




The Voice of the Maltese

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(We are for the Greater Malta)

**A fortnightly print
and digital magazine**



As with Christians all over the world, the Maltese islands recently commemorated the resurrection, the belief that three days after he died on the cross, on Easter Sunday, Jesus came back to life. This year it coincided with the first time since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak that processions could be held as per pre-pandemic days with statues of the Risen Christ across the islands including the one pictured in Fontana, Gozo.

(See page 19)

Photo Charles Spiteri

Election time in Australia

– Democracy on show

It is that time once again. After a general election in our home country of Malta that went like clockwork, a federal general election has been called in Australia for the 21st May 2022. It means that all eligible citizens in the States of Victoria, NSW, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania, and the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory will cast their vote.

Australia is the only nation to govern an entire continent. It is the earth's biggest island and in land size the sixth-largest country in the world. One can only imagine the logistical complications existing when organising such an election.

Australia's system of government is based on the liberal democratic tradition. The federal parliament is based on a popularly elected parliament with two chambers, the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Members of the House of Representatives seek re-election at least every three years or earlier if requested by the Prime Minister and approved by the Governor-General according to Section 28 of the Australian Constitution.

Each time there is a general election Senators are elected for a six-year period and in an ordinary general election, only half the senators face the voters.

The Federal scene

We note that for the coming federal election the number of seats has increased steadily from 111 for the first election to the current total of 227. The current federal government structure was established in 1901 by the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act, 1901.

Two groups have dominated politics in Australia: Labor and the Coalition, composed of the Liberal Party and the National Party (formerly the Country Party). Since the foundation of the Liberal Party in 1944, every government has been formed either by the Coalition or by the Labor Party.

Although the government has been a two-party system since 1955, Australians have consistently elected Senators from multiple parties.

In the 1955 election, one DLP candidate was elected (under the ALP-AC banner). Although the DLP ceased to be a force after Gough Whitlam took power in 1972, the Liberal Movement and its successor, the Australian Democrats, carved out their own niche. In the 1980s, the NDP briefly gained election, and in the 1990s, the Greens were

elected to the Senate.

By 2007, the Democrats' federal parliamentary representation had disappeared, while the Greens have emerged at the national level to take their place. The Nationals' representation has also steadily declined, with their percentage of the vote hitting new lows.

With the high-profile defection of Senator Julian McGauran to the Liberals in 2006, questions have been raised about the Nationals' viability, and proposals for a Liberal-National party merger have increased in strength. More recently, various smaller parties or micro parties are represented.

They will be challenged by the current opposition, the Labor Party, led by Anthony Albanese.

The Australian Greens, commonly known as The Greens, is a confederation of Green state and territory political parties in Australia. As of the 2019 federal election, the Greens are currently the third largest political party in Australia by vote.

The Leader of the party is Adam Bandt, and the party's co-deputy leaders are Larissa Waters and Nick McKim. The party was formed in 1992.



**Incumbent Prime Minister
Scott Morrison**



**Anthony Albanese
- leader of the
Opposition**

The United Australia Party, formerly known as Clive Palmer's United Australia Party and the Palmer United Party, is an Australian political party formed by mining billionaire magnate Clive Palmer in April 2013. It was deregistered by the Australian Electoral Commission in 2017, but revived and re-registered in 2018.

Pauline Lee Hanson is an Australian politician who is the founder and Leader of One Nation, a right-wing populist political party. Hanson has represented Queensland in the Australian Senate since 2016 Federal Election.

Of course, the main protagonists in this election will be the leaders of the major parties.

Anthony Norman Albanese (born 2nd March 1963) is an Australian politician serving as Leader of the Opposition and Leader of the Australian Labor Party (ALP) since 2019. He has been Member of Parliament (MP) for Grayndler since 1996.

Scott John Morrison is an Australian politician serving as the 30th and incumbent prime minister of Australia. He was born in Sydney (13th May 1968). He assumed office in August 2018 upon his election as Leader of the Liberal Party of Australia. He is Member for Cook (NSW)

The House of Representatives in Parliament House, Canberra



States and territories

All states and territories have fixed-term election dates, except for Tasmania. Their next election is also not yet fixed. A half-Senate election must be held by June 30, this year, so a House and Senate election has to be had by May 2022.

- **Victoria** – Saturday, November 26, 2022
- **New South Wales** – Saturday, March 25, 2023
- **Northern Territory** – Saturday, August 24, 2024
- **Australian Capital Territory** – Saturday, October 19, 2024
- **Queensland** – Saturday, October 26, 2024
- **Western Australia** – Saturday, March 8, 2025
- **Tasmania** – due around May 2025 – non-fixed-term

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

A history of hot cross buns, and other legal tidbits arising from Easter

by PaulSANT

A hot cross bun as known today is basically egg dough, some raisins, and glaze (optional), fashioned into a small bun, with a cross on top. Where did it come from? Why do we associate them with Easter?

A brief history

Volcanic ash in Herculaneum, Italy, dated at about 79AD, preserved two small loaves of bread that had a cross-like pattern carved into the top of each loaf. Historians have speculated whether this may be the oldest example of the famed Easter treat, the Hot Cross Bun.

Similar 'buns' have been traced back to ancient Egypt, associated with fertility festivals and the Egyptian moon goddess Isis, where a small cake had a hieroglyph of Ox Horns on its top. This tradition also spread to Ancient Greece.

The law about buns

In 1592, during Queen Elizabeth I's reign, the London Clerk of Markets issued a decree banning the baking of Hot Cross Buns on any day except Good Friday, Christmas Day, or for funerals.

The punishment, if caught baking Hot Cross Buns other than as provided for in the decree, was that you were forced to hand them over to the poor. The description of the Hot Cross Bun and the banning of its baking in the decree read as follows: "That no bakers, etc., at any time or times hereafter make, utter, or sell by retail, within or without their houses, unto any of the Queen's subject any spice cakes, buns, biscuits, or other spice bread (being bread out of size and not by law

allowed) except it be at burials, or on Friday before Easter, or at Christmas, upon pain or forfeiture of all such spiced bread to the poor..."

Superstitions & legends

Historically, buns baked on Good Friday were said to protect sailors from shipwrecks. There are also records of beliefs that Good Friday baked buns would protect your home from fire. Generally, hot cross buns are said to bring good luck.

If you are looking to establish a friendship or connection with someone, you might be able to get 12 months' friendship if you share a hot cross bun and say 'Half for you and half for me, between us two shall goodwill be.'

Intersection of eggs and religion

Consuming eggs was forbidden during the biblical calendar month of lent. After a month of denying any consumption of eggs, we rewarded ourselves with fanciful hot cross buns made from egg-dough, and hard-boiled eggs, which, for well-behaved children, were painted in pretty colours and patterns.

The mad dash to the shops on Holy Thursday

If you have ever ducked into the supermarket for milk, bread or wine on Maundy Thursday, or Easter Saturday, you have likely found yourself ducking and weaving through many people and shopping trollies, where it seems that one day the supermarket is closed on Good Friday causes mass panic, and everyone in the area attending the shop at the same time.

The Retail Trading Act 2008 prohibits many businesses from opening on 'restricted trading days' which include

Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Anzac Day (until 1pm), and Christmas Day.

Some restrictions apply to Boxing Day as well. Chemists, fruit and vegetable shops, petrol stations, and 'small shops' are allowed to be open and do not have to obtain an exemption.

Businesses can obtain an exemption to be allowed to operate, however the idea behind the restrictions on trading are for employees have the opportunity to spend time with friends and families on public holidays, expectations of the public in access to goods and services, and an opportunity for retail workers to earn extra income, on traditional religious days of sanctity.

American court arguments – 'blue laws'

In America, only about 12 states officially recognise Good Friday as a holiday. Numerous court cases about Good Friday (and other sectarian holidays stemming from religious traditions) in various state and district courts in America have seen lengthy Constitutional arguments presented to Judges who were essentially asked to decide if government recognition of a Christian holiday is incompatible with the First Amendment.

It appears the courts consider the public's acceptance of such holidays as a time to spend with family and generally find that such 'holidays' has been sufficiently de-sanctified, so as not to impugn the American Constitution and First Amendment.

Around the world

Section 81 of New Zealand's Broadcasting Act bans television advertisements between 6am and noon on Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Anzac Day and Christmas Day, and radio advertisements entirely on Good Friday, Easter Sunday and Christmas Day, with a fine of up to \$100,000.

In Germany, do not don your dancing shoes on Good Friday! Translating as *Sorrowful Friday*, dancing is prohibited. Nightclubs are at risk of a thousand pound fine should they be open and permit people to dance.

Hoping you all had a wonderful Easter!

We have provided you with an overview of the topic above but you should consult a professional for advice specific to your circumstances.



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Maltese Spoken



Malta is much more than just a tourist destination

Joseph CUTAJAR

I recently came across a most interesting article that puts Malta and its universities up there with the best countries in the western world when it comes to the living conditions, its attractiveness as a tourist destination and its education facilities, particularly its universities, on top of them the University of Malta (UoM).

The article was published on the website of *Study International* that has 1.2 million unique visitors every month, and 86 million (and counting) visitors since its inception.

Study International is an independent resource aimed at giving students, parents, educators and institutions a globally-inclined information hub with the latest news and trends in international education.

Its team of dedicated education writers publish daily articles aimed at providing readers with the tools and information to make the right decisions not just when applying to schools, but also how they can best utilize their time abroad to make the most of the unique opportunity, ensuring their future success.

It kicks off its article titled: *Malta universities: 5 things every student should*

know, by describing the island as the Mediterranean island nation that Pope Francis has just visited.

Study International further points out that Malta is more than just a tourist destination with a more than 85% population of baptised Catholics. It even describes the island as “a true hidden gem” for international students.

It argues, that with tuition fees increasing from the USA state of Arizona to Peterborough (a town in New Hampshire, also in the United States), why not study at Malta universities?

It goes on to say that the standards of education in Malta are slowly living up to the standards of their Western European neighbours and even quotes the latest *Times Higher Education Emerging Economies Ranking* – in countries or regions classified by the London Stock Exchange’s FTSE Group that has ranked the University of Malta (UoM) as “advanced emerging,” “secondary emerging” or

“frontier”, 177th out of 606 universities around the world.

Study International also points out that a new study conducted by Stanford University, has ranked UoM lecturer Dr. Alexander Micallef in the top 2% of scientists from across the world, and adds that great academic quality aside, Malta is affordable too.

It says that while Malta is not the cheapest country in Europe, prices here are markedly lower than in the US and Canada.

“Think US\$1,600 monthly rent for a modern, one-bedroom apartment in the capital Valetta”, it says

Other advantages mentioned as to why a student should chose to study in a Malta university include, that “utilities, groceries, healthcare and transportation cost around US\$700 per month.

“Add the finest of the region’s beaches, the punchy cuisines of North Africa, and English spoken by roughly nine out of 10 people, and it’s easy to see why a whopping 15% of residents here are expats”.

