

# The Voice of the Maltese

Winner of the 2023 special award by the Institute of Maltese Journalists for work among the Maltese communities overseas

Issue  
295

March 21, 2023

A fortnightly print  
and digital magazine

Inside the St Lawrence  
Church in Vittoriosa



VisitMalta



# Memorji minn San Vincenz de Paul

**F**i ktieb voluminuż ta' 500 paġna, il-Professur Raymond Mangion irnexxielu, li wara li jittellem ma' hamsin fost l-1,500 residenti fl-isptar-residenza San Vincenz De Paul, li uffiċjalment issa ġie msejjaħ Faċilità Għall-Kura fit-Tul, johroġ b'dak li wiehed jista' jfissru bħala teżor tal-istorja, l-ewwel volum ta' Memorji minn San Vincenz De Paul.

Il-Prof. Mangion, avukat u għalliem tal-ġi għal 30 sena, li hu magħruf ukoll f'Malta bħala storiku u riċerkatur, hareġ bi ktieb li wiehed jista' wkoll jużah bħala xogħol ta' riċerka. Dan minhabba li wara xhur shaħ iżur u jittellem mar-residenti tal-faċilità irnexxielu jsawwar ukoll storja ta' Malta ta' qrib id-disgħin sena.

Dan minhabba li r-residenti, ta' etajiet varji, fosthom l-ixjeh wiehed imwieled fl-1926, irrakkontawlu l-memorji individwali tagħhom sa minn tfulithom, fosthom fis-snin tat-tieni gwerra dinjija. Ir-rakkonti jistgħu jkunu ta' mitlqu deheb għall-ġenerazzjonijiet tal-gejjieni.

San Vincenz huwa binja storika li tmur lura għal aktar minn 130 sena. Hi frott residenti oħra fl-antik li nbnew, b'ewlei fosthom ikun Santu Spirtu fir-Rabat fl-1372 li għall-ewwel kien magħruf bħala l-Isptar ta' San Franġisk, u wara, fl-1433 meta beda jiġi amministrat mill-Università ta' Malta ngħata l-isem ta' Santu Spirtu.

Wara kien hemm Ta' Sawra, u l-Ospizju tal-Furjana, wara d-Depot tal-Pulizija li ġie mibni fl-1732 mill-Granmastru Manoel de Vilhena għall-anzjani li ma kellhomx min jiehu hsiebhom. Kien beda jissejjaħ "Casa di Carita" u fost l-oħrajn kellu jilqa' fih anzjani f'qar u nies oħra fil-bżonn. Imbagħad, il-Granmastru Manoel de Rohan bidillu ismu għal Ospizio.

Fl-1816, wara li gew l-Inglizi f'Malta, il-Gvernatur Sir Thomas Maitland għaqqad

istituti l-oħra tal-Karita' u tah l-isem ta' "Istut tax-Xjuh" jew "tal-Fqar" (Poor House).

L-Ospizju kien baqa jservi bħala Dar tax-Xjuh sal-1892 meta l-anzjani ta' go fih kienu ttiehdu fil-bini l-gdid għalihom: il-"Poor House" jew "l-Ingieret" kif kien magħruf, dak li illum naufu bħala St Vincent de Paul. Il-post kien sar ukoll magħruf bħala Has-Serh qabel ma reċentement ingħata l-isem ta' Faċilità Għall-Kura fit-Tul.

Il-post huwa ta' kobor enormi, daqs raħal, b'tant binjiet ġodda u faċilitajiet moderni li għamlu post li ma jonqsu xejn.

L-idea originali biex il-Prof. Mangion jikteb il-ktieb, ġiet wara li fl-2017 laqgħa stedina biex jagħmel diskors f'għeluq il-125 sena tal-post.

Dakinhar ġiet diskussa l-htieġa li l-anzjani li kellhom memorja tajba, bħala terapija setgħu anke jagħtu kontribut lis-soċjetà billi jesprimu l-esperjenzi tagħhom f'intervisti li mbagħad jiddammu flimkien bħala memorja kollettiva.

L-idea entużjażmat ukoll lill-Kap Eżekuttiv tal-post, Dr Josianne Cutajar minhabba li hasset li l-proġett kien jolqot ir-ruħ tal-poplu Malti kif għex u kiber fl-imghoddi.

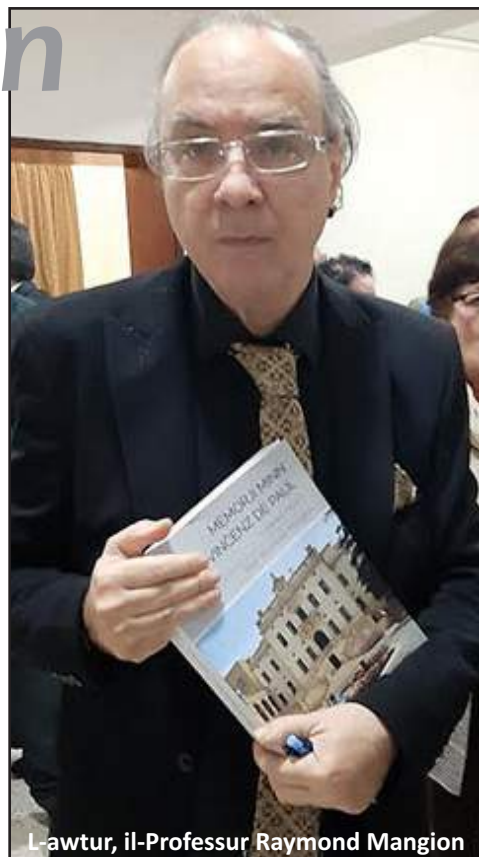
Fid-dahla tal-ktieb, il-Prof. Mangion jgħid li meta nitkellmu u ninsgu xogħlijiet dwar l-istorja, aktarx li nifhmu l-grajjiet il-kbar li biddlu r-rotta jew saħansitra d-des-tin tan-nazzjonijiet u tal-istati li tawhom sura u identittà. Madankollu, grajjiet il-bniedem huma bħall-biċċiet tal-mużajk fejn kull biċċa ssawru u toħloq xenarju ta' avvenimenti li sehhew minn hin għal iehor, minn moment għal iehor, minn epoka għal oħra, minn post għal iehor, u minn komunità għal oħra.

Huwa jsostni li r-riċerka u t-tiftix tal-istorja kienu ġeneralment dejjem imsejsin fuq l-iskoperta tad-dokumenti, sew manuskritti u sew xogħlijiet stampati, jew saħansitra ppublikati.

Fortunatament, il-memorja kollettiva issa wkoll qegħda titqies bħala sors primarju għal min ikun ifittex ihares lura u jharbex il-qighan ta' kulma gara fl-imghoddi biex ifisser kif wasal il-preżent u kif jista' jin-bena l-futur.

Il-protagonisti tal-ktieb huma l-anzjani residenti ta' San Vincenz De Paul, li fil-fatt hu wiehed mill-akbar spartarjiet f'Malta taht l-imperu li kien inawgurat fl-1892.

Huma dawn l-anzjani li jirrakuntaw, mhux biss dwar il-hajja personali tagħhom, imma dwar it-Tieni Gwerra Dinjija u ż-żmien ta' wara. Huma jkopru b'mod wiesa' u dettaljat bejn l-1935 u l-1955 u jagħtu tagħrif dwar kif għexu u jiftakru dawk iż-żminijiet bħala tfal ta'



L-awtur, il-Professur Raymond Mangion

hames snin 'il fuq.

Dawk li tkellmu mal-awtur f'dan l-istudju missew ma' kull esperjenza, sempliċi jew mhux, li laqithom fil-hajja tagħhom, uħud anke minn età ta' meta kienu trabi fil-ben-niena. Jirreferu għal sitwazzjonijiet li issa hargu mix-xena, partikolarment tradizzjonijiet, drawwiet, kif ukoll użanzi li kienu in-luwentati, anzi regolati hafna drabi b'ebusija mill-knisja Kattolika.

Jista' jingħad li dawk kollha intervistati għaddew mit-transizzjoni u r-riformi ta' Malta wara l-gwerra, u d-dhul ta' mezzi teknoloġiċi ta' komunikazzjoni.

Il-ktieb, li huwa miktub b'mod mexxej hafna, bl-awtur juża wkoll kliem Malti antik li b'dispaċir wiehed jgħid li ftit jew xejn għadu jintuża, jista' faċilment jiġi mfsisser ukoll bħala li jirrakkonta l-istorja ta' pajjiżna, kif ukoll iż-żmienijiet li wiehed jagħmel tajjeb li jifakarhom.

Fil-lejla tat-tnedija tal-ktieb, filwaqt li saret intervista lill-Prof. Mangion dwar kif hadem biex iwassal dawn ir-rakkonti, tkellmu wkoll, il-Ministru għall-Anzjanità Attiva, Dr Jo-Etienne Abela li huwa responsabbli mill-faċilità, u l-Kap Eżekuttiv tal-post, Dr Josianne Cutajar.

L-imsemmija, flimkien ma' Bernard Grech, il-Kap tal-PN u tal-Oppożizzjoni li missieru kien wiehed minn dawk intervistati għall-ktieb qabel miet ftit ilu, ġew ip-preżentati b'kopja tal-ktieb. L-istess lil dawk prezenti.

