JOURNAL FOR MALTESE AROUND THE WORLD

# MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

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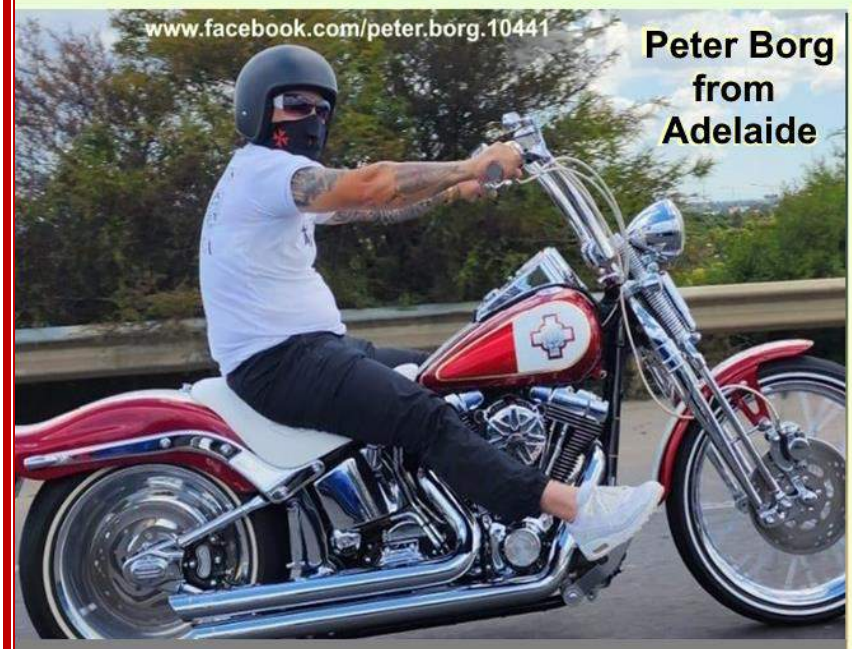
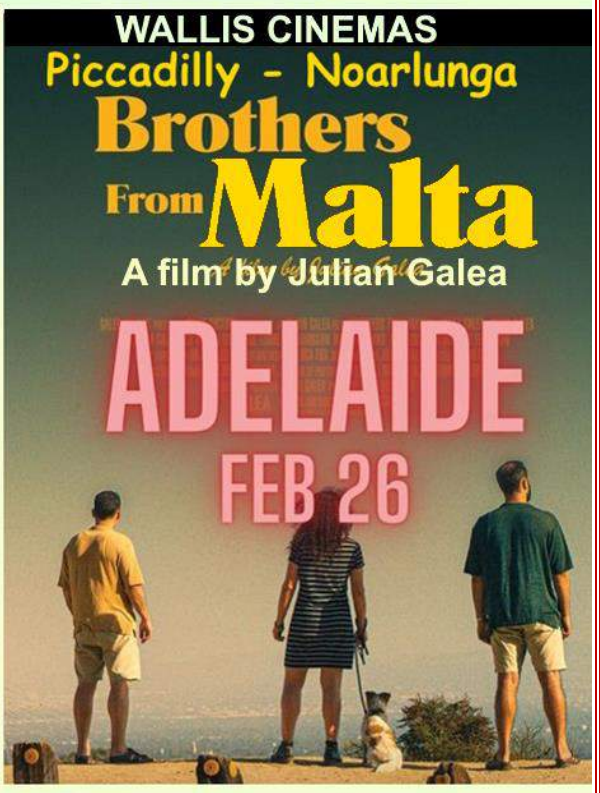
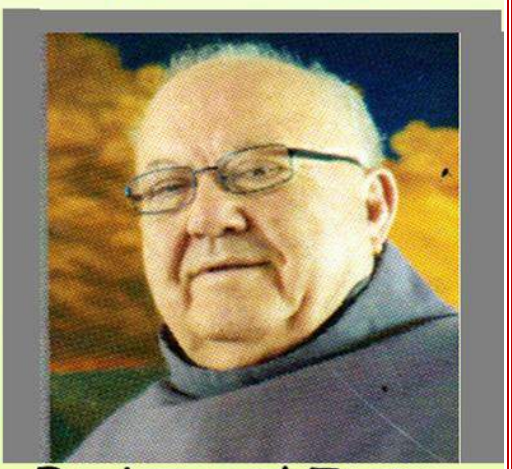



You can take a Maltese out of Malta
but you cannot take Malta out of a Maltese

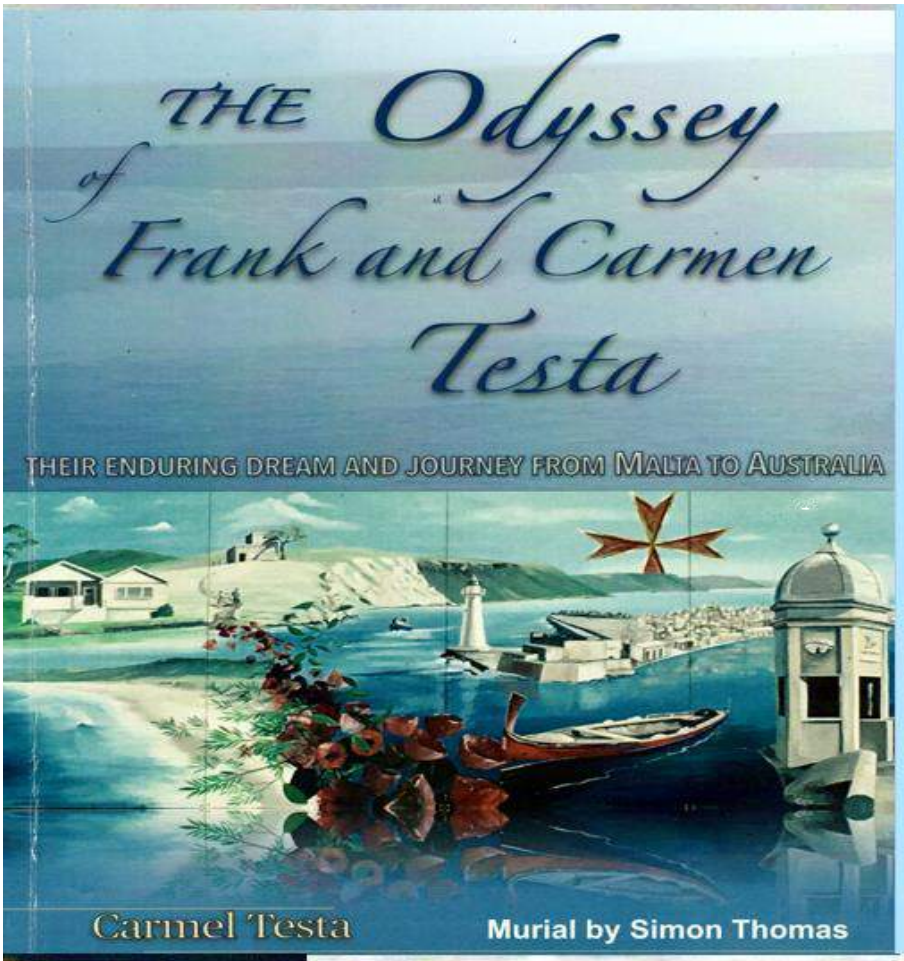


Singers Stacey Saliba and Ludwig Galea
at Cringila NSW 18/03/2023



Fr. Leonard Testa
OFMConv

Skola Maltija Sydney - NSW




**I received this inspirational book, written and published by Fr. Leonard Tests OFMConv., about his beloved parents Frank and Carmen Testa who migrated from Malta to Australia in 1951 and settled in Wollongong region of New South Wales. He depicts their enduring dream and journey from Malta to Australia**

Frank Scicluna

Friar Leonard M. Testa OFMConv is a member of the Conventual Franciscans (Greyfriars), who has dedicated this short history to his parents. His mother often reminded him of his date of birth in Malta during the war an event she would refer to as collateral war damage, namely that "*as he was coming out the Germans were coming in*" notwithstanding, they wanted a large family but *only* had thirteen children. He is the third born and given the name of Carmel after our Lady of Mount Carmel.

