



The Voice of the Maltese

Issue
272

(We are for the Greater Malta)
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**A fortnightly print
and digital magazine**



Pope Francis salutes the people gathered in front of the President's Palace in Malta's capital, Valletta. He is flanked by (on his right): the Prime Minister Robert Abela, wife Lydia and daughter Georgia May, and (on his left), Malta President George Vella, his wife Mirian and Archbishop Charles Scicluna. **BELOW:** A panoramic view of the crowd of over 20,000 that attended for the Holy Mass at the Granaries in Floriana

(See also pages 2, 13 and 19)

DOI - Kian Bugeja



DOI - Omar Camilleri

Pope Francis in the footsteps of St Paul

The welcome that Pope Francis got during his two-day visit to Malta in his 36th Apostolic journey outside of the Vatican was nothing short of amazing. In fact, he himself told journalists on board the Air Malta flight back to Rome that he was impressed by the enthusiasm of the people in Malta and in Gozo and the island's welcome.

He also referred to the immigration challenge and recalled that Europe was formed by migrants who, he said, should always be welcomed. He stressed that the burden should not be shouldered altogether by countries close to Africa. He described these countries, including Malta, as generous.

The Pope, whose visit was described as following in the footsteps of St Paul, said one of the problems that Malta is facing is immigration. The stories he heard from migrants during his visit to the Peace Lab in Hal Far touched his heart. He listened to their testimonies, and their sufferings.

He said that Greece, Cyprus, Malta, Italy and Spain are those facing the serious problem of the migrants as they are the closest countries to Africa and the Middle East, and [migrants] land here. "They arrive here, and migrants must always be welcomed," he said.

The Pope spoke against all forms of war, and urged nations to welcome migrants. He blessed the Maltese people by recalling that Jesus can work wonders in us. He added that Europe should act together, as it is doing with its current assistance to the Ukrainian people.

In these pages, we highlight and bring to the fore Pope Francis' two-day visit Malta; what it meant to him and to the Maltese people

Pope Francis oozing his charisma leaving the President's Palace in Valletta soon after his arrival



DOI: Geoff Zarb Adami



The Pope travelling in his Pope Mobile

DOI: Kian Bugeja

Pope Francis lighting the lantern at St Paul's Grotto in Rabat, Malta



DOI: Andrew Gauci Attard



The Pope outside the Ta' Pinu Shrine in Gozo

DOI: George Scerri



Pope Francis consoling two migrants after listening to their experience at the Peace Lab



Pope Francis before leaving Malta on an Air Malta flight back to Rome

Imfakkar it-43 Anniversarju ta' *Jum il-Helsien*

Fil-31 ta' Marzu Malta fakkret it-43 Anniversarju ta' Jum il-Helsien b'ghadd ta' attivitajiet li jisthoqq jum storiku bhal dan, u li bhas-soltu ffukaw fuq il-Monument tal-okkażjoni fil-Birgu.

Bhas-soltu ċ-ċelebrazzjoni bdiet lejlet il-festa proprju bil-Prim Ministru Robert Abela, frisk mill-mandat li nghata mill-poplu ghal hamest snin ohra ta' tmexxija jixghel il-fjamma kommemorattiva, flimkien ma' martu Lydia jpoġġi bukkett f'riglejn il-monument (*lemin*) u jagħmel id-diskors tal-okkażjoni (*are pagna 13*).

L-ghada, il-President George Vella mexxa ċ-ċerimonji. Beda bit-tqeghid ta' bukkett fjuri f'riglejn il-monument (*taht*). Segwih id-Deputat Kap tal-Partit Nazzjonalista David Agius, u persuni distinti ohra.



DOI - Kevin Abela

Azzjoni ohra ingusta mill-BOV kontra l-Maltin ta' barra

Il-Bank of Valletta tilef hafna mill-fama tajba li kelli mal-Maltin tal-Awstralja meta s-sena l-ohra tefa' l-mira tieghu lejn il-Maltin li jghixu barra li ghal snin twal kellhom miljuni kbar tal-flus taghhom investiti mieghu.

Tant kien hemm negozju qawwi li l-BOV kien fetah ghexieren ta' ferghat fl-Awstralja, fil-Kanada u fl-Amerika.

Minhabba regoli godda nstigati mill-awtoritajiet bankarji f'Unjoni Ewropeja wehel kulhadd maghhom u nehdeh kampanja mequsa kattiva li halliet hafna mill-kljienti taghhom nifishom maqtuh. Donnu li ghalihom kulhadd sar kważi hati ta' hasil tal-flus. Bir-riżultat li hafna kellhom jirtiraw il-flus li kellhom fil-kontijiet f'Malta mal-BOV.

F'dawn l-aħħar gimghat il-BOV reġa' implimenta azzjoni li turi li ftit jimpurtah mill-Maltin li jghixu barra u qied jissokta jiehu azzjonijiet biex jurtahom. Qed jghidilhom li fit-12 ta' Marzu li ghadda t-tariffi fuq il-kontijiet tal-bank li ma jkollhom l-ebda transazzjoni finanzjarja ghal perjodu ta' 24 xahar

Opinjoni

konsekuttiv tariffi tal-bank inbidlu, u talli thalli l-flus tieghek hemmhekk, hafna drabi minghajr imghax, trid issa thallas lill-bank €35 ta' kull kont inattiv.

Dan hu każ ieħor ta' meta jittieħdu deċiżjonijiet minghajr konsultazzjoni. Il-Bank ma ha konsiderazzjoni ta' xejn ta' dawk il-mijiet, jekk mhux l-eluf li jzommu kont tal-bank mal-BOV ghal meta jżuru Malta mill-Awstralja jew minn pajjiżi ohra kull sena jew sentejn, u jagħmlu użu mill-kont biss meta jkun f'Malta, għan-negozju jew għal btala.

Jekk ma rnexxilekx, jew ma tkunx tista' tinzel Malta f'24 xahar, bhal kif gralna dan l-aħħar minhabba l-Covid-19, il-bank iwahhlek multa, inkella jkollok taghlaq il-kont u kull darba li tinzel Malta trid terġa' toqgħod tiftah ieħor mill-ġdid.

Ma nahsbux li din kienet azzjoni rragunata jew ġusta. Barra minhekk il-BOV iwahhlek ukoll fee annwali ta' madwaw €100 biex iżzomm kont u jekk dan ikun f'isemk u f'isem martek iwahhlek miżata doppja.

Q. I am a grandmother and am looking after one of my grandsons who has a severe disability. I would like to make him the beneficiary of my account-based pension, as he will need a great deal of care when I pass on. Am I able to nominate him as my beneficiary as I was told the beneficiary could only be a spouse or a child of mine?

A. As your grandson is a dependant upon you, you are able to nominate him as your beneficiary on your account based pension. You need to keep records of all you do for him and what you are actually paying for. This will then be able to help the trustees of the super fund decide whether he has been a dependent or not.

If you are unable to provide this information, you could nominate in your Will that the balance in your account based pension is to be maintained in trust for your grandchild to be looked after in the future.

Q. I have a portfolio of Australian shares. I am planning to leave this portfolio to be divided equally between my children. I currently have a capital loss of \$55,000. Will they benefit from this loss when I pass on?

A. Unfortunately capital losses, if not used in your lifetime, cannot be passed on to beneficiaries. For this reason you could consider selling some of the shares that you hold that have a large capital gain and in a few weeks' time, if you really wanted to have this security in your portfolio, you could re-purchase them..

Q. I am 68 and retired from work last year. I am on a small part age pension. I have two account-based pensions with

the same institution as I had started one three years ago when I had decided to reduce my working hours. Would I be able to merge these two account based pensions into one or will I be creating problems or maybe affecting my age pension entitlement??

A. I believe rolling the two account-based pensions into one account based pension would be ideal. You will need to commence a new account based pension, as you cannot add to them. This may also reduce your ongoing fees if they are all in one income stream.

As this pension commenced after 1 January 2015 you do not have deductible amounts which could be lost if these funds were rolled over into a new one. Your age pension should not be affected either, as the amounts of the two account based pensions would be the same if invested in one account based pension. So I think this is a sensible thing to do, as it will also simplify your financial affairs.

Q. I am a pensioner and have a reverse mortgage on my home. I have just re-

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



cently come into a reasonably large inheritance and if I was to invest the funds in a bank account it is going to affect my pension entitlement. Am I able to pay off some of the amount owing on the reverse mortgage or is this not allowable?

A. I believe paying off some of the money owed on the reverse mortgage is an excellent idea. This will mean that the amount that the bank will take from the sale of the house will be a great deal less. Also money in your bank account would probably affect your age pension entitlement..

Q. I am 77 years old and a widower. I have just recently sold my home and am moving into a retirement village. I will still have around \$500,000 of surplus cash from the proceeds of the house after paying off the lease on my new home.

I would like to invest \$300,000 into super in order to make use of the downsizing strategy but I already have an account based pension which is currently valued around \$1.8 million. Can I invest in super or am I over the limit because of my account-based pension?

A. Although your account-based pension is \$1.8 million, the value of your account-based pension on the 1 July 2017 may have been below \$1.6 million. You therefore need to approach a financial adviser if you do not already have one, and he will check this out for you.

If you find that you have reached the limit you could always invest it in superannuation and leave it in accumulation. You will still have access to this money if you needed it, but you will need to pay 15% tax on earnings on funds in accumulation.

This document contains factual information only and is not intended to provide any recommendation or opinion in relation to the topic/s discussed.

Fiducian recommends that you seek advice from a professional to address any issues that may be raised by this article. Fiducian accepts no liability for any loss suffered by anyone who has acted on any information in this document

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The Child Migration Scheme

The monument at the Valletta Waterfront Laguna

There are very few reminders in Malta of the mass exodus of Maltese departing for faraway destinations, as Malta, devastated by war was unable to provide a good future for its workers.

Amongst the many thousands that have left the Maltese islands, 310 children emigrated to Australia between 1950 and 1965 under the 'Child Migration to Australia Scheme' following an agreement signed between the Australian Catholic Immigration committee and the Emigration and Labour Minister on 9th December 1949.

Most of the Maltese children sent to Australia under this scheme came either from government orphanages or Church children's homes. All were said to have left with their parent's consent.

The Australian government had offered to welcome Maltese boys, aged between eight and 11, and girls aged between five and 10 years into Catholic institutions and promised to offer them employment supervised by the responsible Catholic authorities.

Many of these children embarked on successful careers though many others grew up hurt knowing that their parents had consented to their departure from home.

The Maltese emigrants were included in the Australian Prime Minister's 2009 public apology to those who suffered abuse at



The memorial at the Valletta Waterfront laguna, and (below) the stonewall on one side of the memorial

the hands of their carers in institutions, orphanages, and foster care.