Il-ktieb mhux għall-bejgħ, imma l-Prof. Ray Mangion tani l-permess biex minn żmien għal żmien inkun nisa' ninkludi xi sitiet minn din il-gawhra ta' ktieb f'*The Voice of the Maltese*.

Joseph Cutajar



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

# Significant proposed changes to parenting laws in the Family Law Act 1975

by PaulSANT

**T**he Family Law Act 1975 (Cth) is the main law that empowers the court to make Orders regarding parenting and property matters following a breakdown of a relationship. Since its inception, there have been some amendments and reforms from time to time.

The Australian Law Reform Committee (ALRC) has identified that there are a number of aspects of this law that cause confusion and misinterpretation, particularly to self-represented parents in the family law system.

In 2019 the ALRC conducted *Family Law for the Future – An inquiry into the Family Law System* found that the wording and way sections of the law are set out currently contributes to wide social misconception about parenting arrangements after separation, including that a parent is entitled to equal time, rather than arrangements that serve the child's best interests.

Substantial amendments to parenting sections have been proposed in the *Family Law Amendment Bill 2023*. The Australian Government's purpose driving the proposed changes is to "make sure the best interests of children are prioritised and placed at the centre of the family law system".

How? By making the law easier for parents to understand and for the courts to apply, protecting children and parents from harmful effects of litigation, and strengthening case management in the family law courts. We touch on major proposed overhauls below.

## Objects of Part 1

### – Best interests of children

The objects of this part of the Act have led to misunderstanding in how decision-making occurs, as has the reference to primary and additionally considerations of

how a court determines what is in a child's best interests.

It is proposed that the current objects, which start with reference to ensuring the best interests of children are met by ensuring they have the benefit of both parents having a meaningful involvement in their lives (with a corresponding underlying principle stated as children having the right to know and be cared for by both their parents), are repealed and replaced.

The new objects would be contained to simply 'ensure the best interests of children are met' and 'giving effect to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (20/11/1989)'.

### Determining what is in a child's best interests

Currently, section 60CC of the FLA provides for two **primary considerations** and 14 **additional considerations** of matters the court may take into account when making Orders about children and providing reasons for those orders as being made in a child's best interests. Proposed changes consolidate the considerations into six (6) factors:

- (a) What arrangements would best promote the safety of the child and parents;
- (b) Any views expressed by the child;
- (c) Developmental, psychological and emotional needs of the child;
- (d) Capacity proposed carers to provide for the child's needs including ability and willingness to seek support to assist with caring;
- (e) The benefit to the child of maintaining a relationship with both parents (and other

significant persons) where it is safe to do so; (f) Anything else relevant to the particular circumstances of the child.

### Agreed orders

Where parents have agreed to parenting Orders, when the court considers whether to make such orders asked to be made by consent, *it may, but is not required to*, have regard to all or any of the above matters.

### Part 2 – Parental responsibility

Proposed repeals of a number of sections include removing the mandatory obligation for the court to apply a presumption that it is in the best interests of children for their parents to have equal shared parental responsibility (in relation to major long-term decisions).

It is also proposed that section 65DAA 'Court to consider child spending equal time or substantial and significant time with each parent in certain circumstances' be repealed. The ALRC received abundant submissions supporting its removal, including: it is an unnecessary additional step to courts in making decisions about children, public misconception that the law provides for a presumption of equal time, and the section's potential of taking focus away from a child's best interests.

Relevantly, the court will still have discretion to consider arrangements including equal time and substantial and significant time.

### Harmful proceedings orders

In recognition of systems abuse and the impact it can have on children and parents, it is proposed the court be empowered to attempt to prevent such harm (such harm including 'severe stress' on a respondent from repeated applications).

Where the court makes a *harmful proceedings order* Applications will be assessed to determine they are not vexatious, frivolous, an abuse of process or without reasonable prospects of success, rather than automatically being accepted for filing.

### Discretionary court

The family court has, and will continue to have, a wide array of choices when making Orders about children. If you are considering separating, or have separated, we encourage you to contact us for legal advice to assist your decision making during a significant time in your life.



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Maltese Spoken







Joseph Cutajar



Lawrence Dimech

## A prestigious and historic award for *The Voice of the Maltese* at Malta Journalism Awards 2023

**H**istory was in the making on 4th March when for the first time, in the 31st edition of the Malta Journalism Awards organised by the Institute of Maltese Journalists (Istitut tal-Gurnalisti Maltin, I-IGM), a special award was extended to a Maltese publication outside of Malta to *The Voice of the Maltese*, through its co-editors, Joseph Cutajar from Malta, and Lawrence Dimech from Australia, both well-known veteran journalists with vast experience in the media. Presenting the award as a commemorative plaque to Joseph Cutajar, who received it on behalf of *The Voice*, Matthew Xuereb, the President of the Institute said, "These special mentions/awards were never given in 31 years so this was a special case, that yes, I believe is a justified recognition".

The inscription in Maltese on the plaque reads: *B'rikkonoxximent għall-hidma gurnalistika twila għall-Maltin li jgħixu barra minn Malta - 4 ta' Marzu 2023*

(In recognition of long years of journalistic work for the Maltese living abroad - 4 March 2023).

The Awards aim to honour journalists or contributors whose work enhanced the journalism profession in Malta.

Since the 2021 Malta Journalism Awards covering works published in 2020 was not held due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 31st edition of the Malta Journalism Awards covered works published in 2020, 2021 and 2022.

The winners were determined by two separate panels of judges that operated independently of each other. They analysed 335 submissions in 18 different categories published 2020-2022 from practically all media houses in Malta. IGM President Matthew Xuereb nominated *The Voice*.

The awards ceremony was held in the Grand Salon at the Archaeology Museum in Republic Street Valletta.

The award to *The Voice of the Maltese* has opened a window for recognition to Maltese journalists working in print and broadcasting outside of Malta.

Meanwhile, Joseph and Lawrence would like to thank all those who conveyed congratulations and good wishes regarding this award.

## 31st March: Malta to commemorate 44th Anniversary of Freedom Day

**O**n 31 March, Malta will celebrate the 44th Anniversary of the national Freedom Day (Jum il-Helsien), the end of the Defence Treaty and the withdrawal of British troops and the Royal Navy from the island on 31 March 1979, 15 years after becoming independent.

The occasion is celebrated with great national pride marking the first time in centuries that Malta was free to rule itself without any foreign influence.

The main activities commemorating this date occur at the Freedom Day Monument at Birgu (Vittoriosa). In the morning, in a formal ceremony, after being greeted by the Armed Forces of Malta guard of honour and in the presence of the country's highest dignitaries, the President of Malta, George Vella, the Prime Minister, and Leader of the Opposition will participate in a wreath-laying ceremony on the Freedom Day monument (above).



Prime Minister Robert Abela would also have led another commemoration on the eve of the feast. He would deliver a speech before laying a wreath on the monument, followed by members of his Cabinet, constituted bodies and other organisations.

On taking power in 1971, the Labour Government led by Prime Minister Dom Mintoff indicated it wanted to re-negotiate the lease agreement with the United Kingdom for the British forces to use the facilities in Malta for military purposes, and such an agreement to come to an end by 31 March 1979.

Following protracted and sometimes tense talks, the new agreement was signed whereby the lease was extended at a vastly increased rent.

Freedom Day is a public holiday. Other activities to commemorate the historic day will include the traditional regatta boat races in the Grand Harbour in the afternoon.

## Harness racing for Greystanes Maltese group

Afternoon harness racing is a rare occasion for this Maltese group (pictured right) led by Jessie Gatt of Greystanes, but that's exactly what they did at Club Menangle Race Day recently, having special reserve viewing from the Mendel Lounge followed by a delicious roast.





# Bishop Anton Maria Buhagiar (1846 - 1891)

## - unjustly deprived chance to become bishop of Malta



TonyMAMO

Greek, Hebrew, French and Spanish.

Buhagiar was ordained a priest by Bishop Gaetano Pace Forno (1808 – 1874) on 18 October 1869. After further studies in Italy, he was offered a lectureship in philosophy, but he declined, preferring “to live among the poor, the powerless and the weak”.

After a short spell serving at the Addolorata Cemetery in May 1872, he was instructed to minister to the Maltese community in the Tunisian coastal town of Sfax. He stayed there for more than 12 years. Tunisia was a preferred destination for Maltese migrants due to its proximity to Malta. In the 1870s, Tunisia had about 7,000 Maltese migrants.

In the early 1800s, the Maltese of Tunisia were described as “illiterate and uncouth”, the women “dirty and dishevelled”, the “children dressed in rags”, and the men “quarrelsome” and drunks. The Maltese worked as farmers, fishermen, seamen, coachmen, artisans, shopkeepers and in manufacturing industries like olive oil, soap, perfume and shoes.

By Buhagiar’s arrival, the Maltese were “well settled in their new homes” and confident about their lives and future. Paul Cambon, the French government official in Tunisia, described the Maltese as “sober, industrious and thrifty”.

Without historical information, let us create a picture of Buhagiar in Sfax based on some reasonable assumptions. He established churches, schools and hospitals for the growing Maltese community, married couples and baptised their children, looked after illegitimate and orphaned children and widows, wrote letters on behalf of the illiterate people, and raised money to pay for all these activities.

