma' San Pawl, imma m'għandhiex x'taqsam miegħu. Ġejja minn *I Beati Paoli*, li fl-imghoddi kienu setta sigrieta ta' nies kriminali fi Sqallija. Kienu qishom il-Mafja tal-lum.



## Publication

The official publication of Pope Francis' Apostolic Journey in Malta and Gozo which will include several unique photos can be pre-ordered now on [store.newsbook.com.mt](http://store.newsbook.com.mt)

THIS IS THE JOURNAL FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD GENERATIONS MALTESE AROUND THE WORLD



## Learn Maltese in 2022 in Victoria

### For Travel, Pleasure or Work

Join us and embrace our beautiful culture and language. Classes are open to both adults and adult-accompanied children.

Registration for Maltese Language Classes is required. The Maltese Language classes are

sponsored by the MCCV at the Maltese Community Centre. Students pay a nominal enrolment fee. Families pay a substantially discounted fee.

**Classes are provided at:** Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced levels.

Classes are held online via ZOOM. The MCCV Education Committee overseeing the classes is composed of qualified LOTE tutors, class coordinator as well as an independent adviser. Courses are intended to provide participants with a basic knowledge of reading, writing and speaking Maltese. Courses run for one semester.

Lessons coincide with school terms. A token fee of \$120 per semester for 16 lessons covers some expenses. The tutor will advise students of other resources that are appropriate. The classes run for one hour extended by 30 minutes for student queries. Students receive guided self-learning activities equivalent to 1 hour. The total Unit context hours are 2.5 hours per week. Adults wishing to learn Maltese and require further information should contact the Maltese Community Centre during business hours [+61 3 9387 8922](tel:+61393878922) or [0466 079 814](tel:+61393878922) after hours and leave a contact phone number.

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SKOLA MALTIJA SYDNEY

Skola Maltija Sydney is a program of Akkademja Maltija ta' NSW Inc. Supported by the NSW Community Language Schools Program and the NSW Department of Education



Skola Maltija of Sydney is a community organization of Maltese Australians who share a passion for Maltese language and culture. They teach Maltese language around NSW AUSTRALIA

## Maltese Language School of NSW

Learn Maltese Online!

2022 Term 2 Enrolment Now Open

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

**Classes available for students from 6 yrs to adults**

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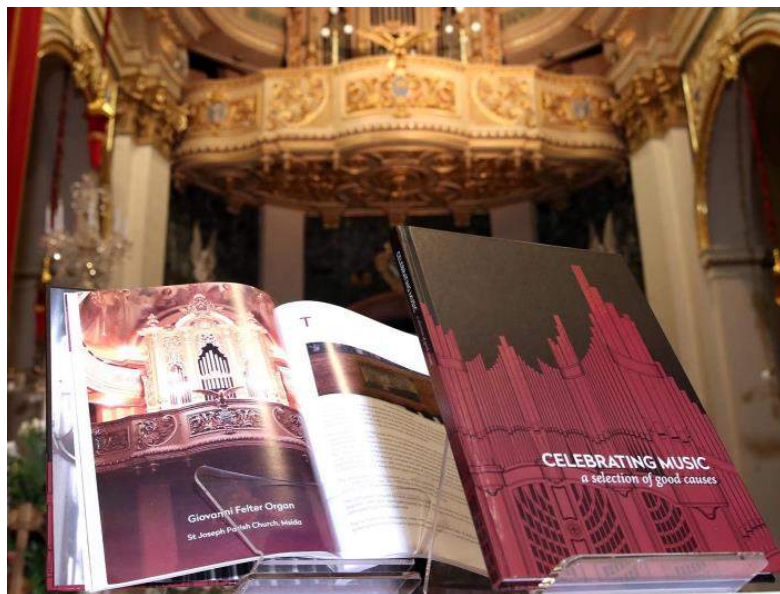
**Positions also available for Maltese Language Teachers**

**For more details Please email: [mls@mccnsw.org.au](mailto:mls@mccnsw.org.au) Call: 0419 418 547**





## Restoration of 12 organs in Malta and Gozo



07/04/2022

The Social Causes Fund and Heritage Malta have launched a new publication entitled *Celebrating Music: a selection of good causes*. This book sheds light on the restoration of 12 organs in Maltese and Gozitan churches that have benefited from funds for social causes.

At a press conference, the Principal Permanent Secretary, Mario Cutajar, in his role as Chairman of the Social Causes Fund, announced that more than €381,000 had been distributed for the restoration of these organs since 2014. The funds have made it possible for these unique instruments, some dating back to the 18th century, to be saved and not collapse.

The book sheds light on the history of each organ, detailing its particular specifications, even technical ones, and the restoration process carried out or needed.

This publication is the first of its kind in this field. HERITAGE MALTA

Minister for the Economy, European Funds and Lands Silvio Schembri said that the Social Causes Fund increases by about €1.7 million each year, and in the last six years this fund, which amounts to €10 million, was used for social-related projects that are continuing to enhance Malta's heritage. Minister Schembri explained that the Social Causes Fund comprises of unclaimed monetary prizes and part taxes tied to gaming activities.

Minister for Finance and Employment Clyde Caruana explained that these investments strengthen our country's cultural and religious heritage and therefore the identity of the Maltese and Gozitans. "But apart from this, through this publication, we are strengthening the credentials that the Maltese and Gozitan

people have in their embrace of the country's resources because we are giving a transparent account of how public funds are being spent on investments that continue to strengthen the Maltese and Gozitan heritage," said Minister Caruana.