A strong campaign by the Maltese community in Western Australia headed by the late Prof David Plowman and Paul Calleja for a commemorative symbol finally saw their efforts materialised when, on the eve of March 2008 the then Malta Government headed by Lawrence Gonzi, unveiled a memorial at the Waterfront laguna, in the form of a floating paper boat.

In a very careful speech not to offend the Catholic Church in Malta, Dr. Gonzi said: "This memorial commemorates the 310 child migrants who travelled to Australia in search of a better life between 1950 and 1965. We respect their achievements. We rejoice in their successes. We regret any unintended consequences of child migration."

These words are etched on the stonewall that surrounds one side of the Waterfront laguna, designed by architects Rune Jacobson and David Drago, evoking childhood and fragility. While some of the migrants found success, and the memorial showed the country's esteem for them, it also recognised that not everyone was that fortunate, Dr. Gonzi said. "We are sorry for those who suffered and will help to close the wounds," he said.

The monument is located at the same

quay from where they left, which today represents both history and future - not only the country's heritage but also its project to transform the port area into jewels, Dr. Gonzi said. It was the place from where they had left and where they were now being welcomed.

Dr. Gonzi, who had visited the child migrants' monument in Fremantle during his visit to Australia in 2007, augured that the memorial would also serve to open a new chapter that would see the child migrants find a place in the unfolding history of Malta in a globalised world.

Then Archbishop Paul Cremona said: "We sincerely regret what was negative in the experience and bind ourselves in solidarity."

At the unveiling ceremony Prof David Plowman, a child migrant himself said that the child migration scheme had been based on good intentions, and many benefitted from it, however, for others the psychological scars also ran deep. The monument would not change the past but served as a lesson and showed that the government acknowledged what the child migrants had experienced.

Prof. Plowman, one of four child migrants present at that ceremony said they wanted closure - not litigation or compensation - and thanked the government for facilitating this in such an evocative way.



The child migrants' monument in Fremantle, in Western Australia

Sir Edmund Barton

- Australia's first Prime Minister

(1st January 1901 to 24 September 1903)

There are several Prime Ministers that are often cited in the history of Australian federal politics, some due to the length of time they spent in the role (like Menzies), or due to the fundamental reforms they introduced (like Whitlam). One I do feel does not get enough attention is the first Prime Minister of Australia, Edmund Barton.

Researched by IvanCauchi

Sir Edmund Barton was born in Glebe, NSW in 1849, one of nine offspring of William Barton and Mary Louise Whydah, English immigrants that arrived in Australia in 1824.

He used to work as a lawyer before getting elected into the Legislative Assembly of NSW (the upper house of parliament in this state). He ended up as speaker of the same chamber, Attorney General, and Leader of the Opposition.

He married Jane Mason Ross in 1877 and together they had six children.

Barton was a delegate for NSW on the Australian Federal Convention in 1891, which was writing the constitution for the newly proposed Federation. This convention had started after that the NSW Premier, Sir Henry Parkes, during

a speech at Tenterfield, had asked for a national government and a single federal army.

When the convention's work was done, six of the then British colonies: New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Queensland, passed referenda held in the last two years of the previous 19th century to approve the Federation.¹

After the first group of referenda were passed, Barton was trusted enough to be appointed caretaker Prime Minister on 31st December



administer the territory.

Back to Edmund Barton, he had his work cut out for him trying to bring together these colonies that until then had separate systems: different laws, different tariffs, even different train gauges!

Choosing a flag

One of the tasks of the Barton's government was to choose a flag, a symbol of the new country. For this reason, a competition was held that received the participation of tens of thousands. There were five entries that were judged to be the winners, and a flag containing elements from each of these five was flown for the first time on 3 September 1901.

An important and controversial act was one to limit immigration for those who were not British citizens, the so-called White Australia policy. Apart from this restriction, it was clear that the intention was also the removal from the land of those considered coloured and alien.

These were primarily all Asians and non-whites, including indigenous people.

At the time, the mentality was that these were necessarily less advanced than whites in every way, including morally and intellectually.²

**Continued on page 7*



◀The Federation Pavilion in Sydney's Centennial Park, at the swearing-in of Australia's first government (1 Jan 1901)

Sir Edmund Barton - First Aussie PM

**Continued from page 6*

Perhaps the clearest example of just how much this policy was racist and arbitrary, was the power given to immigration officers to force non-European immigrants to sit for a 50-word dictation in any European language that the officer decided to choose, and a few years later this was changed to any prescribed language at all.

Probably it will not surprise you in the slightest to read that the success rate for this test was next to zero - that was in fact the intention.

It was only after the second world war, after that Barton had long left this life, that the Australian government began to think twice about this racist act, not due to having some king of moral epiphany, but from realising that this policy was not helping the country's economic development.

Back again to Barton, the new Federal Government used to meet in Melbourne, initially at Exhibition Building and then at the Victorian Parliament.

Amongst the other acts of parliament in Bartons' time, there were some that were deemed important, like the standards and conventions on how legislation should be written, another to



establish an auditor to oversee government expenditure, an act for customs and excise, a defence act, an act to establish a Federal election with votes for all British subjects being more than six months in Australia (and excluding aboriginals, Torres Strait Islanders, African and Asian immigrants) and finally the establishment of a High Court.

Two years and ten months after passing the latter law, Edmund Barton resigned as Prime Minister to be appointed one of the two founding members of the High Court. He re-

The First Commonwealth Parliament was opened by the Duke of York in the Exhibition Building, Melbourne, on 9 May, 1901.

mained judge there for sixteen years until he died on 7th January 1920 at Medlow Bath, in New South Wales.

1.<https://www.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/resources/federation>, retrieved 8th March 2022
2.<https://www.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/resources/white-australia-policy>, retrieved 12th March 2022

**In the next issue we will feature Sir John McEwen "Black Jack", who was one of the toughest and most able politicians Australia has ever had.*

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The Voice of the Maltese

Print & Digital magazine

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

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

Hard copy subscription is also available at a cost.

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



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Your letters/ L-ittri tagħkom ...

So glad for Malta and the LP

Paul Zammit from Brisbane, Qld writes:

Malta has spoken and its message is loud and clear. The clear mandate given Prime Minister Robert Abela with the biggest majority in 58 years – since Independence – is proof enough that the people want continuity and it supports the party's programme.

The way Robert Abela and his ministers governed during difficult times in the past two years, in particular, has shown that the Labour Party has the ministers that could solve most of the problems that life could throw at it.

The smallest among the 27 European Union member states managed, not only to stay above water but also that it has the answers and is much more equipped than the larger states that on the face of it may possess the potential to ride the waves.

The result itself of a strong mandate and a

The founders of MCLS

Charles N. Mifsud OAM MQR JP writes:

I like to correct something that was written on issue No. 271 (page 4) of *The Voice of the Maltese* that stated that Ms. Cynthia Villar "is a co-founder of two Maltese Community Language Schools". That is incorrect.

The founders of the Maltese Language School of NSW were the Maltese Community Council of NSW & the Maltese Cultural Association of NSW. They were both represented at the meeting called in December 1998 by the then NSW Minister for Education & Training, Hon. John Aquilina, by the late Sam Vella (MCC Treasurer) and Charles N. Mifsud (MCC & MCA President).

It was there that these two gentlemen committed the MCC and the MCA to donate \$1500 from each association to establish the Maltese Language School.

clearer majority and the party's third successive landslide victory, suggests that the Maltese electorate has rewarded Robert Abela and the Labour Party for its economic and social policies, which also includes its handling of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Labour Party's ability to regenerate itself after very serious problems since 2019, that hit it, including internal ones, it has to be said, seems to have helped decide the election as it remained close to the people.

I was also pleased to hear the Prime Minister promise that the greater the trust of the people, the more humble he will be.

This is a great service to the Maltese readers

Tony Cassar from St Albans, Victoria writes:

You never cease to amaze me. You are really doing a great service to the Maltese living abroad with the interesting features and the general information that you publish every fortnight without fail in each and every issue of *The Voice of the Maltese*.

Honestly, I never expected to read about the result of the recent general election in Malta in *The Voice* on the same day it was reported in the Maltese printed media. I only expected it in the news portals. I was even more satisfied that you managed to carry pictures of the celebrations.

You are definitely a very dedicated lot!

I also believe that congratulations are in order for the way the politicians and their supporters accepted the result and the immediacy with which they were announced.

Superior citizenship?

J. Cauchi from Sunshine Victoria writes:

I have noted with interest the valid comments made by Kevin Caruana from Birkirkara (VOM March 29) regarding my initial comments about superior citizenship. I am not against any Maltese citizens receiving assistance to vote in a general election. What I am against is that not all Maltese citizens are treated the same.

If it becomes necessary for you to seek employment elsewhere, being to EU countries, Canada, the USA or Australia, you have migrated.

Those living in EU countries already receive more attention than others when it comes to catholic care by Maltese priests, the teaching of the Maltese language etc. This could be because of distances, but the authorities must provide the same opportunities to all Maltese citizens wherever they are.



Dr Hugh McDermott MP State Member for Prospect

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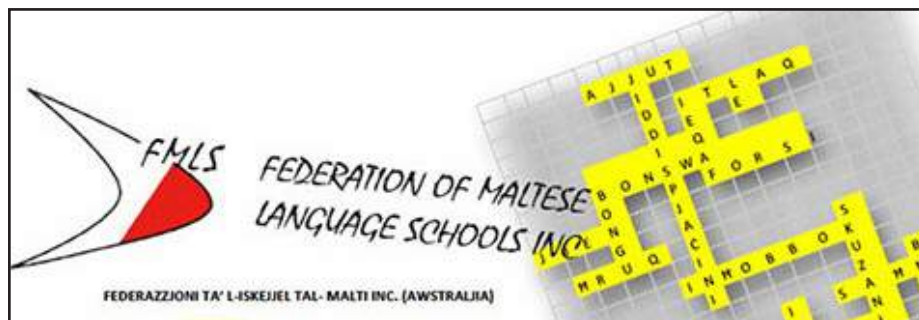
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– The University of Malta and the FMLS in Australia

Within two days the programme was fully subscribed, which is an indication that such a course was aspired by Maltese language teachers in Australia to assist them in teaching Maltese to second and third-generation Maltese. The Federation hopes that future projects by institutions in Malta will give

The following topics were covered:

- The Federation immensely expressed its appreciation for the financial support by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for this course to be held.



