



# Maltese Newsletter

Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

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OAM MQR JP

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**President George Vella and the First Lady Miriam Vella with the Maltese participants at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022**



**Walking Together**  
Pope Francis in Canada  
**Marcher Ensemble**  
Pape François Canada  
24-28 July 2022

**Canada Day in Gozo 2020**



**MALTESE  
LIVING  
ABROAD**



**MALTA  
WELCOMES  
YOU  
HOME**



**TANIA DE CARLI**



**JOSEPH  
CALLEJA  
AND  
AMELIA  
FARRUGIA  
IN  
AUSTRALIA  
IN  
OCTOBER**





VIRTUAL YOUTH FORUM

## Save the Date!

The Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade in collaboration with Aġenzija Żgħażaġh is proud to announce the First Virtual Youth Forum for Maltese Living Abroad with the theme

### I Want to Connect

Maltese Language, Culture and Identity

Date and Time: Saturday, 17th September 2022 at 0015hrs (CET)

Click here to register: [foreign.gov.mt/events/VYF1](https://foreign.gov.mt/events/VYF1)

#### Contact Details

Directorate for Consular Services and Maltese Living Abroad

✉ [malteselivingabroad.mfet@gov.mt](mailto:malteselivingabroad.mfet@gov.mt)

☎ (+356) 22042478



## MALTA 1st VIRTUAL YOUTH FORUM - PLEASE TAKE NOTE, SAVE THE DATE & SHARE!

Maltese youth living abroad (aged 16-30) are encouraged to save the date in order to join us in the 1st Virtual Youth Forum. This forum will be bringing together young people from all over the world who have an interest and

Żgħażaġh Maltin li jgħixu barra minn Malta huma mhegga jzommu din id-data libera sabiex jingħaqdu magħna għall-Forum Virtwali taż-Żgħażaġh. Dan il-forum se jkun qed jgħaqqad żgħażaġh minn madwar id-dinja li għandhom interess u

għożża lejn pajjiżna. <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=355570090081573...>



## Katryna Esposito Wins Malta's First Medal At This Year's Commonwealth

Katryna Esposito has won Malta's first medal at this year's edition of the Birmingham Commonwealth Games.

Competing in the -48kg category for Judo, the 21-year-old made a major impact in her first appearance at the games, taking home the bronze medal.

She fought in several fights earlier today, beating Mauritius judoka Priscilla Morand to win third place.

Katryna won the Bronze Medal for Malta.

# Joseph Calleja - Tour of Australia

Blessed with a golden-age voice which routinely inspires comparisons to legendary singers from earlier eras, Calleja is now a superstar in all the greatest opera houses and concert halls.

His extensive discography includes a thrilling Verdi album and a hugely popular tribute to Mario Lanza, whilst his performance of Puccini's famous *Nessun dorma* at The Last Night of the Proms at The Royal Albert Hall was nothing short of electrifying.

In this, his eagerly anticipated debut Australian tour, the Maltese born singer described as the young Pavarotti will be joined by two of Australia's best-loved artists, soprano Amelia Farrugia, who is also of Maltese heritage, and internationally acclaimed pianist Piers Lane, in an unforgettable performance.

**PROGRAM** **Saturday, 29 October 2022** 19:30

Adelaide Town Hall, Adelaide, Australia

Joseph Calleja **Venue capacity: 1110**

**Monday, 31 October 2022** 19:30

Arts Centre Melbourne - Hamer Hall, Melbourne, Australia

Joseph Calleja **Venue capacity: 2661**

**Thursday, 03 November 2022** 19:30

QPAC - Concert Hall, Brisbane, Australia

Joseph Calleja **Venue capacity: 1800**

**Saturday, 05 November 2022** 19:30

Perth Concert Hall, Perth, Australia

Joseph Calleja **Venue capacity: 1729**

**Thursday, 27 October 2022** 19:30 Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre - Aotea Centre (formerly ASB Theatre), Auckland City, New Zealand **Joseph Calleja - The Maltese Tour** **Venue capacity: 2000**



## PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONSUL-ON-THE MOVE PROJECT

#### CONSUL ON THE MOVE ADELAIDE 4 AND 5 OCTOBER 2022

Consul on the Move will be visiting Adelaide on Tuesday 4 October and Wednesday 5 October 2022 at the Maltese Cultural Centre, 6 Jeanes Street, Beverley. This program will enable the collection of biometric data for anyone requiring a new Maltese passport or the renewal of one. Should you require this service please contact the High Commission in Canberra on (02) 6290 1426 to book your appointment. It is essential that you have an appointment for this service. For more information contact Carmen Spiteri Honorary Consul in South Australia on 0401 136 673

#### CONSUL ON THE MOVE PERTH VISIT 6 – 10 OCTOBER 2022

The Consul on the Move program will be visiting Perth at the Maltese Association of WA Centre, 1 May Holman Drive Bassendean, on Thursday 6 October, Friday 7 October, Saturday 9 October and Monday 10 October.

This program will enable the collection of biometric data for anyone requiring a new Maltese passport or the renewal of one. Should you require this service please contact the High Commission in Canberra on (02) 6290 1426 to book your appointment. It is essential that you have an appointment for this service. Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact Joe Calleja, Honorary Consul WA, on 0433 821 214.



**MALTESE LIVING ABROAD**  
Malta in the World

**The Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade seeks to protect and promote the rights and interests of the Maltese living outside Malta.**

We strive to enhance connectivity through active interactions as well as promote Maltese identity, culture and heritage,

including the Maltese language as goalposts of Maltese opulence in the world.

We endeavor to further build on the networks of the Maltese living abroad with a view to explore business and other forms of collaboration within the framework of mutual benefit and in the common interests of Malta.

## **Objectives of the Maltese Living Abroad Unit**

The Maltese Living Abroad Unit seeks to promote and protect the rights and interests of Maltese living abroad. It aims to:

- Protect and promote the rights of those living abroad whilst also increasing interest in Maltese culture and Identity
- Serve as the focal point for information, advice and co-ordination to Maltese living abroad
- Serve as the focal point for information, advice and co-ordination to any association or non-governmental organization representing Maltese abroad
- Ensure the implementation of the decisions taken by the Council for Maltese Living Abroad as regulated by Chapter 515 of the laws of Malta
- Maintain strong communication links with the Council of the Maltese Living Abroad
- Maintain updated records of the Maltese Living Abroad Register comprising of the Notification forms,
- Create effective communications and collaboration frameworks between Malta and its citizens living abroad
- Enhancing engagement through the Consul-on-the-Move program

## **Proud of our language: Learning Maltese**

### **Learning Maltese for migrant students**

The Department for Maltese has developed a new resource for listening which has been added to the many other resources on [www.malti.skola.edu.mt](http://www.malti.skola.edu.mt)

This complements the resources for the induction level of Maltese for migrant students. This resource can be used by students with very little guidance from the teacher and can provide them with opportunities for further practice when at home. Students will be able to practice vocabulary and common phrases required for basic communication such as vocabulary related to food, clothes, the living surroundings and school.

This resource is built on five graded levels. In the first level, the student sees the picture and listens to nouns related to the theme. In the second level they follow a series of pictures and listen to nouns and their article. In the third level they listen to a phrase made up of a noun, article and adjective describing the picture. In the fourth level a demonstrative pronoun is added to the phrase whilst the last level is intended for revision. Each theme is presented in the singular and plural version except for the theme Il-Post Fejn Nghix. For this theme the students require a little more input from the teacher in the third level since the visuals might present different interpretations for the adjective.

This resource can be accessed from the link: <https://malti.skola.edu.mt/malti-barranin/il-malti-ghall-barranin-primarja/smigh-mlb-primarja/>



**We are proud of our Maltese Achievers** 

**The Journal of Maltese Living Abroad**  
connecting communities  
around the world







## Fatima Payman, Australia's first hijab-wearing senator, sobs as she tells powerful refugee story

'You got this,' she said. Senator Payman, 27, summoned the strength to carry on, her voice still wavering as she told her family's powerful story.

© Provided by Daily Mail Australia's first hijab-wearing senator, 27, sobbed as she told how her dad fled the Taliban by boat and slaved away as a cabbie in the suburbs in her powerful first speech to Parliament. I'd like to thank my mum and my siblings who've joined us here today for their unwavering support, love, and patience,' she continued.

'Who would have thought that a young woman born in Afghanistan and the daughter of a refugee would be standing in this chamber today?