In recognition of his great work, in August 1884, Buhagiar was appointed auxiliary to the Bishop of Carthage, the French Cardinal Lavigierie (1825-1892). He, however, continued his mission in Sfax.



Meanwhile, in Malta, the elderly Bishop Carmelo Scicluna (1800 – 1888) found it difficult to perform his duties due to his old age and failing health. The Vatican and the British government discussed at length a successor to Bishop Scicluna.

Pope Leo XIII sought the advice of Cardinal Lavigierie. The latter recommended Buhagiar, whom he described “as a man of high administrative qualities”. The Pope and Cardinal Jacobini interviewed Buhagiar in Rome and were impressed by his qualities. Jacobini wrote, “Buhagiar is not only the best man available for the work, but is likely to carry it out successfully”.

Mr G. Errington, the British government representative in Rome, described Buhagiar as “a man of energy and shrewdness with a considerable determination and yet prudence”. On 14 April 1885, Pope Leo XIII appointed Bishop Buhagiar Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Malta without the automatic right to succeed Bishop Scicluna on his death.

The protestant governor Simmons, the pro-British Strickland and Catholic clergy members were furious at this appointment and tried to undermine Bishop Buhagiar. To them, Bishop Buhagiar was a persona non grata, a nobody from north Africa, and they did not consider him Maltese. The clergy wanted one of them to be the Bishop of Malta.

Governor Simmons suspected Bishop Buhagiar was a Mizzi sympathiser (the pro-Italian Dr Fortunato Mizzi wanted a representative government for Malta), a protégé of French Cardinal Lavigierie and, therefore, a Francophile. At that time, Britain and France distrusted each other. Bishop Buhagiar made it clear to Cardinal Lavigierie that he did not take sides in the divisive Maltese politics.

Despite the personal attacks, Bishop Buhagiar was popular with the people. During the cholera outbreak of 1887, the church provided spiritual and material support to poor people. Bishop Buhagiar also reformed the education of candidates for the priesthood.

On the death of Bishop Scicluna on 12 July 1888, the Vatican, possibly under considerable pressure from Britain, appointed the pro-British Bishop Pietro Pace of Gozo bishop of Malta. Bishop Buhagiar could not remain in Malta, and on 8 January 1891, he was appointed Apostolic Delegate and Extraordinary Delegate to San Domingo, Haiti, and Venezuela.

Bishop Buhagiar died from yellow fever on 10 August 1891. He was buried in the Cathedral of Santa Maria la Menor in Santo Domingo (picture left)

Bishop Buhagiar suffered a grave injustice. He died in a faraway country forsaken and despised by some clerics and the British governor but loved by the “uneducated masses” for his “common manners”.



# His move to Australia was work-related

*This month's personality is a man of many talents. Successful in business, voluntary work and very active in the Maltese community*

## Tony Pace-Feraud

Tony was born at home in Sliema, Malta on 20 October 1939 to Vincent Pace-Feraud of Valletta and Mary, nee Borg, of Msida. Tony's birth was a special day for the family, not only because he was born on his mother's birthday, who at the age of 41 would have given up on ever becoming a mother, but most interestingly, his father, who was one of 11 brothers was the only one who managed to have a child. Tony reckons he was born by accident.

At the age of four and a half years, Tony lost his father from a stroke. Tony's mother, Mary, daughter of Joseph Borg and Evelina Maestre, raised Tony on her own in very hard circumstances. She sent him to St Joseph's and St Catherine's Schools in Sliema, where he received his secondary education at St. Aloysius College of Birkirkara.

His first job was at the Malta Cold Stores in Marsa as a stock control clerk. This was followed by a stint with the British admiralty as a civilian clerk at the dockyard, first in the Pay Office and later at the Contracts and Purchase Department.

It was about this time that Tony met Mary Agius, a school teacher, and they married sometime later and lived at Balzan. Soon the rundown of the dockyard had started, and Tony and many others were made redundant.

This was followed by over seven years managing Vernon Foods Ltd. at Marsa, in charge of manufacturing tons of tomato paste and peeled tomatoes daily in summer and processed peas and canned fruit in winter. In his early working years, Tony attended various management and related courses, which helped him in his career.

A desire for a change of job and his experience in production and people management landed him a job with the American multinational company Blue Bell Inc., manufacturers of Wrangler jeans, as an Industrial Engineer at their San Gwann division. With this company, Tony spent six months in the USA and often travelled to Belgium and Germany.

For a period of about three years, Tony managed the new Wrangler factory at Xewkija, Gozo. After more than ten years with Wrangler, during which time he had been promoted to Senior Industrial Engineer, the company started offering him a transfer to other countries where they had other divisions.

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OF THE MONTH**



The offers included Ireland, Ivory Coast, Spain and Greece, none of which were attractive enough to Tony. When an offer was made for Sydney, Australia, where Blue Bell Inc. had acquired the Amco Jeans Company and where his wife, Mary, had two sisters, Tony accepted.

In April 1981, Tony, accompanied by his family, arrived in Sydney and worked at the Yennora and Minto plants as the Senior Industrial Engineer. It was a difficult time for his two teenage children.

Eventually, his son, Pierino, graduated in IT, got a couple of Masters's Degrees, and eventually became an IT Specialist. His daughter, Marinella, finished year 12 in Sydney, followed by a secretarial course, and ever since had been employed as a secretary and in higher related positions in private and public employment.

His time with Blue Bell Inc. came to an abrupt end when 1983 when the company sold its Sydney business, Amco-Wrangler. Tony was told it was time for him to return to Malta. After two years in Australia, Tony and all members of the family had gotten used to the lifestyle here and preferred to stay in Sydney. So, unwillingly, Tony resigned from Wrangler and was taken on by the new buyers of the business, E. Hartman and Son, as an Industrial Engineer.



Tony Pace-Feraud with his wife Mary

*\*Continued on page 7*



# Tony still has so much to offer after retirement

*\*Continued from page 6*

Unfortunately, after two years, Amco-Harman went bankrupt, and Tony got a job as the Production Planner at Nile Australia in Campbelltown, followed by time with a division of Gazal Industries at Ultimo as Quality Control Manager and later as Production Manager in one of their divisions. The last eleven or so years of his working life were spent working for Speedo Australia, the world-famous swimwear manufacturer.

He was initially hired as an Industrial Engineer and soon after was promoted to Manufacturing Manager in charge of production at the Windsor factory and at all sub-contractors. He decided to go for early retirement, and on his 61st birthday, he gave notice of termination, a decision he never regreted.

Immediately after retirement, he joined the Moorebank Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society, where he is still a member and is the secretary. He helps at his local church, where he is an Extraordinary Minister of Communion. After he retired, he started playing lawn bowls and joined the Maltese Bowlers Group, where he was the secretary until the group folded up.

He then joined the Maltese Cultural Association of NSW, where he occupies the position of secretary. For many years Tony was a delegate to the MCC of NSW, first



**Tony's son, Pierino and his wife Jennifer (centre) with their two kids, and the Feraud's only grandsons on the sides, Robert (left) and David**

as a delegate of the Maltese Bowlers Group and then of the Maltese Cultural Association of NSW. For a time, he held the position of Assistant Secretary of the MCC.

For over a decade, he was the coordinator of the MCC's Maltese language radio programme, and besides managing it, he frequently presented programmes himself. He has also been a volunteer in the St Vincent de Paul Society's Compeer Programme since he retired and attends meetings of the Bankstown Maltese Seniors Group.

In Malta, Tony was a keen swimmer and a regular scuba diver and a spear fisherman. He also was heavily involved in tropical fishkeeping and was the secretary of the Malta Tropical Fish Keeping Soci-

ety. In the last three years before coming to Australia, he was the manager of the Lyceum Wranglers basketball team, one of the top teams at the time.

In Australia, he had the opportunity to participate in abseiling, which he found to be very invigorating, and he also started horse riding.

In his retirement, Tony attended a two-year TAFE course in Visual Arts, where he gained considerable experience in drawing and painting in various media.

Tony and his wife, Mary, have always been keen travellers. Tony counts 50 countries which he has visited over the years. He loves Malta and since he has been in Australia has visited the island on average, every two years.



**The Feraud's only daughter, Marinella and her Aussie husband, Anthony**

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# Have your say/Xi trid tgħid?



## The Voice of the Maltese

### Print & Digital magazine

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

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

Hard copy subscription is also available at a cost.

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Published by The Voice of  
the Maltese Group Pty Ltd

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## Your letters/ L-ittri tagħkom ...

# Congratulations and keep it up for our sake

*Tony Cassar from St Albans writes:*

I want to congratulate The Voice of the Maltese for becoming the first publication primarily dedicated to the Maltese living abroad, particularly in Australia, for the Institute of Maltese Journalists' award.

For as long as I can remember, and I have been in Australia since 1963, this is the only such publication that has managed to reach this target, which is just a reward for the dedication of the people who run it.

I remember when The Maltese Herald served the Maltese community how best it could for decades. After it ceased publication, several people or publishing houses tried to follow its lead by posting newsletters mostly intended for members of various Maltese associations. They may have served

their purpose, and those running them should be commended for their efforts.

Others tried to fill up the gaps, but they lacked professionalism and failed to make ground or win support.