Study International advises that before one packs his bags to study in Malta or to invest a significant amount of time, money and effort in the country, it always pays to know more about the place.

It follows this up by mentioning five things one should weigh up about Malta before deciding to take the plunge.

1. Migrant pit stop

The archipelago of three islands – Gozo, Comino and Malta – is home to around 516,000 inhabitants living on 316 square kilometres (122 square miles), making it the EU’s smallest and most densely populated country. South of Sicily and north-east of Tunisia, Malta is a point of entry into Europe for migrants crossing the Mediterranean.

2. Abortion is banned

Catholicism is the state religion, and Malta is the only EU country that completely bans abortion, punishable by up to three years in jail.

**Continued on page 5*



UoM with 11,300 students (1,500 foreign from 127 countries)

**Continued from page 4*

Divorce was legalised in Malta after a 2011 referendum vote. In 2017, Malta legalised same-sex marriage and adoption by all couples. Malta in December became the first country in Europe to legalise cannabis and its cultivation for personal use.

3. A former British colony

A British colony since 1814, Malta became independent in 1964 and a republic in 1974 while remaining part of the Commonwealth. With Maltese and English as its official languages, it joined the European Union in 2004 and the Eurozone in 2008.

For decades there have been only two parties in its single-chamber parliament, the Labour Party and the Nationalist Party. Prime Minister Robert Abela's Labour government secured a third term in office in general elections on March 26.

4. The national economy is as dynamic as Malta universities

Malta's economy outpaced that of Eurozone neighbours before the pandemic, driven by tourism, financial services and online gaming. The coronavirus triggered a massive recession, but the islands bounced back with growth of over 9% last year. In January, Malta's unemployment rate was 3.1%, the Eurozone's lowest.

It adds that Malta raised 1.1 billion euros (US\$1.2 billion) since 2013 by offering European passports in exchange for investments, so-called golden passports, and that since Moscow's invasion of Ukraine the scheme for Russians and Belarusians has been suspended.

5. Order of Malta

The Knights of Malta emerged out of the Knights Hospitaller that founded a hospital in Jerusalem in 1048, gaining in strength under the First Crusade. In 1530, Holy Roman Emperor Charles V granted Malta to the order, which had continued to protect Christian pilgrims travelling to the

Holy Land.

After driving off the Ottomans from Malta in 1565, the order became a key Mediterranean naval power, attacking Barbary pirates, plundering their ships and capturing slaves. Napoleon drove the order from the island after his occupation of Malta in 1798.

Today the order – still a sovereign entity with diplomatic relations with other states – is based in Rome and carries out humanitarian work around the world through its volunteers.

Some information about UoM

The precursor to the University of Malta (UoM) was set up on 12th November 1592 as the Collegium Melitense, a Jesuit college. It was originally located in an old house in Valletta, but a purpose-built college was constructed between 1595 and 1597. The Old University Building or Valletta Campus is in St Paul's Street.

Over time, the Valletta campus became too small and Evans Laboratories (now known as Evans Building) was built in 1959 to house the Faculty of Science. In 1968, the Medical School moved to a building near St. Luke's Hospital in Gwardamanga and in the late 1960s it opened a much larger campus at Tal-Qroqq in Msida that has a total area of 250,207m². It has a total floor area between 5,000 and 6,000m². It houses most of the university's faculties, centres and institutions.

However, the UoM still retained the Valletta building which is still used for some lectures and conferences.

The University of Malta offers undergraduate bachelor's degrees, postgraduate master's degrees and postgraduate doctorates. It is a member of the European University Association, the European Access Network, Association of Commonwealth Universities, the Utrecht Network, the Santander Network, the Compostela



The Old University Campus in Valletta

Group, the European Association for University Lifelong Learning (EUCEN) and the International Student Exchange Programme (ISEP).

There are some 11,300 students, including around 1,500 international students from 127 different countries and 600 visiting overseas students, following full-time or part-time degree and diploma courses at the UoM.

The University today has fourteen faculties: Arts; Built Environment; Dental Surgery; Economics, Management & Accountancy; Education; Engineering; Health Sciences; Information & Communication Technology; Laws; Media & Knowledge Sciences; Medicine & Surgery; Science, Social Wellbeing and Theology. A number of interdisciplinary institutes and centres have been set up in various fields. It has eighteen Institutes, thirteen Centres and three Schools.

The degree courses at UM are designed to produce highly-qualified professionals, with experience of research, who will play key roles in industry, commerce and public affairs in general.

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Sir John McEwen the 18th Prime Minister

Black Jack - PM for only 23 days

(19 December 1967 to 10 January 1968)

Sir John McEwen GCMG, CH was the 18th Prime Minister of Australia. He only occupied that position in a caretaker capacity from 19th December 1967 to 10th January 1968. He took over the role of Prime Minister after Harold Holt disappeared while swimming in heavy surf.

Researched by Lawrence **Dimech**

Sir John was already 67 when he took the role, the oldest person to become prime minister. He was Australia's third shortest-serving prime minister, after Earle Page and Frank Forde.

McEwen, a farmer known as "Black Jack" who had been the leader of the Country Party and Deputy Prime Minister for nine years. He was replaced after only 23 days by the Liberal Party's new choice, John Gorton. When Harold Holt disappeared and was presumed drowned, McEwen was commissioned as Prime Minister until the governing parties appointed a replacement.

He played a critical role in Gorton's accession by announcing, on 20th December 1967 that he and the Country Party would quit the coalition if the

Treasurer, William McMahon, became Liberal leader.

McEwen and McMahon had been in serious conflict over economic policy during the year, and he believed that McMahon's views on economics were antagonistic to Country Party interests.

After leaving parliament (only five weeks before McMahon replaced Gorton as Prime Minister), McEwen retired to his grazing property at Stanhope, where he resided until his death almost ten years later. He died in



Melbourne on 20th November 1980

John McEwen was born in Chiltern, Victoria, on 29th March 1900. He was the son of a pharmacist and immigrant from Northern Ireland, called David McEwen, and Amy Ellen Porter.

He got married to his first wife, Ann McLeod, in 1921 and married for a second time Mary Byrne, in 1968, following first wife's death in 1967.

John McEwen entered federal parliament in 1934 at the general election as the Country Party candidate for Echuca. After electoral redistribution, he won the seat of Indi at the 1937 general election and held the position through the next three general elections of 1940, 1943 and 1946.

Following further redistribution, he took the seat of Murray in 1949 and held it through the next eight general elections: 1951, 1954 (unopposed), 1955, 1958, 1961, 1963, 1966 and 1969. In total he served in parliament for 36 years, spending a record 25 years as a government minister.

McEwen became both Country Party leader and Deputy Prime Minister when Fadden retired as Country Party leader on 26 March 1958. He held these positions in both Menzies', and then Harold Holt's, Liberal-Country Party coalition governments.



McEwen being sworn in as Prime Minister of Australia on 19th December 1967

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Sir John McEwen the “accidental PM”

**Continued from page 6*

Sir John McEwen was awarded the Companion of Honour (CH) in 1969, and was knighted in 1971 after his retirement from politics to become a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St Michael and St George (GCMG). In 1973 the Japanese government conferred on him the Grand Cordon, Order of the Rising Sun.

In 1986, fifteen years after McEwen had left Parliament and six years after his death, Paul Kelly, a respected Canberra political journalist, wrote:

“Most influential than most of the prime ministers he served. Sir John was a cunning manipulator whose scale of operation encompassed the central elements of the Australian economy.”

McEwen is a forgotten figure. The ghost of an older age before vacuous lucidity became the test for television politicians. But this “accidental PM” imprint remains indelible upon the nation today. The economic structures created by post World War 11 governments were carved by McEwen and not by Sir Robert Gordon Menzies, Harold Edward Holt or by Sir John Grey Gordon.

**Next will be Julia Gillard, the only female Prime Minister (27th). A lawyer specialising in industrial law. She was born in Wales*



McEwen with John Gorton following the latter's election as Liberal leader on 9 January 1968



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Have your say/Xi trid tqhid?



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.

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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 ...

There are only losers in war

Paul O'Farrell from Rockingham WA writes:

If anybody suggests that I am an ignoramus when it comes to international politics, I gratefully accept. I am always ready to listen to the experts if they can explain to me the decisions that the protagonists in a conflict take to justify their actions.

After recovering (partially perhaps) from Covid, for the past two months the world is faced with the conflict resulting from the unprovoked Russian invasion of Ukraine. If more proof is needed, we have it that during the war the victims and the losers are on both sides of the fence, and even beyond

that.

I cannot understand why, instead of trying to meet the Ukraine leaders for talks to find a way of solving whatever there was to solve peacefully over the table without showering misery on an innocent people, Putin decided to invade Ukraine.

On the other hand, I also cannot understand why other world leaders not directly involved in the conflict not only seem to be doing nothing to put an end to the war but every time there is talk of some kind of a peaceful solution nations such as the US either promise Ukraine millions (even billions of dollars) or that they would provide them with armaments. As if such a conflict is in their own interest.

I understand the reason for sanctions against Russia, even though in the end, it is also having a reverse effect on Europe in particular. I am certain that neither the Ukrainian nor the Russian people wanted this war. They are both suffering the consequences, loss of lives on both sides, and deteriorating living conditions. If they could, they would end the war immediately. But there are some mad leaders around, including those who are in their own interest to stoke the fire.

Bank of Valletta and us

J.Dalli from Fitzroy, Victoria writes:

Thank you for your opinion about BOV (VOM April 12). It is like the strange story of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde. When they operated here in both Victoria and NSW, they were all over the Maltese community. They even gave us grants. In return, they acquired millions of our money invested in their bank.

While Mid-Med Bank got into trouble with the Australian authorities in 1995/98 for tax fraud, and their NSW manager was jailed, as far as I know, the BOV was never accused of such tax fraud or money laundering.

However, after the year 2000, BOV started reducing their presence in Australia, and their clients' relations from excellent went to not so good. Banking rules were tightened, however, this did not bother me. But taking months to reply and at times not replying at all to legitimate inquiries leaves a very bad taste.

Please Note

If interested in advertising on The Voice of the Maltese magazine in order to reach the widest audience possible particularly among the Maltese diaspora, one is requested to write for details to: Maltesevoice@gmail.com

Mhux aktar fuq l-aġenda

F.J. Gatt minn Sunshine Victoria jikteb:

Mhux qbadna t-triq għan-niżla iżda x'aktarx li wasalna fil-qieħ. Ma nafx min innota l-pagna 14, ta' The Voice ta' Marzu 29 fejn mix-xena tal-hajja Maltija ġew ikkwotati partijiet mill-programmi elettorali taż-żewġ partiti ewlenin f'Malta fejn tidhol id-diaspora Maltija.

In-Nazzjonalisti kitbu li riedu jerġghu jagħtu importanza lill-komunitajiet tal-Maltin li jgħixu barra minn Malta billi jassenjaw din ir-responsabbiltà lil ministru ewlieni fil-kabinett. Assolutament xejn għid hawn għax dan ilu stat ta' fatt għal hafna snin. Hares lejn il-kelliema taż-żewġ partiti. Min huma dawk li se jikkellmu dwarna?