'Knowing the sacrifices that my dad went through as a taxi driver and security guard to ensure he saved up enough money to make ends meet, to support his family, and to ensure my siblings and I had the future he wasn't able to secure for himself.' Her father Abdul Wakil Payman came to Australia by boat as a refugee in 1999 and was locked up in immigration detention

Fatima Payman only made it a few minutes into her first speech to Federal Parliament before she broke down in tears.

Proudly addressing the [Senate](#) in a hijab, the first Muslim woman to do so, she thanked her late father who arrived in Australia as a refugee.

'Whose sacrifices will never be forgotten and who I dearly wish was here to see how far his little daughter has come,' she said on Wednesday, her voice cracking until she could speak no more.

Senator Payman loudly sobbed as Marielle Smith, her neighbour on the Labor backbench, put a comforting hand on her shoulder.



## Victoria (Also Known as Rabat)

We spent probably about 5-6 hours in total, spread over two days (because of the timing of our arrival to Gozo) exploring these spots in Victoria. We did not see everything and found this to be a good pace to take things in without feeling rushed, though if we had an entire day to take this all in more leisurely, that would have been a great option.

- Explore Medieval Streets - In the centre of [Victoria](#) is a rabbit warren of

old Medieval streets that wind this way and that, have beautifully quaint townhouses, and have potted plant street gardens dotting the roads. This is worth wandering both during the day as well as at night, when it will feel like a wholly different experience. With the hushed quiet and lack of people at night, these old streets were both semi-creepy and also transported us back in time (at least in our imaginations). If you're trying to find this spot on a map, look for the section of the city south of the Cittadella surrounded by 4-5 main streets (nestled between these streets: Id Dawwara Tomba and Triq Taħt Putirjal).

- **CITTADELLA** - This fortress city sits inland and up on a hill, a prime look-out spot for people to scan the surrounding countryside and hills. While today we can appreciate the 360 degree views from atop it for purely aesthetic reasons, it would have provided a sense of safety to earlier eras. Evidence dates human habitation on the site back to the Bronze Era with some less solid evidence suggesting

Stone Age usage. The Cittadella currently on the spot dates to around the year 1500. One of its most significant historic moments was when it was attacked by the Ottomans in 1551 (fourteen years prior to the Siege of Malta on the larger island), and while 300 or so citizens escaped, the rest - a large group of 6,000 people - were taken by Ottomans as slaves and shipped to Tripoli. It took 150 years for Gozo to regain the population prior to the invasion, so its easy to see what a lasting impact this had on the island. Today, the Cittadella offers a lot of activities within its walls, so here are some spots within the Cittadella for you to visit. You do not need to purchase a ticket to enter Cittadella. The city itself is open for people to wander and in fact has a small number of residents still.

- **THE VISITOR'S CENTER AT CITTADELLA** - Located at the fortresses base, the purchase of a ticket (inside the museum) gives you access to the visitor's center plus includes museum access to 5+ museums within the city walls. The ticket is good for 30 days. The visitor's center has recently been redone and provided a helpful overview of Cittadella through different lenses and its history. After exploring the small exhibit, you can enter a separate room that plays an immersive video – by immersive I mean that you stand in the center of the room, and the video plays on all the walls around – to help bring its history to life further. The visitor's center does not require a lot of time - 30 minutes is probably sufficient for the small space - but by the time we walked out of it, we had a solid understanding of Cittadella, which helped us better interpret what we saw within its walls.
- **ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM** - 30 minutes is probably sufficient for this smaller version than the mainland Malta Museum of Archaeology. Geared toward both general Maltese archaeology as well as Gozo-specific information, this is worth a quick stop.
- **CATHEDRAL OF THE ASSUMPTION** - This is the Cittadella's cathedral in the city square. We enjoyed viewing it from outside, particularly in light of its sweeping staircase. Entry requires a separate ticket purchase from the all-inclusive ticket for the other museums in the city, and while I don't recall the price, we felt it was a bit steep particularly when we had already visited other amazing cathedrals on mainland Malta.
- **PRISON MUSEUM** - This tiny museum allows visitors to explore the fortress prison, and carvings made by prisoners are visible in the limestone (as well as more modern carvings by rude tourists unfortunately). It is located right up the street from the main square.
- **GRAN CASTELLO HOUSE** - What is now one building was originally multiple townhouses that date to the early 16th century. This museum provides a fascinating window into the architecture of the city where it was most experienced by its inhabitants - in their own homes. The houses were hewn out of the same limestone as everything else in Malta and had stone walls and floors, as well as interior courtyards to provide fresh air and light. The houses actually felt much more part of the outdoors than we would have expected from their stone facades. While the house itself is interesting in its own right, there are also exhibits throughout that are highly variable in nature: agricultural tools and implements, recreated rooms (such as a bedroom and kitchen), and information on the local industries such as fishing. Allow more time for this stop.
- **NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM** - This museum holds local and non-local flora and fauna, including an interesting display of stuffed birds (all of which had died natural deaths) and butterflies. This is a small museum which may not live up to your expectations if you compare it to other larger and better funded museums, but for a small museum included in our ticket it was worth a visit. Dustin really enjoyed the ocean fossils, which included a few huge Megalodon teeth. While it would have been great if more information on each species was provided, we had an enjoyable visit.
- **SHIPWRECK MUSEUM** - Billed as a temporary exhibit, this museum was supposed to have closed weeks before our visit, so we're not sure if it is going to become permanent or not. We almost skipped this one and are so glad we didn't! Like any well-trafficked coastal area, Malta has its history of shipwrecks. Given the historic use of the island, though, it has arguably more interesting shipwrecks than many places. In 2007, a Phoenician shipwreck was discovered off the coast in Xlendi Bay and was historic for a few reasons. The shipwreck dated to the 7th century BCE, meaning it is about 9,000 years old and making it the oldest shipwreck discovered in the region! The findings provide new insights into the Mediterranean trade routes of the Phoenicians and which goods were popular for trading (wine and oil are a few). This pocket-sized museum held urns and other remnants of that wreck in remarkably good condition!

- Cittadella's Ruins - As you move to the back part of the town, you'll come across buildings in ruins. What makes this particularly fascinating is that much of the ruins date back to the Ottoman attack in 1551 where a large portion of the local population was killed or taken as slaves. It is chilling to look at the remnants of a fight to survive that dates back some 470 years in the light of the present day.
- **THE HOUSE (AND LEGEND) OF BERNARDO DUPUO** - Buried in the ruined streets, one has a gate covering the door and a placard identifying it as the home of Bernardo Dupuo. We learned about his story in the visitor's center, and it is a sad one that dates to the Ottoman attack in 1551. Discovering that the city was about to be attacked by the Ottomans, Bernardo Dupuo, decided he would rather kill his wife and two daughters than have them captured as slaves. So, upon hearing of the invaders, he returned home with his family, killed them, and then went out to battle, where he himself fell. I love hearing stories of places – even, unfortunately, tragic ones like that – and seeing the spot where they occurred.
- **CITTADELLA'S RAMPARTS** - From atop the walls of the fortress (along the back of the city), you can take in aerial views of the ruins and walled city below as well as see the surrounding towns and countryside. Because Gozo is a small island (25 square miles in size), you'll be able to pick out the various coastal towns from this height.
- **CITTADELLA AT NIGHT** - If you have the chance, wander the walled city under the cover of dark. The cathedral is beautiful lighted, the warren of streets are fun to wander with their spotty lantern light, and the ramparts will provide sweeping views of neighbouring cities.

## HISTORY

Malta is a constitutional republic and parliamentary democracy.



Malta's position in the central Mediterranean has made it an important strategic base for many different powers, and meant that it has been subject to many invasions throughout the ages. A multitude of civilisations have occupied the island, notably the Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Romans, Turks, Arabs, Knights, French and British.

**Now, Malta is a Republic and a member of the European Union**

## Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Inc.

Introducing a member of the Executive TANIA DE CARLI

Tania's parents, Frank and Tessie Sargent were born in Malta and emigrated to Australia in 1951. Tania grew up attending many Maltese events including festas and dinner dances and is extremely proud of her Maltese culture; speaking fluent Maltese and visiting Malta as often as opportunity permits to see family and friends.

Tania's background includes local government, not-for-profit and membership organisations. Her specialties lie in the delivery of complex projects encompassing governance, risk, communications,

stakeholder and event management. She has a broad reach network of community groups and organisations and is currently the Chief of Staff at The Police Association Victoria having previously been the Manager Strategic Communications and Events at the Victorian Multicultural Commission. Tania is also a Community Advisory Committee member on the Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust and Northern Health.

Tania is excited to have joined the MCCV Executive Committee, hoping to 'give back' some of that which has been provided with so much dedication and enthusiasm by preceding and existing members.