In 1951 the Testa family migrated to Australia and lived till 1994 in Cringila NSW. In 1956 barely sixteen, he returned to Malta to join the Franciscans (Greyfriars) the first from Australia. He had his religious formation in Assisi-Italy, at the Shrine of St Francis, and continued with his formation in Rome at the Order's international college, the Seraphicum. He was ordained in Rome in 1966, returning to Warrawong fraternity in Australia a year later.

He did his pastoral year at St Benedict's Sydney, under Monsignor William Murray, later Bishop of Wollongong. In 1969 he was appointed parish priest of the newly established parish at Kellyville NSW. Then chosen as Custodian of the Greyfriars followed as Parish Priest at Springvale Vic. to be appointed to Assisi for four years, followed by nine years in Turkey, and back in Australia in 1990 where he worked since then in Warrawong parish. He is now living in retirement after 60 years as a Franciscan and 54 as a Priest.

# 'Defend life' bishop tells those putting life before their job. Making 'pro-life choices' against abortion

Auxiliary bishop Joseph Galea-Curmi on Sunday thanked people in public life who are defending life "clearly and without fear", putting life before their own position.

In an homily during Mass at St John's CoCathedral on the occasion of Life Day 2023, the bishop encouraged these people - who he said were several - to continue to choose what is right even when their choices had consequences.

"You should be proud to be protecting life. There is no honour bigger than this. What is career, position compared to life," he asked.

President George Vella, who was leading the congregation, has spoken publicly against abortion hoping that a solution would be found to all the points being raised. He has also cancelled a trip to Australia to be in Malta to sign off on the law himself if he agrees with it or resign if he does not.

Galea-Curmi said that the strength of society was calculated from the progress of the weakest.

These, he said, were the unborn, the vulnerable, those who depended on others and those who were unviable for a period but became viable through sustenance.

A progressive society, he continued, ensured that the weakest progressed.

Malta, he said, was going through a decisive moment where a choice had to be made to either protect life from the beginning or not.

"What is proposed so far is to allow the termination of life in a womb in particular circumstances. We have to be clear in what we are saying," he stressed.

Galea-Curmi noted that terminating the life of the unborn when the mother's life was in danger had not been an issue in recent years and was not an issue now.

But if the word health was introduced in the law, as is currently being proposed, the whole situation would change, he insisted.

He said that experience in several countries had shown that this word was used to justify abortion.

"We have to learn from experience and not close our eyes to it," he said.

Health had to be safeguarded and protected fully and not used to terminate vulnerable lives.

Earlier, the bishop expressed sorrow at the murder of Turkish woman Pelin Kaya and the loss of life at sea by people seeking to improve their lives.

**IMAGINE**

**if we work together instead of pulling the same rope in opposite direction.**

**We will achieve so much more for all Maltese living abroad.**

**The editor**

# Maltese Community in Australia gets behind new film *Brothers from Malta*

JULIAN AND JAMES GALEA

Last September the film was shown in Malta cinemas, and was very well received BY THE Maltese.

Julian and James Galea are brothers who were born in Australia to Maltese parents. Their upbringing was a mixed bag – interspersed with aspects of Maltese culture. They have a leading part in the comedy 'Brothers From Malta' in which they appear as brothers Joe and Charlie who had not spoken in seven years.

Their sister Josephine – played by Lisa Galea, who is actually their cousin – gets sick and doesn't want to die in the hospital so the brothers end up traveling to California to fulfill her wish.

The film uses comedy to demonstrate the importance of family and the lasting bonds between family members. Julian Galea, managing director of the company Galea Pictures, who wrote, worked and took part in this film, said that this film is about the special bond which exists even between broken families which, showing how important it is to cherish these.

An audience can reflect on that, maybe reflect on the behaviour within the family and anyone whose having any problems in the family, have some sort of resolution with this movie.

Julian Galea said that through this film he also wanted to expose the reactions of Maltese people when travelling, especially in countries where people have never heard of Malta or the Maltese language.

'I thought it was a great opportunity to showcase the Maltese culture in a film set abroad – I don't believe a Maltese movie set abroad has been done before. And I want to showcase the Maltese culture in a movie and juxtapose it against another country.' Said Julian Galea

The main roles in the film are played by Maltese descendants. The rest of the characters are American actors. The film was mainly shot in California, Australia and also contains old footage of Malta. 'Brothers from Malta' is Julian Galea's third film with links to Malta.

Mr Galea's parents immigrated to Australia, from Malta, in the 1960s and he said his parents continued the Maltese customs and traditions in Australia.

"A lot of the comedy in our family was growing up with old school, Maltese values in a progressive Australian environment," he said.

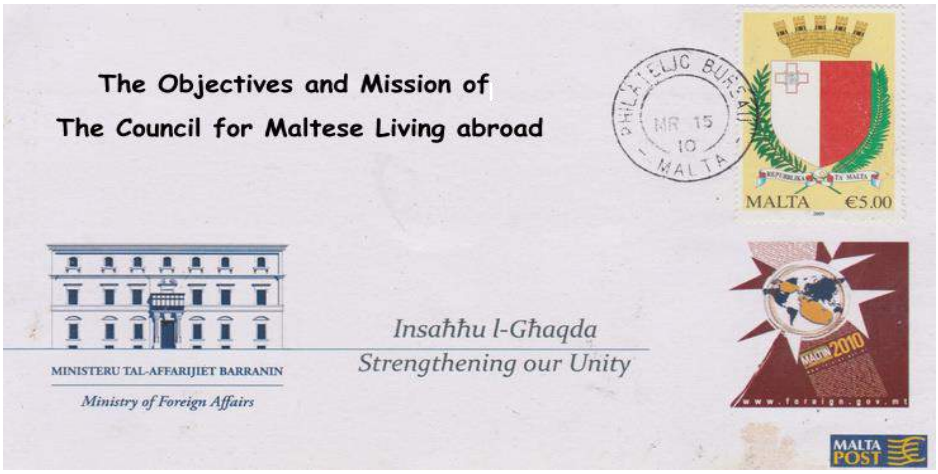
Mr Galea produced the film through his award-winning studio Galea Pictures, which is also distributing the title, following its theatrical release across Malta in September.

He was thrilled by the response from the Maltese community and was glad that people are hearing about the film. "There is an audience for this film and they are getting behind it ... and with a universal theme of family, I hope it will cross cultures too," said Mr Galea.

*Brothers From Malta* will be showing in Adelaide, South Australia at WALLIS CINEMAS on February 26. Tickets are now on sale, visit: tinyurl.com/ykn8etf6.

For further information visit the Galea Pictures Official Website.

Screening in Melbourne as well on March 24 at Reading Cinemas, Millers Junction (Altona)




# THE COUNCIL OF MALTESE LIVING ABROAD (CMLA)

The CMLA is the body composed of delegates from different parts of the world representing Maltese communities abroad before all Malta government entities including the public service and any public authority, institution or organisation responsible for implementing policies affecting these communities

The functions of the Council are the following:

(a) to monitor the quality of life of Maltese communities and of their individual members residing abroad.

(b) to strengthen, facilitate and cultivate the ties between Maltese communities abroad and Malta's political, cultural, economic and social life

;(c) to ensure effective protection of the rights of Maltese communities and of their individual members residing abroad.

(d) to facilitate the maintenance of the cultural and linguistic identity of Maltese communities abroad and

(e) to promote the history of migration in Malta in co-operation with government authorities;

(f) to maintain ties with such all organizations established by Maltese living abroad and keep a register of non-government organizations established abroad.