B'URGENZA

L-Ukrajna tinsab fi krizi kbira. Il-poplu għandu bżonn urgenti tal-għajnuna b'urgenza. Hafna nies qed jaharbu mill-vjolenza mingħajr xejn hlief il-ħwejjeg li kellihom fuqhom. Huma qed jiddependu fuqna. Aħna mhux se nabbadunawhom. Għinna nkompli ngħinuhom.



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Perspettiva

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

kitba ta'
**IVAN
 CAUCHI**



Tkaxkira wara l-oħra

Fuq xiex nista' nkun qed nirreferi b'titlu bhal dan, hlief għall-ahhar elezzjoni ġenerali f'Malta tal-ahhar ta' Marzu, fejn il-Partit Laburista (PL) reġa' rebah il-gvern b'magġoranza ta' 55.04% tal-voti, u bil-Partit Nazzjonalista jirbah 42.12%, differenza ta' 39474 vot?

Din hija t-tielet darba in fila li l-PL ġera bil-PN fl-elezzjoni ġenerali (fl-2017 ir-riżultat kien PL 54.83%, PN 43.34%, differenza ta' 35280 vot, u fl-2013 PL 54.83%, PN 43.34%, differenza ta' 35107 vot).

Għaliya dan ir-riżultat huwa straordinarju għal żewġ raġunijiet. L-ewwel hija kemm l-istatistika hija stabbli fil-qasma perċentwali tal-voti, fuq medda ta' kważi għaxar snin.

Dan ifisser li l-PL jidher li sab formula li qiegħda toghġob lill-poplu Malti, formula li meta thares lejha minn fuq xorta titqies li hija pożittiva, minkejja d-difetti li dehru u kienu jidwu madwar id-dinja għal hafna xhur.

It-tieni hi li l-elezzjonijiet li niftakar jien meta kont għadni f'-Malta u allura stajt nivvota, id-differenza fil-voti kienet tkun hafna inqas. Biex issib partit li għab iktar minn 52% tal-voti fl-ewwel għadd, trid tmur lura sal-1955 meta kien ukoll rebah il-PL (dakinhar il-MLP - Malta Labour Party) li kien għab 56.73%.

Iż-żewġ partiti l-kbar it-tnejn kellhom manifest elettorali pjuttost interessanti. Il-PL kellu l-vantaġġ li kien qed jikkuntesta meta diġà kien fil-poter, allura l-manifest tiegħu narah li kien iktar komprensiv u dettaljat, ġeneralment kontinwazzjoni loġika tal-politika li kien qed jimxi biha fil-gvern.

Fost il-hafna proġetti u riformi li ppropona l-PL u li issa wiehed jistenna li jitwettqu, li spikkaw għaliya kienu li t-trasport pubbliku jsir b'xejn għal ċittadini Maltin (415), deċiżjoni ta' twaqqif ta' bejgħ ta' karożzi tal-petrol u d-diżil sal-2034 (425), li l-pillola ta' kontraċezzjoni u tal-morning after tiġi b'xejn (509), inċentiv għall-imprizi li jkollhom iktar minn 40% fit-tmexxija eżekuttiva li jkunu nisa (658), u sptar ġenerali ġdid għal Ghawdex (733).¹

Il-PN ukoll kellhom idejat tajbin fl-fehma tiegħi. Waħda fundamentali li għoġbitni ferm kienet l-ewwel waħda, dik li l-ġid tal-pajjiż ma jitkejjilx biss mill-indikaturi ekonomiċi bħall-GDP (*Gross Domestic Product*), imma minn firxa ta' indikaturi oħra li jirrifletti l-benesseri tas-soċjetà u l-komunitajiet.²

Din kont tkellimt dwarha fl-edizzjoni numru 86 ta' *The Voice*. Proposta oħra tal-PN li għoġbitni kienet iż-żieda fil-kurrikulu edukattiv ta' tagħlim fuq kulturi differenti (521), intenzjonata li tnaqqas is-suspetti u mibgħeda lejn immigranti f'Malta minn kulturi differenti.

Wara li r-riżultat tal-elezzjoni kien ċar, proċess li ma dam xejn affattu, qrajt mallewwel xi kummenti li raġuni ewlenija għaliex il-PN qisu ma jistax isib favur fl-elettorat Malti kien in-nuqqas ta' għaqda fil-partit.

Huwa veru li l-firda ma ssawwabx fiduċja, u wkoll li l-firda hija reali u profonda wara t-mexxija qasira u kontroversjali għall-ahhar ta' Adrian Delia, imma jidher li raġuni ta' din id-differenza bejn il-partiti hija iktar fundamentali minn hekk.

Kif naraha jien, l-għeruq tad-differenza bejn il-partiti l-kbar giet meta kien elett Joseph Muscat bħala kap tal-partit Laburista, li kien ġenerazzjoni iżgħar mill-kap tal-ahhar amministrazzjoni għajjena tal-PN immexxija minn Lawrence Gonzi. Hemmhekk għandek żaġġuħ progressiv kontra anzjan konservattiv.

Malli nġhata ċ-ċans fl-2013, Muscat mexxa agenda soċjali progressiva li l-PN fil-bidu ma kienx lest għaliha, meta s-soċjetà Maltija kienet ilha li bdiet tohroġ minn taht il-mantell Kattoliku.

Għalkemm fl-ahhar mill-ahhar il-PN spiċċa vvota għad-divorzju u llum ma jażżardax ireġġa' lura l-hafna riformi li saru, per eżempju l-adozzjoni minn koppji tal-istess sess, huwa ċar li hemm elementi fi hdan il-PN li dawn ir-riformi ma jaċċettawhom qatt, u li għalihom il-qalb ta' *religio et patria* għadha thabbat bis-sahha ta' dejjem.

Anke llum, per eżempju, il-manifest tal-PL għandu sezzjoni shiħa fuq il-persuni LGBTIQ, filwaqt li dak tal-PN isemmihom darba biss direttament. Min huwa parti minn dik il-komunità jaf min jikkellm fuqu b'entuzjażmu, u min b'nofs qalb.

Ukoll il-PL kellu suċċess fit-tmexxija ekonomika tal-pajjiż, bi tkabbir ekonomiku li għal xi żmien kien ukoll fuq il-quċċata tal-pajjiżi tal-Unjoni Ewropea. Il-PN għamlu minn kollox biex jiehdu kreditu ta' dan ukoll, bl-għajta li l-PL kienu qed jibnu fuq is-sod li sabu, imma wara għaxar snin, nahseb li l-PL xi haġa tajba bilfors qiegħed jagħmel.

Biex ngħidilkom id-dritt, jien jidher li l-PN dan jagħrfu, anke jekk ma jammettix apertament. Hudu eżempju wiehed li spiss kien fl-ahbarijiet, l-iskema tal-ghotja ta' ċittadinanza wara investiment (*Individual Investor Programme - IIP*). Wara dak it-tgħajir kollu li dan huwa bejgħ ta' ċittadinanza, tgħajira li għadha ssir, il-PN fil-fatt ma pproponiex li jhassar din l-iskema, imma biss li l-investiment ikun attiv, fit-tul u f'xi settur ta' prijetà fil-pajjiż.

Bħala konklużjoni, irid jingħad li din l-ahhar rebħa u t-tkomplija ta' fiduċja tal-poplu fit-tmexxija Laburista m'għandhiex tittiehed li l-poplu kien kuntent bix-xibka ta' korruzzjoni li nkixfet fl-iktar livell għolja tal-amministrazzjoni f'dawn l-ahhar snin.

Jien nemmen li oppożizzjoni ma tirbax elezzjoni, imma gvern jitlifha meta jiżgarra bil-kbir u jahseb li ma jista' għalih hadd. Għalkemm ir-rebħa Laburista ta' din is-sena kienet kbira daqs ta' qabilha, kien hemm tnaqqis mhux mistenni fil-partecipazzjoni tal-elettorat, u dan affettwa lill-PN u l-PL kważi indaqs.

Dan, wara li jieqfu l-hornijiet u tispiċċa x-xampanja, għandu jservi ta' twissija.

Referenzi

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2. Viżjoni Għal Malta 2030; Partit Nazzjonalista



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Grazzi Varist!

L-elezzjoni generali f'Malta 2022 intemmet, kien hemm ir-rebbieha, izda m'hemmx dubju li Malta tilfet wiehed mill-aktar politiċi rrispettati u mahnuba meta Evarist Bartolo ma gietx elett. Seta' ġie mbutatt lura fil-Parlament izda dan il-veteran għazel li jirtira mill-politika.

Jekk xejn rebhet in-neputija tiegħu li qabel l-elezzjoni appellat lin-nies biex ma jivvutawlux halli jkollu iktar ħin xi jgħatta' jil-għab magħha. Kien ilu fil-Parlament mill-1992. Kien jiġi elett minn żewġ distretti, min-naħat ta' tas-Sliema u tal-Mellieha. "Kien jgħidli, jien Melliehi u nitlagħlhom minn tas-Sliema" Ahna mill-Awstralja niringrazzjawh tassew, għaliex kemm meta kien Ministru tal-Edukazzjoni (1996-98) u kemm meta dan l-aħħar serva bħala Ministru għall-Affarijiet Barranin u l-Ewropa, dejjem hadem b'herqa biex jagħti kull għajnuna kull meta tlabni. Kien dejjem effettiv, dirett u ġust fl-azzjonijiet tiegħu.

Evarist Bartolo żar l-Awstralja darbtejn, darba bħala gurnalista fl-1990 u darb'ohra bħala Ministru fl-2005 fi triqtu lejn konferenza f'Fiji. Għad għandu waħda minn uliedu tgħix fi, Brisbane, QLD. Kitbilna kemm il-darba artikli mirquma u es-

klussivi għal *The Voice of the Maltese*, u se nibqgħu nżommuh bħala kontributor għall-gejjieni.

Evarista Bartolo twieled il-Mellieha f'Ottubru 1952, wiehed minn sitt ahwa. Hu miżżewweġ lil Gillian (nee Sammut) u għandu żewġt ibniet, Katriene u Louisa. Studja fl-Universitajiet ta' Malta, Stanford u Cardiff u hu lettur fl-Università ta' Malta. Hu wkoll wiehed mill-iktar gurnalisti/kit-tieba ta' stoffa u ideologista ewlieni fi hdan il-PL.

Grazzi Varist tal-għajnuna kontinwa li tajt lill-komunità Maltija fl-Awstralja u tal-kontribut enormi lil pajjiżna bħala politiku ta' stoffa, onest u hassieb. Qatt ma jien se ninsa il-ħsiebijiet li tpoġġi kuljum fuq Facebook li dan l-aħħar għabt anke fi ktieb bl-isem ta' Sliem u Sahha.