Not so The Voice of the Maltese, from its content, the absorbing material that issue after issue it presents to the readers, the layout and its journalistic value have managed to become the authentic Voice for the Maltese community, not just in Australia but also wherever it has a readership.

Keep it up. The thousands of its readers would join me in thanking you for a well-done job.

## Congratulations from MCA NSW

*Tony Pace-Feraud, Secretary Maltese Cultural Association of NSW writes:*

On behalf of our President, Charles N Mifsud, and the committee of our association, I congratulate Joseph and Lawrence on being recognised in The Malta Journalism Awards for your long years of service for the Maltese living abroad by providing regular journalistic activities through the publication of the very popular fortnightly magazine, *The Voice of the Maltese*, with a huge worldwide readership, particularly in Australia.

Congratulations and we thank you for your service to the Maltese diaspora.

## A most deserved recognition

*Paul Zammit from Brisbane writes:*

As an avid reader of *The Voice of the Maltese* I feel I should congratulate you for being recognised for your journalistic efforts by the Institute of Journalists in Malta with the prestigious award for providing us, especially the Maltese living abroad for ten continuous years with his wonderful and most interesting publication.

I believe, that such recognition, in the form of an official award should also be presented to you, as a combined effort, by the associations representing the Maltese community in Australia, as thanks to *The Voice* they have a credible vehicle with which to publicise their activities.

We should all be grateful that we have such journalists looking after us in this way

## Cottonera ignored??

*Alfred Mallia from Bormla writes:*

I was surprised to read the letter by Lawrence Scerri from Wollongong in *The Voice* (March 7) under the heading: *Cottonera ignored yet again...*

When was the last time Mr. Scerri visited Malta? Particularly in the last eight years, Cottonera has not only not been ignored, but almost over developed.

The three cities (and Kalkara) forming Cottonera have become the envy of most other Maltese. So much restoration work has been done, including the bastions, that it is now at a par with Mdina and Valletta.

There are still things to be done but after years of neglect by former administrations the Cottonera area has now become a great attraction for both Maltese and tourists.



## Dr Hugh McDermott MP State Member for Prospect

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Pope Francis on the balcony of St Peter's Basilica in March 2013

## Pope Francis 10th Anniversary

Ten years ago, when he addressed St Peter's Square for the first time, Pope Francis observed that the conclave that elected him went "almost to the ends of the earth" to find a new pontiff. It was a self-deprecating but telling joke – one that signalled that the Argentinian cardinal planned a very different kind of papacy from anything that had come before.

Opting to live modestly in a church guest house on the edge of Vatican City – rather than in the papal apartments of the Apostolic Palace – Francis, 86, has positioned himself as a kind of outsider Pope, a champion of the marginal, peripheral and excluded.

A decade on, that approach has made him one of the most necessary moral voices of the age. On the key and related issues of troubled times – the chronic refugee crisis, the climate emergency and global economic injustice – the first non-European pope of modern times has provided a powerful defence of universal values.

## Pope Francis says priest celibacy 'can be revised'

Pope Francis, who started his papacy on 13 March 2013, has described celibacy for priests as "a temporary prescription, not eternal" in an interview with an Argentinian news outlet.

Pope Francis, who is described as "A pope who is true to his word" can, in principle, imagine abolishing celibacy for priests, the Vatican head said in an interview.

Speaking to the Argentinian news website *Infobae*, Pope Francis recalled that in the Eastern Catholic Church, married men are allowed to be priests.

"There is no contradiction in the fact that a priest can marry," said the Pope, who for years has been repeatedly asked by various quarters to lift or relax celibacy requirements for priests.

The delegates of the German Synodal Assembly for the Reform of the Catholic Church adopted a text in which an opening of celibacy is sought. The Pope is to be asked to examine the future of compulsory celibacy.

When asked by *Infobae* whether celibacy could be revised, Francis answered that it could. Celibacy in the Western Church is a "temporary prescription... It is not eternal like priestly ordination," he added.

A few days ago, the delegates of the German Synodal Assembly for the Reform of

the Catholic Church adopted a text in which an opening of celibacy is sought.

The Pope is to be asked to examine the future of compulsory celibacy. When asked by *Infobae* whether celibacy could be revised, Francis answered that it could. However, he doubted that more men would opt for the priesthood if they were allowed to be married at the same time.

According to media reports, the Pope declared only in mid-February that he wanted to retain celibacy. With the help of "true friendships among priests" it is possible to live celibacy, he said.

Pope Francis' papacy is marked by mem-



## Can Catholic priests marry?

orable moments, landmark journeys and phrases that would rewrite history.

Within the church itself, he has also taken on entrenched bastions of traditional authority, delivering memorable and regular dressing-downs to the Roman curia on the subject of humility. The ongoing synod on synodality – a consultation process with the world's Catholics on an unprecedented scale – is intended to further undermine the notion of the church as a monarchical type institution.

### To our online readers

We forward to you every issue, always on time, but we find that some return back to us as undelivered for various reasons. If you miss receiving *The Voice*, all you have to do is write to us at [maltesevoice@gmail.com](mailto:maltesevoice@gmail.com) and we will resend the missing issues. Thank you.



### In memoriam

#### Emmanuel Vella (1940-2023)

It is with sadness to announce the death of Emmanuel Vella, 82, from Kearns NSW who was born in Marsa, Malta on the 30th December 1940. He went to eternal life on 28th February 2023 at Campbelltown Hospital.

He left behind to mourn him his wife Rita, children Cindy, Judith, Michelle and their spouses, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Emmanuel and Rita had migrated to Australia days after their marriage 65 years ago. Emmanuel was a past President of the Marsa Association of NSW, very active in the Maltese community, and also worked very hard to raise money for the missions.



# Funny-sounding names

## - from assimilation to authenticity

Your name is one of the most important things that your parents give you. It is meant to reflect the aspiration of your parents - their hopes and aspirations for what they want you to become or to be when you grow up. But if later on in life you want to seek your future in a foreign country, your Christian or surname can become a hindrance.

Let's take Australia for example. We have many Maltese whose names had to be altered to sound more Australian. Names like Buttigieg, Buhagiar, Busuttil, Farrugia etc, became Butt, Farr or even totally different.

This was more evident in the fifties/sixties. Some names needed correction because their colleagues' attempts at addressing them were so bad they didn't even realise they were being called; how-

ever, as Australia became more multi-cultural

name, and neither did Melbourne politician Eddie Micallef. World champion boxer Jeff Fenech, Mario Fenech, Rugby League fame and Shaun Micallef of ABC TV are other examples.

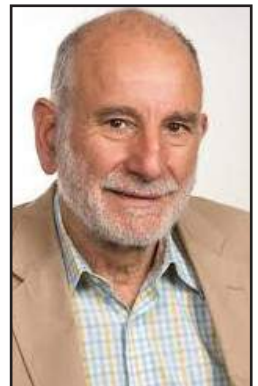
Working in a factory, especially when discrimination was the order of the day, some thought that changing their names was one way of being accepted. From Emmanuel, they became Bill; from Dolores, they became Doris; it was the thing to do at the time.

In Australia today, so many are of foreign descent. They are getting more passionate and proud about their heritage and ancestry and about where they're from. They wear it now as a badge of honour rather than trying to hide it. There has been a societal move from "assimilation to authenticity". People want to be more authentic, and



Politicians, John Aquilina (above) and Eddie Micallef (below)

peaking households, Dr Price said they may not be able to make some of the sounds from unfamiliar languages, let alone remember how a name should be pronounced



after hearing it once, especially as names are often not spelt phonetically.

Because they were forced to suppress it for so long when they were growing up, now there is an environment where they can just be themselves and be comfortable ... and you can balance the two, you can be Australian and you can be Australian-Maltese, you don't have to choose.

We are no longer the odd fish to have a 'funny-sounding name'; there are many other people out there with 'funny-sounding names'.



Jeff Fenech (above) and Mario Fenech (right) excelled in sports

foreign names became accepted. They had to. There were too many of them.

When John Aquilina, the most successful Maltese politician in Australia started in local politics, he was advised that with a name like Aquilina he would not make it. He did not change his



TV personality and actor Shaun Micallef

they want to be more real.

Dr Fiona Sweet-Lin Price is a cross-cultural communication specialist who has worked with universities for decades to help them pronounce students' names at graduation ceremonies and in other settings.

For those brought up in English-only ss-



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# Bagalja full of memories

**W**hen entertainers from Malta accept the invitation to sing to the Maltese communities in Australia, they bring bagalja, a suitcase full of memories and nostalgia. The audience loves to hear the old favourites; they join in, stomp their feet, and spread happiness. Wentworthville League Club, on Sunday, hosted such an event with Ludwig Galea as the main star. In his sixth visit to Australia under the auspices of the Maltese Cultural Association, Ludwig Galea, the highly talented Maltese top pop male tenor with a solid melodious voice known for his love for Malta's capital, Valletta, performed to a packed house.

Accompanied by the very talented Stacey Saliba, "the best thing to come out of South Australia", they rocked the hall, receiving various standing ovations. The duets were just class. Their selection

## Ludwig in Australia for a sixth time

of songs was appropriate for the audience.

Ludwig and Stacey also presented another successful show at the Cringila Maltese Centre.