Il-Laburisti spjegaw iktar fit-tul iżda ma hargu bl-ebda proposti godda eċċitanti. Ktibt dwar dan għax nifhem li ċ-ċittadini Maltin li jgħixu barra tqabzu barra mill-aġenda kemm tal-Gvern u anke tal-Op-pożizzjoni.

Mhux qed jagħtuna mportanza. Jien ngħid li dan tort tagħna għax waqajn f'apatija perikoluża.



Dr Hugh McDermott MP State Member for Prospect

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PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH OF THE MONTH A truly grand lady

Our selection for this month is a humble grand lady who has inherited the passion to help the needy from her great uncle Mons Giuseppe De Piro, founder of the MSSP as she has always helped and encouraged others in need. In 2000 she was awarded, The NSW Seniors' Week Premiers Award.

Lea Harding nee Stillon De Piro

Born in Valletta on the 8th February 1927, Lea arrived in Australia in 1961 with her husband, Dr. Henry A. Harding, and two children, Henry and Jackie. At the time she was pregnant with her third child, Mark. Her husband Harry, a general practi-

tioner, obstetrician, and gynaecologist, started a medical practice in Dee Why.

Lea helped her husband to set up the practice and acted as his secretary and bookkeeper. As they could speak multiple languages, their patients were of different nationalities – Australians, Italians, and Maltese. Her husband died 33 years ago.

Fluent in Italian, Lea used to help patients with family problems. She told The Voice of the Maltese that during the 25 years working with patients, she made a lot of friends. They still embrace in the street and social function when they meet.

The Hardings were one of the first Maltese families to settle in Warringah, an area of 68km from Neutral Bay, Mosman, and Manly in the south to Curl Curl and Frenchs Forest (part). Lea made certain that any Maltese who came to these areas were looked after, and invited to her home at Curl Curl, especially during Christmas.

Many VIPs from Malta were also invited to her house and afforded to meet other Maltese residents.

After the death of her husband, Mons Philip Calleja, then head of the Emigrants Commission in Malta suggested that she should join the Maltese Australian Women Association. It was there that she met the hard-working President Pauline Attard. They established a very close relationship and worked together for many years at a time when the association was at its peak.

Mrs. Harding represented MAWA as a delegate of the Maltese Community Council of NSW for many years. This entailed travelling hundreds of km from Curl Curl to Blacktown to attend frequent meetings and various functions. She was always impressed with the dedication and commitment of the Maltese community toward their elders.

She came in contact with Lifeline which was a great help to her. She decided she could help others. After attending specific courses and seminars, Lea was selected as a phone counsellor and remained with Telefriends for nine years helping people with respite and even cancer.

For two years she helped her son's best friend who suffered two strokes at the age of 23. For five years she was part of the Altar Society of St Kevin Catholic Church in Dee Why, looking after the altar and the church.

One of the memorable moments of her life was in 1986 when Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II visited Sydney, and like thousands of others, Mrs. Harding went to the Botanic Gardens as the Queen laid flowers at the memorial.

As the Queen was going about meeting people, Mrs. Harding re-

calls what happened: "I called out, Long live the Queen, I am from Malta". Her Majesty was on the other side of the road across from me but that did not stop her. She walked away leaving her entourage behind her, and replied, "I have a friend over there".

The Queen approached Lea and smiling told her, "Do you know I was in Malta?" Lea curtsied and replied, "Yes, Your Majesty, I am a royalist and follow wherever you go". The Queen then asked her how long she had been in Australia, and Lea said 25 years. "Then the Queen smiled at me and continued her walk," Lea said.

This encounter was recorded for posterity on the front page of the Daily Telegraph dated 5th March 1986.

In March 2000, in recognition of outstanding service to the community, Mrs. Harding was awarded the NSW Seniors Week Premiers Award by the Premier of NSW Bob Carr.

In 2017, she was asked by Dr. Gioconda Schembri to release any information about her uncle Charles Bonavia who had emigrated to Australia and joined the Anzacs and died in Gallipoli.

Dr. Schembri introduced her to the Sub Branch of the RSL, and Lea and her children Henry, Jackie, Mark, and grandchildren Jamie, William, and Kathryn joined the Maltese RSL.

Anzac Day has always been dear to her, and even at 94 she still participated along with her son Henry at the ceremony at Martin Place with the Maltese RSL.

Nine years ago at age 86 she joined the Bible Society and stayed with them until recently, only stopping because of Covid 19. At the venerable age of 95, she still lives in her home, loved and looked after by children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.



L-UKRAJNA: L-appoġġ li jirċievu r-refuġjati jispirahom biex jghinu lill-oħrajn

Sa mill-bidu nett tal-gwerra, l-Arċidjoċesi ta' Ivano-Frankivsk fil-Punent tal-Ukrajna kienet involuta biex tilqa' nisa u tfal li qed jaharbu minn bliet kbar fil-Lvant tal-pajjiż, bhal Kyiv, Kharkhiv, Zaporizhzhia, Dnipro u Odessa.

Sofia, li għad għandha biss 14-il sena, hi waħda minn dawn ir-refuġjati. Flimkien ma' ommha Viktoria, harbet mill-gwerra li harbet lil hajjitha u, anki, lill-belt ta' Brovary fir-reġjun ta' Kyiv.

Żgħażaġh tal-età tagħha diġà għandhom hafna x'jiffaċċjaw, ikunu qed ifittxu tifsira f'hajjithom, diġà qed jahsbu fl-edukazzjoni futura tagħhom u f'liema xogħol jixtiequ jahdmu fil-futur, iżda għal Sofia issa kollox hu totalment differenti hafna.

Minn mindu waslu fl-iskola sekondarja San Bażilju, Sofia u Viktoria bdew jippruvaw jaddattaw għall-hajja l-ġdida tagħhom. Din l-iskola f'Ivano-Frankivsk, belt ta' madwar 300,000 persuna fil-Punent tal-Ukrajna, hi waħda mill-postijiet fejn l-Arċidjoċesi Kattolika Griega issa ilha għal kważi xahrejn tospita lir-refuġjati li jkun għadhom kif waslu. Missier Sofia ma marx magħhom biex jibqa' jiddefendi daru u lil pajjiżu. Minkejja l-periklu u s-sogru li qiegħed jieh, iħossu fit aktar moħħu mistrieħ issa li jaf li familtu tinsab sigura.

Forsi fit huma l-qarrejja li semgħu dwar Aid to the Church in Need (ACN). Iżda, sa mill-1947, din l-organizzazzjoni appoġġat lill-Kristjani ppersegwitati u sposti, jew li qegħdin ibatu minn diskriminazzjoni f'diversi pajjiżi madwar id-dinja. Għal diversi snin ukoll, l-ACN ilha tenfasizza fil-fora internazzjonali t-theddid serju li dejjem qed jiżdied kontra diversi twemmin, li jmorru direttament kontra il-Karta tad-Drittijiet tal-Bniedem tal-Ġnus Magħquda.

Għal hafna snin issa, l-ACN – inkluż l-uffiċċju tagħha f'Malta – ilha tappoġġja bosta proġetti fl-Ukrajna, fejn 85% tal-popolazzjoni hi Kristjana. L-ACN immedjatament ipprovdiet għajjnuna ta' emerġenza bi

twegiba għall-gwerra. Eżempju wiehed biss ta' din l-għajjnuna hu fil-fatt li l-Arċidjoċesi ta' Ivano-Frankivsk setgħet tibdel il-klassijiet fl-iskola sekondarja San Bażilju f'dormitorji li jesgħu sa mitt ruh.

Sofia hi grata hafna. "Almenu, hawn għandna saqaf fuq rasna, dawl, ikel, hwejjeg u, fuq kollox, paċi," qalet. Issa qed tipprowa tagħmel kemm tista' biex tghin lill-oħrajn.

Omm Sofia, Viktoria, offriet ukoll biex tghin lil dawk l-aktar fil-bżonn. "M'għad għandna biża', iżda biss ix-xewqa li nghinu," qalet Viktoria.

L-Arċidjoċesi qegħda tipprowa tigbor kemm tista' ikel mill-parroċċi kollha tagħha, iżda mhux qed ikun hemm biżże-

jjed għax l-ikel qed jiskarsa dejjem aktar. Ir-refuġjati hawnhekk għandhom ukoll aċċess għal kura medika b'xejn, grazzi għat-tobba fi sptar li jinsab fil-qrib.

Ladarba l-gwerra tispicċa, hemm haġa waħda biss li Sofia u Viktoria jridu: dik li jmorru lura d-dar tagħhom. Peress li jinsabu ferm il bogħod, mhumieħ certi jekk id-dar tagħhom f'Brovary hux se tibqa' shiha minhabba l-gwerra, peress li tinsab seba' kilometri biss il bogħod minn Kjiw.

Brovary ntlaqet minn rokits fl-ewwel fit jiem tal-gwerra. Dawn l-attakki hallew seba' persuni mejta u madwar 17 oħra midruba.

"Ninkwieta l-aktar kemm għad-dar tagħna, u l-iskola tiegħi," tghid Sophia. "Tghid kollox se jibqa' l-istess meta mmur lura d-dar? Ma nafx, imma nitlob u nittama li l-gwerra ma ddumx hafna ma tieqaf," żżid hi. Minn haġa waħda hi ċerta: meta kollox jerga' lura għan-normal, l-ewwel haġa li se tagħmel, se tkun qed tiltaqa' ma' shabha u tghannaq lil missierha, li hu l-iktar persuna li timmissja.

L-ACN qed tappoġġja wkoll lis-sacerdoti u r-religjużi fid-djoċesi ta' Ivano-Frankivsk fil-hidma pastorali u ta' karità tagħhom fost in-nies. Is-sena l-oħra, l-ACN iffinanzjat 21 proġett li kienu qed isiru f'din id-djoċesi. Minn mindu faqqgħet il-gwerra, l-ACN qed tappoġġja wkoll aktar minn 600 sacerdot u religjuż biex dawn jghinu lill-komunitajiet rispettivi tagħhom.

Aktar tagħrif jista' tinkiseb mingħand l-ACN (Malta) <https://www.acnmalta.org/ukraine/>, jew billi ċċempel +356 2148 7818, inkella permezz ta' imejl: admin@acnmalta.org



Sofia ma' ommha Viktoria f'kamra ta' kenn. Il-familji jingħataw kenn fl-iskola tal-Vikarjat Ġenerali tal-Arċisqof ta' Ivano-Frankivsk



Ippakkjar ta' oġġetti tal-ikel għan-nies fl-Arċidjoċesi ta' Ivano-Frankivsk, fil-Lvant tal-Ukrajna



Roundup of News About Malta



ALICIA: Malta's Aussie-born Junior Minister

Prime Minister Robert Abela has appointed Alicia Bugeja Said and Rebecca Buttigieg members of the Labour Government Cabinet as Parliamentary Secretary's joining three other women in the cabinet, ministers Miriam Dalli and Julia Farrugia Portelli, and Parliamentary Secretary Alison Zerafa Civelli.