(g) to analyse and verify the problems encountered by Maltese communities abroad, including professional and educational training and development, and recognition of qualifications and skills gained in Malta;

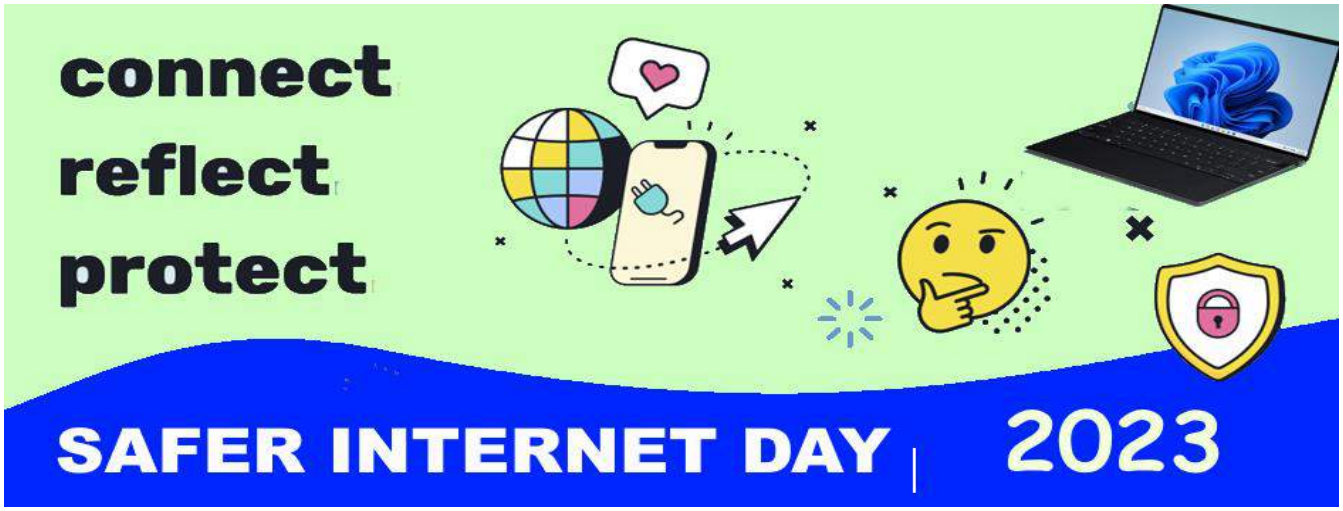
(h) to prepare any proposal, or make any suggestion or recommendation relating to legislation or administrative measures as well as international agreements and European Union regulations affecting the rights and interests of Maltese living abroad;

i) to ensure that Maltese living abroad are not excluded from any benefits to which they would otherwise be entitled originating from the institutions of the European Union;

(j) to promote and encourage studies and research work relating to subjects concerning Maltese communities and persons of Maltese descent around the world; and

(k) to be consulted on, and contribute to, the drafting of Maltese legislation or administrative measures affecting Maltese communities abroad.

**This is a splendid journal for Maltese living abroad. Will you please let me and your readers know when was the Council established, what is the role of the Council of Maltese Living Abroad (CMLA), how often are the Council meetings held, who are the delegates, what the Council had achieved since its inception and what are the aspirations and vision of the Council for the future.**
**I believe they should use social media (like this one) to disseminate the information to all Maltese Living overseas. JM Galea – Canada**
***Important information regarding the CMLA is found on the website of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (Malta) - www.foreign.gov.mt/ - The Editor***




UPDATED 9 APRIL, 2022 - 18:58 LAURA TABONE

**Safer Internet Day 2023**

**What is Safer Internet Day www.saferinternetday.org?**

Safer Internet Day every February is a global event that brings together communities, families, schools and organisations from more than 200 countries to help create safer online spaces.

This worldwide initiative is celebrating 20 years in 2023, making it a great time to reflect as well as look forward.

Technology has evolved dramatically in the past two decades and the benefits have been huge. These developments have also exposed us to many risks with real-world impacts, making online safety awareness even more important.

That's why we are calling on everyone to **Connect. Reflect. Protect.** #

**Connect** safely and with purpose – by keeping apps and devices secure and using social media in positive ways.

**Reflect** before we act – by taking a moment to consider how what we do and say online may affect others.

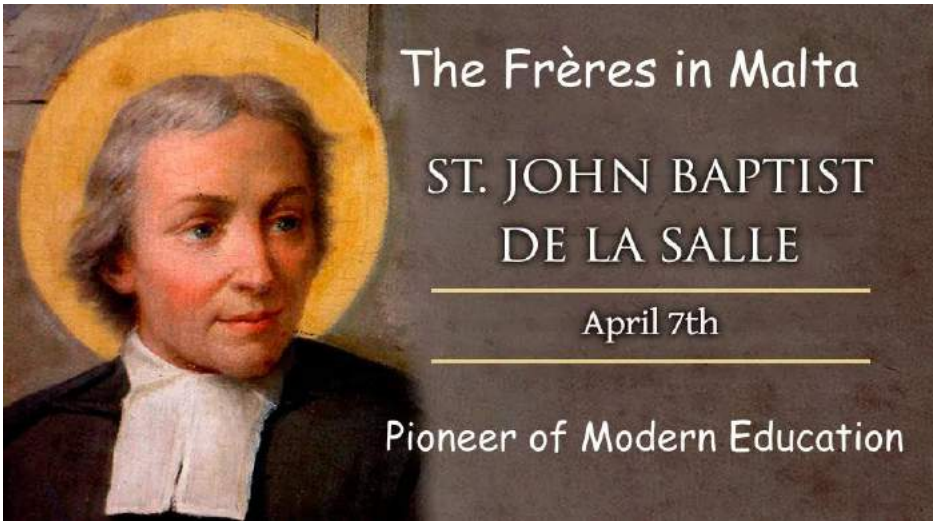
**Protect** ourselves and others by taking action – by telling family, friends or colleagues about eSafety and how we can help.

By doing these simple things, we can work towards making every day a Safer Internet Day.

As usual, much of the campaign's activity will play out on social media. Be sure to check our Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn profiles, and review the #SaferInternetDay and #SID2023 hashtags to keep track of - and contribute to - the discussions.

Read on to find out more about practical ways in which you can get involved in the campaign, not just on Safer Internet Day but all year around. Whether you are a young person, a parent or caregiver, a teacher, educator or academic, a policymaker, or whether you represent an organisation or industry, everyone has a role to play in creating and maintaining a better online world.

# Celebrations to mark significant milestone in history of education in Malta




Education in Malta marks a significant milestone this year when one of its most respected Religious Congregations celebrates 120 years of provision on the island.

The Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, known locally as the Freres or the De La Salle Brothers, opened its first school in Malta in 1903 and over the course of 12 decades has been a cornerstone of educational innovation and excellence on the island.

Over the year, a number of events will be organised to mark the occasion. The first of which is hosting one of the most important events on the calendar of the Lasallian Province of Ireland, Great Britain and Malta. The District Mission Assembly, which is held every four years, took place in the San Antonio Hotel, Bugibba, from February 6th to the 8th.

Over 50 delegates travelled to Malta from the District's 36 Lasallian ministries, schools and retreat centres, to evaluate the last four years and reflect on the hopes and opportunities for the years ahead.

De La Salle College, Birgu and Stella Maris College, Gizira, incorporate five schools in total and cater for 2,349 students and will be prominent in the discussions at the conference. Lasallian education has contributed much to life in Malta over the years with many students inspired to return to their schools as teachers, and many others live and share those values in other walks of life. There are many well-known Maltese who have been inspired by the De La Salle schools, including the current President of the Republic, Dr. George Vella.

The origins of the De La Salle Brothers goes back to Reims, France in the late 17th Century when St John Baptist de La Salle was moved to create schools that would help the children of the poor and artisans in French cities receive a Christian and human education that would allow them to escape from poverty and be examplenary members of society and the Church.

The network of schools grew rapidly in France and began over the years to spread across the world, including Malta at the beginning of the 20th Century.

The methods used in terms of classroom teaching and free access for all were revolutionary at the time but established a systematised approach to simultaneous teaching which still dominates pedagogical methods in use in all schools today. Such was the impact of De La Salle's vision that he was proclaimed Patron Saint of all Teachers of Youth in 1950.

De La Salle's approach was based on his desire to touch hearts and transform the lives of students, and this has been the cornerstone of the Lasallian approach for over 300 years. Lasallian education in schools today is based on the 5 Core Principles: Concern for the Poor and Social Justice; Quality Education; Faith in the Presence of God; Respect for All Persons; Inclusive Community.

*Bishop Anton Teuma, Archbishop Charles Scicluna and Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Galea Curmi*

# Maltese and Gozitan delegation join Continental Assembly of the Synod in Europe

Archbishop Charles Scicluna will be leading a Maltese and Gozitan delegation at the European **Continental Assembly of the Synod** this weekend where more than 200 participants will be congregating in Prague, in the Czech Republic, to discuss synodality.