The organs mentioned in the book are located in the Churches of Bormla, Gudja, Għajnsielem, Hal Lija, Imsida, Paola, Sacro Cuor Tas-Sliema, Hal Tarxien, Birgu, Xewkija, St Francis of Assisi in Valletta, and the Monastery of St Peter in Mdina.

This is the second publication that the Social Causes Fund has launched, after publishing the book *Conserving Art* in November 2021 covering art restoration and conservation projects supported by this Fund. Both publications bear witness to the work of the Social Causes Fund.

The new book is going on sale in the coming days from the Heritage Malta online site and at main bookshops



### MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA INC - PARKVILLE

#### MCCV is recruiting Maltese speakers

**Are you interested in helping the older members of our community stay safely at home longer?**

If this is you, MCCV are looking to recruit Maltese speaking persons who can help with housework, general cleaning and domestic assistance.

To find out more email your name, address and contact number to [admin@mccv.org.au](mailto:admin@mccv.org.au).



**A view of Busietta Gardens in Madliena**



**Entrance to Fort Madalena**

## **IL-MADLIENA**

**Madliena** (formerly spelt **Madalena**, Maltese: *Il-Madliena*) is an area in Swieqi, Malta, formerly part of the adjacent town of Għargħur. It takes its name from a chapel dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene, which was built in the area in 1490. Madliena was known as *Hal Samudi* in Medieval times, and is listed as such together with Għargħur in documents of the time. The chapel was used as a watch post by Maltese insurgents during the French blockade of 1798–1800. It was demolished by the British military in 1880 to make way for Fort Madalena, one of the forts of the Victoria Lines. A new chapel was built nearby to replace the one demolished.



While up to the 1960s it was mainly a rural area home to a number of farms, nowadays Madliena is a residential area, and it is home to many villas, bungalows, luxury apartments and maisonettes. It is close to the tourist area of St. Paul's Bay and Malta's main entertainment district of St. Julian's.

A 17th-century tower known as the Madliena Tower is located on the coastline close to Madliena, although it falls within the limits of Pembroke not Swieqi. The red letter "M" on the coat of arms of Swieqi represents Madliena.<sup>[4]</sup>

### **Madliena Tower, Pembroke**

Financed by Grand Master Martín de Redín, Madliena Tower stands as the most northern defensive feature in Pembroke, close to Bahar ic-Cagħaq. It consists of two fortified rooms above each other with a fighting parapet on the roof, having a platform for a small gun. The lower half of the outer walls is buttressed (sloped) and a cordon separates the lower half from the upper part and another cordon is at roof level.



Madliena Tower was one of a few towers which the British retained in use and armed with a 64-pdr Rifle Muzzle Loading gun mounted on a circular traversing sliding carriage to protect the North-Western approach to Grand Harbour. When the 12-pdr Quick Firing night practice battery was erected adjacently, the tower was used as a Firing Control Station and accommodation for the gun crews, until the battery was struck-off from military use at the end of the First World War.

MEPA scheduled Madliena Tower in 1996 as Grade 1 property of historic, architectural and contextual value as they forms part of a larger scheduled military complex and its protection status was reconfirmed following a revision as republished in Government Notice number 880/09 dated 30th October, 2009.



## FROM MALTA TO EAST LONDON

AN IMMIGRANT'S JOURNEY



Carmelo Micallef

## CARMEL MICALLEF From Malta to East London

By (author) [Carmelo Micallef](#)

Born in San Gwann, Malta, in November 1934, Carmel's story begins in 1938 with a family tragedy, when his father was killed in a fight, leaving the family to survive without a father, through some of the toughest years in Maltese history.

When WWII started, Carmel was just four years old and witnessed the terrible events unfolding around him as his countrymen starved to death. This understandably affected his behaviour and he was out of control at school until he was able to leave at the age of fourteen. Thankfully, leaving school was the making of him and he turned his life around, playing football for Valletta FC and learning to play the guitar and the trumpet.

By the age of eighteen he was working and had been promoted to Foreman, supervising over 40 men. His next

move saw him emigrate to England where he found himself in Aldgate, East London. The area was renowned for violence and gang wars and Carmelo soon found himself caught up with some of the biggest players.

Despite these nefarious activities, Carmelo always maintained a respectable working life and found employment with an excellent company which saw him promoted quickly to a senior management position. He remained with the company for forty-two years.

His life has been filled with the usual trials and tribulations that everyone faces but sometimes he couldn't help but wonder if the issues he faced were just that little more challenging than most others would face in their lifetime?

[\(395\) From Malta to East London - YouTube](#) [www.bookdepository.com](http://www.bookdepository.com)

### **NOTICE TO ALL MALTESE EX-SERVICE MEMBERS**

### **AND MEMBERS OF THE MALTESE COMMUNITY**

### **VICTORIA - AUSTRALIA**

### **ANZAC DAY 25TH APRIL 2022**



To all Maltese Ex-Services Members and members of the Maltese Community who are interested in participating in the **ANZAC DAY 2022** march, you will need to register your name by calling the President/Secretary on 0466 589 533.

At this stage we have been allocated 25-30 spots on the day, so it is important those who are interested contact us ASAP.

The last time we marched was in 2019 so don't miss out



**BECC IS AN  
AUSTRALIAN-MALTESE**