Bugeja Said, 35, has been sworn in as Junior Minister for fisheries, aquaculture, and animal rights within Minister Anton Refalo's ministry for agriculture, fisheries, and animal rights. Buttigieg, 28, has been handed the portfolio for reforms and equality within Byron Camilleri's Home Affairs Ministry.

They are not only highly qualified but also familiar with their respective portfolios. They had both been fulfilling similar responsibilities in the past two years, although not as junior ministers.

What is most interesting, especially for

the Maltese community in Australia is, that Alicia Bugeja Said, is Aussie-born. She was born in Penrith NSW in 1987 and spent her first two years as a toddler, the youngest of three kids (the other two, boys, are older than her) at St. Mary's NSW, where her parents had spent nine years – 1980-89.

During that time, Alicia's mum, Miriam worked for the late Lino Vella, the editor of Maltese weekly newspaper, *The Maltese Herald*, which ceased publication in April 2013.

Alicia still has five aunts and a good number of cousins, members of the Said clan living

Down Under where they are known as Tat-Tarru.

She comes very well equipped for her new job as Junior Minister. She has a PhD in Anthropology and Conservation from the University of Kent, and a post-doctoral fellowship at the Université de Bretagne Occidentale in Brest (France), with her expertise focusing predominantly on marine and fisheries governance.

Buttigieg has served as a communications coordinator

within the Home Affairs Ministry. She was a Risk and Payments Analyst at Videoslots and is a University of Malta graduate BA (Hons) in European Studies and International Relations. Reading LLB (Hons) at the University of Malta.

Alicia Bugeja Said and Rebecca Buttigieg bring up the total of Junior Ministers to six and a full complement of the Cabinet to 25 (including 18 ministers and the Prime Minister).

The two new Cabinet members were elected to Parliament for the first time: Buttigieg via a casual election in the ninth district, and Bugeja Said through the gender corrective mechanism.

A House of Representatives with 79 MPs

Following the females elected at the casual elections, and the 12 in the gender corrective mechanism (six from each party – Labour and Nationalist), the number of elected women in Parliament has now grown to 22, which means that in the 2022-2027 legislature the House of Representatives will be made up of 79 seats.

Most notably, at the age of just 18, Eve Borg Bonello (NP) has become the youngest person to ever become an MP.



Alicia Bugeja Sant

Rebecca Buttigieg



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Roundup of News About Malta



Dr Anglu Farrugia set to preside third legislature May 7th

When the House of Representatives reconvenes for its first sitting in the new 2022-2027 legislature on May 7th, the Labour Party in Government will have a nine-seat majority following its strongest electoral victory since the Dom Mintoff-led government of 1955 when he beat the PN by a margin of 19.5%. Its previous record was the 2017 victory.

Dr. Anglu Farrugia would serve as President of the Chamber of House of Representatives (Speaker) for the next five years of the new legislature. Prime Minister Robert Abela would be nominating him for the post once again as he has carried out very important work over the last few years, including the reform that led to the administrative autonomy in Parliament. Abela does not feel there should be any changes to the role.

Dr. Farrugia, 66, served for 17 years as an MP, after getting elected for the first time in 1996. He was confirmed as MP in three subsequent elections but failed to contest in 2013. Then nine years ago he was nominated for the first time as Speaker, a role that he has occupied over the last two legislatures.

He was the first full-time Speaker, led the first autonomous Parliament, and presided



Dr. Anglu Farrugia

over the move from the former chamber at the Palace to the new parliamentary building. He also introduced a TV channel dedicated solely to Parliament. He will also preside for the largest Parliament ever with 79 seats (44 Labour and 35 Nationalists).

Malta with lowest rate of inflation in EU

Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union said that in March, when the inflation rate in EU countries reached a 7.4% record level (an increase of 1.7% over February) Malta's rate, at 4.5%, was the lowest among all European countries.

Eurostat declared that the biggest factor leading once again to the highest increase in inflation ever registered in the Eurozone was the increase in energy prices, which had gone up by 4.36%.

Wearing masks responsibly

With effect from 2nd May, the use of masks in Malta will not remain mandatory indoors but mandatory in hospitals, clinics and homes for the elderly.

Announcing this at a media conference Deputy Prime Minister and Health Minister Chris Fearn said the time had come to return to normality with responsibility. Dr Fearn stated that the wearing of masks will no longer remain mandatory indoors. However, he recommended that masks should continue to be worn on public transport.

With effect from this Monday, the wearing of masks in schools will no longer remain in force; however, this does not mean they are prohibited, and masks can therefore continue to be worn.

Meanwhile, Malta's National Statistics Office (NSO) said that compared to February inflation in March increased by 0.3%.

The factors leading to an increase in inflation in Malta were costs of food and non-alcoholic drinks with an increase of 1.55% over February of this year and 8.7% compared to March 2021.

NSO also stated that in March, the number of people registering for work in March is now down to 1,008 compared to 2,387 in March last year.

Tourism industry on the way to recovery

After two years almost in limbo due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the tourism industry in Malta is fast recovering. The negative impact brought about by the pandemic seems to have been dissipated and in Easter time, hoteliers and restaurateurs on the Maltese islands recorded encouraging signs.

Compared to the 2019 levels - the best ever - in Malta, hoteliers recorded 75% occupancy, and in Gozo, 85% to 90%.

In March, at almost 317,000 passengers Malta International Airport registered almost ten times the passenger traffic observed a year ago in the corresponding

German Rating Agency Scope gives Malta the thumbs up at A+

German rating agency, Scope Ratings, has reaffirmed its best rating for Malta as A+, a decision based on three factors, the country's strong growth potential, its record of prudent fiscal management and its strong external position.

Scope noted that in 2021 Malta's GDP outperforming growth expectations as it reached 9.4%, which is a much stronger performance than anticipated, thus placing Malta among the fastest recovering EU economies.

In its assessment, Scope Ratings argues that Malta managed to limit the structural impact of the COVID-19 crisis, and that so far, thanks to forceful government intervention, given limited direct economic linkages with Russia and Ukraine and limited inflationary pressures, has also been "relatively well insulated from the effects due to the war in Ukraine."

It added that during the pandemic, compared to other European countries, Malta was able to contain the unemployment rate amongst the lowest levels in Europe, thanks also to the effective assistance measures taken by the government. These included the Wage Supplement scheme, which mitigated the economic consequences of the pandemic.

As a result, Malta is considered to have a strong growth outlook, and managed a much stronger performance than anticipated.

Another important factor leading to the rating was Malta's commitment to prudent fiscal policy, which enabled government to support the economy during the pandemic, including its medium-term budgetary strategy balances, the need to provide discretionary support for the economic recovery and return public finances to a sound footing longer-term.

The experts further note that "the Maltese economy is the least carbon intensive among peers and has achieved one of the greatest reductions in carbon intensity among EU countries. It now has one of the lowest levels across the EU in 2019."

month a year ago. Compared to the pre-pandemic level of passenger traffic, activity was at 66%, while pre-pandemic activity in the same period last year, passenger traffic only accounted for only 7%.

In the first quarter of 2022, almost 673,000 passengers used the airport, which is nearly seven times better than the less than 99,000 passengers observed in the first quarter of 2021.

With the removal of further travel restrictions in the coming months, the trend is expected to continue; therefore 2022 could turn out to be much better than the previous two years.



Roundup of News About Malta



Malta calls for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in Ukraine

Speaking during the Foreign Affairs Council meeting in Luxembourg, new Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade Ian Borg reiterated Malta's call for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in Ukraine to guarantee safe evacuation corridors and allow the delivery of much needed humanitarian aid to the residents under siege.

At the meeting that was primarily called to discuss the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, Dr Borg said that Malta would continue to support efforts undertaken at a EU and international level to address the immediate needs of Ukraine and Ukrainian citizens, which will need to be sustained as the conflict continues to take its toll.

He underlined that the UN Charter, international law, and other relevant international agreements need to be upheld, and emphasised the importance of EU unity as an essential element of the EU's approach in pursuing all efforts to stop the war in



Minister Ian Borg (centre) with other ministers in Luxembourg

Ukraine.

While explaining Malta's constraints in undertaking such a measure due to the limitations of its diplomatic presence in Russia, Minister Borg stated that at this stage Malta was freezing Russia's pending request to deploy new diplomatic officials on the island.

Drawing on the wider implications and recent multilateral efforts, he called for more efforts to consolidate regional support, especially among African countries, and underlined the importance of stepping up EU engagement with Africa more broadly to ensure that the EU consolidates its position as Africa's partner of choice.

He stressed the importance of a Libyan-led Libyan-owned process and called on the EU to remain vigilant against spoilers of the political process.

31 Maltese restaurants in Michelin guide; five are Michelin-starred

Thirty-one restaurants in Malta and Gozo have been officially featured in the Michelin Guide Malta 2022, that has just been officially launched, while five restaurants, three of them in Malta's capital Valletta, and one each in Balzan and Mdina have retained their One Michelin Star;

It is worth noting that Michelin stars are awarded to restaurants judged to be of a particularly high standard.

Those that make the grade can be awarded one, two, or three stars. Those awarded one star are deemed to be "very good", the second "excellent cooking that is worth a de-

tour" and the third "exceptional cuisine that is worth a special journey".

Presiding over the launch, Tourism minister Clayton Bartolo said the government envisages Malta to be a quality destination offering different experiences for those who visit, particularly the gastronomic experience.

He said that these restaurants have recognised the importance of being at the forefront of satisfying the most demanding customers, and that despite its small size, Malta has managed to have a level of restaurants that are recognised by the Michelin Guide.

He pointed out resilience, profitability, sustainability and value added to the tourist as being the four pillars of the industry.

Malta Tourism Authority chairman Gavin Gulia expressed his satisfaction that despite the pandemic, for the third successive year, Maltese and Gozitan restaurants managed to reach the Michelin guide stage.

He regarded as positive the fact that the number of restaurants listed in the Michelin Guide is increasing, and said that the ultimate goal is to make the Maltese Islands a destination of the highest quality.



GAC acknowledges Rule of law reforms

Meanwhile, during the discussion on the European Commission Annual Rule of Law Report for 2021 the General Affairs Council (GAC) meeting noted the progress on the rule of law reforms Malta has implemented in the last few years.

During the discussion Minister Borg outlined some of the reforms and recalled that Malta carried out unprecedented judicial and institutional reforms based on recommendations of the Venice Commission.

He pointed out that some of the constitutional reforms had been left untouched since Malta gained its independence in 1964.

The minister stated that the Maltese Government is committed to keep implementing the reforms, and that it has been given a strong mandate to continue with its commitment to continuing on the path of implementing reforms that would bring change.

Meanwhile, the General Affairs Council also adopted legislation to ensure the continued supply of medicines for Malta, Ireland, and Cyprus, providing a three-year derogation.