Charles Mifsud, the President of the MCA known for his entrepreneurial skills, told The Voice that this was a challenging event to organise, "but we managed to get a full house, thanks to the efforts of a hard-working committee".

The evening was full of other surprises. *Iċ-Ċittadini*, back after a three-year hiatus due to Covid-19 restrictions, presented farsa bil-Malti bringing a smile back to many faces. The old actors led by Monica Ledger, Joe Mifsud, Sam Farrugia and Daniel Demarco were back. Charlie Cortis, Vicky Rubnik and Tony Borg joined them.

This evening also featured a segment for rock and roll dancers supplied by Chukyz Dance Studio. Several members of the audience even joined in the fun.

At the end show's end, Ludwig announced he had brought over from Malta the award presented to Lawrence Dimech during the Malta Journalists Awards 2023. He felt honoured to publicly present it to him on behalf of The Voice of the Maltese. (For a full report about the Malta Journalists Awards, see page 4).

Present for the show was Lawrence Buhagiar, who was celebrating his 50th birthday.

➡ From left: Ludwig, Lawrence Buhagiar, Stacey Saliba and Charles Mifsud



Ludwig during his performance



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## Roundup of News About Malta



### ‘Educators, schools are the shield against hate speech’ ... President Vella

Addressing a conference entitled 'Hate Speech – Challenged in Schools', the President of Malta, George Vella, said that schools are the shield against hate speech because the educators in classrooms are the ones helping in the comprehensive formation of students, which is not limited to the academic aspect.

He believes there should be an educational programme providing teachers with the necessary information and tools for teaching and, at the same time, showing students signs by which they can recognise what hate speech is, the damage it causes, and be an example to those around them.

He pointed out that the fundamental role of schools in overcoming the challenge of hate speech is to foster an environment of respect, solidarity, tolerance, and fully accepting diversity. He said that the place where diversity should be celebrated is in schools.

President Vella said that the way hate



speech has spread in society is worrying, especially in the context of national unity. It cannot be built on fighting, insults, disrespect, and threats.

"Even when we disagree, we should show respect both to our fellow Maltese and Gozitans and to the many foreigners living, working, and directly contributing to the strengthening of our country," stated President George Vella while calling on politi-

cians, journalists, social media influencers, employers, and other prominent people to always weigh their words and actions.

With the aim of a fair society, the President said that we should be among the first to set an example with appropriate words and behaviour that create a sense of empathy, love, and respect towards everyone, even those with whom we disagree.

He expressed the hope that the conference would lead to a work plan for a more inclusive environment, enhance knowledge about hate speech, and show the significant contribution that educators and schools can make in this field.

### International Fireworks Festival 2023

Between Monday, 24th April and Sunday, 30th April, the Ministry for Tourism and the Malta Tourism Authority will be organising the 21st edition of the Malta International Fireworks Festival, which promises to be a spectacular display of colour and coordination culminating with a show in the Grand Harbour.

The festival, which also has a competitive edge, will host a Pyromusical competition, with the fireworks designed to match the rhythm of a musical number! Awards would then be presented to the most impressive displays.

During the International Fireworks Festival, a symposium will be held, with 700 participants from overseas and 100 foreign exhibitors. The seminar will discuss themes such as safety, science and new technologies, with this educational aspect now unfolding hand in hand with the festival.

Details of the festival were given at a press conference by the Minister for Tourism, Clayton Bartolo and Malta Tourism Authority Chairman, Gavin Gulia. They said that the public could watch the

fireworks from Nadur in Gozo, Mellieha, St Paul's Bay, Naxxar, Manoel Island, Floriana and the Grand Harbour.

The festival includes participants from the United Kingdom, Poland and Italy.

Tourism Minister Clayton Bartolo said that the positive expectations for this festival are palpable. Malta has a renowned pyrotechnic reputation, and a festival such as this reflects the Government's commitment to continue supporting the tourism sector, which is a leading contributor to the Maltese economy.

He said that the closing night is bound to be a true spectacle.



### Ryanair estimates 3.5m passengers will fly to Malta this year

Low cost airline Ryanair estimates that in its new schedule for Malta this year, three million five hundred passengers would be flying to Malta.

This was stated by Malta Air CEO, David O'Brien at a news conference in which Ryanair launched its biggest ever schedule for Malta this year with four new routes and 66 destinations that include Baden, East Midlands, Memmingen, and Stockholm, and increased frequencies on 20 other popular routes from/to capital cities.

O'Brien said that Ryanair will operate over 470 weekly flights to/from Malta supporting the recovery of inbound tourism to pre-covid levels and offering its Malta citizens/visitors the widest choice and the lowest fares when booking their summer getaways, which is 26% more flights than last year.

In addition, the company will be expanding its operation in Malta with an investment of \$600 million and will be employing 3,000 workers





## Roundup of News About Malta



# Malta continues to advocate the 'Island for Islands' initiative

**A**t the London Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers meeting, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade Ian Borg continued to convey the message of continuous support for the 'Island for Islands' initiative.

He explained that through the Presidency of the United Nations Security Council, Malta also advocated the need for more initiatives for small island developing states due to climate change's economic and social impact.

Minister Ian Borg said that the 'Island for Islands' initiative that Malta started would continue to be one of the main priorities in Malta's foreign policy.

During this meeting, Minister Borg also intervened in the need for a more resilient

society to peace and what is just.

He praised the Commonwealth's commitment to assisting several states with a strong democracy and recalled how, through Vote16, Malta expanded its opportunities for more people to have their say in society.

He further stated that during its Presidency of the United Nations Security Council, Malta also firmly pushed for the importance of women having more active societal roles.

The Minister also participated in the 62nd



Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group meeting after Malta was selected to be part of this action group at the last CHOGM held in Rwanda.

In the margins of these meetings, Minister Ian Borg had a bilateral meeting with the Minister of State of the United Kingdom for Europe Leo Docherty.

## Former minister Prof Edwin Grech (father of Karin) dies at age 94

**P**rofessor Edwin Grech (*right*) who excelled in his medical profession in obstetrics and gynaecology, who was also a former Minister in the Labour Government in the Mintoff era between 1996 and 1998, has died aged 94.

Professor Edwin Grech, is the father of Karin Grech who was killed by a letter-bomb on the 28th of December 1977 when she was only 15.

At the time, Prof Grech had returned to Malta from the UK to serve the Maltese people during the doctors' strike. The letter bomb had been addressed to him, but was opened by Karin when it exploded in killed her. That assassination was described by the Courts as a political killing.

He also served as Dean for the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery and was a Senate member of the University of Malta Council. He retired from the Public Service in 1991.

He was also a consultant for the health of mothers and children within the World Health Organisation (WHO), and served as director for the Collaborative Centre for Clinical Research on Human Reproduction at the ODS.

Prime Minister Robert Abela described Prof Grech as a person who gave his all for his country and for the patients who were so close to his heart. He added that he had done all this through his profession and politics, and made great sacrifices that cost him the life of his daughter Karin.

He said what Professor Grech, did for the country, will never be forgotten.

The Leader of the Opposition Bernard Grech, a nephew of Prof Grech, described his uncle as a person who left everything behind, not only using all his skills, but also giving away his family, because he be-

lieved in an ideal. He said Prof Grech was a man who had only done good deeds, and was repaid in the worst possible way; by the murder of his dear daughter Karin.



## Malta's Education Minister gets prestigious PES appointment

**M**inister for Education, Sport, Young People, Research and Innovation, Clifton Grima, has become the first Maltese Minister for Education to be appointed Chairperson for Education within the Socialists and Democrats group (PES) from among Education Ministers belonging to the S&D.

In a statement, the Labour Party said that Minister Grima will be entrusted with moderating informal meetings between PES Education Ministers before the formal meetings of the Council of the European Union.

The Minister himself said that this appointment is testimony to Malta's achievements in creating the best opportunities and incentives for young people to pursue their careers. He said that he will utilise this role to ensure that access to quality education remains an absolute priority within the European Union.

### CHRIS BOWEN MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MCKINNON

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Labor







# Stharriġ li juri majnata

**F**l-aħħar ħarġa ta' The Voice ktibt fit-tul dwar is-sentenza li nġatit mill-imħallef Depasquale li annulla l-kuntratti li kien hemm bejn il-Gvern Malti u l-kumpaniji Vitals u Steward Healthcare biex dawn jimmannigjaw l-Istarijiet ta' Ghawdex, ta' San Luqa u Karen Grech.

Għalkemm il-midja lokali għadha għaddejjha tikkummenta dwar din is-sentenza, bil-Partit Nazzjonalista jiehu vantaġġ shih minnha, tant li mhux biss organizza konferenzi stampa, hareġ stqarrijiet, u organizza protesta fil-Belt Valletta li għaliha attendew eluf ta' nies, illum mhux ntawwal wisq dwar il-kwestjoni. Imma ma nistax ma nirreferix għas-soltu stharrig tal-Malta Today dwar l-appoġġ għall-partiti politiċi u għall-mexxeja tal-istess partiti.

Mir-riżultat ta' dan l-istharrig jidher li din il-kwestjoni halliet effett qawwi fuq l-eletturi. Effett ferm akbar minn dak li kien halla l-qtil tal-gurnalista Daphne Caruana Galizia. Attwalment ir-riżultat ta' majnata lill-Partit Laburista u l-mexxej tiegħu Robert Abela.