## SURVIVORS SPEAK OF SEPARATION, AND HOPE, IN MASKWACIS DURING APOLOGY OF POPE FRANCIS SOCIAL SHARING

Survivors from Gitwangak and Maskwacis have different views on apology

[Francine Compton](#) · CBC News · Posted: Jul 25, 2022



Gary Williams called the trip to hear the Papal apology, an adventure. (Francine Compton/CBC)

Survivors came from near and far to be present for Pope Francis's apology to residential school survivors in Maskwacis, Alta., on Monday.

Gary Williams travelled from his traditional Gitxsan territory in northwestern B.C.

While sitting in the arbour in Maskwacis, the 72-year-old recalled the 23-hour train ride he and his younger brother took from their home in Gitwangak to St. Albert residential school near Edmonton when they were children.

"It was scary way back then, especially when

we were 11 and nine," said Williams.

Like many of the elders and survivors attending, he had to board a bus at 5:30 a.m. to the site for the arrival of the Pope.

But he wasn't there for an apology from the Pope; he was asked to come as an elder and a survivor.

"Oh, goodness. I don't care for the apology myself. I don't," he said.



Williams also spent nearly 25 years on council governing his First Nation and is one of only a fraction of language speakers left in his community.

Marilyn Yellowbird Rowan welcomed survivors coming into the teepee asking for a sage smudge and prayers. She sees Monday's event as the beginning of a healing process. (Francine Compton/CBC)

Marilyn Yellowbird Rowan didn't have to go far to hear the apology. The survivor from Maskwacis was on hand to offer support, smudge and prayers in a teepee behind the arbour.

"I came here in very good spirits and hopefully that whatever I learn through the healing process, I can bring that home to my family members," said Rowan.

**'I've waited 50 years for this apology,' says residential school survivor on Pope's statement**  
**Anishinaabe support worker travels 11 hours to care for survivors in their language during papal visit**

Her soft voice and comforting smile welcomes people into the teepee as she takes her time preparing a stick of sage for the smudge bowl.

"It's been quite constant here," she said. "A lot of people have come in and out, asking for prayers, which is a good sign." After a day of praying and smudging with survivors, she said she feels thankful people came from all over and hopes hearing the Pope's apology helps them heal.

"I think a lot of people will go home now and start to feel more content and more happier, hopefully," she said.





## Malta Diary Malta's lengthy medical history is an integral part of its national heritage

**ALBERT FENECH**

Thermal-baths-used-to-operated-by-Bighi-Hospital

Thanks to the presence in Malta for three-and-a-half centuries of the Knights of the Order of St John of Jerusalem, also known as The Knight Hospitaliers, the country has a long and experienced medical history and in World War I was regarded as "The nurse of the Mediterranean" for its medical treatment of wounded and injured British and Australian military personnel. The role and importance of the Order has today declined but their presence is still felt by the work of the St John Ambulance Brigade, the role they perform and the insignia they use – its central focus being the Maltese Cross.



Bighi-was-a-British-military-hospital

The Knights first came to Malta in the early years of the 15<sup>th</sup> century after being expelled by the Turkish Moors from Rhodes. The source of their foundation was a Nobility Order dedicated to treating the injured and wounded during the Crusades in the Holy Land and later treating Christian pilgrims.

By 1530 they had arrived and begun to settle in Malta which was "given" to them by the Sicilian King Charles I of Spain and his mother in exchange for a rent of a Maltese Falcon annually!

Now-fallen-into-disrepair-and-urgently-needing-renovation

One of their tasks was to construct an Infirmary Hospital in Valletta after this city was constructed and inaugurated in 1568 following the great victory in 1565 after the Great Siege imposed by the Turkish Moors.

Right down to World War II this hospital continued to function but later was sadly abandoned until the 1970s when the Maltese Government renovated and converted the building into what is now known as The Mediterranean Conference Centre.

The-building-now-converted-into-a-science-and-technology-centre-ESPLORA

The Knights remained in Malta until 1798 until they were expelled by Napoleon Bonaparte and his French military who had taken over the island and whose one of the first actions was to expel the Knights because of their nobility heritage, a major blot in French Republican eyes.

By 1803 the British under Lord Horatio Nelson had dispelled the French and following Malta's request, Malta became a part of the British Empire. At British behest an old and decrepit villa built by the Knights at Bighi was converted into a military hospital and became Bighi Hospital.

The-insignia-used-by-the-St-Johns-Ambulance-Brigade

Bighi lies on the inner northern part of the Grand Harbour rim near Kalkara and The Three Cities of Cospicua, Senglea and Vittoriosa and was chosen so that naval vessels could

immediately deliver their wounded and injured directly into the hospital. Its conversion to a hospital took place around 1827.

However, was there another reason?

Many people in Malta itself do not know that at the tip of Bighi, at water level, there are structured thermal baths and these were highly utilised by the British for patients with joint and muscle pains and other related illnesses and thus requiring thermal cures.

Admiral-Lord-Horatio-Nelson-who-resided-in-Malta-for-a-while





The coastal terrain in the area was ideal for the structuring of such baths. The baths used to be filled with cold or warm sea water as required and produced by a pumping room with water being directly drawn from the sea. Seawater contains magnesium, zinc, iron and potassium and helps cure inflamed skin and protect it.

With the introduction of

more sophisticated treatment, the baths were abandoned and the years of lying directly on the sea shore began to take their toll. The structures began to crumble and were in danger of being lost completely.

However, the heritage foundation FWA has now stepped in and has applied great pressure for these to be renovated and preserved as they are part of the Grand Harbour panorama and are depicted in many paintings of the area.

This is once more proof that Malta and Gozo are resplendent in historical heritage and although being among the smallest countries in the world their contribution to humanity has been great and by far out-reaching their geographical dimensions.

The Bighi Hospital has now been converted into the ESPLORA science and technology centre to maintain the utility of its importance to the history of Valletta's Grand Harbour.

French-Emporer-Napoleon-Bonaparte-resided-in-Malta-for-a-few-days-and-carried-out-many-changes



2010.417.4



## **IZZY CAMILLERI - FOUNDER & CHIEF DESIGNER**



Izzy Camilleri is one of Canada's leading and most celebrated fashion designers, and a pioneer in adaptive clothing. Izzy first ventured into the world of accessible clothing after initially doing custom work for a wheelchair user in 2004. It opened her eyes to the huge necessity for this type of clothing in the world.

Izzy has received awards such as CAFA's Womenswear Designer of the Year Award, and her

adaptive line has been featured in the Royal Ontario Museum. For more than 30 years, she has designed custom clothing for an international clientele, crafted gorgeous collections featured in



fashion magazines from Vogue to InStyle, and dressed celebrities like Daniel Radcliffe, Mark Wahlberg, Meryl Streep, Angelina Jolie and David Bowie. Since 2009, Izzy has focused on inclusive fashion through her brand IZ Adaptive, with the mission to make great looking and well fitting clothes accessible to everyone. To learn more about Izzy, visit [www.izzycamilleri.com](http://www.izzycamilleri.com).

In Canada even fashion rhymes with inclusion

Izzy Camilleri, a Canadian designer living in Toronto, is the pioneer of adaptive fashion, creating #inclusive clothes made especially for those with different needs, people who live permanently or temporarily with a disability.

Often the clothes have no back zips, have adjustable hems and waists, and fit all needs! Besides comfort, there is also the #psychological aspect: according to Izzy Camilleri, "it gives people back their #humanity and sense of belonging to society," rediscovering happiness in dressing

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## **THE PRESIDENT AND THE HIGH COMMISSIONER**



The President of Malta Dr George Vella met Her Excellency Jennifer Cartmill, High Commissioner of the Commonwealth of Australia, for a courtesy call at Sant Anton Palace. They had the opportunity to recall the excellent bilateral relations between Malta and Australia as well as regional developments in the Euro-Mediterranean and the

Indo-Pacific. During the meeting they also discussed the role of the Maltese diaspora in Australia and its valid contribution to Australian society.