INOTE: Ivan Cauchi will return with his *Perspettiva* articles (page 10) in the next issue



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Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

Is-sehem tan-Nisa fil-Parlament

Is-sehem tan-nisa fil-qasam politiku f'dan l-aħħar snin inghata aktar importanza minhabba l-fatt li l-ghadd ta' membri femminili fil-Parlament Malti dejjem kien wiehed baxx, minkejja li sa mill-1947 kellna l-ewwel deputata mara – is-Sinjinora Agatha Barbara.

Saret hidma qawwija mill-partiti politiċi biex iħajjru aktar nisa joħorġu għall-politika, bil-Partit Laburista saħansitra jorganizza korsijiet għal dawk it-tfaliet u nisa li kellhom ħajra li jaqdbu l-karriera politika.

Minkejja din il-hidma kollha, l-ghadd ta' kandidati nisa li kkontestaw l-elezzjoni kien tassew limitat u kienu biss erba' nisa (tlieta PL u waħda PN) li ġew eletti fis-26 ta' Ottubru. L-ghadd żdied bi ftit meta saru l-elezzjonijiet każwali billi l-Partit Laburista tella erba' nisa oħra u l-Partit Nazzjonalista tnejn biex b'hekk, b'kollox, jew direttament jew fl-elezzjonijiet każwali ġew eletti 10 deputati femminili.

Minhabba li dan l-ghadd kien bogħod mill-40% mixtieq, skatta l-mekkaniżmu favur rappreżentanza iżjed ugwali fil-Parlament. Skont dan il-mekkaniżmu jekk fil-Parlament wiehed mis-sessi (u mhux dak femminili biss) jkollu inqas minn 40% tad-deputati, u fil-Parlament ikun hemm żewġ partiti politiċi biss, jiskatta mekkaniżmu biex kull partit jinghata sitt deputati ta' dak is-sess li jkun minn taht.



L-MP Eve Borg Bonello

Hekk lil kull partit żdidulu kandidati nisa biex issa b'kollox, fil-Parlament il-Partit Laburista għandu 44 deputat u l-Partit Nazzjonalista 35. Minn dawn, bhala nisa, il-PL għandu 13, filwaqt li l-PN

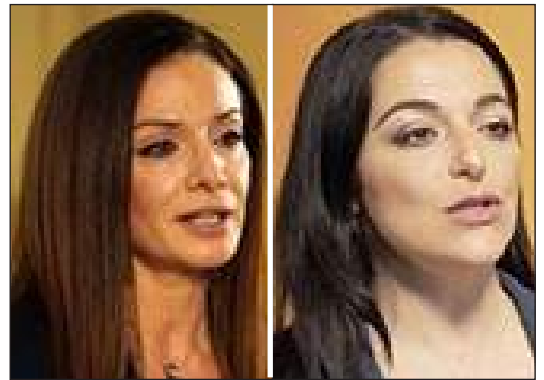
għandu disgha, biex b'hekk fil-Parlament Malti għall-ewwel darba għandna aktar minn 20 deputati nisa - fil-fatt 22 jew 28% tad-deputati (li issa huma 79).

Filwaqt li kulhadd jaqbel li aktar membri tas-sess femminili għandhom jiffurmaw parti mill-Parlament Malti, id-dhul ta' kandidati, li għalkemm ikkontestaw l-elezzjoni ma ġewx eletti, imma xorta waħda dahl fuq fil-Parlament, gab diskussjoni qawwija.

Filwaqt li kien hemm min baqa' jsostni li dan kien pass 'l quddiem biex l-ghadd ta' deputati nisa jżdied, kien hemm min (u din id-darba kellna nies min kull naħa politika) li ma qablux mas-sistema hekk msejja tal-kwoti.

Fost dawn, waħda li qalet li ma taqbilx mas-sistema kienet saħansitra waħda fost dawk li kisbu riglejhom fil-Parlament permezz tas-sistema. Din kienet Eve Borg Bonello tal-Partit Nazzjonalista – li ta' 18-il sena hi l-iżgħar membru fil-Parlament. Dawn isostnu li min jidhol fil-Parlament għandu jitle' bis-saħħa tiegħu u mhux permezz ta' kwoti.

Kien hemm min saħansitra sostna li f'din l-elezzjoni n-nisa marru aghar mill-elez-



Iż-żewġ Ministri nisa fil-Gvern Malti, Miriam Dalli (xellug) u Julia Portelli Farrugia

zjonijiet ta' qabel, minhabba li l-eletturi ma vvutawx għan-nisa, għax xorta kienu se jidhlu fil-Parlament.

Fil-fehma tiegħi fattur importanti li qed jithalla barra huwa l-attitudni tal-eletturi, fosthom ta' għadd kbir ta' nisa li meta jiġu biex jivvutaw jippreferu li jagħtu l-ewwel preferenzi lill-kandidati riġel.

Kien hemm min, fosthom il-kandidat Indipendenti Arnold Cassola u l-ADPD li sostnew li din hi liġi diskriminatorja għax thalli barra l-partiti l-oħra għax kandidati nisa li jikkontestaw magħhom ma jtitqisux meta jithaddem il-mekkaniżmu tal-kwota.

L-ghaqda tan-nisa tikkritka u ssejjah mossa abbużiva

Biex il-kritika żiedet tikber, waħda mill-kandidati nisa tal-Partit Nazzjonalista iddeċidiet li billi kienet taf li xorta kienet se tidhol fil-Parlament permezz tal-mekkaniżmu msemmi, minkejja li kellha ċans tiġi eletta, ma kkontestatx l-elezzjoni każwali biex tagħmel wisa' għal kandidati oħra Nazzjonalista, (fil-fatt imbagħad ġie

elett Carmel Mifsud Bonnici)

Mill-ewwel kien hemm min sostna li din kienet prova li l-mekkaniżmu jista' jwassal għall-abużi bil-Malta Women's Lobby, l-ghaqda favur l-emanċipazzjoni tan-nisa, tfigher dil-manuvra ta' Janice Chetcuti bhala daqqa ta' harta għal rappreżentazzjoni iżjed gusta fl-oghla istituzzjoni tal-pajjiż.

Il-Lobby ikkritikat dak li għamlet Chetcuti u fissritha bhala waħda li tellfet post għal nisa oħra li setgħu ġew eletti bil-mekkaniżmu li ntroduċa l-Gvern favur rappreżentanza iżjed xierqa bejn is-sessi fil-Parlament.

Il-Malta Women's Lobby saħqet: "Anki jekk kien hemm pressjoni, ċerti nisa xorta harġu għall-elezzjonijiet każwali u t-tentattiv li jkun hemm min jimmanipula s-sistema kienet daqqa ta' harta fuq dawk li għandhom għal qalbhom id-demokrazija".

Kif wiehed jista' jara, lil xi wħud anke jekk ittihom l-ilma jiżfen isibu x'ma joghghomx, filwaqt li min-naħa l-oħra kapaċi ssib lil min jara kif jagħmel u anke jekk ikun hemm il-perfezzjoni, dejjem jipprova u jirmexxielu jsib kif jiżloq.

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Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

Tilfu posthom fil-Parlament

L-elezzjoni li għaddiet kienet ukoll waħda fejn diversi kandidati stabbiliti u promnenti tilfu posthom mill-Parlament.

Min-naħa tal-Partit Laburista l-aktar tnejn li jispikkaw kienu ż-żewġ eks Ministri, Evarist Bartolo u José Herrera, b'Bartolo jhalli l-Parlament wara 30 sena (kien ġie elett għall-ewwel darba fl-1992).

Imbagħad it-tnejn iddeċidew li ma jikkontestawx l-elezzjoni każwali, minkejja li Bartolo kellu ċans tajjeb li jiġi elett. Huma sostnew li la l-poplu ddeċieda li ma jeliġhomx mill-ewwel, kienu se jimxu mar-rieda tal-poplu.

Mhux l-istess il-veteran Joe Mizzi, li għal diversi snin kien ukoll Ministru Laburista. Dan ikkontesta l-elezzjoni każwali imma baqa' l-art.

Min-naħa tal-Partit Nazzjonalista kien hemm għadd akbar ta' kandidati stabbiliti li ma gewx eletti mmedjatament fosthom membri promnenti bħal Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici, Jason Azzopardi, Karol Aquilina u Edwin Vassallo. Ilkoll ikkontestaw l-elezzjonijiet każwali, b'Jason Azzopardi u Edwin Vassallo jibqgħu l-art.

L-akbar reazzjoni kemm fil-midja, kif ukoll personali, kienet dwar/u ta' Jason Azzopardi, li f'it bassru li kien se jispiċċa barra l-Parlament, meta kien wiehed minn dawk li l-aktar li kien jitkellem fil-Parlament u fil-pubbliku u jikkritika bil-qawwi lill-Partit Laburista.

Azzopardi nnifsu bħal xehet it-tort tat-telfa fuq il-partit tiegħu meta stqarr li kien ġie iżolat "Azzopardi said he had put his life on the line despite being left 'deliberately isolated', including by those 'within'." (The Times 12.04.2022) u ddeċieda li jitlaq mill-Partit Nazzjonalista.

Il-PN b'dejn ta' €32 miljun

Fl-ewwel sessjoni tal-Kunsill Ġenerali tal-PN il-Hadd, il-Kap Bernard Grech qal li l-partit għandu problema finanzjarja b'dejn ta' €32m.



Mix-xellug: Edward Zammit Lewis, Michael Farrugia u Carmelo Abela, it-tlieta issa eks-ministri tal-Gvern minħabba li minkejja li telgħu ma reġghux inhatru.

Ohrajn inqabzu fil-ħatriet

Ir-riżultat tal-elezzjoni, kif ukoll il-ħtieġa ta' tiġdid, kellu wkoll l-effett tiegħu fuq il-ħatriet, kemm fil-Kabinett magħżul mill-Prim Ministru u wkoll ix-shadow cabinet tal-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni.

Fuq iż-żewġ naħat kien min żamm postu, anke jekk mhux fl-istess kariga ta' qabel, u ohrajn li, avolja elett fil-Parlament, xorta ma baqax jiffurmaw parti miż-żewġ entitajiet.

Hekk tilfu posthom il-Ministri Michael Farrugia, Edward Zammit Lewis, u Carmelo Abela, u s-Segretarji Parlamentari Alex Muscat, Deo Battista u Chris Agius, u issa se jkunu biss backbenchers.

Mill-Partit Nazzjonalista tilfu posthom Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici, Chris Said u Mario Demarco li lkoll fi żmien Gvernijiet Nazzjonalisti kienu Ministri.

Attwalment dawn kienu l-uniċi tliet MPs eletti f'isem il-Partit Nazzjonalista li ma nġatawx kariga u skont Chris Said ir-raġuni għal dan kien li fil-passat huma kienu jiffurmaw parti mill-Kabinett tal-eks-Prim Ministru Gonzi.