The Archbishop, who is the President of the Maltese Bishops' Conference, will be accompanied by Sr Natalie Abela soc, Fr Daniel Sultana and Francesco Pio Attard. There will also be another 10 participants from Malta and Gozo who will be joining online.

Members of the public were invited to submit feedback on the document '**Enlarge the Space of Your Tent**' up to January 30. The Maltese delegation evaluated the comments received and then prepared their presentation for the Continental Assembly.

The aim of the Assembly is to strengthen a sense of community, participation and mission in the Church by understanding the challenges and opportunities that characterise the European context.

This Assembly is being organised by the Council of Bishops' Conferences of Europe (CCEE), in collaboration with the Czech Bishops' Conference and the Archdiocese of Prague. It shall be taking place from the 5th to the 12th February 2023. Throughout the Assembly, working groups involving the 200 participants present in Prague, as well as around 390 online participants, will be held for them to reflect together about the synod in the European context, as well as to evaluate its challenges.

The Assembly shall be divided into two parts. During the first part, a wide variety of representatives of the Church will be involved. In fact, the delegations will be made up of lay people, religious and diocesan priests. Over the last two days, the Presidents of the Bishops' Conferences will then work on the recommendations made during the assembly and then pass them on to the General Secretaries of the Bishops' Synod responsible for the synod.

This is part of the process that the Church in the different continents is undergoing and which will culminate in the bishops' meeting with Pope Francis in October 2023.

# Minister Borg inaugurates a ward at the Maltese Medical Centre 'HopeXchange' in Ghana

P
ress Release Issue Date: Feb 01, 2023

During an official visit to Ghana, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade Ian Borg had the opportunity to visit the Maltese Medical Centre known as HopeXchange in Kumasi and inaugurate one of the new wards.

Minister Borg said that it is an honour for him to visit this centre which for the last years has provided health aid to many people from Ghana, as well as part of the humanitarian aid that Malta offers from time to time. During his speech, he said that even during the difficult time of the COVID-19 pandemic, this medical centre was instrumental in fighting the pandemic outbreak. Minister Borg thanked the doctors, nurses and all the professionals for their commitment.

"We believe in the importance of reaching the Sustainable Development Goals as established by the United Nations, and we also believe that we should continue to promote access to quality health services and quality treatment for more socio-economic progress in Ghana," continued Minister for Foreign Affairs Ian Borg.

During this visit, a cooperation agreement was also signed, which will ensure more cooperation from the Maltese Government towards this medical centre and all the professionals assisting.

## My Brother Bernard Mallia S.J

Dear friends, today, 5 February, we announce the passing of a most gentle soul. Our dear companion Fr Bernard Mallia SJ passed to eternal life this morning in Nairobi, Kenya. Fr Bernard served generously as a Jesuit priest for most of his life in his beloved Tanzania, Sudan and South Sudan.

Even if many in Malta may not be familiar with Fr Bernard due to his missionary life away from our shores, most will surely be familiar with his spirit that rings through familiar song lyrics which he composed (such as **'Mulej inhobbok f'min hu fqir'**), as well as all the St Louis Jesuits songs which he translated into Maltese. A book of his Maltese poetry was also published. We will bring you more information on his life and work soon. May he now enjoy his new life in the Lord.

Rest in peace dear Fr Bernard. **Daniel Mallia – Malta**.

A biography of Fr. Mallia was published in the Maltese Journal some time ago, because we always promote all those Maltese citizens living abroad who made a good name for our island – MALTA. We convey our sympathy to his brothers at the Society of Jesus, his relatives and friends.

# Art Nouveau townhouse in Msida to be integrated in 7-storey block

Villino Micallef, a two-storey Art Nouveau townhouse on Triq l-Imsida is Gzira, may get a much-needed restoration for a five-storey extension built over the existing façade

by **James Debono writes in Maltatoday.com**

Villino Micallef, a two-storey Art Nouveau townhouse on Triq l-Imsida is Gzira, may get a much-needed restoration for a five-storey extension built over the existing façade.

Located in what was until a few years ago Gżira's red-light district, the building has been abandoned since the mid-1990s when the previous owners died.

Now considered a fine example of Art Nouveau architecture in Malta with – the Superintendence for Cultural Heritage says – "evident architectural and cultural heritage value", developer Michael Bugeja of the Bilom Group will add five contemporary storeys on top of the existing façade, demolish two buildings on Triq Testaferrata, to make way for a commercial development of seven storeys.

The Superintendence welcomed the developers' intention to retain the façade and reinstate the entrance hall and staircase within the new structure.

Moreover, the additional height of the project is being accepted in view of other commitments on Triq Testaferrata.

But the watchdog is calling for a better architectural treatment for the additional floors overlying Villino Micallef, which should complement the existing building.

The new development will include 36 parking spaces in two basement levels, a retail outlet on ground floor and offices in the six overlying levels. The new commercial development will be connected to an adjacent seven-storey office block owned by Bugeja.

# THE MOST BEAUTIFUL FLOOR IN THE WORLD

Commissioned in 1572 by Grand Master Jean de la Cassière as the Conventual Church of St. John, the St. John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta, Malta, is considered to be one of the finest examples of high Baroque architecture in Europe and one of the world's great cathedrals. The cathedral's interior is extremely ornate, with carved stone walls, painted vaulted ceiling and side altars with scenes from the life of John the Baptist. The most impressive is the marble floor which is composed of nearly 400 tombstones of Knights and officers of the Order OF Malta. Each tombstone is inlaid by a coloured, marble slab bearing the crest, coat-of-arms and epitaph of the noble knight.

Photo credit: www.maltacultureguide.com

*The personal information contains the name of the deceased, his genealogy(family), origin (city or region), age indication, date of demise and cause of death..*

*The Knights* of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem were noblemen from the most important families of Europe, and their mission was to protect the Catholic faith against the Muslim forces. The Knights came to Malta in 1530 after they were evicted from their earlier home on Rhodes by the Turks in 1522. Using Malta as their new base, the Knights continued to fight against the Turks and especially the Barbary pirates. Unhappy to see the order resettled, Ottoman Sultan, Suleiman the Magnificent, sent an invasion force of about 40,000 men to besiege Malta. Despite having a small army of 6,000 soldiers, half of which are civilians and only 500 or so were Knights, the Turks were unable to siege the island. After defending Malta from the Ottomans, the Knights turned Malta into a fortress that befitted a military Order and built a new capital city worthy of noblemen.

The Knights who fell during the Great Siege of 1565 were originally buried in Fort St Angelo but were later re-interred inside the Cathedral of St. John's. They were later joined by Grand Masters like Philippe Villiers de L'Isle-Adam, Claude de la Sengle, Jean Parisot de Valette, and Alof de Wignacourt. The earliest grave dates back to 1606, some 25 years after the church was opened. Bodies continued to be buried in the cathedral till the 19th century.

Today, the cathedral is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Malta, and it is listed on the National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands.

## CHIEF HERALD OF ARMS OF MALTA

Heraldry has its own language, known as 'blazon', originating in medieval France. The blazon describing the Arms of the Chief Herald of Arms of Malta is: *(Left) a crest coronet of fourteen oak leaves Or issuant from a wreath of the colours and upon a hurt edged of the First bearing the motto VIRTUTE ET CONSTANTIA and debruising two herald's maces of the First in saltire with dexter finial displaying the Cross and Arms of Aragon and sinister finial the Arms of Fortress Malta both Proper, the shield of Malta, with the whole supported by an Eight-pointed Cross of the Second.The motto, 'VIRTUTE ET CONSTANTIA',* alludes to a phrase which reverberates throughout the history of Malta. Grand Master Jean 'Parisot' de Valette used these words in a dispatch to King Philip II of Spain when describing the victory of the Great Siege of Malta in 1565

## Why did houses have Maltese crosses during WWII?

Before WWII broke out, there were 85,000 people living in Valletta, Floriana, the Three Cities and the surrounding urban areas. As soon as the first bombs fell on Malta in June of 1940, they had to see what they were going to do to find refuge in the villages and towns which were not the target of the enemy. It is estimated that in the first few days of the war, around one-third of the population sought refugee further inland. The problem of the refugees was a huge headache for the authorities, more than the fact of the air strike or the lack of shelters. They were terrified that complete chaos would be created in society which could hamper the efficiency of the military defence of the island.