### **THE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTERS ARE ARCHIVED AT**

**The Malta Migrant Museum - Valletta**

**Maltese-Canadian Museum - Toronto, Canada**

**Gozo National Museum - [www.ozmalta.com](http://www.ozmalta.com)**

**Facebook - [www.facebook.com/frank.scicluna.3](https://www.facebook.com/frank.scicluna.3)**

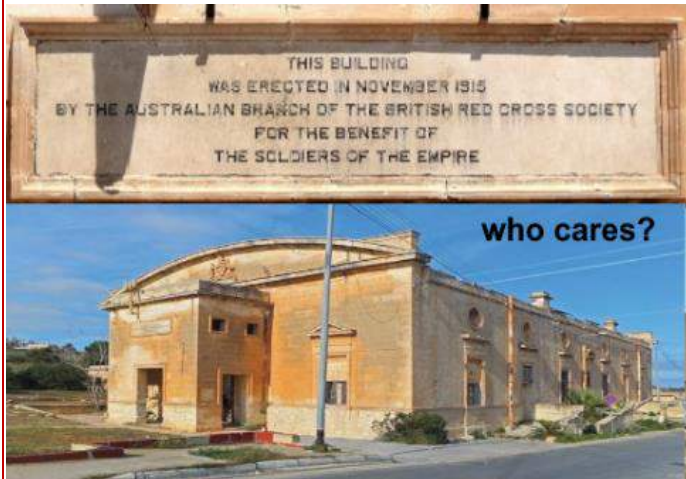
**Website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Malta**

**Website of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria**

**At clubs of several Maltese Associations**

**At Maltese Language Schools and libraries**

**Many readers preserve them on their USB**



**The Maltese Living in Malta and Abroad want this ANZAC icon to be restored**

*Maltese e-Newsletter - the Journal for the Maltese Living Abroad*

The former Australia Hall in Pembroke is today a sad carcass of a once dignified public building, with its interior totally gutted out and left in a state of utter dilapidation. (Charles Thake)

During World War I (1914-1918), Malta had a special role to play as a nursing station within the Mediterranean where several hospitals and convalescent camps were set up to tend to the casualties of the war. Australia Hall was built in 1915 by the Australian Branch of the Red Cross who raised funds to finance a combined recreation centre/theatre building that would serve to entertain wounded soldiers belonging to the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC). In its heyday the hall could accommodate up to two thousand men as stage productions, dances, and other forms of recreation were regularly held there. Later a library and reading room were introduced and around 1921 a projection room was added to the structure so that the hall could also be used as a cinema.

When the British military facilities in St Andrew's Barracks were closed down in 1978, it was returned to the Maltese government and transferred to the Labour Party in exchange for other property. In December 1998, a fire gutted the hall's entire roofing system of metal trusses and sheeting. Only the external masonry shell has survived. Today the roofless shell of a building is vulnerable to the natural elements and vandals have left their marks on what remains of the building.

The former Australia Hall is crying out to be restored and rehabilitated to a use which would serve the needs of the local community. This begs the question as to how long all we will continue to close a Nelson's eye to this shambolic situation.

In May this year, I visited Malta with my wife ... and in Pembroke the Australian Hall and we took a lot of photos. It is a pity that the beautiful building is now so neglected. Christian Launer – President of the Maltese-German Association

### **Restoration of Australia Hall Malta Project (RAHMP)**

We are seeking to gather interest in the potential restoration of Australia Hall, Pembroke, Malta. Built in 1915 to provide respite to ANZAC soldiers, the building suffered a catastrophic fire in 1998 and has remained subject to deterioration ever since. Please write to us showing your support:

RAHMP PO Box 12, DAW PARK , SOUTH AUSTRALIA, Australia 5041 Our email address is [australiahallmalta@gmail.com](mailto:australiahallmalta@gmail.com)

**Reading this journal, we feel connected  
with our Maltese sisters and brothers in  
Malta and all over the world.**

**We treasure and preserve all the editions  
of the journal. We can say this is the  
journal for all Maltese living abroad.  
Georgina and Paul Abela - Canada**





## St Anne in Dwejra

Times of Malta |

The chapel of St Anne in Dwejra. Photo: Charles Spiteri

The feast of St Anne and other Special festivities are held every year in honour of St Anne on July 25 and 26.

Works on the Dwejra chapel, dedicated to St Anne, started in 1963 and were finished in July of the

same year. The plans were drawn by architect Joe Mizzi and the master builder was Wenzu Formosa, ex-sacristan of the parish church of San Lawrenz.

All expenses were paid by Salesian Alwiġ Mizzi. The chapel was blessed by Gozo Bishop Giuseppe Pace on July 25, 1963, eve of the saint's liturgical feast.

Special festivities are held every year in honour of St Anne on July 25 and 26.

The chapel's rector, Fr Charles Sultana, who is also the parish priest of San Lawrenz, says the Dwejra chapel is testimony of St Anne's respect towards life, from the beginning to end.

He says that she is a testament to the divine and unique role of women, specifically as wives and mothers; and that she was no ordinary woman – by virtue of being faithful, she became extraordinary.

St Anne is the patron saint of grandparents, mothers, married couples and the infertile.

Every year, the rector receives hundreds of letters from devotees asking for the saint's intercession.

It is a great pleasure to see people coming over to thank St Anne for giving birth, Fr Sultana says.





**BYO**  
**Family Get Together**  
 Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2022  
 Polish Hall, 7 Helene Street, Ardeer  
 \$12 per person  
 Children under 12 years Free  
 6pm till 11pm  
 DJ: JO JO  
 B.Y.O. or buy from the canteen  
 Pastizzi, Ham & cheese/Tuna Rolls,  
 Hot dogs, Maltese Biscuits, Whiskey,  
 Beer, Wine and Soft drinks  
**FREE TEA & COFFEE**  
 For bookings ring:  
 Victor: 0412 991 325,  
 Mary: 9370 5164  
 Maree: 0405 754 696

**Save the Dates**  
 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> September 2022



**Maltese Chaplaincy Festivities Group  
 &  
 Maltese Community Council**  
 advise, that this year there will be combined celebrations for the,  
**Feast of Our Lady Queen of Victories  
 & Malta National Day.**  
**Christ the King - Lockleys - S.A**  
**Adelaide**  
 There's plenty to celebrate!

**13 AUG** **BBO**  
**FESTA TA' SANTA MARIJA**



**MALTESE CENTER NY**  
  
 27-20, Malta Square,  
 Hoyt Ave. South,  
 Astoria, NY 11102  
 tel: (718) 728 - 9883

**THE MALTESE CENTER**  
**SAVE THE DATE**  
 COME CELEBRATE  
 THE FEAST OF SANTA MARIA!  
 FOOD - DRINKS - MUSIC  
 DOORS OPEN AT 7pm  
 RSVP  
 WWW.THEMALTESECENTER.COM  


PLEASE, SEND US POSTER  
 TO BE PUBLISH IN THE JOURNAL  
 OF THE MALTESE  
 LIVING ABROAD

**THE MALTESE MACKAY CLUB INVITES YOU TO**  
**Our Lady of Victories**



**Festa Mass - Friday 9th September**  
 Procession begins at 7pm, Mass to follow  
 St Francis of Assisi Aged Care Home  
 2 Dupuy St, Mackay. Outdoors. Pending COVID  
 Supper to follow, Please bring plate of food to share

**Festa Dinner - Saturday 10th September**  
 7pm - The Metropolitan, 17 Gordon St, Mackay  
 \$35 Per Person, 2 Course Meal  
 Raffle Prizes, Lucky Door & Membership Draw to be won  
 RSVP by Monday 5th September, Pay at time of RSVP  
 Contact Rose Borg 0418 788 363

**San Ġorġ tagħna baqa' ġewwa....!**



Kav. Joe M. Attard

5 ta' Lulju 2022



San Gorġ tagħna din is-sena  
Mintix ser iddur mat-toroq  
Imma sejjer tibqa' ġewwa  
Mirfud sewwa taħt ix-xoroq

Għaliex din il-pandemija  
Folqitilna bosta nkwiet  
Fartitilna r-rutina  
U ma halliet lil hadd bil-kwiet.

Għadd ta' xhur tgerbu u marru  
Magħluqin ġewwa d-dar  
Għaliex bżajna li ningidmu  
Minn dal-virus, minn dal-far.

Tgħid il-poplu tagħna nesa  
Lill-maħbub Sid il-Folqien  
U waddbu f'xi kantuniera  
Ġewwa rokna ta' xi ġnien!

Lil Dak illi ħalaq kollox  
Neħtiġuh kuljum, kull ħin  
Flimkien ma' dik l-Omm imbierka  
Max-Xirka tal-Qaddisin

Illi fosthom żgur jispikka  
Il-martri Gorġi ta' Lidda  
L-isplendur, it-Tribun qawwi  
Li mal-globu dejjem idda.

Li matul it-tielet ġimgħa  
Kif xahar Lulju jfeġġ fuqna  
Arah lil kulhadd iġennen  
Lejn il-knisja dlonk isuqna!