Sintendi post li thallew barra, ittiehed minn deputati ohra, fosthom uħud li gew eletti għall-ewwel darba. Imma interessanti wkoll li l-eks-Kap tal-PN, Adrian Delia, li meta nħatar Bernard Grech ma kienx aċċetta li jidhrol fis-shadow cabinet, issa nġata l-inkarigu ta' wiehed mill-kelliema ewlenin.



Tal-PN: (mix-xellug): Chris Said, Mario Demarco u Carm Mifsud Bonnici



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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



A quick glimpse at Australia

Modern democratic miracle

More than 17.2 million Australians are now enrolled to vote in the general election called for 21st May, with more than 96 per cent of eligible Australians registering their details with the AEC. Electoral Commissioner Tom Rogers said the enrolment figure was “a modern democratic miracle. The remarkable state of the roll in Australia is something that is simply not seen in most places around the world,” Mr Rogers said.

“Australians should feel great pride in this achievement and confidence that it sets the foundation for election results to reflect the will of the people.”

At the 2019 election, 97 per cent of Australians were eligible to vote with just under 17 million people on the electoral roll.

Mr Scott Morrison called the election on 10 April, leaving seven days for eligible Australians to enrol to vote ahead of the deadline of 8pm on 18th April.



Australia's Catholic bishops have called for a shakeup that focuses the country's politics on the common good of all, including – and especially – those who struggle to participate in the community.

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference president Archbishop Mark Coleridge said no one political party fully embodies Catholic social teaching. The bishops are, however, offering an election statement to encourage Catholics and people of goodwill to reflect on the good they can do for

Better kind of politics

their community by using their vote for the good of all.

Archbishop Coleridge said, “We all long for what Pope Francis calls ‘a better kind of politics, one truly at the service of the

common good”.

“This ‘better’ politics pursues the common good of all Australians by recognising the dignity of every individual and the solidarity we all share as a national community,” Archbishop Coleridge said.

“Since the last federal election, we have seen the impact and the challenges of a global pandemic, floods, summers of bushfires, wild weather events, and a world on edge because of military conflict.

“Foremost in the minds of many will be Australia's economic recovery from the effects of COVID-19. The societal disruptions from the pandemic have revealed significant levels of poverty and disadvantage within Australia. We need a new social contract that focuses the economy more clearly on the common good.”

The statement highlights several key issues that the bishops have identified and which they encouraged readers to consider when preparing to vote.

Among them is the provision of high-quality palliative care across Australia, “to ensure that no one is pressured into choosing assisted suicide because palliative care is unavailable”.

The statement advocates for vulnerable people in the community, including those in need of aged care, First Nations peoples, asylum-seekers, and refugees. It calls for a government committed to the common good that will deliver a medium to long-term plan for eradicating poverty in Australia. Access the election statement at: www.catholic.org.au

Vote by phone if in isolation

Australian Electoral Commission says it will ensure COVID-19 public health restrictions won't deny voters from having their say in the upcoming election. The Commission has confirmed a telephone voting system will be in place for those subject to isolation orders of the 21st May federal poll.

This means the poll will be the most expensive in history, predicted to come with a price tag of more than \$400 million – about \$100 million more than in 2019.

A record 17 million people are enrolled to vote this year, that's also up from around 16 million at the last election. Voting papers are also set to be translated into more than 33 languages and 13 Indigenous languages.

There are 151 seats in the House of Representatives, also known as the lower house of parliament. The winner of the election would need to win more than half of them to be elected to the government without looking to the crossbench. This means Labor would likely need to win at least seven further seats to form a majority government at the election.

The current makeup is 60 Liberal-held seats, 16 for the Nationals, and 68 for Labor. There is also one member each for the Greens, United Australia Party, and Centre Alliance, and three independent MPs.

The challenges posed by an election during COVID-19 are also set to play out on a national scale for the first time.



A quick glimpse at Australia

Extreme worker shortages

Despite the international borders re-opening in November, many skilled migrants are yet to return. New figures from the Department of Home Affairs showed just 23,000 Temporary Skill Shortage visa holders have arrived in Australia over the past five months.

There are more than 24,000 people who hold visas in that category but remain offshore.

"I knew there would be a slow take-up of people coming back to Australia, but I didn't expect it to be this slow. Right now I'm hiring for three positions and we've had no Australians apply and no migrant workers apply either, so it's been pretty tough," Ms Renne Baltov owner of Barberhood stores says.

As job vacancies across the nation reach record highs – there were 423,500 unfilled positions according to the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics figures, an increase of 6.9 per cent since November – business leaders are sounding the alarm.

Australian Industry Group CEO Innes Willox says almost every industry is under pressure.

"It's very clear we just don't have the people here that we need to fill the jobs that we have," he says.

"Our economy is continuing to grow and while we've had closed borders it means jobs are going begging at the moment. Employers are finding it very hard to run their businesses and to keep up

without the labour and the skills that they need."

The government has set a permanent migration cap of 160,000 places for 2022-23.

A spokesperson for the Department of Home Affairs said: "skilled visas will comprise around two-thirds of the total migration program at 109,900 places, and this increase in the overall size of the program will facilitate a substantial reduction in applications currently with the Department".

"Skilled occupation lists will be updated in early 2022-23 to reflect changes in Australia's labour market, based on advice from the National Skills Commission. The Temporary Skills Shortage (TSS) visa is underpinned by these targeted occupation lists that are responsive to genuine needs and have a sharper labour market focus."

A spokesperson for the Federal Opposition said Labor would be announcing its new migration policy 'soon'.

Shadow Home Affairs Minister Kristina Keneally said historically, temporary migrants were often able to apply for permanent status but she was concerned that's no longer the case.

"Over the past nine years the Liberals have turned Australia's successful model of permanent migration on its head," she said.

"The re-opening of the borders gives Australia an opportunity to reduce reliance on temporary migration, support permanent migration and invest in skills and jobs for Australians."

Commonwealth Games for the State of Victoria

The 2026 Commonwealth Games a multi-sport event for the Commonwealth nations will be held across the state of Victoria, in four years' time, Premier Daniel Andrews confirmed.

Regional Victoria will take centre stage, with Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong and Gippsland each hosting their own athlete's village and sport programs.

Shepparton is also slated to hold events, while the opening ceremony is locked in for the 100,000-seat Melbourne Cricket Ground.

"It will be the greatest spotlight, the greatest showcase of all that we have to offer," said Mr Andrews.

It's the first time the Commonwealth Games have been awarded to a state or re-



gion in its 92-year history — a city usually hosts the Games.

The Commonwealth of Nations is a voluntary organisation of currently 54 nations - most, though not all, which are former colonies of Britain's empire.

The majority of nations are republics like Malta with a president rather than the British monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, as head of state.

But there are still 15 Commonwealth realms - countries that have the Queen as their monarch - including Australia, Canada, and New Zealand, along with smaller nations in the Pacific and Caribbean.

ABOVE: (from left): Victorian Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Martin Pakula, Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews, President of the Commonwealth Games Federation Dame Louise Martin, Minister for Regional Development Mary-Anne-Thomas and MP Michaela Settle pose with athletes and children at Mars Stadium in Ballarat, 12 April 2022.

Source: AAP / CON CHRONIS



Michelle Rowland MP

Shadow Minister for Communications

Federal Member for Greenway



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Sptar ta' Puttinu f'Londra u ġnien ghat-tgawdija tal-poplu b'tifkira ta' Dr Victor Calvagna

Spazju abbandunat ta' 8,500 metru kwadru fil-Mosta se tkun rigenerata f'*picnic area* ghat-tgawdija tal-pubbliku b'tislma għall-memorja tat-Tabib Victor Calvagna li għal hafna snin, flimkien mat-tim kollu ta' Puttinu Cares kienu raġġ ta' dawl għal diversi pazjenti tfal u l-familji tagħhom f'mumentu ferm diffiċli ta' sahha.

Il-Ministru għall-Ambjent, l-Energija u l-Intrapriża Miriam Dalli qalet li l-ghan ta' din l-inizjattiva hu li tibqa' mfaktra l-memorja tal-konsulent tat-tfal morda bil-kancer, it-Tabib Victor Calvagna, li miet fl-4 ta' Janar li għadda fl-età ta' 63 sena wara li ntaqat minn karozza tmint ijiem qabel fil-Qawra.

Għal hafna snin, Dr. Calvagna, flimkien mat-tim kollu tal-fondazzjoni Puttinu Cares, li kien ukoll il-ko-fundatur tagħha, kienu raġġ ta' dawl għal diversi pazjenti tfal u l-familji tagħhom f'mumentu ferm diffiċli ta' sahha.

Sadanittant, prova oħra tal-ġenerożità kbira tal-Maltin inghatat f'Jum il-Ġimgħa l-Kbira meta waqt il-maratona b'risq il-proġett ta' Puttinu Cares f'temp ta' madwar hames siegħat ingabret is-somma rekord ta' €3,133,430 mingħand individwi, kumpanniji, haddiema ta' għadd ta' azjendi, u l-Gvern permezz tal-Fond għall-Kawzi Gusti.

Il-ġabra saret biex tinxtara binja fil-qalba ta' Londra li tkun tista' takkomoda B'XEJN lil dawk il-Maltin u Ghawdxin li jkollhom jitolghu l-Ingilterra għal kura medika għal xi membri tal-familja fl-isptarijiet fl-Ingilterra. Din ukoll se tissemma ghat-Tabib Victor Calvagna.

Il-Ministru qalet li kien bix-xieraq li għalhekk nibqgħu niċċelebraw il-memorja u l-hidma li Dr Calvagna għamel ma' bosta pazjenti, kemm dawk li sfortunatament hallewna kif ukoll li rnexxielhom jegħlbu l-isfida tal-kancer.

Is-somma ngabret waqt programm televiżiv li xxandar fuq l-istazzjoni kollha tat-TV f'Malta.

Waqt il-maratona, minbarra bosta tfal

u familji li gawdew u sabu jew qed isibu spalla, mill-Fondazzjoni Puttinu Cares, hadet sehem ukoll Carmen, l-armla tat-tabib li habbret li ghamlet donazzjoni tal-kliewi u ta' għajnejn ir-raġel tagħha Victor biex jingħataw hajja għida lil persuni oħra.

Intervjuna wkoll il-Prim Ministru Robert Abela li minbarra li fahhar l-impenj li wera Dr Calvagna, semma l-ftehim li lahaq il-Gvern ma' Puttinu Cares biex tinxtara l-binja f'Londra, u habbar l-ghotja ta' €50,000 għal dan il-proġett kbir.

Kien fl-2020 il-Gvern u l-Fondazzjoni Puttinu Cares kienu ffirmaw ftehim li permezz tiegħu l-Fondazzjoni se għet tissigila l-akkwist ta' proprjetà f'Londra.

Sadanittant, fejn għandu x'jaqsam il-ġnien, ingħad li ż-żona se tissebba bi thawwil ta' aktar sigar u installazzjoni ta' għadd ta' bankijiet tal-ġonna, filwaqt li Parks Malta se jkun responsabbli għall-manutenzjoni u ż-żamma tal-ġnien.