During the documentary 'Malta fil-Gwerra' TVM journalist Mario Xuereb and researcher Martin Debattista explained how the Maltese took shelter in every type of building away from the Grand Harbour. Some even made their way to Gozo and Marsalforn started looking like the Sliema front.

As the war raged on, appeals started being made for refugees who had lost their homes to be welcomed into the homes of other Maltese. To this end, Governor William Dobbie gave permission for those homes which were hosting refugees to draw a Maltese cross on the facade of the house for every family of refugees they were accommodating, as evidence of their generosity. This gesture also made it easier for district officials to house the refugees in homes where there was still space. *Tvm.com.mt*

# Malta Underground: Religious Legends, Cave Churches and Subterranean Shrines

Religious visions have frequently taken place in the dark damp setting of caves and subterranean chambers making them attractive locations for shrines, chapels, pilgrimages and healing. One of the most famous of these sites is Lourdes in France, now a major Catholic shrine to the Virgin Mary. What started as a series of visions in the Massabielle grotto by a local girl, has lead to the small Pyrenees town becoming a hugely popular pilgrimage site attracting five million visitors per year to its sanctuary and curative spring waters. Caves have also been used as hermitages by ascetics such as those in the mountains of Montserrat, Spain which were inhabited during the Middle Ages. There's something alluring and otherworldly about these grottoes and their shrines. Perhaps it's the darkness, the vast geological age of the rock or the difficulty in reaching some of them.

Caves also played a role in pagan mythology. The Ancient Romans and Greeks often set up sanctuaries in spring-fed caverns centered on water deities. In Ortigia, Sicily the Fountain of Arethusa is named after a water nymph who, according to Greek mythology, escaped the unwanted attentions of the river god Alpheus by travelling under the sea from Arcadia in Greece, all the way to Syracuse. A natural spring, coming up from a cave, the fountain is surrounded by papyrus plants which are extremely rare in Europe. Malta's largely limestone geology means there are numerous natural caves amid ancient dry river valleys covering its two main islands. They have proven a draw for many different reasons over the years. Għar il-Kbir is well-known to have been a troglodyte settlement for a long time, although the ancient 'cart ruts' nearby get most of the attention these days. Għar Dalam has been a wonderful resource for palaeontologists and archaeologists due to its Ice Age fossil record and signs of Early Neolithic human habitation. But, there are also caves with stories of religious visions, demonic infestation and apostolic teachings.

**The Legend of the Shepherdess**

Mosta is a town in the centre of Malta known for its large domed church designed by the architect Giorgio Grognet de Vassé who was also convinced the islands are the remnants of Atlantis. What a lot of visitors to the town don't know, is that about seven hundred meters to the west of the church lies the 18th century Speranza Chapel (Chapel of Our Lady of Hope) on the edge of the valley of the same name.

Underneath this chapel is a cave shrine with a miraculous legend attached to it. According to the story, several sisters were tending their family's sheep when corsairing invaders arrived on the island and entered the valley. Since one of the sisters had a limp she couldn't escape and got left behind in the furore. Hiding in a cave she prayed to the Virgin Mary for help, promising to build a chapel if she was saved. Invaders approached the cave and were sure there could be no-one inside due to an intact spider's web covering the entrance so they left her alone. The shrine and chapel were then built according to the promise the girl had made. The cave shrine underneath the chapel has statue of the girl praying, as well as statues of St. John and St. Luke.

**The Painting with a Mind of its Own**

From the outside, the Mensija Chapel in the town of San Ġwann looks similar to the hundreds of other religious buildings that are scattered all over Malta and Gozo. However, a close-up inspection of the gated entrance reveals a stairway to a rock-cut subterranean sanctuary.

According to legend, in the 1400s when the area was considerably more rural, a farmer built a house on this exact spot. One night he noticed a light coming from a natural underground cave that he had disturbed by building the steps to his farmhouse. In this cave he found a lit oil lamp and a picture of the Virgin Mary, but no signs of how they had got there. When the farmer took the picture to the parish priest, it somehow made its way back into the cave. The same thing happened repeatedly so it was decided that it was a sign that the cave ought to be turned into a shrine.

An extension of the legend says that a much earlier church dedicated to the Annunciation existed on the site, hence why the painting was found there. This church supposedly dated to before the Muslim period and had been lost to time. In the 16th century a chapel was built above ground to serve as an entrance to the cave which has kept much of its natural rough appearance. The first written reference to the chapel was in 1588 when it was known as San Leonardo tal-Ġebel (St. Leonard of the Boulders) at il-Ħofra ta' Għar (The Sunken Cave). The chapel building today dates to renovations carried out in the 19th century.

**St. Paul's First Preaching Place in Malta?**

Probably the most famous underground Catholic sanctuary in Malta is the Grotto underneath the Basilica of St. Paul in Rabat. The Acts of the Apostles in the New Testament recounts the story of how St. Paul was shipwrecked in 60 AD on Malta, referred to as 'Melita,' whilst making his way from Caesarea to Rome. According to tradition, St. Paul was very popular with the locals, especially the governor of the island called Publius whose father he healed of dysentery.

The story says that St. Paul spent three months in Malta living and preaching and it's the Grotto in Rabat that's supposed to have been his home during this period. In the 18th century a statue of St. Paul was erected in the Grotto which attracts thousands of visitors a year. Although it's widely accepted that St. Paul was shipwrecked on Malta, the location of the shipwreck, and the place where he preached aren't known with any certainty. Rabat is also the home of numerous Palaeochristian catacombs, making its subterranean religious legacy something quite spectacular.

**A Demon Infestation**

The cave of St. Patrick (Għar San Brinkat in Maltese) in Għargħur has quite a scary legend associated with it. It is said that demons once infested this natural cavity on the edge of the Great Fault causing people to be afraid to walk past it. When a painting of a crucified Christ and St. Patrick mysteriously washed up on the shore of the nearby village of Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq, it was taken to the cave in the hope that its presence would force the demons away. Apparently, this worked pretty well, meaning the cave could be transformed into a place of worship. Another legend says that the water of a spring which fills a basin in the cave each winter, has miraculous properties. The painting is still there to this day and a mass and feast are held in the cave each year. Experts think the cave may once have played a monastic role as well. Close by, another cave known as the Għar San Pietru, is thought to have been a church possibly for a rural community. It has a rock-cut seating area, a recess in the wall that probably served as an altar and the stucco remains of what are thought to be murals.

**The Oldest Marian Shrine in Malta**

The Sanctuary of Our Lady in the town of Mellieħa was built over the top of a very old cave church with various legends surrounding it. One story gives it a pagan origin, having been a site dedicated to the nymph Calypso of Odyssey fame. Interestingly, as a side note, there is a tradition that associates a cave in Gozo with the place where the Odyssey says Calypso held Homer for seven years. This story emerged because of Homer's reference to it having taken place on the island of Ogygia, a place that has not been identified with any certainty but could have meant Gozo.

The pagan origin legend of the cave in Mellieħa continues with the shipwreck of St. Paul and St. Luke on Malta in 60 AD, when they converted the site into a Christian shrine. To cement its new role, St. Luke is said to have painted the Virgin Mary on the rock face. Other stories prefer to give the cave a Byzantine or Medieval origin but nothing is known for certain. The sanctuary on top of the cave that can be visited today, was built in several phases between the 16th and 18th centuries. In the 17th

century a crypt, known as l-Madonna tal-Grotta was dug out of the rock near the cave. The altarpiece in the sanctuary is a fresco of the Virgin Mary and Jesus and is said to have miraculous properties. It's in a Byzantine style and could date back as early as the 12th century.

**St. Agatha's Escape**

St. Agatha was born in Catania, Sicily to wealthy high-ranking pagan parents in 234 AD. According to legend she became a Christian and made a vow of virginity. When the Praetor of Catania, Quintianus, decided he wanted to marry her, she rejected his advances. At the time the Roman Emperor Decius was persecuting Christians, so Quintianus used this opportunity to try to force her hand. He tried many nefarious ways to manipulate her into submission including torture, but nothing worked.