LawrenceDimech



MLS in NSW: catering for different levels

The new co-ordinator of the Maltese Language School in NSW, Lisa Bright has contacted *The Voice of the Maltese* regarding the situation of this very popular school that has been established in 1999.

The Maltese Language School of NSW has embraced the online learning space and has welcomed over 80 students of all ages to learn the Maltese language in Term 1 of 2022. In addition to the language, students listen and share information and stories of the culture, lifestyle, cuisine, traditions, and the amazing history of the magnificent Mediterranean islands of Malta and Gozo.

Children and Adult online classes are offered, with children as young as six years

old enjoying learning the alphabet, numbers and popular Maltese words to begin their grasp of this beautiful language with fun and colourful classes.

There are a number of adult classes catering for different levels of where people may find themselves in understanding and speaking the language. Students engage in a range of techniques and activities to learn and practice skills in speaking, reading and writing Maltese.

Students have shared a variety of reasons as to why they seek to learn Maltese – 'I want to speak to my Nanna in Maltese', 'I am visiting Malta for the first time and would like to know more about it', 'I want to know more about my heritage and speak the language.'

Whatever the reason to learn the language, the online classes offered by the Maltese Language School of NSW are engaging and guided by teachers who are passionate and experienced in teaching the language and culture.

You might even be interested in becoming a teacher with the Maltese Language School of NSW. What a wonderful way to keep the Maltese language alive in a new generation of Australian-Maltese!

For all enquiries, visit the website <https://mccnsw.org.au/maltese-language-school/> or email mls@mccnsw.org.au.

School Administrator, Lisa, told *The Voice* she would be more than happy to answer any questions one may have. *Narak fil-klassi dalwaqt!*



Roundup of News About Malta



Photo: DOI - Clifton Fenech

Prime Minister Robert Abela presides over first Cabinet meet

Prime Minister Robert Abela held the first meeting of his new cabinet after the Labour Party landslide victory in the March 26th general election on Monday April 4 at his Office in Castille.

The new cabinet is made up of 18 ministers one more than his previous one, and four parliamentary secretaries, all new to the job that were appointed a few days earlier. By this week the cabinet could even grow by two further cabinet appointments as the Prime Minister intends to make two further cabinet appointments following last Thursday's casual elections, in which four more women won seats, and the new gender rebalancing mechanism

Deputy prime minister and Minister for

Ian Borg gets Foreign Affairs

Due to the previous Foreign and European Affairs Minister Evarist Bartolo losing his seat, the portfolio has been given to the former Infrastructure and Transport Minister, 36-years-old Ian Borg along with the responsibility for encouraging local exports through Trade Malta.

In his role, Ian Borg will also be in charge of Malta's bid for a non-permanent seat at the UN Security Council in 2023 - a bid that started some years back.

Health Chris Fearne, who was recovering from COVID-19, and Gozo Minister Clint Camilleri, who was unwell, were absent.

The Prime Minister said, We are driven and determined to carry out the work that Gozitan and Maltese people have entrusted us with."

Eleven ministers have retained their

The Robert Abela Cabinet in the current legislature is made up of:

Chris Fearne: Health Minister and deputy prime minister

Ian Borg: Foreign Affairs, EU Affairs and Trade Minister

Silvio Schembri: Economy, EU Funds and Lands Ministry

Aaron Farrugia: Infrastructure, Transport and Capital Projects Minister

Miriam Dalli: Energy, Environment and Enterprise Minister

Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi: Planning and Public Works Minister

Clint Camilleri: Gozo Minister

Byron Camilleri: Home Affairs, Reforms and Equality Minister

Owen Bonnici: Culture, National Heritage and Local Government Minister

Clyde Caruana: Finance and Employment Minister

Clifton Grima: Education, Sports, Research and Innovation Minister

Michael Falzon: Social Justice and Chil-

posts, but the Prime Minister changed some portfolios. All three women elected on the Labour ticket at the first go have been given posts, but there is no room for former ministers Edward Zammit Lewis, Michael Farrugia and Carmelo Abela, or junior ministers Alex Muscat, Chris Agius or Deo Debattista.

dren's Rights Minister

Julia Farrugia Portelli: Minister for Inclusion, Voluntary Organisations and Consumer Rights

Jonathan Attard: Justice Minister

Clayton Bartolo: Tourism Minister

Anton Refalo: Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights Minister

Roderick Galdes: Social Housing Minister

Jo-Etienne Abela: Active Ageing Minister

Parliamentary Secretaries

Alison Zerafa Civelli: Parliamentary secretary for local government

Keith Azzopardi Tanti: Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Research and Innovation

Andy Ellul: Parliamentary secretary for Social Dialogue within OPM

Chris Bonett: Parliamentary secretary for EU funds



Roundup of News About Malta



Pope Francis in his meeting with Fr Dionysius Mintoff at the Pope XXIII Peace Laboratory at Hal Far

Pope Francis describes Malta as “a laboratory for peace”

Pope Francis said that Malta represents the strength of small nations that have a great civilisation. During his weekly audience at the Paul VI Hall at the Vatican on Wednesday, which he dedicated to Malta, the Pope said Malta received the good news of the Gospel and Christian faith at an early stage thanks

to St Paul's shipwreck, as written in the Act of the Apostles.

He said the reason he chose the words, “*they welcomed us graciously*” for his apostolic visit to Malta was because the Maltese welcomed St Paul with open arms. He said Malta represents the strength of small nations that have a great civilisation.

He described Malta as “a wind rose where different colours and places meet”. The reason for this was that Malta is at a crucial point geographically for the arrival of immigrants.

Pope Francis mentioned several times the meeting he had with immigrants at the peace lab in Hal Far and said that one should never tire of listening to their experiences. He pointed out that immigrants are humans like everybody else. There aren't just a number, and reminded everyone that Europe was built through immigration.

The Pope paid a special tribute to Fr Dionysius Mintoff, a Franciscan

priest who at 91 looks after the peace lab. He said that with the opening of this place for immigrants, Fr Mintoff has created a human and Christian masterpiece. He described him as a fine example of the love that should be given to immigrants.

Pope Francis said he made the visit to Malta to keep strengthening the faith and communion of this nation and added that the arrival of St Paul on this island has borne fruit in the DNA of the Maltese. Referring to his visit to the Sanctuary of ta' Pinu in Gozo he said he could feel the love and faith the Maltese people have towards Santa Maria, and that this helps us to strengthen the flame of our faith.

Pope Francis had special praise for President George Vella and his family whom he described as very kind, Prime Minister Robert Abela and the authorities in the country as well as the Archbishop and Bishops of the archdiocese of Malta for welcoming him with great kindness.

Being free of divisions, hatred and confrontation: *that* could be Malta's greatest freedom

Addressing the Labour supporters that gathered at Birgu on the eve of March 31 to commemorate the 43rd Anniversary of Freedom Day, that also coincided with the celebrations of the Labour Party's win in the 2022 general elections Prime Minister Robert Abela said that the greatest freedom he wishes to see is one where we are free from politics of division, hatred and confrontation.

He promised that the faith that the people have shown in him would be translated into more work for future generations as well as for our forefathers who worked so hard for this nation.

Having already spoken about humility, he pointed out the importance of having a Labour Party that scrutinises what the Government does. He said that the greater the majority the more the Government needs to remain grounded.

Dr Abela said that the past took us through similar experiences to 100 years ago when the road to freedom had began. He said instead of resulting in the loss of thousands of jobs, the effects of a global crisis, has brought about the least number of unemployed in history.

He maintained that he would be working for Malta and Gozo to put

them first, “because the ‘we’ is greater than the ‘I’.

The activity ended with a wreath-laying ceremony at the Freedom Day monument as well as the lighting of the torch.

On Freedom Day itself, the celebrations were presided by the President of Malta HE George Vella who also laid a wreath at the Freedom monument.

New €16m Pharmaceutical investment

Amino Chemicals, a pharmaceutical company that was established in Malta more than 30 years ago, has carried a new €16 million investment by inaugurating the subsidiary facility A2W Pharma at the Marsa Industrial Estate to produce products related to medical cannabis.

This is an expansion to its operations to research and develop innovative products in the pharmaceutical and life sciences sectors. A2W Pharma is to produce Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) for this sector, as well as continue to develop innovative products based

on research and development.

At the inauguration, Minister for the Environment, Energy and Enterprise Miriam Dalli remarked how this specialised niche will lead to an important economic activity. She said that the pharmaceutical sector is a key enabler of growth for Malta's economy, as it provides quality careers and up skilling opportunities for more than a 1,100 people.

This multi-million investment includes capital investment in the company's infrastructure and machinery, laboratories and operations.

Fewer restrictions for travel to Malta

With effect from Monday, April 11, anyone arriving in Malta is not being requested to quarantine on arrival as long he is in possession of a vaccination certificate or a negative PCR carried out up to 72 hours before ar-

rival, or a negative Rapid Test carried out not later than 24 hours before arrival. They are allowed to enter Malta.

Persons can also carry a certificate of recovery from Covid-19 valid for not more than 180 days after the date of

the first result of their testing positive for Covid.

Children under the age of six arriving in Malta will not be quarantined on arrival if they do not have a vaccination certificate, a negative PCR test, a Rapid Test, or a certificate of recovery.

Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

Kif kien mistenni ...imma

Kif kien mistenni l-Partit Laburista rebaħ l-elezzjoni ġenerali u rebaħha b'maġġoranza kbira, għalkemm forsi hafna kienu sorpriżi għax ma stennewx li l-maġġoranza kienet se tkun daqshekk kbira.... akbar miż-żewġ elezzjonijiet ta' qabel.

Attwalment, f'jum l-elezzjoni, meta l-Kummissjoni Elettorali habbret li kienu ivvutaw biss madwar 40% tal-eletturi (għalkemm aktar tard il-figura giet ikkorreġuta għal 44%), b'diversi distretti fejn il-Partit Laburista hu l-aktar b'saħħtu, fost dawk li lanqas kienu vvutaw, kien hemm min haseb li l-Partit Laburista kien se jkollu għadma iebes biex jiġi elett għax id-diċerija kienet li dawk li ma hargux jivvutaw kienu propju dawk li jappoġġjaw lill-Partit Laburista.

Quddiem din l-isfida, il-Partit Laburista zied fit-telefonati, li s-soltu l-Partit politiċi jagħmlu, lil eletturi biex iħajjruhom jorhorgu jivvutaw... u jidher li din haċmet għax meta fi tmiem l-votazzjoni l-Kummissjoni Elettorali harghet il-figuri kollha, il-folja nqalbet u fost l-aktar distretti li ma vvutawx kien hemm dawk li s-soltu jivvutaw għall-Partit Nazzjonalista.