Sadanittant, f'inizjattiva ma' Puttinu Cares Cares, bhala parti mill-maratona għir ta' fondi ta' Puttinu Cares li saret nhar fil-Ġimgħa l-Kbira li għaddiet, għadd sew mis-sigari qed jigu mhawla bhala tislma għall-memorja tat-Tabib Victor Calvagna.

Se tiġi mhawla sagra għal kull donazzjoni ta' €300 jew aktar li saret waqt dik il-maratona – li fiha ngabru €3,133,430 – u li jistgħu jibqgħu jsiru lil 'Puttinu'.

Kull sagra se ggorr tabella li ssellem il-memorja ta' dawk li hallew din id-dinja minhabba l-marda kiefra tal-kancer, jew ta' dawk li għelbuha.

L-ghan ta' din il-maratona kienet li tagħti appoġġ lil pazjenti u l-familjari tagħhom, u



Il-mibki Dr Victor Calvagna

li jingabru biżżejjed fondi biex fil-kapitali Ingliża Londra tinbena akkommodazzjoni għida għall-pazjenti Maltin u l-familji tagħhom li jkollhom il-htieġa tal-kura medika fl-Ingilterra.

It-thabbira ta' din l-inizjattiva saret mill-Ministru Dalli flimkien mad-Direttur Ġenerali ta' Parks Malta Adrian Attard u s-CEO ta' Puttinu Cares Rennie Zerafa.

Kull min offra *pledge* lil Puttinu fil-Ġimgħa l-

Kbira, se tithawwillu sagra f'isem xi hadd għażiż għalih. B'hekk tkun qed titkompla l-ghajnuna lil pazjenti li jkollhom il-htieġa



(Mix-xellug): Il-Ministru Miriam Dalli, Rennie Zerafa u Carmen Calvagna fil-Mosta

ta' akkommodazzjoni l-Ingilterra filwaqt li fl-istess waqt jissebba l-ambjent.

Sadanittant il-Ministru ziedet tghid li l-gvern u Parks Malta huma impenjati biex joffru aktar spazji miftuħa ghat-tgawdija tal-pubbliku ġenerali, u biex proġetti bħal dawn jitgawdew mill-pubbliku fil-lokalità tagħhom stess.

Preżenti ghat-tnedija ta' dan il-proġett kien hemm ukoll fost l-oħrajn, l-armla ta' Dr Victor Calvagna, Carmen u familjari oħra.

L-inizjattiva biex dan il-ġnien fil-Mosta jiġi msemmi għal dan il-mibki konsulent pedjatra sar wara konsultazzjoni mal-familja ta' Dr Calvagna u giet milqugha minn Malta kollha li għarfet il-valuri li kien iħaddan dan il-persuna u kemm kien jgħożż il-pazjenti tiegħu.

Meta fi Frar li għadda Alex Muscat dak-inhar Segretarju Parlamentari kien habbar għall-ewwel darba li kellu jsir dan il-ġnien, kien qal: "Gnien Victor Calvagna se jibqa' jservi ta' eżempju ta' kif għandu jkun ċittadin eżemplari, li jaqdi rwolu fis-soċjetà b'imhabba u b'dedikazzjoni."

Issa żgur li se jibqa' mfakkar mill-Maltin.





Salib tal-ħadid u njam riċiklat għoli 15 metru f'Għajnsielem

Sa tmiem April fin-nofs tal-pjazza Madonna ta' Loreto f'Għajnsielem, qed tiġi esebita' installazzjoni, Salib kbir mibni minn struttura tal-ħadid għolja 15-il metru miksi b' 500 biċċa tal-injam riċiklat.

Fin-naha t'isfel tas-salib saret bażi oħra tal-injam li fuqha twaħħlu aktar minn 400 salib magħmul minn palletti u misbughin bojod li qed jirrappreżentaw lill-vittmi tal-pandemija u vittmi tal-gwerra fl-Ukrajna.

Madwar is-salib (*xellug*) tpoġġew ukoll 60 kontenitur biex il-viżitaturi jkunu jistgħu jpoġġu fjuri għall-vittmi. Meta jinxteghel filgħaxxiet, is-Salib jagħmel atmosfera partikolari.

Skont Franco Ciangura, il-Viċi Sindku tal-Lokalita', il-moħħ wara din l-installazzjoni hija li r-realtà u s-sit-wazzjoni li qed ngħixu bħalissa.

Jekk il-ħadid jitpoġġew wara xulxin, jammonta għal madwar 400 metru tul, filwaqt li l-injam jammonta għal 1.2 kilometru tul. Ix-xogħol inbeda fi Frar minn tim żgħir ta' voluntiera b'qalb u dedikazzjoni kbira u dam madwar seba' ġimgħat biex tlesta

TAHT: Mater Dolorosa: Is-Socjetà Filarmonika Mnarja taht id-direzzjoni ta' Mro Dr Joseph Grech bdiet l-Għid b'serata ta' mużika sagra u qari fil-Bażilika ta' San Pietru u San Pawl, in-Nadur li fih indaqgħew xogħlijiet ta' kompożituri kbar magħrufa. Hadu sehem il-bandisti solisti Kimberly Camilleri (*Flute*), Marvin Grech (*Bb Clarinet*), Jason Camilleri (*Bb Trumpet*).

Mill-Gżira
Għawdxija

Charles Spiteri



TAHT: Stabat Mater: Fil-Katidral ta' Għawdex il-Fondazzjoni Classique ippreżentat li Stabat Mater ta' Giovanni Pergolesi li fih hadu sehem is-sopran Nicola Said, l-alto Clare Ghigo u s-sezzjoni tal-istrumenti tal-korda tal-Orkestra Filarmonika ta' Malta taht id-direzzjoni ta' Mro. Joseph Debrincat.



Kristu Rxoxt fil-Fontana

Bhal f'Malta u Għawdex, wara nuqqas ta' sentejn, il-Fontana oċelebrat it-tridu solenni tal-Għid bis-sehem tal-komunità. Kien it-tielet Għid għall-Kappillan, il-Kan. Simon Mario Cachia imma l-ewwel wicħed tiegħu mal-komunità.

F'Hadd il-Għid saret dimostrarzjoni bl-istatwa ta' Kristu Rxoxt li fiha saret ukoll it-tigrija tradizzjonali bl-istess statwa. Wara l-Kappillan qassam figolla lit-tfal kollha prezenti (*fug*). Il-festi jkomplu bid-Disa' Ġimgħat sal-festa tal-Qalb ta' Gesù f'Gunju.

Toronto's Maltese-Canadian Museum and Archives



The interior of the Maltese-Canadian Museum and Archives in Toronto with some of the exhibits (photo: Fr Mario Micallef)

Richard S. CUMBO (Curator)

The museum at St. Paul the Apostle Church Complex in Toronto, Canada started as a collection of religious artifacts belonging to St. Paul's Church. The original small church had been built between 1930 and 1931, while the present much larger building started being built in 1955 and was completed in 1956.

During the anniversary of St. Paul's shipwreck on Malta (60 A.D.) the halls and convent in the parish served the very large concentration of Maltese who at one time lived in the immediate area known as "the Junction" in West Toronto, were completed in 1960.

The impetus in putting together the museum as we know it today was that of the artistically talented Franciscan Friar

Father Raymond Falzon, OFM. During the late 1980s, Father Falzon added further old photos, documents, and memorabilia relating to the Maltese-Canadian community in Canada and also displayed and chronicled the rich history and culture of Malta and Gozo.

Over the subsequent years with the closure of many Maltese associations/clubs in the latter 1980s and 1990s, the museum became very important as the receptacle of belongings of the clubs that had closed down their doors. The once large Maltese community in "the Junction" had decreased over the last thirty years, with many moving out of the area, or returning back to Malta.

St. Paul's had been under the administration of the Francis-



A model of an old Maltese ship at the the museum's collection

can Order of the Province of Malta from 1951 until 1999 when it then came under the spiritual guidance of the Maltese Order, the Missionary Society of St. Paul (MSSP) of Rabat, Malta.

In 2016 during the pastorship of Father Manuel Parnis, MSSP, work was undertaken to open the museum to the general public. Until then the museum holdings were only on show when a special event took place in the upper St. Paul's Hall auditorium.

Then on 29th January 2017, the museum was officially opened to the public and Richard Cumbo was appointed as its first curator. The chairperson of the Maltese-Canadian Museum is always the pastor of St. Paul's. Presently, that is Father Mario Micallef, MSSP.

The museum has had many generous benefactors over the

years. Among the main ones were: the former Mid-Med Bank, the Bank of Valletta, Father Raymond Falzon, Father Andrew Cuschieri, OFM, Joanne, and David Bugeya, the Maltese-Canadian Club of London, Ontario, Malta Bake Shop, videographers Alfred Fenech and Sam Cassar, the Office of the Consul General of Malta to Canada in 1988, 2005 and 2020, Dame Violet Sillato, OSJ, and many others.

Among the important exhibits in the museum is the coin collection dating back to the Roman time, to the Knights of Malta, as well as the French and British rule, to the present. Two very old original alabaster vases that belonged to the first Maltese-born saint, St. George Preca, are also among the exhibits.

**Continued on page 21*



Hand painted models of traditional Maltese buildings on display

A collection of important documents and photos

**Continued from page 20*

The Maltese-Canadian Museum in Toronto also has a collection of important documents, photos, and the final property of the Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto (Est.1922), which closed in August 2019.

The Maltese-Canadian Society and the early Maltese community had played an integral role in the erection of both churches. All Maltese-Canadian organisations, past and present, in one form or another, are also duly represented in the museum.



Maltese lace at the Museum in Toronto is a very important and attractive exhibit

It also has a fine display of Maltese lace, glass, pottery, valuable commemorative medals, reproduction (and some original) prehistoric objects, Roman earthenware, costumes, replicas of old ships, and much more.

The latest exhibit is a display of model airplanes that valiantly fought to protect Malta during its Second Great Siege of 1942. The replicas were made and donated by Father Ivano Burdian MSSP.

The Maltese-Canadian Museum is very fortunate in having a good working relationship with the prestigious National Archives of Malta under the directorship of Dr. Charles Farrugia (who has visited the museum) and the Migrants (now digital) Museum in Valletta and its new director Father Anton D'Amato. It has also interacted with archival and historical societies in Ontario and Canada.

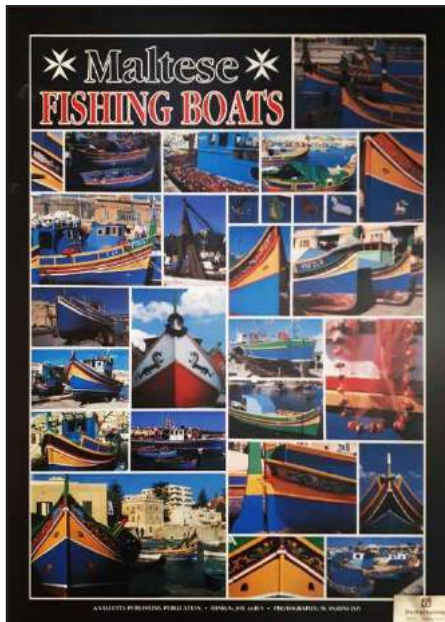
Anonymous donors have donated various books to the museum library, and the museum has now become home to a large assortment of books on all topics relating to the Maltese Islands. It is also fortunate in having a few rare and antique books in old Maltese.