Eventually she was sentenced to death. An earthquake put a stop to her being burnt at the stake, but she died soon after in prison. In Malta there is a tradition that during the persecution of Decius, Agatha moved to Malta temporarily where it's said she prayed and preached, spending most of her time in a crypt carved from out of the rock in Rabat. This crypt became a cave church and is adjoined to a series of earlier Palaeochristian catacombs. Since similar funerary structures can be seen in the cave church, it's thought it was also a catacomb originally before being modified for worship. The church was rectangular, with an apsed section and rock-cut seating areas. It has many frescos dating to the 15th and 16th centuries which may have been painted over earlier Siculo-Byzantine ones.

*Top image: Catacombs of St Paul, Malta. Source:* ***Konstantin Aksenov*** */ Adobe Stock*

By MegalithHunter (Laura Tabone)

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## BORG, Joseph John (1939-2023) – Victoria Australia

We have received the sad news that Joseph Borg, who was one of the founding members of the Maltese Historical Association in Melbourne (MHA), passed away yesterday.

Joe was involved with the Association since its inception in 1986. He was an engineer by profession and also a Member of the Order of Malta. He also served as president of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria (MCCV) for a number of years. He is survived by his five daughters and their families.

Born at Rabat, Malta, Borg received his education at the Archbishop's Seminary in Floriana and then emigrated to Australia where he attended the Swinburne Technical College in Hawthorn, Victoria and the University of Melbourne, Carlton, Victoria. He graduated as Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering and he also obtained a Diploma in Mechanical Engineering. Borg is member of the Institute of Engineering of Australia (1981) and he has served as Engineering Services Manager with Tubemakers in the Steel Pipe Industry since 1986. He was a life member of the Catholic Walkings Club of Victoria - foundation member, First Secretary, and President of the Maltese Historical Association (Australia) (1995-). He was PRO (1990-92) and President (1992-94) of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria. In 1995 he was nominated member of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem, Rhodes, and of Malta (Australian Association).

THE MALTESE-AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY LOST ONE OF ITS PIONEERS WHO DEDICATED HIS TIME AND EXPERTISE FOR SEVERAL DECADES FOR THE BETTERMENT OF HIS FELLOW MIGRANTS. Rest in Peace

# IL-KARNIVAL GEWWA GHAWDEX 2023

Insellmilkom ħbieb, sinjuri
Li ġejtu għall-Karnival;
Dan iż-żmien kulħadd jistenna
Kemm il-kbar u kemm it-tfal!

X'hemm ħażin darba fis-sena
Nilbsu l-maskra u l-kostum –
Din il-festa hi qasira
U jaħasra ftit iddum.

Kien minn żmien il-Kavallieri
Li rifset fil-gżejjer tagħna;
Qumu mela ftit fuq tagħkom
U tbissmu, ddevertu magħna!

Aħna ġejna f'dan l-enclosure
Sabiex niżfnu u nixxalaw;
Għaliex kunu afu sewwa -
Ħadd mhu sejjer jibqa' hawn!

U allura gawdu ż-żifna
Illi ħejjejna għalikom;
Il-ħsieb tagħna jibqa' dejjem
Illi ferħ, pjaċir nagħtukom.

Mhux biss ġewwa l-belt Victoria
Tistgħu tidħku w tixxalaw,
Imma anke ġol-irħula
Tħabbtu wiċċkom mal-babaw!

Għax min jilbes ta' xadina,
Min ixidd xi ġild ta' ħmar,
Kulħadd joħroġ b'xi ċuċata
U il-kbar isiru tfal.

Fin-Nadur jispikka sewwa
Bluh, storbju, esaġerat!
Kulur, żfin, baned, żeffiena –
Bihom jieħu gost kulħadd.

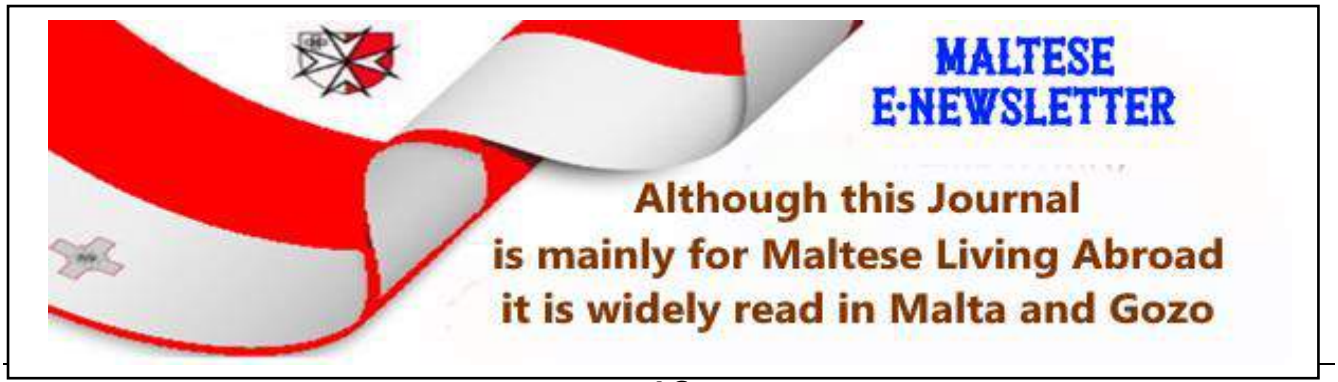
Għalkemm jien is-sebgħin qbiżthom
Nippreżenta xi serata
Li l-Kunsilli jistednuni
Għalija karnivalata!

Fiż-Żebbuġ u ġol-Għarb tagħna
Nippreżenta żewġ serati
Żfin u kant, żeglig u sfafar
Jiddevertu in-namrati!

U bil-lejl għalkemm fil-kesħa
Xi wħud jilbsu bil-liżar
Lill-qamar jagħtu fastidju
Joħorġuna minn ġod-dar!

Ħafna huma d-dilettanti
Li jibnulek 'floats' mill-kbar
Bihom joħorġu iduru
Perlini jwaddbu madwar!

Ħbieb tiegħi, isimgħu minni,
W iddevertu f'din is-siegħa
Għaliex l-għada r-Randan jibda
Addio ferħ w allegrija!



# BMX Malta salutes the memory of Ronnie Ellul

BMX Malta is in mourning after the death of its member, Ronnie Ellul was announced. Ellul, even though he has been living in England for years, was of great continuous help to those Maltese BMX drivers by providing accommodation in London, as well as helping the local community to experience skateparks and driving in the United Kingdom.

He will be remembered for a long time for his great generosity, with a strong will to help those around him. During the last 35 years Ronnie visited Malta often especially to visit his BMX friends and his most recent visit was in October 2022 after the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Maltese BMX Community wishes to express its deepest sympathy

# Mary Spiteri and Ludwig Galea release new song as a "gift" to Valletta residents

A duet between singers Mary Spiteri and Ludwig Galea has led to a new song which is being considered a gift to Valletta residents by the Valletta Cultural Agency.

Going by the name of 'Beltin', the Cultural Agency has dedicated a song to the people of Valletta.

It is written by George Peresso, composed by Ludwig Galea and has a musical arrangement by Sean Vella,

*Beltin* is a reflection of the plan and historical life of Valletta as explained by George Peresso.

Despite that fact that it is not the oldest city, as it's only around 400 years old, Valletta is a concentration of the Arts, history and a people's culture ...it is a city which belongs to the residents but also belongs to all Maltese.

The Chairman of the Cultural Agency of Valletta, Jason Micallef, said that "Beltin" is a tribute and appreciation for everyone who have made this city.

The greatest element which we needed to convey is the idea of a nation, the national identity of a nation, and the most we can give our country is its capital. "Beltin" speaks about 460 years of history. He added that "Beltin" is a present to Valletta residents and is a song which will remain associated with Valletta because there are all the assets which make it unique.

Mary Spiteri is a popular cabaret artiste from Malta. She was born on 25 October 1947. Mary represented Malta in the 1992 Eurovision Song Contest held in Malmö with the song "Little Child". Spiteri finished in third place behind Ireland and the United Kingdom.

1992 was not Mary's first attempt at Eurovision. In 1971 she participated in the Maltese heat of Eurovision with the song "Min Int?" (Who Are You?). Another attempt was made in 1975 when Mary performed two songs in the Maltese final, "Live For Tomorrow" and "Try a Little Love Today". Both failed to win the competition. After her 1992 appearance Mary became something of a diva figure to Eurovision fans and was presented with an award by Eurovision Network at their convention held in Coventry that year.

## MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA, INC.

(Inc. No. A1737) A.B.N. 66 736475 892
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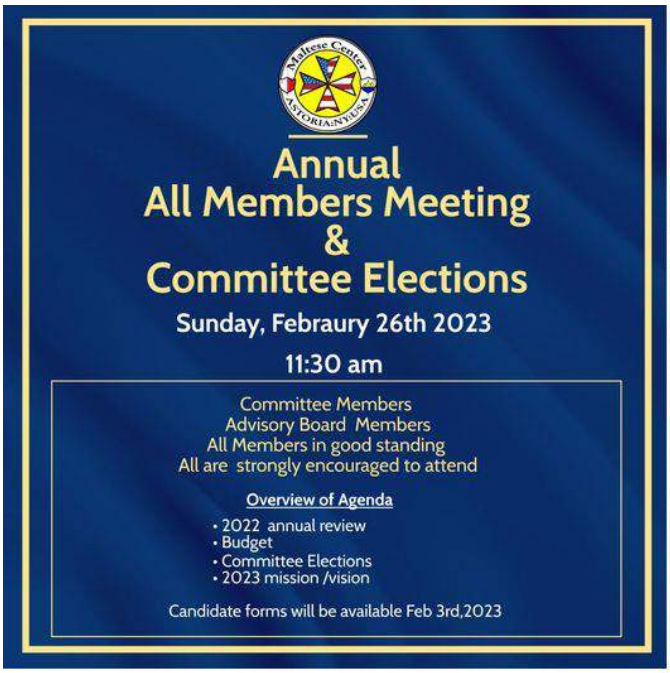
Telephone (03) 9387 8922 Facsimile (03) 9387 83 09
Internet Website: http://www.mccv.org.au
Email Address: admin@mccv.org.au

**AVVIŻ KOMMUNITARJU/COMMUNITY NOTICE 6TH FEBRUARY,2023**

**MCCV Maltese Language Classes qed jilqa' applikazzjonijiet għall-pożizzjoni ta' għalliem/a part-time tal-lingwa Maltija, (darba fil-gimgħa, ONLINE filgħaxija).**

**Applikanti għandhom ikollhom għarfien sewwa tal-Malti kemm miktub u mitkellem. Taħriġ għall-għalliem/a u riżorsi sabiex tkun tista' tgħallem jiġu pprovduti. Dan huwa xogħol imħallas. Ibgħat l-applikazzjoni bid-dettalji akkademiċi lill: edwidgeborgatt@gmail.com. Għal kull tagħrif ieħor, ċempel fuq 0466 079 814, ħalli n-numru tat-telefon u aħna n-ċemplulek lura.**

**EDWIDGE BORG MALTESE LANGUAGE CLASSES CO-ORDINATOR**



# OLIVER FRIĠĠIERI MFAKKAR F'GĦAWDEX

OLIVER FRIĠĠIERI MFAKKAR F'GĦAWDEX

**Kitba tal-Kav. Joe M Attard**

Fuq inizjattiva tal-Poeta u storiku Charles Bezzina, nhar is-sibt filgħaxija 4 ta' Frar, fic-Circolo Gozitano Victoria, saret Serata Muziko-Letterarja f'ġieh il-Poeta, Rumanzier, Kritiku u Kittieb il-Professur Oliver Friġġieri (27-03-1947 – 21-11-1947) b'sinjal ta' għożża u apprezzament li għaliha kienu preżenti għadd ta' kittieba Maltin u Għawdxin. Oliver Friġġier kien bniedem li metatkellmu, awtomatikament minn fommu toħroġ il-filosofija, l-intelliġenza straordinarja li kellu. Kien ħabib ta' kulħadd u f'daru senza interessi, kien jilqa'studenti u nies oħra biex jgħinhom fl-istudji u fil-kitbiet tagħhom. L-istess fl-Universita' l-uffiċċju tiegħu kien miftuħ għal kulħadd, inkluż lili, li sena minnhom għamilli l-Kelmtejntad-Daħla għall-ktieb tal-poeżiji tiegħi 'L-Għanja tat-Tifkira, Vol 1. Kien wieħed mill-akbar kritiċi li qatt kellna fil-gżejjer Maltin. Kiteb għadd tassew kbir ta' daħliet u studji kritiċi lill-awturi li ppubblikaw xogħlijiethom u kiteb ukoll kritika letterarja dwar poeti tradizzjonali ukontemporanji, kittieba u bosta oħrajn. Fuq kollox kien poeta kbir, kittieb ta' rumanziċelebri, u novelli li għamlu ħoss, li lkoll ġew ippubblikati, kif ukoll tal-awtobijografija memorabbli tiegħu 'Fjuri li ma Jinxfux'.

Kien bniedem ta' qalbu f'idejh u umli għall-aħħar, li jaf jgħaddi kelma ta' ġid, u parir siewi lil kulħadd. Kien bniedem iddedikat, għax il-kitba tiegħu kienet ħajtu, u ħajtu għalih kienet don u vokazzjoni. Il-ħajja ta' kulħadd għalih kienet importanti, anki ta' nemla.

Bħal Dun Karm ħabb lill-Ilsien Malti. Il-kitbiet tiegħu ġew tradotti f'għadd ta' lingwi u l-popolarita' tiegħu bħala awtur prolifiku li għandu ħafna xi jgħid, isseddqet mhux biss f'Malta imma wkoll f'pajjiżi oħra. Kien bnieden ħassiebi li dejjem staqsa quddiem Kristu Kurċifiss, kif dan Alla neża' l-libsa tad-divinita', iċċekken, twieled f'għar, u tefa' fuqu l-libsa komuni tal-umanita'.

Meta miet, l-Istat Malti tah, kif xieraq, funeral statali, għad-dedikazzjoni u imħabba kbira li ta u wera b'risq il-Letteratura tagħna. Illum Oliver ma għadux magħna, imma qiegħed x'imkien fil-filliera ta'quddiem biex jifhem sew il-misteri strambi li dejjem reddnu f'moħħu, u biex igawdi lil Alla fl-eternia'.

Fis-serata, li kienet ippreżentata mis-sinjura Miriam Debono Curmi mis-6th Form t'Għawdex, ex studenta tal-professur Friġġieri, diversi kittieba Għawdxin qraw xi siltiet mix- xogħlijiet ta' dan l-istudjuż Malti li tant intlaqgħu tajjeb minn dawk preżenti fosthom bint Oliver Friggieri Sara Brincat Friġġieri li fi tmiem is-Serata għamlet kelmtejn dwar missierha li sas-sena disgħin kien għadu ħaġa waħda mat-Typewriter, sakemm bil-mod imbagħad wara kellu jara x'jagħmel u jitħabbeb mal-Computer. Tkellmet kif tiftakar lil missierha, kif il-bieb ta'darhom kien dejjem miftuħ beraħ għal dawk li riedu jkellmu lill-Professur u kif il-mużika klassika fl-isfond ta' kamartu u daru ma naqset qatt.

Is-serata li ħadet madwar siegħa u nofs u li kienet sponsorjata mill-Bank of Valletta, intemmet b'kelmtejn qosra minn Dr Alfred Grech, President taċ-Circolo Gozitano li radd ħajr lil dawk kollha li ħadu sehem kif ukoll lil dawk li attendew u fakkar il-ftit drabi li kellu ċ-ċans li jiltaqa' ma' Dr Oliver Friġġieri fl-uffiċċju tiegħu fl-Universita'.

U xtaqt nagħlaq din il-kitba qasira mill-Epitaffju li Oliver kiteb għalih stess xi żmien qabel mewtu:

***Jekk tafni xxandarx ismi. Idfnu miegħi.***
***Jekk ma tafnix tistaqsi fuqi 'l ħadd.***
***Kun af; Jien twelidt biss ħa nħobb u ngħanni***
***U għext għax wegħ'dni Hu li ma mmut qatt!***

# RABBIT STEW – STUFFAT TAL-FENEK

What exactly that is depends on Maltese family recipes handed down over generations. In essence, rabbit cooked 'the Maltese way' sees the meat simmering away for around an hour and a half minimum – usually far longer – in a rich wine and tomato sauce infused with bay. My father-in-law does a mean rabbit and we meet at a large family gathering around twice a year for his famed 'fenkata' (rabbit meal in company). He prides himself on marinating the rabbit a good 24 hours in a bottle of red plonk (the local grocer's red wine is the norm) laced with garlic and generous handfuls of bay as well as other herbs he has to hand. The husband told me that this dish is one of Maltese kids' first intros to wine, which you'll often find served no frills in regular tumblers if you eat rabbit in village bars. Kids in his day would get an inch of wine topped up liberally with 7Up!