Iktar mis-snin l-imghoddija  
Għad-dell tat-Tribuna mmorru;  
Muż'ka, dwal u ferħ ingarrbu  
Lil San Gorġ f'qalbna ngorru.

Maħniex ser naraw it-tlielaq  
Jew nisimgħu l-isparar  
Lanqas ser nimxu mal-banda  
Kif fl-imghoddi dejjem sar!

Imma xorta se nifirħu  
U nzejnu t-toroq tagħna  
U bosta mill-emigranti  
Bla dubju jingħaqdu magħna.

Għaliex dan il-patrun tagħna  
Lil hadd ma jħalli bil-kwiet  
Warajh saħħar ġnus kotrana  
Bil-eluf u bil-mijiet.

Maż-żmien bnejnielu żewġ tempji  
Ta' rħam u deheb zekkin  
Illi għaġġbu 'l-poplu tagħna  
U miegħu tant barranin.

Għalkemm sejjer tibqa' ġewwa  
Minħabba l-pandemija  
Gorġi tagħna itfa' ħarstek  
Fuqna b'dil-pesta mifnija

Reġġa' fuqna t-tbissima  
Mal-innu tal-'Gorġi tagħna'  
Jiġri x'jiġri int ser tibqa  
Minn ġos-sema tindukrana!

O kemm għandna għax nifirħu  
Għax tbiddlu l-affarijiet!  
Festa kbira sejr in naghmlu  
F'ħakka t'għajn din l-aħbar ġriet.

Il-ħajja r-rittmu qabdet  
Kollox reġa' għan-normal –  
Bil-ferħ tilmaħ it-tbissima  
Fuq il-kbar u fuq it-tfal.

San Gorġ mela l-ħadd fl-għaxija  
Erġa' dur mat-toroq tagħna  
Iżra' l-ferħ, il-paċi, l-għaqda  
U tinfired qatt minn magħna.

**TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A CHANGE  
APPEAL TO OUR YOUNG READERS**

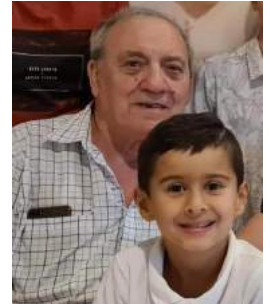


Early 20<sup>th</sup>C original oil on canvas depicting  
"A Young Maltese Folk Singer wearing the Traditional National Costume, playing  
a guitar"

## L-GHANA TRADIZZJONALI MALTI

### Ricerka ta' Greg Caruana

L-Ghana Malti hu dak li jaghmilna Maltin. Huwa fih diversi fatturi. L-iktar wiehed popolari minn zmien ilu qabel l-ahhar gwerra huwa "L-GHANA SPIRTU PRONT" li generalment jkun bejn erba. Tal-ewwell irid jirrispondi ghat-tielt wiehed u t-tieni wiehed, ghal ta' l-ahhar. Hawn dawn l-ghannejja ghalija narawhom bhala aqwa minn poeti. Ghaliex kull wiehed minnhom irid ikun pront u jwiegeb lil siehbu li jkun qed



jghanni mieghu, b'diskors fuq l-istess suggett u b'versi li jaqblu. Naturalment dawn ikunu akkumpanjati minn prim daqqaq u zewg daqqaq ohra biex jakkumpanjaw.

Dawn l-ghannejja naturalment jittrattaw temi hfief jew umoristici. Ghaldaqstant ikun hemm l-uzu ta' proverbji, idjomi, b'cajt fejn jinku lil xulxin minghajr ma jiehdu ghalihom. Dan it-tip ta' Ghana Spirtu Pront kien u ghadu l-iktar popolari sa mill-bidu tas-seklu ghoxrin. Dan qed nghidu ghaliex in-nannu missier ommi li tweled madwar 1895, f'dawk iz-zminijiet kien ghannej famus u nisma lil ommi, l-Mulej jghatiha l-glorja tal-genna tghid li missira kellu lehen sabieh li

jaxxaq lil kull min kien jisimghu. L-ghana spirtu pront juri xhinu l-karattru in-general taghna l-Maltin li nhobbu niccajtaw u ninku lil xulxin u nargumentaw bejnieta u generalment, dan it-tip ta' ghana kien matul iz-zmien l-imoghoddi, mezz ta' divertiment ghall haddiem il-fqir fejn filghaxija kienu jiltaqghu f'xi hanut tat-titotla u jqattaw satejn jghannu mad-daqq tal-kitterri, u fl-istess waqt jixorbu xi pinta jmbid..

F'kelma wahda kien l-isfog tal-fqir, tal-haddiem tal-id, bhall-bdiwa, gabillotti, barklori u bosta snajja ohra tal-id. Ta min jghejd li f'dawk iz-zminijiet anke sa wara l-ahhar gwerra, l-ghana ghal dawk tas-socjeta gholja ta' Malta kienet xi haga baxxa.

Barra l-ghana spirtu pront, insibu wkoll l-ghana tal-Fatt, l-ghana bil-qasma li generalment kien jkun bejn tnejn, fejn kienu jirrispondu lil xulxin immedjatament. Imbagħad insibu l-ghana fil-gholi jew "La Bormliza" .dan il-ghana jirrekjiedi vuci soda usabieha ghalieh, u mhux l-ghannejja kollha huma kapaci ghalieh.

Dan it-tip ta' Ghana jaf l-origini tieghu f'Bormla fi zminijiet antiki meta Bormla kienet port importanti, ghall-vapuri tal-merkanzija Gharab li kienu jidhlu b'xi tghabija qoton.

F'dawk iz-zminijiet dan it-tip ta' Ghana kien iktar popolari u kantat minn nisa, wara l-gwerra l-iktar għall habta tal-hamsinijiet u sittinijiet l-ghana tal-fatt u l-makkjetta bdewjkunu iktar poplar, ghaliex dawn b'xi laqtiet omoristici taghhom, kienu jilhqu xi parti tal-popolazzjoni, li propjament ma kienx jogobhom l-ghana; imma l-makkjetta mimlija cajt u praspas kienet tinzel ghasel ma' numru sabieh ta' kull età fosthom iz-zaghzagħ.

Kellna ghannejja bhall Frans Baldacchino (il-Budaj), John Laus u Fredu Spiteri (IR-REVARIST) li b'dawn il-makkjetti irnexxlihom jaghmlu isem. Ma nistghux ma nsemmux kif fi zmienna stess qed jilhqu zagħzagħ u saħansitra tfał li qed ikomplu din it-tradizzjoni meraviljuza ta' pajjizna bit-talent tagħhom tal-kant u taqbil tal-kliem. Ic-ckeġken Lyden Agius flimkien ma missieru qed jagħtu xejra għid u friska lil Ghana Maltija fejn kantaw fil-pubbliku ma' ghannejja anzjani bosta drabi, u saħansitra anki rnexxlihom jigu l-ewwel fil-finali tal-kuntest XFactor li sseħħ f'Malta is-sena l-oħra fl-2020.





Ghalija ghannej u artist li rnexxielu jgholli l-ghana Malti fejn jixraqqu huwa propju, Alla JTIEH IL-GLORJA TAL-GENNA, Frans Baldacchino (Il-Budaj). Dan gholla l-ghana fuq il-pedistal li jixraqqu. Huwa ghamel l-ewwel quddiesa bl-ghana, dahhal l-ghana fl-universita', ghanna ghall President emeritus Dr Gwido De Marco, kien mistieden go Parigi ghall festival Ewropej flimkien ma ghannejja u daqaqa ohra, fejn tant impressjona li gaghluh jaghmel compact Disc. Fl-ahhar snin ta' hajtu kien jahdem b'kollaborazzjoni ma' Manwel Casha. Kien il-verament hasra li l-budaj halliena qasir il-ghomor. U nixtieq naghlaq bi profezija li dan l-ghannej kbir kien qal meta waqt serata ta' Ghana huwa ghalaq il-gadanza billi qal:

META N-NIFS LI TAGHNI ALLA

JIGI ZMIEN LI JOHODULI

JIEN NISTIEDEN LIL GHANNEJJA

BIEX WARAJJA BIEX JGHANNULI ..

U fill-fatt hekk gara ghax wara l-quddiesa meta hargu t-tebut tieghu u dahhluh fil-karru, l-ghannejja kollha ngabru madwaru b'qalbhom maqsuma qabdu jghannulu kliem ta tifhir u ghamlu omagg li wisq kien jixraqqu.

## Michael Fava shared

• Another coastal gem.



Many years ago I stumbled across a somewhat neglected looking statue of the Madonna standing close to a cliff edge in front of an equally run-down tiny chapel, located at the

end of Marfa Ridge Road in Melieħha.