Biss il-mistoqsija baqgħet dwar ta' liema partit kienu dawk li ma għabrux il-vot jew li għabru u ma marrux jivvutaw? Sintendi ir-riżultat tal-elezzjoni biss seta' jagħti l-indikazzjoni.

Li kien żgur l-imbassar qabel l-elezzjoni sehh... l-għadd ta' dawk li ma vvutawx kien ferm kbir. F'din l-elezzjoni bejn dawk li lanqas biss għabru l-vot (14,473), dawk li nvalidaw il-vot (8,802) u dawk li semplici-ment ma marrux jivvutaw (36,000) fisser li madwar 60,000 persuna ma haċux sehem f'dan l-eżerċizzju demokratiku.

Sintendi, in-nuqqas fl-għadd ta' nies li ma



marrux jivvutaw, flimkien maż-żieda fl-għadd ta' dawk li, jew b'intenzjoni jew bi żball, (dawn tal-aħħar aktarx huma ftit għax fil-jiem tal-lum ma baqax daqshekk illiterati), li kien iddopju ta' dak tal-2017, kellu effett fuq ir-riżultat tal-elezzjoni.

Johrog' ċar li kien żbaljat min haseb li min ma hargħx jivvota kienu fil-maġġoranza dawk li jappoġġjaw lill-Partit Laburista. Dan minhabba li filwaqt li mxebbah mal-

elezzjoni ta' qabel, il-Partit Laburista għab madwar 8,000 vot inqas, u dak Nazzjonalista madwar 12,000 inqas.

Dan juri li l-maġġoranza li ma hargħx jivvutaw x'aktarx kienu jappoġġjaw lill-Partit Nazzjonalista. Allura mhux ta' b'xejn li l-Partit laburista għab maġġoranza daqshekk kbira.

Żgur li ż-żewġ partiti se jharsu sewwa lejn il-figuri ta' min ma marx jivvota (f'Malta l-partiti jkunu jafu min ma marx jivvota għax waqt il-votazzjoni l-partiti jkollhom ir-rappreżentanti tagħhom f'kull kamra tal-votazzjoni u jimmarkaw l-isem ta' min jivvota).. u jippruvaw jifhmu x'wassal biex dawn ma wżawx il-vot tagħhom.

Tajjeb ngħid li mxebbha ma' pajjizi oħra fejn il-votazzjoni mhix obligatorja, anke l-perċentwal ta' dawk li vvutaw fl-aħħar elezzjoni huwa ferm għola minn ta' whud minn dawn il-pajjizi. Hekk insibu li, fl-elezzjoni Presidenzjali tal-istati Uniti vvutaw biss 66%, fir-Renju Unit: 69%, fl-Italja 73%, u fi Franza 74%.

Għaliex ivvutaw inqas fl-elezzjoni

Sa minn żmien qabel l-elezzjoni kien qed Sjiġi mbassar li se jkun hemm għadd konsiderevoli ta' eletturi li ma jivvutawx. Il-partiti stess, li huma wkoll jagħmlu l-istħarriġ tagħhom, kienu jafu b'dan, tant li kienu jinsistu dwar il-htieġa li kulhadd jivvota għax kull vot jgħodd.

Hu veru li l-ghidut kien li l-PL kien qed jagħfas fuq in-nies tiegħu jivvutaw halli l-maġġoranza tkun dik mixtieqa, filwaqt li l-ghan ewlieni tal-PN (u dan kultant saħansitra sqarru ndirettament, il-Kap tal-partit, Bernard Grech) kien li jċekken kemm jista' d-differenza bejn iż-żewġ partiti.

Imm'issa li dak imbassar gie kkonfermat,

hafna, qed jistaqsu: Imma għaliex sehh dan? Hemm diversi teoriji għal dan, imma se nil-limita' ruhi għal xi whud.

Fejn jidhol il-Partit Laburista, ma jistax jonqos, li kif jiġri lil kull partit li jkun hemm fil-Gvern, min ikun stenna aktar mill-Gvern, kultant pjaċiri, kemm jekk mis-thoqqa u kemm jekk le, u meta ma jiksibx dan iddeċieda li ma jivvutax. Hemm ukoll dawk li forsi ġew influwenzati mill-allegat abbużi ta' korruzzjoni, il-qtil ta' Daphne Caruana Galizia, il-kwestjoni tal-ambjent u mitt haġ' oħra.

Fil-kamp Nazzjonalista jista' jkun li l-bidla tal-Kap wasslet min kien jappoġġjaw bi shih lill-kap ta' qabel, Adrian Delia, iddeċieda li ma jivvutax biex juru l-għadab għal din il-bidla.

Wiehej jista' jikkunsidra wkoll nuqqas ta' heġġa minn xi whud li hassew li bil-vot tagħhom u mingħajru l-partit tagħhom ma kienx se jirbah.

Fuq kollox aktarx li kien hemm hafna li qatghu qalbhom mill-politika u l-politiċi, u ddeċidew li jitbiegħdu mill-politika u ma jivvutawx.

Li huwa aktar qrib is-sewwa, li għadd kbir milli ma vvutawx, filwaqt li ma kienux kuntenti u komdi li jivvutaw għal dan il-partit, lanqas riedu jghinu lill-partit oppost, jew għax fil-qalb ta' qalbhom jappoġġjaw lill-partit tagħhom, jew għax kif għedit qatghu jishom mill-politika.

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Mix-xena tal-hajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri



X'wassal għal rebħa lill-PL?

Mhux se nipprova nwieġeb din il-mistoqsija b'xi dettal, mhux biss għax biex wiehed jagħti stampa shiħa jrid jagħmel studju fil-fond, għalkemm diġà kien hemm min għamel tentattiv biex wieġeb din il-mistoqsija.. kultant anke bi twegiba twila u dettaljata.

Li hu ċar hu li l-emfasi qawwija tal-Partit Nazzjonalista fuq il-koruzzjoni, l-abbużi, il-qtil ta' Caruana Galizia ma mpressjonawx daqshekk.

L-maġġoranza tal-poplu l-aktar li haresh kien lejn kif il-Gvern Laburista rnexxielu jiffaċċja l-kriżi tal-Covid-19, kif ikkontrolla lepidemija, u fl-għajnuniet ta' wassal biex ġew evitati s-sensji kaġun tal-Covid u intrapriżi żammew l-eluf kbar tal-

Il-Papa f'Malta

Mill-politika ndur għar-religjon. Mhux se nidhol fid-dettal taż-żjara. Dak jinsab f'paġni oħra. Nikkummenta biss dwar ir-reazzjoni ta' din iż-żjara li mhemmx dubju kienet ta' suċċess kemm minn kull lat, inkluż għall-frott li halliet.

F'kull kumment li għamel wara ż-żjara l-Papa emfasizza s-sodisfazzjon għal kif ġie milqugħ mill-poplu. Sahansitra sqarr: *"Meta kont Malta, stajt inhoss il-qalb tal-Maltin u l-Għawdxin tħabbat bil-ferħ"*.

Imma mhux kulhadd laqgħa hekk tajjeb iż-żjara ... l-aktar minhabba l-appelli tiegħu biex il-Maltin jilqgħu b'idejhom miftuħa lill-emigranti u ż-żjara tiegħu lill-emigranti fil-Laboratorju tal-Paċi. Dan intwera b'xi kummenti fil-midja soċjali b'kummenti bħal *'Take them with you to the Vatican'*.

Meta tkellem dwar l-emigranti l-Papa kien kawt hafna u għalkemm appella biex dawn jiġu milqugħa, fl-istess ħin sostna li dan il-piż kellu jinqasam ma pajjiżi oħra. Aktar tard il-Papa qal ċar u tond li, *"Ejja nimxu fuq l-eżempju tal-poplu Malti u nilqgħu lill-immigranti u nagħtuhom il-kenn li jixirqilhom."*

Sintendi dawn il-kummenti ma jirrapprezentawx il-fehma tal-maġġoranza tal-Maltin u l-Għawdxin, imma ta' minoranza li tista' tkun mdaqqs, l-aktar ta' daww li huma għal kollox kontra d-dhul tal-immigranti, speċjalment daww ta' kulur differenti.

Ma neskludix li fosthom hemm ukoll daww li ġenwinament huma mħassba dwar il-konsegwenzi li jista' jkollna jekk nifthu l-biben għal dawn il-barranin.

hadiema fix-xogħol, mhux bħal ma seħħ f'xi pajjiżi ġirien tagħna.

Anke l-gwerra tal-Ukranja, li wasslet biex fil-pajjiżi tal-madwar il-prezz tal-enerġija jogħla mas-smewwiet, f'Malta l-gvern issusidja biex żammu milli jogħla, għalkemm sintendi ftit li xejn seta' jsir biex jitrażżnu l-prezzijiet ta' prodotti oħra li jiġu minn barra.

Il-Gvern interviena billi ta dak imsejjah revużjoni tat-taxxa lil daww li jahdmu, kif ukoll ta għotja ta' bejn €100 u €200 lil daww kollha li jahdmu, min ihaddem, lill-pensjonanti jew li jirċievu xi għajnuma soċjali biex itaffilhom għall-prizzijiet.

Attwalment kien hemm ukoll minn akkuża lill-Gvern li permezz ta' dawn l-għotjiet il-Gvern kien qed jipprova jixtri l-vot tal-eletturi, imma kienu hafna li sostnew li l-Malti żgur mhux se "jbiegħ" il-vot b'daqshekk.

Aktarx li raġuni oħra li l-PL kiseb aktar voti minn dak Nazzjonalista, kienet il-kwestjoni tal-għaqda.

Filwaqt li matul u qabel il-kampanja elettorali l-PL kien jidher magħqud, minkejja dak li kien jgħid, il-kap nazzjonalista, l-impressjoni kienet li fost dan il-PN kien hemm il-firda, li nbdiel qabel u wara li ġie elett l-eks-kap, Delia u li komplet wara l-hatra ta' Grech.

Biex tagħqud propju fl-ewwel jum tal-kampanja elettorali erba' kandidati magħrufa Nazzjonalisti rtiraw il-kandidatura tagħhom.



Appell Għall-Għaqda

F'għeluq it-tliet snin minn meta ha l-gurament bħala President ta' Malta, George Vella tkellem dwar is-snin kemm ilu jockupa din il-kariga, bl-intenzjoni aħharja tiegħu, kif qal hu stess, li jahdem biex kulhadd ikun jista' jgħix hajja aħjar.

George Vella qal li sa mill-ewwel jum tiegħu f'din il-kariga emfasizza fdwar il-ġtiegħa tal-għaqda nazzjonali... tema li għandha tibda titkattar fit-tfal tagħna sa minn età ċkejna fl-iskejjel.