Skont dan l-istharrig, id-distakk bejn il-partiti l-kbar naqas għal kwazi madwar 8,500 vot meta mqabbel mas-56,000 vot differenza registrati fl-istharrig tax-xahar ta' qabel.

L-istharrig wera li, li kieku kellha ssir elezzjoni generali llum,

**maltatoday** SURVEY 12 March 2023



**G**ħall-hafna snin Malta kienet meqjusa bħala post fejn il-maġġoranza l-kbira tal-Maltin kienu Kattoliċi, u fil-maġġoranza tagħhom kattoliċi prattikanti. Kemm il-kattoliċi Maltin huma prattikanti fiż-żmien tal-llum, wiehed jiddubita għax skont l-istharrig li għamlet il-Knisja lokali dejjem instab li daww li jmorru l-Knisja nhar ta' Hadd dejjem kien qed jonqos.

Issa jista' jkun hemm min jikkontesta, jekk biex tkun kattoliku prattikanti hux bilfors trid tmur 'il quddies nhar ta' Hadd... imma tal-inqas dejjem hekk għallmuna.

Imma lil hinn min kemm huwa l-perċentwal tal-kattoliċi prattikanti, l-aħħar ċensi-

## Ir-religjon: kemm għadna prattikanti l-Maltin?

ment li ppubblikajna fl-aħħar ħarġa ta' The Voice wera biċ-ċar li anke l-perċentwal ta' daww li huma kattoliċi għax mghammdin ma baqa' li kien.

Dan x'aktarx li hu minhabba l-għadd ta' barranin li jgħixu fostna, għalkemm dan huwa effettwal ukoll minn Maltin li jippro-fessaw fil-miftuh li ma jhossux li jiffur-maw parti mill-Knisja Kattolika.

Infakkar li skont iċ-ċensiment, 373,304 residenti f'Malta (82.6%) li għandhom 15-



30.8% kienu jivvutaw għall-Partit Laburista u 28.4% jagħtu l-vot tagħhom lill-Partit Nazzjonalista, b'daww li ma jivvutaw lill-ebda parti jammontaw għal 24.8%. Kien hemm 10% tal-inċerti.

Għall-ewwel darba wara għadd ta' xhur, skont l-istharrig, il-PN jidher reġa' akkwista l-fiduċja fost iż-żgħażaġh u wkoll fost in-nisa u daww kollha li għandhom bejn il-51 u l-65 sena. L-istess sitwazzjoni f'Ghawdex fejn igawdi l-fiduċja ta' 42.5%.

Naqset ukoll sewwa l-fiduċja fil-mexxej tal-Partit Laburista Robert Abela u niżlet għal 34.3%, filwaqt li żdiedet dik tal-Kap Nazzjonalista, Bernard Grech li żied il-fiduċja b'6% biex għal 26.1%. Hekk id-distakk bejn iż-żewġ mexxejja huwa biss ta' 8%, favur Robert Abela.

Il-fiduċja fil-Prim Ministru l-inqas li qatt kellu, għax mill-aħħar stharrig fi Frar li għadda naqqas 11-il punt. Żdied ukoll il-perċentwal ta' daww li qalu li ma kienux se jivvutaw, li b'xi mod ixekkel ir-riżultat tal-istess stharrig minhabba perċentwal daqs-tant għoli ta' persuni li jgħidu li mhux se jivvutaw.

Sintend, wara xhur shah fejn kemm il-PN kif ukoll il-kap tiegħu Bernard Grech kienu għaddejjin minn perijodu batut sewwa, l-istharrig ta' nifs qawwi lill-PN u l-kap tiegħu.

Wiehed issa jistenna l-istharrig tax-xahar id-diehel, wara d-di-battitu mqanqal fil-Parlament il-Ħamis u meta jkun instema' l-appell ta' Steward biex jara jekk din it-tendenza hux se tinżamm. Sadanittant ara r-rapport tad-dibattitu fil-paġna 15.

il sena jew aktar jistqarru li huma Kattoliċi Rumani. Hemm ukoll 17,454 persuna (3.9%) li qalu li r-religjon tagħhom kienet l-Islam u 16,457 ohra (3.6%) li jidentifikaw lilhom infushom mar-religjon Ortodossa.

Imbagħad kien hemm ukoll 23,243 persuna (5.1%) li ddikjaraw li ma kellhom l-ebda affiljazzjoni reliġjuża.

Jekk wiehed ixxebbaħ dan ma stharrig li kien sar mill-Maltatoday fl-2018, issib li l-perċentwal tal-kattoliċi f'dawn l-aħħar tliet snin inbidel. Dakinhar, fl-2018 kien ta' 94%, filwaqt li tal-atejisti u musulmani żdied billi dawn dakinhar kienu 3.9% u 0.3% rispettivament.



# Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

## Diskussjoni mqanqla fuq mozzjoni tal-Oppożizzjoni dwar Steward L-Awditur Generali jintalab jistharreg l-allegazzjoni li Steward ħadu €400M u ma tawx valur lura f'dak li hu servizz

**I**l-kwestjoni tal-isptarijiet tkomplet fil-Parlament nhar il-Ħamis li għadda meta bdiet tiġi diskussa mozzjoni mressqa mill- Oppożizzjoni biex il-Gvern jiftaħ kawża lill-Vitals u Steward halli "jirkupra l-flus tat-tliet spartarjiet.

Is-seduta kienet wahda mqanqla sew u min segwiha ma tantx ha impressjoni wisq tajba tad-diskussjoni bl-ispeaker ikollu biċċa xogħol mhux faċli halli jrażżan l-interruzzjonijiet mill-membri Parlamentari.

stabbilit "kemm insteraq il-poplu Malti" għax, qal, il-gvern kien għadu ma qalx "kemm insterqu miljuni ta' ewro s'issa".

Hu baqa' jsostni li minn dak li jirriżulta fl-estimi u fid-dokumenti tal-qorti, mill-inqas thallsu €400 miljun mit-taxxi tal-poplu u qal li tagħhom il-poplu Malti ma ha xejn. Staqsja wkoll x'passi ha l-Gvern dwar il-flus li ngħataw lil Vitals u Steward għat-tmexxja tal-isptarijiet.

Fit-tweġiba tiegħu l-Prim Ministru Robert Abela qal li l-Qorti qatt ma qalet li sabet lill-Gvern hati ta' frodi, u li mkien ma qalet li kien hemm xi aġir frodulent mill-Gvern. Hu xegħla lill-Oppożizzjoni li kienet qed tigdeb u timmanipula l-fatti b'rabta mas-sentenza li ngħatat mill-Qorti fi Frar li għadda.

Abela ta wkoll rendikont ta' dak li sar minn Steward, fosthom l-investment multi miljunarju, b'wahda mill-aqwa faċilitajiet tax-xorta tagħha fl-Ewropa, l-iskola medika internazzjonali ta' Barts f'Għawdex.

Semma li bejn l-2019 – 2022 taht Steward, l-isptar ġenerali t'Għawdex ha ħsieb 65,000 pazjent fid-dipartiment tal-emergenza, 259,000 fl-outpatients u wettqu kwazi żewġ miljun u nofs test fil-laboratorju.

Fil-każ tal-isptar Karin Grech, il-Prim Ministru qal li kien hemm 1,000 ammissjoni fis-sena, u li bejniethom il-pazjenti ħadu madwar 70,000 siegħa ta' kura u trattament. u ħarġu wkoll €250 miljun

f'salarji

Intant, wara li Steward qalu li se jtemmu l-ftehim mal-gvern Malti minħabba dak li qalu li kien ksur tal-ftehim kummerċjali, il-Prim Ministru qal li l-Gvern għandu tliet għanijiet ewlenin.

L-għanijiet huma, li l-Gvern joffri servizz ta' kwalità għall-pazjenti bi proġett ta' sptar ġdid f'Għawdex; li s-servizz tal-kura medika u l-kura akuti jitmexxew mill-Gvern; u li jekk kien hemm flus li thallsu mill-Gvern, u Steward ma sarrfuhomx f'investment, il-Gvern se jgħibhom lura mingħandhom.

Intant, wara li l-Gvern ried iressaq emenda għall-proposta, xi ħaġa li l-Oppożizzjoni oġġezzjonat għaliha minkejja li l-ispeaker qal li din setgħet issir, Id-deputati Nazzjonalisti ħarġu l-barra mill-Parlament u bbojkottjaw il-mozzjoni li huma stess kienu ressqi, li kienet tikkundanna lil Steward.

Il-mozzjoni kif emendata mill-Gvern għaddiet wara li vvutaw għaliha l-membri tal-Gvern. Fi tmiem is-seduta l-ispeaker iddeplora l-aġir taż-żewġ naħat għall-interruzzjonijiet u l-battibekki ta' bejniethom, li f'waqtiet anke wasslu biex is-seduta tiġi sospiza.



L-iskola medika internazzjonali ta' Barts f'Għawdex

X'aktarx li l-aktar deċiżjoni importanti li ħarġet mid-dibattitu kien li l-Prim Ministru kellu jitlob lill-Awditur Ġenerali (kif fil-fatt għamel), halli jistharreg l-allegazzjoni tal-Oppożizzjoni li Steward Healthcare li kienu qed imexxu t-tliet spartarjiet – dak Ġenerali t'Għawdex, il-Karin Grech u San Luqa - ħadet €400M u ma tawx valur lura f'servizz.