It stood out in my mind as its location, so far off the beat-n-path, so remote, made me wonder how it ever got there. Legend has it the 'Chapel of the Immaculate Conception' and the Madonna statue were first built in 1870 by a local fisherman,

as a dedication of thanks for his survival when his fishing boat capsized in a big storm. In 1961, the chapel, which was close to a state of collapse, received a major restoration/rebuild, and after being allowed to again suffer the effects of decades of harsh coastal weather, it has again been restored and is regularly maintained. Today it stands proudly as a work of art in the wild coastal countryside and I must say it was immaculate when we saw it this morning.

The chapel is less than 1.5km from the popular Coral Lagoon, around ten minutes by car from the Mellieħa church and sanctuary and this entire area is well worth exploration.

As well as the 359 churches on the Maltese Islands, our countryside is full of tiny chapels; many have been restored, many are abandoned and in ruins, some are now within privately owned land. These chapels are testament to the strong faith of our forefathers and should be treasured now and forever.

## A Tribute to Bro. Joseph Pantalleresco mssp

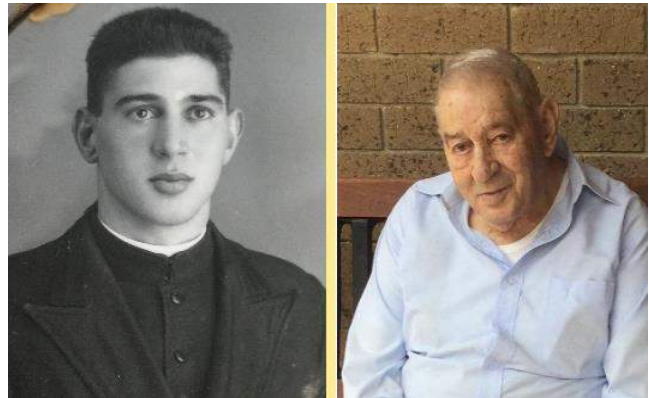
by Fr. Lonnie Borg mssp

On the 4 th August we held his funeral at St. Bernadette Parish in Sunshine North. The chosen readings were fitting for Bro. Joe. The quote from Isaiah the prophet, "I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you." (first reading) and the Gospel, the Beatitudes, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven," described in a nutshell the life of Bro. Joe a dedicated religious and faithful missionary till the end. He lived a full life of 93 years. This day also happened to be the 120 th anniversary, when our Founder arrived in Davos, Switzerland to regain his health. Fr. Joseph De Piro amidst the Alpine mountains wrote, "I was left with nothing but prayer, my most intimate friend. And I prayed, prayed and prayed."

Joseph Pantalleresco was born on 28 th October 1928 in Sliema Malta in a large family, something common with Maltese families at that time. His father was Censu or Vincent and his mother was Katharine nee Caruana. When Joseph was 12 years old the first bombs fell on Malta during WWII. Sliema being in the vicinity of the Grand Harbour and the Naval dockyard was not a safe place to stay. The father decided to move his family to Gozo. They found a house in Xewkija, but later they moved to Ghajnsielem where some of their relatives lived. It was here that his father opened a grocery store. Bro Joe told me that his family dug a shelter in one of the fields as a safety precaution because sometime the Axis planes also used to throw their bombs on Gozo on their way back to their bases in Sicily.

After the war, in October 1948, he joined the Missionary Society of St. Paul and had his novitiate. The Servant of God, Joseph De Piro had sent the first missionary to Ethiopia in 1927, he was Bro. Joseph Caruana. In 1948 Fr. Augustine Grech arrived in Australia with a group of Maltese emigrants. Bro Joseph joined Fr Grech arriving in Melbourne in March 26 th 1950. He lived together with the Salesians of Don Bosco in Sunbury, while the member priests were in parishes, because the Society did not have its own house yet in Melbourne. He had a motorcycle and used to go to the Melbourne port to help fellow emigrants settled in Victoria.

A very important date was April 27 th 1956, when he made his final profession, making him a full member of the MSSP. He helped out in Carlton, Parkville, Western Australia and in Sydney. Bro



Joe was called to Malta in 1965 to offer his service at St. Joseph's Home, and later in the Motherhouse of St. Agatha's. He also supervised the building of the Stella Maris Novitiate House in Zebbug Gozo. This year marking its 50 years of its opening. He also came to help in our formation house in Karachi Pakistan. In 1996 he returned back to Australia, helping out in Wantirna, Sydney and lastly in our Provincial house at Parkville. Later in 2016 he moved into St Joseph's home for the Aged run by the Little Sisters of the Poor on St. George's Street.

Who was Bro Joseph? He lives a very simple lifestyle deeply dedicated to work and prayer. Those who knew him always remember his warm smile and show hospitality to all who came to our houses. He showed interest in the work and mission of our Society. These last years he used to come for half a day every Thursday. He used to ask for updates on our various missions. He was a joyful person, and loved community life. Those who knew him, his inner strength came from prayers, the Divine Office and always saying the Rosary. He had a deep devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and like Her always seeking to do God's will wherever he was assigned. While thanking Bro. Joseph for his good example and dedication as a religious brother, let's ask the Lord to welcome him in his heavenly abode.







## Michael Anthony Cutajar

### Malta to Motown USA.

One of the best. Uncle Fred Cutajar ta Felic. from Qormi. Born in 1941. He helped everyone. He inspired me to

go into the technical field. He was one of the greatest engineers that I ever knew. Trained at the Royal Naval Dockyard as a Ship Engineering Tech, he was as able as any college trained Mechanical Engineer I ever knew. Actually better. We had many laughs together and we also spent many hours diving for items with only snorkels in 20 feet of water.

That was in 1973 in Malta. I missed him when he left here and actually begged him to stay. He was here for about a year and a half and was one of Ford Motor Company's best Machine Repairman because he could do and fix anything to the slightest detail REST IN PEACE Ziju Alfred. I will miss you so dearly.

Thank you for being my inspiration and my other cousins as well. You will always be our

hero. His funeral is at this link below this Friday at 10 am USA Eastern Standard Time. 4pm Malta time. Outside viewing is all you will see. No inside.

<https://www.skylinewebcams.com/.../st-georges-parish..>

*Wiehed mill-aqwa. Iz-ziju Fred. Huwa għen lil kulhadd. Ispirani biex immur fil-qasam tekniku. Kien wiehed mill-akbar inġiniera li qatt kont naf. Mħarreġ fir-Royal Naval Dockyard bħala Ship Engineering Tech, kien kapaċi daqs kull Inġinier Mekkanika mħarreġ f'kullegġ li qatt kont naf. Attwalment aħjar. Kellna ħafna daħk flimkien u qattajna wkoll ħafna sigħat nodfu għal ogġetti b'snorkels biss f'20 pied ta 'ilma. Dan kien fl-1973 f'Malta. Tliet lili meta telaq minn hawn u fil-fatt tlabtu biex jibqa '. Kien hawn madwar sena u nofs u kien wiehed mill-aqwa Machine Repairman tal-Ford Motor Company għax seta' jagħmel u jirrangja kull ħaġa sal-iċken dettall RIP Ziju Alfred. Se nħossok tant qalbek. Grazzi talli kont l-ispirazzjoni tiegħi u l-kuġini l-oħra tiegħi wkoll. Int dejjem tkun l-eroj tagħna.*



### (PHOTO) BISHOP CHARLES GAUCI OF DARWIN WITH THE NAUIYU ELDERS AUSTRALIA

IN yesterday's reflection, we reflected on the funeral of the respected elder who died at the age of 106. This week was also the signing of an agreement between the NT government and the people of Nauiyu. It involved the acknowledgment of the right of self-determination for the local community. This is a great move away from the paternalistic attitudes of the

past where decisions were made on behalf of our First Nations people by others. Most of the community identifies as Catholic. They wanted me, as the Bishop, to be one of the signatories of the document. Our First Nations Catholics value their faith and can teach us a lot about faith and spirituality.

Like elders in most cultures, the Nauiyu elders love their young people and are concerned about their well-being. As their church family, we need to support them in this very important area.

As their larger church family, we need to walk alongside our First Nations people. We need to listen to their hearts. Many are dealing with effects of trauma. The local First Nations pastoral council told me recently that healing was one of their greatest needs. This recognition goes some of the way to recognising their God-given dignity.