F'messaġġ lin-nazzjon il-President stqarr li dawn kienu tliet snin ikkarratterizzati mill-pandemija tal-Covid kif ukoll f'dawn l-aħhar ġimghat mill-gwerra fl-Ukrajna, l-Elezzjoni Generali u ż-żjara tal-Papa.

Dwar iż-żjara ta' Papa Frangisku, il-President George Vella qal li din kienet żjara li matulha tkellem dwar diversi suġġetti fosthom dwar ir-rigenerazzjoni spiritwali.

Ma naqasx ukoll li George Vella jid-deskrivi lill-Papa bħala persuna li għandu karattru helu hafna u li minkejja li saħħtu sejra lura xorta għamel minn kollox biex jiltaqa' u jittellem ma' kulhadd.



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A quick glimpse at Australia

Morrison calls federal election for 21st May



Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison (*left*) has called a federal election for 21 May. He announced the date after talks with the Governor General in the capital, Canberra.

Mr Morrison is the first leader to serve a full term in office since John Howard, who won four elections before losing to Labor's Kevin Rudd in 2007.

Since then, what observers call the "coup culture" of Australian politics has led to a series of short-lived premierships.

His ruling coalition holds 76 seats in the House of Representatives - the minimum needed to retain power.

Polls suggest there could be a change of government, with the Anthony Albanese's opposition Labor party, tipped to take office. However, in the last election, the centre-right Mr Morrison won despite most polls predicting otherwise.

The Australian budget for 2022-23

Federal Treasurer of Australia, Josh Frydenberg, has made an election pitch focused on the cost of living, jobs, and big picture investments in infrastructure and defence as he set the stage for an economic debate that will last until May federal election. Treasury predicts a strong economic outlook will see unemployment fall to its lowest levels since 1974. This was the Treasurer's fourth budget.

"A strong economy means a stronger budget," Josh Frydenberg said, boasting of the "largest and fastest improvement to the budget bottom line in over 70 years".

He went on to say: "By the end of the forward estimates, the budget is \$100 billion better off compared to last year. More people in work, fewer on welfare. Repairing the budget without increasing taxes." The one-off-payments include:

- * A \$420 cost of living tax offset for more than 10 million low-and-middle-income earners. It will be available from 1 July 2022 when people submit their 2021-22 tax returns. The government says it's a practical measure that will ease the cost of living pressures for 10 million Australians.

- * A \$250 cost of living payment will also be paid to eligible Australian pensioners, welfare recipients, veterans, and concession cardholders. It will be paid automatically to six million people at a cost of \$1.5 billion. More than half of those who will benefit are pensioners.

Net overseas migration to Australia is estimated to reach 180,000 in 2022-23 in the wake of being rocked by COVID-19 border closures.

The pandemic had seen these levels fall into the negative for the first time since after World War II. It will reach 180,000 in 2022-23 and 213,000 in 2023-24. Before the pandemic, net overseas migration had been around 190,000 people in 2019-20.

Already, Australia has the highest uptake of rooftop solar in the world. On the back of a damning royal commission, aged care received a record \$17.7 billion investment in last year's budget and will receive a further \$468.3 million in 2022-23 "to continue implementing the government's response to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety".



Federal Treasurer Josh Frydenberg

Council on the Ageing (COTA) Australia, the peak advocacy body for older Australians, said tonight's budget will help the hip pocket and aged care, but more accountability of providers' aged care spending is needed.

The Australian Aged Care Collaboration (AACC) has said there is nothing in the federal budget to improve aged care wages, which will leave their dedicated workers on the edge of poverty and many older Australians without the services they need.

Shadow treasurer Jim Chalmers said there was "nothing that ... makes up for a decade of attacks on wages, job security, and Medicare".

"Australians need a pay rise, not a patch job that leaves them \$26 a week worse off. Scott Morrison is only pretending to care about the costs of living because he has to call an election in the next fortnight, and he's running out of time."

The Labour leader, Anthony Albanese has pledged \$2.5 billion over four years towards "fixing" the aged care sector if Labor wins the upcoming federal election in his budget reply speech. He said his party plans to put security, dignity, quality, and humanity back into aged care.

"The PM an autocrat and a bully"

Hours after the federal budget was revealed, outgoing Liberal Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells, who lost pre-selection for her NSW upper house seat at the weekend, claimed that Mr Scott Morrison was "not fit to be Prime Minister".

"He is adept at running with the foxes and hunting with the hounds, lacking a moral compass and having no conscience," she told the Senate.

"In my public life, I have met ruthless people. Morrison tops the list, followed closely by (Immigration Minister Alex Hawke. Morrison is not fit to be Prime Minister, and Hawke certainly is not fit to be a minister". She went on to say, "Morrison is not inter-



Concetta Fierravanti-Wells

ested in rules-based order. It is his way or the highway - an autocrat, a bully who has no moral compass."

Two other senators, Jacqui Lambie and Pauline Hanson made similar claims against the Prime Minister in the Senate.

NSW Liberal, member of the NSW Upper House Catherine Cusack added her voice to criticism of the PM by condemning his recent handling of the flood relief effort.

However, Mr Morrison said attracting criticism is simply part of the territory in the top job. You've got to have a thick skin and you've got to be able to focus on the things that matter most to Australians.



A quick glimpse at Australia



Million people out of poverty

The next Australian government could help lift a million people out of poverty by implementing several simple and affordable changes to the tax and welfare system, according to modelling released by the St Vincent de Paul Society.

These strategies, analysed in a new report, A Fairer Tax and Welfare System, by the Australian National

University (ANU) Centre for Social Research and Methods, would only marginally affect the most well off and have no net impact on the nation's budgetary position.

The report examines three options for helping families and individuals at risk of deep poverty and financial stress.

Increase Commonwealth Rent Assistance by 50 per cent.

The "low" option increases JobSeeker by \$150 per fortnight. The "medium" option increases JobSeeker, Disability Support and Carer Pensions by \$200 per fortnight, and increases the Parenting Payment (Single) to a new JobSeeker rate for single parents (\$886 per fortnight).

The "high" option increases JobSeeker by \$436 per fortnight, Disability Support and Carer Pensions by \$200 per fortnight, Parenting Payment to the new JobSeeker rate and Family Tax Benefit Part A by 20 per cent (\$40 per fortnight for children under 13 years).

The Society strongly supports the 'high' option identified in the ANU report.

St Vincent de Paul Society will present its election policy papers to sitting MPs and the half Senate, as well as other candidates when they are announced.

Immunity concerns for Older Australians

GPs have asked older Australians who are yet to receive a COVID-19 booster to book one alongside their flu shot amid concern about dwindling immunity in the 1.8 million people who have not returned for a third dose.

More than 450,000 vaccinated Australians have very little protection against an Omicron infection after they received the AstraZeneca vaccine last year but did not have a booster.

People aged 65 and over, who received the bulk of AstraZeneca vaccines during the nation's roll-out last year, also became eligible for a free flu shot this week, which can be administered at the same appointment.

Non-Indigenous Australians aged 65 and over,



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 and over, residents of aged or disability care and people who are severely immunocompromised can also receive a second booster dose four months after their first.

Coalition has increased slightly from 33 to 34 per cent in the wake of the budget. But popular support for Labor has jumped from 35 to 38 per cent, even though voters strongly backed the \$8.6 billion help for households promised by the Coalition in last week's federal budget.

Support for the Greens rose from 10 to 11% since the last survey. Voters drifted away from Pauline Hanson's One Nation, which fell from 3 to 2%, Clive Palmer's United Australia fell from 4 to 3%.

Labor hit the front

Days away from the start of the official election campaign, Labor leader Anthony Albanese has overtaken Scott Morrison as preferred prime minister with a narrow lead of 37 to 36 per cent, according to an exclusive survey conducted for The Sydney Morning Herald by research company Resolve Strategic.

The survey found primary vote support for the

DST in Australia started on April 3

On Sunday, 3 April at 3 a.m. clocks were turned backward 1 hour to Sunday, 3 April at 2 a.m. local standard time for the start of Daylight Saving Time (DST).

Sunrise and sunset were about 1 hour earlier on 3 April than the day before. It is also called Fall Back and Winter Time. There was more light in the morning. This is only effective in some parts of Australia, namely, the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, South Australia, Victoria, Tasmania and the Norfolk Island (introduced in 2019)

Not all use DST. Northern and western parts of Australia do not use it, so the clocks will not change in Queensland, the Northern Territory, or Western Australia.



Michelle Rowland MP

Shadow Minister for Communications
Federal Member for Greenway



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World War II diary: 12th April 1942: **Grand Harbour – “Nothing Left to Bomb”**

The War Diary of the Mediterranean Fleet on this day (12th April) 1942 reported that there were no primary targets left in Grand Harbour for the enemy to bomb according to maltagc70. In the Dockyard only underground workshops could operate normally. All the docks had been damaged, while electricity supplies, and telephone lines were largely put out of action.

Two ships in Grand Harbour were hit by enemy bombs and set on fire. They were cruiser *HMS Essex* and *SS Talabot*, one of the last two survivors of the recent convoy. The merchant ship had already been scuttled after being bombed on 26th March and her crew taken off.

The report stated that the final results of the recent convoy had been very disappointing: despite round the clock efforts by Army labour as well as Dockyard stevedores, only 1800 tons of sup-

plies had been saved from destruction – representing ten per cent of the total embarked for Malta two weeks earlier.

Nevertheless the ships still managed to deliver some of their cargo of bombs that were to be carried by RAF bombers to unleash over the German air base at Trapani.

Having failed to destroy *Talabot* and *Pampas* before they reached Grand Harbour, Luftwaffe pilots had been told they “must be sunk, no matter what the cost” – a stark reference to the recent losses of German air crews and aircraft to Malta’s fighters and heavy defensive fire.

The ship *SS Talabot* hit by enemy fire at Grand Harbour



ANZAC Day on April 25

On April 25, Australia and New Zealand will commemorate ANZAC Day, but when it comes to Malta, due to the ongoing pandemic, instead of the traditional memorial at the Pieta Military Cemetery, the Australian High Commission and the New Zealand Honorary Consulate Malta, would be holding a short, private wreath-laying ceremony that they will record and post on social media at [@AusHCMalta](#) and [@NZinMalta](#) later that day. They are inviting everyone to view it whenever convenient. There are 302 ANZACs buried in Malta during the First World War, 170 members of the Australian Imperial Force and 61 members of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force are buried in Pieta.