Id-dibattitu nfetħa mid-Deputat Nazzjonalista Adrian Delia li sostna li kellu jiġi

### Proposta biex il-liċenzja tas-sewqan tinzel għal 17

**A**nke jekk skont għalliem tas-sewqan tal-karozzi ż-żgħirażgħ Maltin saru aktar iffukati fil-lezzjonijiet tas-sewqan, ħafna jhossu li f'Malta hawn ċerta traskurraġni. Għalhekk f'it jidher li niżlilhom tajjeb il-fatt li l-Kummissjoni Ewropea qed tippromponi li l-età ta' meta persuna tidba ssuq, fil-pajjiżi kollha tinzel għal 17-il sena.

Bħal f'għadd ta' pajjiżi fl-Unjoni Ewropeja l-età biex wiehed jikseb liċenzja tas-sewqan f'Malta, hi ta' 18. Il-KE qed tagħmilha ċara li għalkemm trid tniżżel l-età, sakemm tagħlaq 18-il sena, biex issaq, persuna jrid ikollha magħha fil-karozza adulta

Il-KE qed tippromponi wkoll li jkun hemm liċenzja tas-sewqan diġitali li tkun valida fil-pajjiżi membri kollha.

Qed jiġi proponut ukoll li min jiġi skwalifikat milli ssuq f'pajjiż tkun awtomatika-ment skwalifikat ukoll fil-pajjiżi kollha.



## Maltese Funerals

In conjunction with Hills Family Funerals.



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—

**Halli l-familja  
tagħna tgħin lill-  
familja tiegħek**





A quick glimpse at Australia

# Reserve Bank hiking interest rates

**T**he Reserve Bank has been hiking interest rates aggressively to tackle inflation, which came in at a hotter-than-expected 7.8 per cent in the December quarter - its highest level since 1990.

Australia's central bank lifted the official cash rate by another 25 basis points, taking it to 3.6 per cent. The increase will heap more financial pain on mortgage holders already slugged by nine previous consecutive rate hikes.

But a subtle change in language from the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) in its latest statement has left some of Aus-

tralia's leading economists optimistic about a rate pause. In his previous statement in February, RBA governor Philip Lowe signalled in no uncertain terms further rate hikes would occur this year.

But in last Tuesday's March statement, that language shifted. "The Board expects that further tightening of monetary policy will be needed." That change — from "further increases in rates" to "further tightening of monetary policy" — has boosted expectations that the slowdown in the economy and other fiscal measures have worked and there's a rate pause on the way.

## NSW State elections 25 March

**A** Labor win? A hung parliament? The outcome of this NSW election is especially tricky to forecast. You could be forgiven for not even realising there's an election on March 25 — the NSW premier doesn't call a poll in the same way as his federal counterpart because election terms are fixed to the last Saturday in March every four years so unlike in Canberra, there is no need for any speculation.

Of course, elections always matter — they're a citizen's chance to have a say in how their council, state or country is run. NSW has 93 electorates, and voters in each of those elect one person to represent them in the lower house, or Legislative Assembly. Half of the upper house, or Legislative Council, is up for election too because members in that house serve eight-year terms.

There is also a strong possibility the election will deliver a hung parliament, meaning the new government would have to rely on crossbench support to operate. The Coalition has spent the past two years governing without a formal majority, but if the ALP can snatch five or six seats from the Coalition, that may be enough for it to form government with the support of the Greens and independents.

It's a very different state of affairs to that in 2011, when Labor lost in a landslide to the Coalition, which won 69 seats to Labor's 20 (independents took three seats, and the Greens one). If Labor were to wrest power from the Coalition on polling day, it would leave Tasmania as the only Liberal jurisdiction in the country.

The Coalition is heading into this election with an already shaky hold on power. Of the 93 seats in Legislative Assembly — which is where the government is formed — the Liberals currently hold 33, while the Nationals have 12. Labor has 36 seats and there is an expanded crossbench with three Greens MPs as well as nine independents, which include three who quit the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party and one who resigned from the ALP.



Dominic Perrottet (left) and Chris Minns

Two former Liberals sit on the crossbench, although one is retiring, and the other, former communities minister Gareth Ward, will contest his seat as an independent. In order to hold a majority government (and therefore govern in their own right), 47 seats is the magic number.

The Legislative Council, or the upper house, has 42 seats. MLCs, as they are called in that chamber, serve eight-year terms, so only half the upper house is up for election this time. The Coalition does not control the upper house because it holds only 17 seats. Labor has 14, the Greens three and One Nation, the Animal Justice Party and the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers each hold one. There are also two other MLCs.

## A huge defensive deal between US, UK and Australia

**A**longside US President Joe Biden and UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak in San Diego USA, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese unveiled the first project under the AUKUS agreement, with Australia set to produce its first locally built boat in 20 years.

The programme is expected to cost Australian taxpayers between \$268 billion and \$368 billion by the mid-2050s. The three leaders announced the deal against a backdrop of nuclear submarines and sailors in a very public and pointed joint show of military strength at the naval base in San Diego, to send a message aimed directly at Beijing about the security environment to come.

Under the Aukus pact Australia is to get its first nuclear-powered subs - at least three - from the US.

President Biden said, "I want to be clear to everyone from the outset, right off the bat, so there's no confusion or misunderstanding on this critical point: These subs are will be nuclear-powered, not nuclear-armed".



Australia's Anthony Albanese, US President Joe Biden and UK's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak







## A quick glimpse at Australia

# Protect yourself from the flu

**F**lu cases have skyrocketed and Australians are being urged to protect themselves from the viral infection ahead of a potential early season peak. Australia has had 100 times more flu cases in January and February than in the first two months of last year, according to data from the federal health department.

Now, younger Australians in particular, are being encouraged to get their influenza (flu) vaccine when it becomes available, which could be as early as this month. Unlike COVID-19, influenza hits younger demographics hardest for a number of reasons.

Melbourne paediatrician Daryl Cheng said a mix of vaccine fatigue and hesitancy among parents has put young children at a greater high risk of ending up in hospital. "Flu is a very different beast," he said. "It affects kids under five, lands them in hospital and has significantly disproportionate impacts on younger children."

Last year 56 per cent of hospital patients with flu were children younger than 16. Those aged five to nine were most likely to be hospitalised, making up 2,154 admissions per 100,000 members of the population, followed by children under five who made up 1859.

Many younger patients ended up on ventilators or feeding tubes as the flu affected



their immune system, exposing them to secondary infections like pneumonia. Last year 56 per cent of hospital patients with flu were children younger than 16.

## First Ambassador for FNP

**T**he Federal government has appointed Justin Mohamed as Australia's inaugural Ambassador for First Nations People. In a joint statement, Foreign Minister Penny Wong, Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney and Senator Pat Dodson said the new position ensures, for the first time, that Australia will have dedicated Indigenous representation in international engagement.

Ms Burney tweeted, that Justin has worked for decades in First Nations health, social justice, and reconciliation, and would do great things and help elevate First Nations voices to the world stage.

Mr Mohamed, from Bundaberg, Queensland, is deputy secretary of Aboriginal Justice in Victoria. His previous positions include Reconciliation Australia CEO and he has represented Indigenous organisations internationally, including at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. He will commence as ambassador in April.

## Dangers in proposed discrimination reforms

**F**ears were raised in the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's submission to the Law Reform Commission's Inquiry into Religious Educational Institutions and Anti-Discrimination Laws.

Archbishops Anthony Fisher and Peter A Comensoli, the chairs of the Bishops Commission for Catholic Education and the Bishops Commission for Life, Family and Public Engagement signed the submission.

The Law Reform Commission recently released a consultation paper proposing restrictions on the ability of religious educational institutions to hire staff that supports the religious mission of the school.

The archbishops said the propositions are problematic as they would make it impossible for religious, educational institutions to pursue their religious mission and ethos.

Archbishops Comensoli and Fisher argued that Catholic institutions "want the capacity to employ and manage employees so that staff can be witnesses for the schools' Catholic mission".

"Freedom of religious observance, as part of a balance that observes the rights of all, is a fundamental human right that government is obliged to protect," they wrote.

"Catholic schools want to continue to be able to authentically teach the Catholic faith with staff who support this mission in word and deed. This faith-based education is a vital part of the identity and mission of Catholic schools and has served students and parents to generations of Australians."

# Catholic women want church reform

**T**he largest study of Catholic women in the Church's 2000-year history has found they are hungry for reform. They resent their lack of decision-making power, want to follow their consciences on sex and contraception, and think the Church should be more inclusive of the diverse and the divorced.

Australian researchers led the global study, to be presented at the Vatican on International Women's Day, which also found women want to be allowed to preach, dislike priests promoting political agendas, and are concerned about a lack of transparency in Church governance.

Co-author Tracy McEwan, a theologian and sociologist of religion at the University of Newcastle, said the study found some women felt an "underlying sense of hurt" and a "feeling of being voiceless and ignored."

The study, which surveyed 17,200 women from 140 countries, comes as Pope Francis leads the Church in a discussion about whether women should have a greater role in its governance and ceremonies. He has ruled out female priests, but the diaconate is a possibility.