A very dedicated small group of volunteers under the guidance of the curator continuously work to maintain and update donations made to the museum. Due to lack of space, not all donations can be put on display. It alternates holdings at various times.

This year, the Maltese-Canadian Museum and Archive celebrate the fifth anniversary since it opened to the public, and next year it will celebrate its forty-fifth year since it was established.

Admittance to the museum, is free. Visitors normally give a voluntary monetary donation.

Exhibitions and other various events are being planned for the future.



◀A Maltese Fishing Boats poster on the wall of the Maltese-Canadian Museum in the upper hall of St. Paul Apostle Church



Women wearing the traditional Maltese ghonnella (faldetta) at the museum

Are there seniors in your community who need help at home?

Our local Home Care team help seniors to live independently at home.

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From left: Michael and Georgina Marmara, Andrew Gatt, Doris Catania, Tony and Agatha Saliba. Due to a custom change for the next dance routine Carmen Biessling is not in the photo, but was also part of this group

Proud of their country

The annual International Day (March 22) at the Centennial Retirement Village Burnside on the Western side of the state of Victoria that has among its residents about 20 people of Maltese descent, was celebrated in style.

Apart from the residents of this retirement village around 128 persons attended the celebrations that included traditional food and cultural dances.

Doris Catania was kind enough to provide us with the photo. She assured us that various activities are held regularly in this village, which makes it a pleasant life for the residents.

Emmanuel Brincat

MCA NSW coach trip to the Entrance May 18

Tony Pace-Feraud, the secretary of the Maltese Cultural Association of NSW, informed *The Voice* that the Via Sagra in the Maltese *ghana* style, at the Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Greystanes, with the participation of the MCA choir was well received.

He said the attendance was average and there was a good turn out.

This event opened this year's programme of activities after most of the previously planned events had been cancelled because of the terrible Covid-19 restrictions.

Next on the programme for this association is a five-star Coach Trip to The Entrance and the surrounds on Wednesday, 18th May.

The coach leaves at 9:00am from Old Prospect Road, Greystanes, close to Braeside Road. Morning tea will be provided.

The cost is only \$25 per person. Book now. For booking and any other information, contact the secretary on 0400 376 607.

World War II diary: 21st April 1942:

Six days after the award of the George Cross, the troops are praised the world over

Six days after being awarded the George Cross Medal by King George VI on 15th April 1942, at the height of World War II, "to honour her brave people... to bear witness to a heroism and devotion that will long be famous in history," Major General D.M.W. Beak, the General Officer Commanding Troops Malta delivered a special message to all the ranks of the Army.

He wished them all to know how much he appraised and appreciated the steadfast and excellent work they had been giving and still were, to their cause which, he said, "was the cause of all free people".

He recognised they had been experiencing a tense period fraught with intense difficulties. Nevertheless they responded gallantly and never once failed or faltered.

He said they were sticking to the job with a cheerfulness and fortitude which was beyond praise. "Much has been asked of you but more have you given. The spirit of your effort is representative of the best which the British breed has ever produced in its long history of brilliant achievement and that is saying much," he said.

He acknowledged that they were straining at the leash to be able to get at the enemy, and that nothing could be more trying than having to 'sit and take it'. But he promised them that, "The day will come

when we shall 'rise and give it' and then I know you will not be weighed in the balance and found wanting."

He ended the message by telling them that their spirited work was known and praised the world over but nowhere was it better known, more understood and appreciated, than in Malta by those who are fully in the picture.

"Your effort is magnificent. You may be justly proud," he said.


At noon that same day, troops of D Company, 3rd Battalion Kings Own Malta Regiment were attacked by two Messerschmitt ME 109 fighters while they were out on a route march.

Later that afternoon a number of ME 109s flew low over the sector of 1st Battalion, whose Ack Ack platoon immediately responded with a volley of machine gun fire, and an hour later, the 3rd Battalion's A Company opened fire on another enemy aircraft, which then crashed into the sea about four miles off the coast.



ME 109s


Community News



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PROGRAM FOR THE MALTESE

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AN HOUR FILLED WITH NEWS AND INFORMATION



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

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La Valette Social Centre

Inc. 175 Walters Road, Blacktown Tel. 96225847



La Valette Social Centre is open for business as usual on Thursday for Respite and on Saturdays for Mass and entertainment. The bar and restaurant are available.

The next activity is the postponed Annual General Meeting for the association's financial members which will be now held on Friday 27th May from 7pm.

St Nicholas Festa
Committee Plump-ton -NSW

**The Events for
the rest of 2022**

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-AHBARIJIET 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.



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

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



Hibs increase lead to 4 points

With only two more games to go to the end of the Top 6 Round in the Premier League, and following Sunday's 2-0 victory over Gudja Utd, Hibernians managed to widen their gap over their nearest challengers Floriana who dropped two points in their scoreless draw against Birkirkara. Hibernians now have 51 points to the Greens' 47.

Meanwhile, Birkirkara kept their hopes alive of finishing third but have now been joined with on 41 points by Hamrun Spartans after their 2-0 victory over Gzira United.

Meanwhile, by virtue of the points they gained in their Play-Out matches on Saturday, Valletta and Sirens have secured their Premier League status for next season. Valletta managed a 1-1 draw against Balzan with a goal at the death (90th min) after conceding in the 75th min. Sirens beat Sliema Wanderers 5-0.

Balzan's hopes of avoiding the drop are now quite dim after Sta Lucia drew with Mosta. The Saints are three points ahead of Balzan.

RESULTS

Top 6 Round

Hibernians v Gudja U 2-0
Floriana v Birkirkara 0-0
Hamrun S v Gzira U 2-0

Playout Round

Valletta v Balzan 1-1
Sta Lucia v Mosta 1-1
Sirens v Sliema W 5-0

George Cross suffer first loss but still lead the league ladder

George Cross continued where they left off last season when the season was cut short and currently occupy the top spot in State League One despite suffering a first defeat this season on Saturday.

The Georgies are on course for a return to the NPL and have a two-points lead over their nearest opponents Banyule City following six successive wins in the opening six rounds.

The away win over Sydenham Park in round 4 was a big test the Georgies stood up to and this was followed by an emphatic 2-0 win over third-place Altona City, but last Saturday they lost 0-2 way to Brimbank.

The team guided by coach Eric Vassiliadis has a very strong squad with players fighting for every position.

Recent signing Levy Tarbotton, former Under-18 English international has scored three goals in his first three appearances.

GREEN GULLY SC have made an indifferent start to the NPL season. Following their fifth victory in Round 10 on Saturday, 1-0 against Hume FC, they now occupy 7th place with 16 points.

The team has suffered four defeats thus far and another match was drawn. More consistency is needed if the team is to feature in the finals.

Hibs and Floriana meet in FA Trophy semi

Hibernians stand a chance for the League and FA Trophy double after reaching the semi-final stage of the KO competition, a stage they secured by beating Hamrun Spartans 2-1 in extra time in the Qtr Finals. Now in the semis

they meet Floriana, 3-1 victors over Birkirkara in the previous round.

The other semi-final will be between Sta Lucia and Valletta. The former defeated Gzira U 3-1 in extra time while the Citizens beat Marsaxlokk 5-0.

Malta's Sports Awards for 2021

Swimmer Neil Agius won the Sportsman of the Year award and tenpin bowler Sue Abela the Sportswoman title for 2021 in the annual Sports contests organised jointly by the Journalists Association and SportMalta. Saturday. Agius also carried the People's Choice Award.

Australia Cup: Parramatta in Round 5

Parramatta FC needed extra time to narrowly defeat Phoenix FC, 1-0 at Melita Stadium to qualify to the 5th round of the 2022 Australia Cup.

However, in the NSW League 3 Mens league Parramatta FC suffered back-to-back defeats. They first went down 1-0 to Hurstville FC in their Round 6 match at Rydalmere Park, and then on Friday suffered a 5-1 defeat at UNSW FC.

Former 'Eagle' Faqi Farrugia dies at 72



The death was announced on Saturday April 23 of Joe 'Faqi' Farrugia, the former Malta Malta striker. He hailed from Qrendi but played for Zurrieq, Marsa, Sliema Wanderers and Melita Eagles in the NSW Federation league. He was aged 72.

Joe played in Marsa's best ever season in their history, in 1970-71 when they were in Division I. The striker had his best days at the end of the 1960s and start of the 1970s and made 3 full caps for Malta.

He represented Malta in Under-18 team level against Italy in 1967, and a year later joined Sliema Wanderers, for only one season before joining Marsa and helped them win promotion to the top division.

He played three seasons for Marsa and played for them in their historic UEFA Cup match against Juventus (1971). He also made three appearances for Malta's national team.

In 1973, 'il-Faqui' emigrated to Australia and joined Melita Eagles before briefly returning to Malta, to play two more seasons for Marsa.

Maltese Australian Dan Bonello wins 26th Cycling tour of Malta

Maltese Australian Dan Bonello and Englishwoman Mathilde Pauls won their respective categories in the 26th Malta International Cycling Tour organised recently by the Malta Federation of Cycling. Bonello, from Team Oleka won his event, in a total time of 4:34:13, while Pauls from team 1904RT, who also won in 2018, won her section in 3:48:11.

In the men's, Bonello was followed in second place just 10 seconds behind, by Antoine Magaud (Sprinter Nice Metropole France). Swiss Johannes (Glameyer of Amore e Vita - KIBAG-Obor) was third in 4:35:27.

Mathilde Pauls (1904RT), who also won this category in 2018, won this year with an overall time of 3:48:11. Second was Malta's Marie Claire Aquilina (Team Greens) in 3:50:11, while Gabriella Nordin

(Team Jadan) finished third in 3:51:09.

Englishman Dave Mitchinson (Cinnamon Café Contour Cycles Drunk-UK) won the Masters in 3:30:03, followed by Malta's Etienne Bonello (Team Greens) in 3:30:13. Third was Martin Lawless (Cycle Club Ashwell - UK) 29 seconds later.

The final classification of the Maltese finished with Dan Bonello first followed by Jacob Schembri (Mosta CC) and Jason Vella (Agones SFC). In the Women's Team Greens finished with: 1. Marie Claire Aquilina, 2. Danica Bonello Spiteri, 3. Juleanne Vassallo.

Even in the Maltese Master's Final classification, three Team Greens cyclists fin-



The victors in the respective categories. From left: Mathilde Pauls, Dan Bonello and Dave Mitchinson

ished in the first three places, Etienne Bonello, Nick Schembri, and Rueben Colombo respectively.

At the end of this stage, all winners were awarded medals, trophies, and red jerseys by MCF officials John Zammit, Joe Bajada, and Daniel Borg Olivier.