On the request of the Australian High Commission and the New Zealand Honorary Consulate the CWGC at Pieta Military Cemetery is to open the cemetery gates on Triq id-Duluri between 10.00am and 12 noon, on 25 April, and anybody wanting to visit or lay a wreath can do so during that time.

Maltese Choir entertains Cumberland Seniors at the Seniors Festival!

The ever-popular MCA Choir which falls under the Maltese Cultural Association of NSW has been participating over many years and in many events run by Cumberland Council and this year was no exception! The MCA Choir answered the call for performers to entertain the senior members of the Cumberland area during the Seniors Week activities.

Cumberland Council invited its seniors to two “Seniors Morning Tea” events which included a lovely brunch and lots of entertainment by professionals and amateurs alike! The MC and professional entertainer Brian Lorenz kept the seniors entertained with his great vocals and ability to engage the seniors to participate by singing and dancing!

The MCA Choir kept the seniors well and truly active by involving them in singing and dancing to many popular old tunes as they took them on a journey down memory lane.

A great time was had by all who took part and attended this lovely morning of entertainment, fun, and friendship.

A big thank you to Cumberland Council’s team from the Disability & Food Services area, Jaqueline Andres and Tennille Bush for such a well organised and enjoyable day, and the amazing staff at the Holroyd Centre for ensuring the smooth running of the event and professional service.

The MCA Choir always enjoy their participation at community events and brings a lot of joy to their audiences, especially to those who may be isolated and in Aged Care as well as participating in cultural events and festivals.

(Report: MarisaPREVITERA

Picture: PatrickBARTOLO OAM)



Entużjażmu u merħba mill-isbah lill-Papa Frangisku f'Għawdex

Mill-Gżira Għawdxija

Charles Spiteri



Folol honqu t-toroq mill-Imgarr sas-Santwarju ta' Pinu, l-aktar fit-triq ewlenija tal-belt Victoria (fuq, u ż-żgħażaġ tax-Xewkija taht) biex taw merħba kbira u entużjażmanti lill-Papa Frangisku, 32 sena wara l-ewwel żjara Papali f'Għawdex

Fl-ewwel jum taż-żjara Apostolika tiegħu fil-Gżejjer Maltin, il-Papa Frangisku għamel wasla sa Għawdex fejn kellu laqgħa mill-aktar entużjażmanti u merħba mill-isbah sa mill-mument li feġġ fil-Port tal-Imgarr abbord il-katamaran Maria Dolores.

Huwa ġie milqugħ mill-banda San Ġużepp ta' Għajnsielem, imbagħad fi triqtu lejn is-Santwarju tal-Madonna ta' Pinu, għadd kbir ta' Għawdxin skjeraw ruhhom fit-toroq imżenjin għall-okkażjoni bi bnadar u bandalori.

Spikkat fost kollox il-merħba li tawh iż-żgħażaġ tal-parroċċa tax-Xewkija b'banner bil-kelmiet: "*Santo Padre ci benedica. Adolescenti e giovani Xewkija*" Xewkija Parish Teens and Youths huwa grupp ta' żgħażaġ bejn it-12 u s-17-il sena li jiehdu sehem f'diversi inizjattivi reliġjużi u ta' volontarjat.

Qabel mexxa ċ-ċelebrazzjoni ta' talb fuq iż-żuntier tas-Santwarju, il-Papa Frangisku daħal fil-Kappella tal-Madonna Ta' Pinu għal mument ta' talb u wara li offra lill-Vergni Marija Warda tad-Deheb, iltaqa' mal-morda u persuni b'diżabilità miġbura fis-Santwarju.

Qabel it-tluq tal-Papa Frangisku mill-gżejjer Maltin, l-Isqof ta' Għawdex Anton Teuma ppreżenta lill-Qdusija Tiegħu kopja tal-ktieb b'siltiet mill-Enċiklika "*Fratelli tutti*" miktub u mpingi bl-idejn mill-istudenti Għawdxin tal-iskejjel tal-knisja u dawk tal-istat.

Din il-paġna hi ddedikata lil din iż-żjara ta' Papa Frangisku fil-gżira Għawdxija.



'Ilkoll Ahwa'

Bi thejjija għall-miġja tal-Papa Frangisku f'Għawdex, minn ġimghat qabel studenti minn skejjel tal-Istat u tal-Knisja ġew mistiedna jesprimu ruhhom b'mod artistiku dwar it-tema "*Ilkoll Ahwa'*"

permezz ta' tpingijiet, filmati, żfin, *collages*, intervisti, kitbiet, poeżiji u mudelli maħduma bl-idejn.

L-espressjonijiet artistici "*Fratelli Tutti*" ġew ipprezentati minn Dun Joseph Bajada, Delegat tal-Isqof għal Pastoral fl-iskejjel lill-Isqof Anton Teuma waqt laqgħa mal-kapijiet, assistenti kapijiet u studenti tal-21 skola f'Għawdex, fis-Sala tas-Seminarju Maġġuri. Kull skola Għawdxija hadmet fuq tema waħda li tinsab fl-enċiklika tal-Papa.

Wara, fl-ajruport Internazzjonali ta' Malta, qabel il-Papa halla Malta, l-Isqof t'Għawdex ipprezentalu dan ix-xogħol.

FUQ: It-tfal preżenti għaċ-ċerimonja li saret fis-Seminarju f'Victoria. Inset, il-preżentazzjoni tax-xogħol lill-Isqof Anton Teuma



Tfal herqana jisten-new biex jilqgħu lill-Papa Frangisku



Need help to maintain your independence?



The Maltese Welfare NSW is resuming its information sessions.

It has been a very hard time for us all, especially our elderly. We know that many Maltese elderly need help to maintain their independence with living in their homes.

Please note that we have moved our usual time from evening to morning time, to make it easier for elderly people to attend.

In our community, we have the Australian Government-Aged Care System that is designed to help as many as possible.

Are you wondering if you can get some help with day-to-day tasks around the house? Maybe you need some respite care while your family or carer is away?

There are many services that can help you maintain a good quality of life as you get older.

As you get older, living independently in your own home can become more difficult. If you're finding it harder to do the things you used to, you can ask for some help.

Eligibility is based on factors like your health, how you're managing at home, and any support you currently receive. You may be eligible for aged care services if you have:

- noticed a change in what you can do or remember
- been diagnosed with a medical condition or reduced mobility
- experienced a change in family care arrangements
- experienced a recent fall or hospital admission
- are **65 years or older**.

Maltese Welfare will be holding an information morning on Aged Care System on Thursday 28th April 10.00am at St George Precast Centre OLQP Church, Greystanes.

Please help us to inform and encourage our Maltese Elderly to attend. If you have elderly parents, come along and find out what steps are needed to help them.

*By Nathalie Gatt
President Maltese Welfare NSW (Inc)*

Socialising again at the MCC centre

After for more than 18 months, the Men's Group got together again at the MCC Centre at Franklin Street Parramatta West for their few hours of reminiscing, small talk and socialising.

The group under the care of the MCC of NSW has been going on for a number of years but due to Covid-19 restrictions was unable to meet until recently.

The group meets every last Tuesday of the month from 10 am to 12noon. Anybody interested in meeting old friends and socialising with people of one's own ilk, should contact Fred Carabott on 02 9863 2550.

Pictured (from left): George Ellul, Charles Agius, Edwin Agius, Emm Mejlak, Joe Busuttill, Ernest Attard, Fred Carabott, Joe Zerafa, Victor Fenech, Bill Schembri, Nick Scicluna, and Sam Farrugia.

Fr Joseph Gambin Golden Jubilee



Rev. Canon Joseph Gambin PE will be celebrating his Golden Jubilee in Horsley Park on Sunday May 22.

Everybody is invited to join in the celebrations beginning with solemn mass at 10am followed with a three-course luncheon incl. beer, wine, soft drinks, tea and coffee at Mandavilla Centre.

Price at \$75pp. For further information and bookings contact Theresa 0402178781 or Josephine 0402040954

ADVERTISEMENT

L-Għid it-Tajjeb! Happy Easter!

Mill-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni Chris Minns u l-Membri Parlamentari tal-Partit Laburista NSW (NSW Labor), Nawguraw lilkom u lill-familja tiegħek l-Għid it-Tajjeb!

From Opposition Leader Chris Minns and NSW Labor Party MPs, We wish you and your family a Happy Easter!"



Chris Minns MP
NSW Labor Leader, Member for Kogarah, P 9587 9684



Steve Kamper MP
Member for Rockdale, Shadow Minister for Multiculturalism, P 9597 1414

Labor



Mark Buttigieg MLC
Member of the Legislative Council
P 9230 2822



Hugh McDermott MP
Member for Prospect
P 9756 4766



Stephen Bali MP
Member for Blacktown
P 9671 5222



Edmond Atalla MP
Member for Mount Druitt
P 9625 6770



Julia Finn MP
Member for Granville
9637 1656



Sophie Cotsis MP
Member for Canterbury
P 9718 1234



Greg Warren MP
Member for Campbelltown
P 4625 3344



Guy Zangari MP
Member for Fairfield
P 9726 9323

Authorised by Chris Minns, Steve Kamper, Mark Buttigieg, Hugh McDermott, Stephen Bali, Edmond Atalla, Julia Finn, Sophie Cotsis, Greg Warren, Guy Zangari. Funded using Parliamentary Entitlements.



They all read *The Voice*

The readership of *The Voice of the Maltese* keeps spreading all over the State of Victoria. We have recently also registered an even bigger increase in subscriptions.

This picture was taken at a Bingo session of the Newport Association Seniors Group on a Wednesday at the *Centru Malti* in Parkville after they attended Holy Mass at the MSSP's St Paul's Chapel next to the MCC Centre.



Sheldon Riley to represent Australia's Eurovision 2022

Sydney-based singer Sheldon Riley has been selected to represent Australia in the forthcoming Eurovision Song Contest that is set to take place in the Italian city of Turin between May 10 and 14.

The singer, 22, was selected following a performance at the Eurovision: Australia Decides 2022 event. His performance of his song 'Not The Same' narrowly beat out Perth metal band Voyager, receiving 100 votes to Voyager's 97. Watch Riley's performance of 'Not The Same'.

The competition, featured 11 performers and groups singing their entries before a large crowd at the Gold Coast Convention.

Riley is no stranger to singing competitions, having previously been a contestant on shows such as The Voice Australia and America's Got Talent.

Maltese Seniors Social Welfare Day Groups

Llandilo Maltese Seniors

Meets on the first Wednesday of each month at the Llandilo Community Hall, 257 Seventh Avenue, Llandilo 11am to 1.00 pm. Group holds regular Information Sessions/Workshops & Bus Trips. Group Leader: Helen Azzopardi

Merrylands Social Maltese Seniors

Meets every second Friday of the month Miller Room, Memorial Avenue Merrylands from 10.30am to 12.30 pm.