**FL-GHID TAL-ASSUNTA 15 T'AWWISSU 2022**

Ix-xahar ta' Awwissu jinsab magħna u kif jaf kulhadd, f'nofs dan ix-xahar infakkru waħda mill-isbaħ festi tal-Madonna, it-Tluġ fis-Sema ta' Ommna Marija bir-ruh u bil-ġisem. Tant hija festa popolari din il-ġrajja li titfakkar f'Malta f'sebat irhula differenti u fi tnejn oħra f'Għawdex u kull hadd bil-pika min jagħmlilha l-isbaħ festa.

Nghid għaliha jien ngħix f'Għawdex u mmur ngawdi l-festa tal-Assunta kemm fil-Belt Victoria fejn issirilha festa mill-aqwa fil-Katidral għall-kenn tac-Cittadella, u ġimġha wara, anke fiż-Żebbuġ. F'Malta bla dubju, fil-ħmistax t'Awwissu hafna minn ħutna l-Maltin jitfixklu fejn se jmorru jgawdu l-festa għax kull fejn tinsab meqjuma x-xbieha tal-Assunta, issirilha festa mill-ikbar. Bla dubju waħda mill-isbaħ knejjes iddedikati lill-Assunta nsibuha ġewwa l-Mosta fejn il-Mostin bnewlha Rotunda kbira u maestuża li matul l-aħħar Gwerra Dinjija għaddiet minn mument ta' biża meta bomba tal-ġhadu għaddiet mill-koppla u baqgħet ma splodietx b'xorti tajba. Ċert li l-id t'Alla kienet preżenti f'dawk il-mument ta' terror.

Imma kif jgħidu l-Inġliżi, *all is well that ends well* u r-Rotunda għadha hemm u ta' kull sena thejji ruħha biex tilqa' fiha mijiet kbar ta' Maltin, Għawdxin, barranin u emigranti biex jifirhu flimkien f'dan l-Għid tal-Assunta, il-koll jitolbuha biex tissokta tiehu ħsieb din Malta tagħna li xi darba konna nsejġulha *Cattolicissima*! Din is-sena l-istatwa tal-Assunta fl-Imġarr Malta qegħda tfakkar anniversarju speċjali għaliex qed tagħlaq 100 sena minn mindu waslet fostna; statwa li naraha tixbah hafna lill-Assunta li aħna nqimu fil-Katidral t'Għawdex u li tant hi sabiħa li tistħajjilha qegħda tkellmek.

Kemm kien ixxurtajt missieri Baskal, Alla jaħfirlu, li kien ħadmilha l-bradella fil-ġewż li għadna naraw sallum! Missieri llum halliena bħalma hallietna ommi Lola li tant kienet tħobb lill-Assunta, li dis-sena wkoll qegħda tagħlaq 125 sena fostna minn mindu kienet ingabet mill-Belt Eterna, Ruma. imma jien għadni hawn biex ta' kull sena insellem lil din l-Omm bil-versi tiegħi:

**O kemm nilmah nies quddiemek  
Għarkupptejhom ferhanin  
Fil-jum tal-ħmistax t'Awwissu –  
Minn kull rih, ġejjin, sejrjn!**

**Minn kull rokna ta' dal-gzejjer  
Dawna jigu jżuruk;  
Għal mument ihallu djarhom  
Biex tifhirhom dlonk juruk!**

**Quddiem din ix-xbieha tiegħek  
Qatt ma nixba' jien nithenna;  
Meta harsti nitfa' fuqek  
Inhoss hena minn tal-Ġenna!**

**Din is-sena int qed tagħlaq  
Mija w hamsa u ghoxrin  
Mindu ġejt minn ġewwa Ruma  
Biex tferrah lilna l-Għawdxin.**

**Għaliex inti dik l-Omm kbira  
Li tidher tberrah idejk  
Sabiex lilna lkoll tħaddan  
U tigbidna dejjem lejek.**

**Inti l-Avukata tagħna  
Illi tidhol fis għalina,  
Iġġibilna lura l-maħfra  
M'għand il-Qalb t'Ibnek hanina.**

**Lil Gesu' wellidt f'lejl kiesaħ  
Biex jifdina u jsalvana  
U jum wiehed ġewwa s-Sema  
Hdejh jixtieq lkoll jarana.**

**F'dawn il-jiem tal-festa tiegħek  
Beltna tfur bl-attivitá' –  
Logħob tan-nar, baned u tlielaq,  
Fil-maqdes, sollennita'!**

**U fil-Gnien ta' Villa Rundle  
Niesna żżur il-Wirja Agrarja  
Taht xemx illi tikwi l-ankri  
Lill-pulmuni timla bl-arja!**

**Niesna xxidd l-ilbies tal-festa  
Wara xhur twal ta' stennija  
U fil-qalb tač-Cittadella  
Tkun tistenna din is-siegha**



Illi tara x-xbieha tieghek  
Titfaċċa helwa fil-bieb  
Biex iddur mat-toroq taghna --  
Sa mill-bidu f't'Alla l-hsieb!

Il-Banda Leone tferrah  
U mal-Kor dlonk issellimlek –  
Bosta kienu l-poeti  
Li mill-qalb tant vrus kitbulek!

Din il-festa tassew kbira  
Igawduha sew l-Ghawdxin  
U tinsab mfakkra sewwa  
B'tant ghożża fost il-Maltin!

Dan u iktar, O Marija,  
Jixraq lil dil-festa tieghek  
Ghaliex inti s-Sultana  
Li ma thalli 'l hadd jitmieghek

Izda dejjem tinsab lesta  
Biex tberikna u tindukrana

Ghaliex hija x-xewqa tieghek  
Li dejjem henjin tarana!

Ejjew mela b'vuċi ngħajtu:  
*Evviva Santa Marija!*  
Idhol ghammar fid-djar taghna  
Imla 'l qlubna bit-tgawdija.

Itfa' harstek fuq gżiritna  
Fuq tant morda u mnikktn,  
Żgħażaġh, tfal, miżżewġa, adulti  
U fuq hutna mbeghdin.

La twarrabx minn taht dik harstek  
Tant familji imfarrkin;  
Dawn jehtieġu l-balzmu tieghek  
Sabiex jerġghu magħqudin!

Jiena ċert li x-xewqa tieghek  
Li tarana mdawra mieghek;  
Int ma taghmilx differenza -  
Trid tiġborna lkoll taht drieghek!

Jiena naħseb li s-sajf Malti huwa l-aqwa wiehed fid-dinja għaliex huwa mżewwaq mhux biss bil-baħar nadif u safi fejn tfal, żgħażaġh u kbar isibu l-hena tagħhom, imma wkoll b'għadd sabiħ ta' festi li fihom ftit minn kollox, ibda mis-sagru li hu l-iktar importanti u spicċa f'xi ftit ċigċifogu u marċijiet ferrieħa. Hafna jagħzlu wkoll li jżanżnu xi libsa ġdida u l-belt jew raħal tkun tispikka mill-bqija tal-inhawi fi żmien il-festa. Hafna jdendlu wkoll l-aħjar purtieri u arahom jifirxulek l-isbaħ tapiti u jagħtu tindifa prima lid-dar u lill-faċċata meta wkoll ma jsajrux xi fenek prim jew xi dundjan. Kollox jixirqilha l-festa, imma l-ikbar importanza għandna nagħtuha lill-preżenza tagħna fil-knisja għall-funzjonijiet sbieħ li jsiru matul dawn il-jiem għeżiež sabiex l-Assunta, fil-każ tagħna, titfa' fuqna lkoll, uliedha, il-barka tas-Sema, il-paċi u l-għaqda li bla dubju lkoll nixtiequ. Viva l-Assunta! Viva Santa Marija!

**KAV JOE M ATTARD   VICTORIA GHAWDEX   EMARJOS@HOTMAIL.COM**





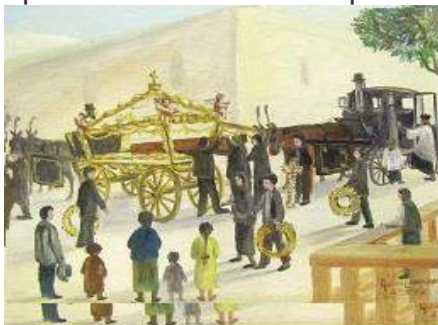
## OLD MALTESE TRADITIONS

*(Photo) Devotional representations of souls in purgatory from a niche in Ʀal Għaxaq.*

If you are too old for trick-or-treating at Halloween, you might be up for a night in a 17th-century prison cell at the Inquisitor's Palace at Vittoriosa (Birgu).