Perhaps they still do. Most Maltese make a large stew using around two or even three rabbits as the meal is a communal affair. Given that rabbit has fiddly joints you need that many to ensure there's a decent portion per person. The rabbits come with head (eyes) and all when you order one from the butcher. The liver, and sometimes the kidneys too, are fished out of the stew and eaten with spaghetti as a first course with liberal ladles of the thickened sauce. The stew proper is the main and served mostly with roast potatoes scattered with fennel seeds and accompanied by crusty Maltese bread. The sauce may contain peas, though I doubt this was the norm before the age of the fridge-freezer in rural homes as pea season lasts a mere month at the most in spring.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 rabbits skinned and jointed, with or without liver and kidneys
- ¾ bottle robust red wine (cheap and cheerful)
- approx. 2 wine glasses of water
- 2 onions, finely chopped
- 4 garlic cloves, peeled and crushed
- 8-10 bay leaves
- 1 x 400g can of tomato or whole plum tomatoes mashed up
- 3 tbsps tomato puree'
- 2 carrots, peeled and sliced
- 6-8 medium potatoes, peeled and roughly chopped
- salt & pepper
- 3 tbsp regular olive oil

METHOD

Marinate the rabbit in the wine, garlic and bay for an hour or two, or if possible the night before cooking. Cover and chill in the fridge.

When ready to cook, remove the rabbit joints from the marinade, shaking off excess liquid. Heat the olive oil over a high heat in a heavy-based casserole and sear the rabbit on all sides until lightly browned (approx 4 mins each side). Remove and set aside.

Lower the heat under the casserole and add the onion and some fresh bay leaves to the pan. Brown the onion gently for around 5 minutes, then add the garlic and continue to fry gently for another minute.

Add the tomato 'polpa' or peeled whole canned tomatoes mashed up, and increase the heat. Cook for around 5 minutes stirring a little, then add the marinade and bring to the boil. Return the rabbit joints to the pan, give a good shake and top up with water to just cover the rabbit. Cover, return to the boil, and then reduce to a medium simmer (gently bubbling).

After half an hour, add the sliced carrots, potatoes and tomato puree', shake the pot gently or stir to ensure the vegetables are covered with liquid. Continue to simmer the stew for around another half an hour.

At one hour, prop the lid half off to allow the sauce to thicken up. Check the rabbit after 15 minutes – the stew is ready when the rabbit is just falling off the bone and the root vegetables are tender.

Serve with fennel-seed and olive oil roast potatoes or regular potato mash and with white crusty bread to mop up the delicious and rich sauce.

# Krys Bez
# TasteMalta Bakery - Maltese Community in Florida, USA

TasteMalta Bakery is bringing together everyone from the island of Malta residing in the US. Based in Florida, TasteMalta bakery ships nationwide. Find us on instagram @tastemaltabakery and online at www.tastemalta.com

Discover Malta's **Online Bakery** right here in the USA! Yes, we ship nationwide, or we can meet you by appointment for local pickup. We are looking forward to meeting you soon!

**TasteMalta Bakery is now accepting orders for: Easter and Valentine Figolli.**

**All orders will be shipped or ready for pickup 1 week prior to the appropriate occasion. For Valentine's Day, pick-up will be available from the 6th through the 13th; Shipping will be on the 6th of February. For Easter pick-up will be available from the 1st through the 8th of April; Shipping will be on the 3rd of April. Please include the desired shape with your order. Standard shapes and colors start at $12.99. Custom orders can be arranged by contacting us directly prior to ordering. Follow the link to be taken to our product in our store. If you have an immediate need, please contact us at (813) 758-1030 and we will try our best to accommodate your order.**

At TasteMalta we believe that Maltese street food is amazing, and the one traditional item no one should miss out on is the Pastizz. We are firm believers that pastizzi, together with other items, will find their place on the world food stage. This is where we come in! We are here to bring all the traditional Maltese goodies to the United States. Our pastizzi come in traditional shapes and fillings, however, like many other bakers back on the island, we have introduced some new twists and created a few new fillings. We feel these represent the Maltese cuisine and the Maltese palate. We invite you to check out our full menu for all our culinary creations! We assure you that once you have tried Maltese street food, you will start to understand why these items are sorely missed by all those who, till now, had almost no option but to wait till they could go to Malta to have their fill. We are looking forward to serving you happiness!

All orders for figolli for the Delivery Run this Saturday need to be made by midnight tonight ‼️ E-mail us at sales@tastemalta.com or call (813)758-1030 to place in your order. limited space left. **@everyone**

**YOU MAY CONTACT US DIRECTLY**

At TasteMalta Bakery we are always ready to answer your questions. Whether it's about pastizzi, our other products and services, or the Islands and Country that we love. Please feel free to ask us your questions we would love to try to help. Hope to hear from you soon… 1-813-758-1030 3343 Lithia Pinecrest Road STE #182 Valrico, Florida 33596 contact@tastemalta.com

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THE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Published in Adelaide, Australia since 2013
free, bilingual and non-political
The editor and team produce this journal mainly for Maltese living abroad.

OUR AIM IS TO INFORM, SHARE, CONNECT AND EMPOWER MALTESE LIVING AROUND THE WORLD

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SHARE YOUR STORY WITH OTHER MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

F' DAN IL-KUNĊERT, LI ĠIE MAĦSUB MILL-"GĦAQDA TAL-KITTIEBA TAL MALTI",

sejjer jieħdu sehem il-"Dominies", il-"Malta Union of Teachers" u s-"Società Mandolinistica Melita" tal-Birgu.

**In-Nies tal-Ġrajja Maltija**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rosa | Is-Sra Carmelina Borg | Gavet | Is-Sur Antonio Discoro |
| Betty | „ Miranda Levanzin | Tumas | „ Annibale Zammit |
| Anna | „ Mary Farrugia | Mattu | „ Edoardo Tonna |
| Cissie | „ A. Sammut Inglott | Ciccio | „ Rogantino Cachia |
| Nella | „ Isabella Levanzin | Giovanna | „ Emmanuele Xuereb |
| Mari | „ Mary Muscat | Qassis | Ghannima Spagnoli |
| Bezzina sisa | | Bezzina sieħeb | |

L-*Ġrajja* li tistama' fl-ewwel xena titkanta mis-Sur M. Gauci fuq il-Mużika tas-Sur Goffredo Serge. Kitarristi is-Sinjuri Romeo Barbara u Enrico Casingena.

Fit-*Tableaux* sejjer jati daqqa t-id is-Sur Gianni Vella.

**Il Ħalib "DRYCO"**

**hu l'aħjar Ħalib għat-trabi.**

**Jinsab fil-Spizerijiet collha.**

-ARKIVJI NAZZJONALI TA' MALTA
-ARKIVJU TA' GĦAWDEX)

**Għaqda tal-Kittieba tal-Malti**

Programm

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**Fit-Teatru Manoel**

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fit-3.30 p.m.

Stamperija Casarino & Co. 266c Strada Forni, Valletta.

Souvenir Programme of the 'Kunċert Malti' organised by the Għaqda tal-Kittieba tal-Malti at the Manoel Theatre one hundred years ago today. During this concert the Innu Malti was performed for the first time with the ortography and versification as intended by Dun Karm Psaila. The calculation on the front cover was made by Ninu Cremona to establish how many years passed between the holding of the concert and the writing of his article 'Dun Karm u l-Innu Malti' that was eventually published in 'Il-Malti' of December 1961. The 'Innu Malti' was performed in the beginning of the concert by the 'Societa Mandolinistica Melita' of Birgu and again sung at the end of the concert by the girls of the Government School. Photo: digital copy at the National Archives of Malta.