Group Leader: Salvina Falzon.

Fairfield Active Maltese Seniors

Meets on the last Tuesday of the Month. Group meets in St Theresa's Parish Hall, cnr of Stella Street & The Boulevard, Fairfield Heights from 10 am to 12 noon.

Group Leader: Dorothy Gatt.

Maltese of Bankstown

Group meets 3rd Wednesday of month in the Bankstown CBD area. Every other 3rd Thursday an outing. Enquiries call: Sam Galea 0410 269 519.

Daceyville Maltese Seniors

Meets the last Wednesday of the month in Meeting Room One, No. 3 General Bridges Crescent, Daceyville.

Note: The Groups also arrange regular Bus Trips. Join us and make new friends. Group Leader: Doris Scicluna.

The Sutherland & St George Maltese Group

Meets First Wednesday of the Month from 10:00am-1:00pm. Meetings/Get Togethers are interesting, informative & entertaining, so come join us and make new friends. For more information contact our Coordinator: Charles Mifsud JP Phone (mb 0421 662 298).

Greystanes Maltese Seniors

Meets on the second Monday of each month at the George Preca Parish Centre Our Lady Queen of Peace (OLQP) Church, 198 Old Prospect Road, Greystanes from 10 am to 12 noon.

Group holds regular Information Sessions/Workshops & Bus Trips. Group Leader: Frances Montesin.

Men's Group

Meets every last Tuesday of the month at the MCC Centre at 59b Franklin Street Parramatta West (next to the Primary School), from 10 to 12 noon. Discussion, information and renew friendship.


Pastizzi, Kinnie etc. available. Contact Fred or Laurie 9631 9295.

****(All Groups are coordinated by The Maltese Community Council of NSW) with a sponsorship from Multicultural NSW.***

Please contact the MCC Welfare Officer: Marisa Previtera JP on 0414 863 123.

The MCC offices are at 59b Franklin Street (Cnr Young St) Parramatta West NSW (next to West Parramatta Primary School).

Community News




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PROGRAM FOR THE MALTESE

SUNDAYS AT 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
AN HOUR FILLED WITH NEWS AND INFORMATION



MALTESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL OF NSW

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

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

Applications are also welcome for paid positions from people to
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call 0419 418 547. Email: mls@mccnsw.org.au





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

Easter activities to be held at the Main Hall of LVSC

THURSDAY 14/4 @ 6pm: Holy Thursday Mass with washing of feet (Fr Tarcisio - in Maltese); **FRIDAY 15/4 @ 3pm:** Good Friday function (Fr Eli - in English); **SATURDAY 16/4 @ 6pm:** Blessing

of the Pascal Candle and Water, then mass (Fr Tarcisio - in Maltese); **SUNDAY 17/4 @ 10am:** Easter Sunday Mass including procession with the Risen Christ (Fr Eli - in English).

St Nicholas Festa Committee Plumpton -NSW

Events for 2022

Sunday March 13: Fete
Sunday July 10: Imnarja
Sunday, October 16: Fete
Sat. Nov. 19: Dinner Dance
Sunday December 4: Festa

Tune in to Radio and Television

SBS RADIO: 97.7 FM Tuesdays 12:00pm; Friday 12:00pm. Listen on Digital Radio or Live Streaming on www.sbs.com.au/radio/ or on TV Channel 38.

On Demand and podcasts on www.sbs.com.au/maltese

SBS TV: Channel 32 (Viceland). Sundays 8:00am; Thursdays 8:00am L-AHBARIJET latest news bulletins direct from PBS Malta.

VICTORIA

3ZZZ 92.3FM: Mondays 5-6pm, Fridays 5-6pm and Saturdays 10-11am. Presenters: Paul Vella, Mario Sammut, Liz Phillips. Listen live on www.3zzz.com.au

98.9 North West FM: Mondays 7-8pm and Fridays 6-7pm. Maltese Program. Presenter: Emmanuel Brincat.



Listen live on www.northwestfm.org/ethnic-radio/

97.9 FM Melton: Tuesday 6.00pm to 8.00pm Maltese Program. Presenter: Miriam Vella. Live streaming on www.979fm.com.au

NSW

2GLF FM 89.3 Maltese Voices with Marthese Caruana: Sundays 10:00 am to 11:00am. One hour of Maltese talent, songs from Maltese artists.

2GLF FM 89.3 Maltese Community Council programme: Sundays 11.00am to 12:00pm. News from Malta, music, information, culture, interviews, community notices and topics of interest. Listen live on

www.893fm.com.au or On Demand on www.893fm.com.au/on-demand/
WOW-FM 100.7: Tuesdays 6pm to 9pm. Maltese program with Joe Borg and Michael Mallia. Listen live on www.wowfm1007.com.au

VOX FM 106.9: Mondays 5pm to 6pm. Voice of Valletta – Illawarra Maltese program presented by Louis Parnis. Live streaming on www.voxfm.org.au

QUEENSLAND

4EB FM 98.1: Tuesdays 6:00am to 8:00am; Presenter: Lucy Stewart. Music, news from Malta, topics of interest, song requests, community announcements. Live streaming on www.4eb.org.au or On Demand on www.4eb.org.au/shows/program-bill-multi-global-maltese/

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

5EBI FM 103.1: Maltese Community Radio Program from Adelaide. Sunday: 7.00am; Monday: 8.00am; Monday: 6.00pm. Presenters: Bernadette Buhagiar and Ron Borg. Listen live or On Demand on www.5ebi.com.au



Boxer Alana Portelli to represent Australia in World Boxing C'ships

Alana Portelli (*right*), the 20-year-old boxer of Maltese descent, will be representing Australia in the World Women's Boxing Championships in Turkey, in May. She earned her chance after five years of hard work and training regime that culminated in her winning the Australian Nationals in March in Melbourne.

Alana, a Dental Technician whose parents are Australian born Maltese, is dedicated to her work and loves her boxing.

She attended the Maltese Language School and also took part in the *Cittadini Theatrical Group*, which her grandmother, Monica Ledger, encouraged her to do.

Alana's parents, who were married at Mosta Church in Malta, and have taken several family holidays there with their children, are supporting her right through to the World Championships. Therefore, like *The Voice* and our readers, they wish her all the very best in Turkey.



International friendlies - back-to-back victories

Malta registered back-to-back friendly international football victories by defeating Kuwait at the National 2-0 with second half goals from by Alex Satariano and Teddy Teuma. Four days earlier Malta had beat Azerbaijan 1-0.

Home defeat for the ladies

Malta's national women's team faced Denmark in their 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup qualifier at the Centenary Stadium, and in the end went down fighting in a 2-0 defeat, with both goals getting scored in the first half. Malta had lost the reverse side in Viborg 7-0.

Double for Bormla in Freedom Day Regatta

Bormla completed the double in this year's Freedom Day Regatta. They topped both the Open and the 'B' category at the annual event at the Valletta Grand Harbour. They won the Shield with 64 points. Birgu were second with 38 points. They won TB Category with 76 points, 34 ahead of Birgu.

Eagles record first league win

With their Round 2 match washed out and a bye in Round 3, Parramatta FC recorded their first league win of the season by defeating Camden Tigers FC 4-2 in their Round 4 match at Rydalmere Park.

Matthew Joseph scored for the Eagles (five mins). Camden levelled in the first half.

Camden took a 2-1 lead (63rd min) but had keeper sent off for a professional foul. Substitute Adam Sayour scored a brace (80th, 83rd) for the Eagles and Thomas Todd netted a fourth (90th) for a 4-2 win.

Weather conditions caused the postponement of the match at Prospect United SC.

Sliema relegated; Hibs maintain two-point lead

Sliema Wanderers suffered a 1-3 loss against Valletta in the Playout Round of the Premier League and were relegated for the second time since 1982/83. Balzan are in deep trouble after two losses and could join them if they don't improve as they are now three points behind the nearest team above them, Sta. Lucia. Meanwhile, Hibernians and Floriana are yet to register a win after two rounds of the Top 6 phase. However, Hibs maintain a two-point lead over Floriana after the top teams' direct clash on Saturday ended scoreless.

Both teams had lost their opening matches, Floriana against Gżira (1-0) and Hibernians against Hamrun (2-1). With three matches to go, the Paolites have 48 points. Birkirkara, Hamrun and Gżira battle it out for a top four finish and a place in a European competition.

RESULTS

| Top 6 Round | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Hibernians v Floriana | 0-0 |
| Gudja v Hamrun | 1-0 |
| Birkirkara v Gżira | 1-1 |
| Hamrun v Hibernians | 2-1 |
| Gżira v Floriana | 1-0 |
| Birkirkara v Gudja | 3-0 |

| Playout Round | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Valletta v Sirens v | 3-0 |
| Sta Lucia v Balzan | 3-0 |
| Sliema W. v Mosta | 1-0 |
| Sta Lucia v Sirens | 2-2 |
| Mosta v Balzan | 3-2 |
| Valletta v Sliema | 3-1 |

Dream date awaits Socceroos ... if

Should Australia qualify to the World Cup football finals in Qatar in June they will face a dream opening date as they face defending champions France in Group D. Others drawn in Group D are Tunisia and Denmark.

Incidentally the Socceroos also drew France and Denmark in the 2018 group stage in Russia. In the previous competition, Australia lost narrowly to France in Kazan, drew with Denmark and then lost their final group match to Peru.

To be in Qatar in November this time they will first have to qualify through the inter-continental play-offs. First, they have to beat

the United Arab Emirates, the other third-best Asian qualifier, in a one-off tie in Doha in early June. If they win that match, they will need to overcome Peru, their conqueror in Sochi four years ago, in a final playoff a week later in the Qatari capital.

Only one from Australia, United Arab Emirates and Peru can secure a place in the tournament. One of them will head to the finals via the playoffs in June.

The draw for the World Cup finals took place at a televised ceremony in Doha. The tournament will kick off on November 21 with hosts Qatar playing Ecuador. The first time that soccer's top prize will be competed for in the Middle East will run until December 18.



FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar 2022 final draw

GROUP A
Qatar, Ecuador, Senegal, Netherlands
GROUP B
England, IR Iran, USA, Euro play-off
GROUP C
Argentina, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, Poland
GROUP D
France, IC Play-off 1, Denmark, Tunisia

GROUP E
Spain, IC Play-off 2, Germany, Japan
GROUP F
Belgium, Canada, Morocco, Croatia
Group G
Brazil, Serbia, Switzerland, Cameroon
GROUP H
Portugal, Ghana, Uruguay, Korea Rep.