But before heading to bed, you can feast on toast, kawlata (vegetable soup with pork) and a roasted pig, which years ago would have first been let loose on the streets with a bell hanging around its neck. This unfortunate **hanżira tal-erwieħ** (pig of souls) would have only enjoyed its freedom for a few days, roaming the streets while parishioners fed it, until they cooked it on All Souls Day to feed the poor.

Another traditional Maltese dish, also dubbed tal-erwieħ, was a large pot of vegetable soup that was prepared around the same day. Guido Lanfranco has documented the tradition of helping the poor, through the distribution of food, as a means of offering prayers for the dead. In the run-up to All Souls' Day, neighbours would fill up a cauldron with vegetables, beans and sometimes pasta. The minestra, or kawlata in some cases, would be distributed among the poor, who turned up with a can or a small pot.



Hearse and priest's carriage in funeral procession.



A Child's Funeral



Newwieħa, or weepers commissioned for household mourning

On November 4, these two dishes will be served at the Inquisitor's Palace in Vittoriosa during a Heritage Malta thematic supper topped with a glass of maħluta, the bittersweet drink recalling the ups and downs of life.

For the event, called **L-Għid tal-Erwieħ**, there will also be **ftieti tal-għaža** (toasted bread with garlic and parsley), reminiscent of the days when mourners would feed only on bread and meals prepared by their neighbours. The supper will also include għadam tal-mejtin – a bone shaped, almond-based sweet. Hired mourners will set the tone of the meal. Apart from following coffins in funeral processions, the newwieħa used to go into mourners' houses and break some pottery items or turn pots upside down, because people were not meant to cook following the death of a relative.

A literary work written by Immanuel Mifsud will be read out before the diners call it a night.

Those with a more adventurous streak can sleep in one of the palace's prison cells, but they will need to take with them their own sleeping bags and torches.

For more information visit [www.heritagemalta.org](http://www.heritagemalta.org) or the Inquisitor's Palace Facebook page.

*Photos: Guido Lanfranco and Kenneth Cassar*





## THE INQUISITOR'S PALACE

Built in around the 1530s, what today is known as the Inquisitor's Palace initially housed the Magna Curia Castellania Melitensis, a civil tribunal established by Grand Master Juan de Homedes y Coscon in 1543, until the institution moved to the then-newly built Valletta in 1572.

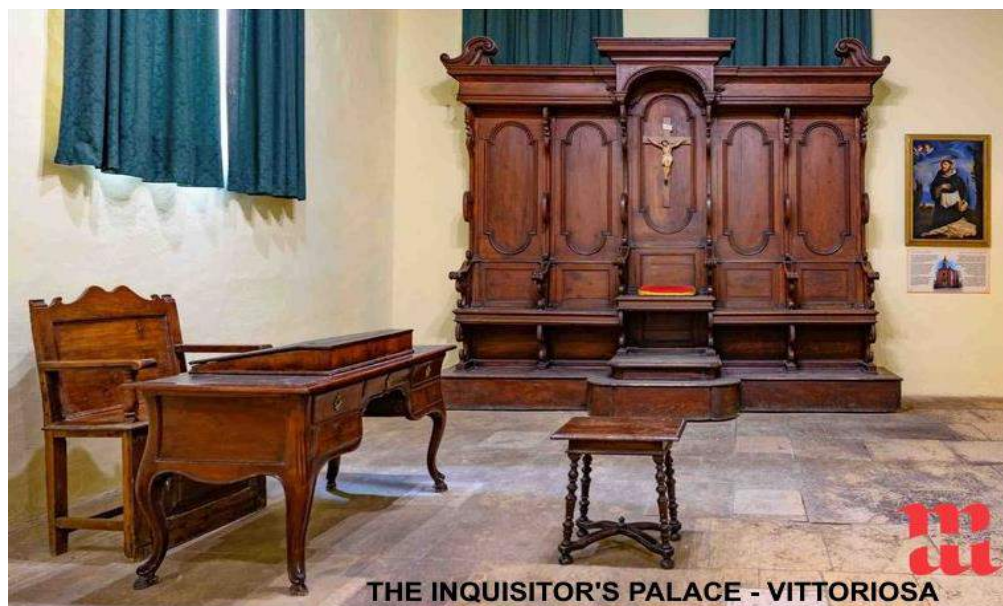
Two years later, Pietro Dusina arrived in Malta as its first **Inquisitor** and Apostolic Delegate of Pope Gregory XIII. Grand Master Jean de la Cassière offered him this building and thus it got the name still in use to date. Inquisitors in Malta served in their dual role as supreme judges of the Holy Office and Apostolic Delegates representing the Vatican's interests in Malta. The Palace is an architectural gem, very well documented and so full of contrasts for it was fashioned to generate awe towards a powerful ecclesiastic diplomat in a sophisticated residence, and inspire reverence and repentance through a tribunal, inclusive of an austere prison complex.

The Inquisition was abolished by the French upon their arrival in 1798. The building served French and British rules, as well as the Dominican Order for a period of time after the WWII. In recent years Heritage Malta, has strived to strike the right balance between a **historic house museum**, reflecting the building's past political importance as one of the three centres of power in early modern Malta and a **National Museum of Ethnography**, highlighting the impact of the Inquisition on Maltese society and the role of religion in everyday life. It also comprises a wing dedicated to the **National Textiles Collection** housed within the same building.

The current experience is divided in three distinct sections, the domestic and historic **kitchen area** at ground floor level is complimented by the **piano nobile** which includes both official halls and private quarters extending on two floors. The third part of the visitor's experience are the **spaces pertaining to the Holy Office** itself including the tribunal chamber, torture chamber and prison complex. The museum experience is complimented with an emphasis on a busy outreach programme of events and educational sessions.

### HERITAGE MALTA

#### Inquisitor's Palace - National Museum of Ethnography, Malta



THE INQUISITOR'S PALACE - VITTORIOSA

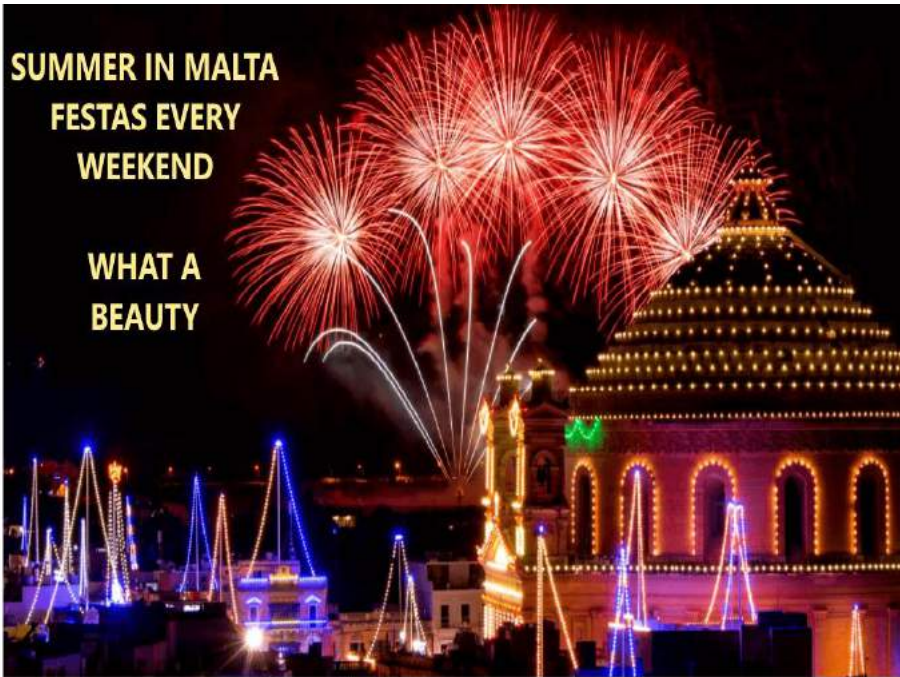
TRAVELLING BACK TO 10th July 1639 when Nicolau Iccardo, a French sailor, aged 35, married into a family in Senglea, was found guilty of apostasy. Apostasy is the abandonment of, or renunciation of a religion by a person. During the trial Inquisitor Gio: Battista Gori Panellini had to resort to torture in

order to extract the truth. The French sailor succumbed and was sentenced to row on the galleys, without any pay for a period of seven years, with a chain tied to his feet



**SUMMER IN MALTA  
FESTAS EVERY  
WEEKEND**

**WHAT A  
BEAUTY**



[www.facebook.com/MaltaBasketballAssociationMBA](https://www.facebook.com/MaltaBasketballAssociationMBA)

**Malta Basketball Association  
Our girls U18 team - all in for MALTA**



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