The results varied between countries. Australia was more conservative than the global average on some of the indicators; 74 per cent of women said they wanted reform, compared with the global average of 84. Appetite for change was strongest in

Ireland, Spain and Germany.

Younger women were also more conservative than older ones, with the age group 18-to-25 least likely to want reform, according to the survey, and those over 70 most likely.



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# Tagħrif dwar l-ilsien Malti



## Murakami bil-Malti

*Norwegian Wood* ta' Haruki Murakami, maqlub għall-Malti minn Charles Flores (Horizons)

**I**l-protesti tal-istudenti fis-Snin 60, il-Beatles, taqlib soċjali kull fejn thares u ma' kull fejn tmiss, l-imhabba, is-sens ta' iżolament u sfidi ohra li jsibu ma' wiċċhom – anki llum – iż-żgħażaġh kullimkien fid-dinja, huma l-ingredjenti ta' dan ix-xogħol letterarju gdid bil-Malti.

*Norwegian Wood* huwa rumanz modern tal-awtur ċelebri Gappuniz Haruki Murakami, xogħol li tah isem madwar id-dinja u saħansitra nqaleb għal diversi lingwi. Issa l-Malti, żgħir imma maħbub, qed jiehu postu magħhom.

Ta' min jgħid li Murakami kien żar Malta fl-1987 u eventwalment għamel riferenza għall-Gżejjer tagħna fil-ktieb tiegħu *Wind-Up Bird Chronicle*.

Hu magħruf li permezz tal-aġenti tiegħu, Murakami nnifsu ferah meta sar **Il-qoxra tal-ktieb ta' Charles Flores li qaleb mill-original ta' Haruki Murakami**

jaf bit-traduzzjoni tal-ktieb tiegħu għall-Malti u, fejn jidhlu jeddijiet, wera ruhu mill-ewwel lest jifhem iċ-ċokon tas-suq tal-ktieb Malti.

*Norwegian Wood* jilhaq lil generazzjonijiet diversi. Kemm dawk li għexu s-Snin 60 u għandhom nostalgiċi għal dak kollu li, fit-tajjeb u l-hazin, raw isehh, kif ukoll għal dawk il-generazzjonijiet ta' wara li jhobbu l-grajja ta' missirijiethom u nanniethom, esperjenzi li llum huma parti shiha mill-istorja dinjija.

Charles Flores qaleb ix-xogħol ta' Murakami mill-Ingliż, herqan li johloq holqa letterarja bejn Malta u l-Gappun, izda lil hinn minn tentattivi sbieħ u iżolati li saru fl-imghoddi bil-kitba tal-forom poetiċi *Hajku* u *Tanka*.

Li llum il-Malti għandu dan ir-rumanz famuż mill-Gappun mhux biss hija kisba ohra għal llsien, izda anki riflessjoni tar-rabtiet qawwija bejn iż-żewġ pajjiżi, maqtugħin minn xulxin b'xejn inqas minn għaxart elef kilometru.

Norwegian Wood jinsab għall-bejgh mill-hwienet tal-kotba kollha kif ukoll direttament minghand Horizons fuq [horizons.com.mt](http://horizons.com.mt) Għal aktar tagħrif ċem-pel +356 2144 1604 jew ibgħat imejl lil [info@horizons.com.mt](mailto:info@horizons.com.mt).

## Fi żmien Lascaris: meta l-iskjavi kienu tassew trattati ta' skjavi

**W**iehed mill-aktar żmienijiet matul l-Ordni ta' San Ġwann li fih sar tibdil kien matul ir-renju tal-Gran Mastru Jean Paul Lascaris Castellar, li fl-1640 anke biddel il-kostituzzjoni tal-ligijiet li kienu jirrigwardaw kull aspett tal-hajja, kemm jekk civili kif ukoll dik tal-qrati kriminali.

It-tibdil li għamel kien f'bosta oqsam, b'ohrajn godda. Ligijiet ohra kienu jirregolaw l-attività ekonomika u avventuruża tal-piraterija, l-isbirri, kif ukoll il-bejgh u l-libertà tal-iskjavi f'Malta.

Wahda mill-ligijiet kienet dik li ma thallix lill-iskjavi jagħmlu xi tip ta' kummerċ li minnu kienu jaqilghu l-flus.

Jingħad ukoll li l-iskjavi setgħu biss jixtru jew ikollhom tagħhpm biċċa art fil-Marsa, lejn fejn jispiċċa l-Port il-Kbir, imma biss biex jindifnu hemm.

Kien ukoll ipprojbixxa li l-iskjavi jikru proprjetà, kemm biex jgħixu fiha, kif ukoll għal xogħol kummerċjali. Jingħad ukoll li ligi ohra kienet li l-iskjavi ma kellhomx jisservew xorb u ikel fit-taverni.

Fil-każ ta' mard fost l-iskjavi, u biex il-mard ma jinfirixx, il-hwejjeġ, lożor u kutri tal-morda kienu, jew jinharqu inkella jinhaslu b'mishun jagħli.

Kien ukoll ipprojbit il-bejgh ta' skjavi tfal. Fil-fatt, din il-ligi kienet giet oriġinarjament iddahlet fis-seklu 16, izda (skont kitba ta' Gidfrey Wetinger) kienet reġgħet giet rinfurzata b'amendi fil-Constitutions Lascaris.

L-iskop tal-infurzar ta' dil-ligi kien li dawn it-tfal ikunu mghammda bhala Nsara u mogħtija l-libertà.

Il-ligi kienet harxa hafna ma' min kien jinqabad jiksirha. Kienet anke twassal lill-hatja għall-mewt. Kien stipulat ukoll li jkemm-il darba l-ġenituri ta' dawn it-tfal kienu jkunu mifdiya bhala rahan mill-jasar, kien hemm l-obbligu li t-tfal tagħhom jithallew imorru lura magħhom minn fejn ġew.

(Hemm il-hsieb li 'l quddiem nipubblikaw artiklu speċjali dwar l-iskjavità fil-Gżejjer Maltin).

## F'dan iż-żmien għażiż tas-sena

Żmien sabiħ qed jerga' magħna –  
jiem għeżiż tal-Gimgha l-Kbira  
illi fihom ahna nagħmlu  
tal-mewt il-Mulej tifikira!

'Il fuq minn elfejn sena ilu  
Kristu ssallab għall-bnedmin,  
ċarċar demmu, halla hajtu,  
biex le nibqgħu midinbin.

It-tbatija illi sofra  
ma tfissirha bl-ebda kliem;  
għuda tqila garr fuq spalltu  
li wasslitu lejn it-tmiem.

Fuq salib safa mdendel  
qisu l-aqwa kriminal;  
lil Missieru minn hemm talab  
biex jahfrilhom dan l-iżball.

Għaddew, tgerbu das-snin kollha –  
lill-Mulej għadna nwarbuh,  
u lil qalbu nferu, inweggħu,  
dispijaċir wisq kbir nagħtuh5

Tafu xejn li bl-aġir tagħna  
mill-gdid qeghdin insallbuh  
u fuq l-gholja tal-Qorriegħa  
qeghdin nergħu nwassluh!

Ejjew nidhlu fina nfusna  
u naraw li jisgħobbina;  
nibdlu r-rotta, lilu nwieghdu,  
li naharbu t-triq hazina.

Halli wkoll nitfgħu harsitna  
fuq Marija Addolorata  
li mxiet it-triq ma' Binhā  
b'rieda soda daqs ta' blata

Izda min jista' ifisser  
it-tbatija li batiet!  
L-ebda pinna m'hi se tfisser  
il-mumentu li sofriet.

F'dan iż-żmien qaddis tas-sena  
inwieghduk, Mulej Divin,  
illi lilek qatt ma nonqsu –  
ma nħallux bi dnuhna tnin!

Ahfrilna, Mulej, htijietna  
u fis-siegha ta' l-hemm tagħna,  
Halli nhaddnu lil salibek  
biex henjin dlonk int tarana!

Kav. Joe M. Attard  
Victoria-Għawdex



# Mill-Gżira Għawdxija



Charles Spiteri



Kyran Bonello juri hiltu bħala kantant (lemin) u (fuq) jiffirma l-kartolina tal-istudenti fl-iskola primarja tar-Rabat

## Laqgħa entużjażmanti għal Kyran Bartolo

Entużjażmu, ċapċip u ferh laqgħa lir-rebbieħ ta' *Malta's Got Talent* Kyran Bonello meta flimkien mill-ġenituri tiegħu Graziella u Mario żar l-iskola primarja tar-Rabat Għawdex, fejn ġie milqugħ mill-amministrazzjoni tal-iskola u l-istudenti.

Il-kantant mexxa t-talba tal-iskola u wara kanta *O Mio Bambino Caro* u *Nella Fantasia*.

L-istudenti, Zak u George ipprezentawlu statwa ta' San Duminku ta' Guzman. Wara, mas-surmast Lelio Spiteri, Kyran, żar il-klas-sijiet u ltaqa' aktar mill-qrib mal-istudenti jwieġeb il-mistoqsijiet u jiffirmalhom il-kartolina magħmula apposta għall-okkażjoni.



## Xbiha Relikwarja ta' Carlo Acutis

Ġiet inawgurata xbiha relikwarja tal-Beatu Carlo Acutis mill-artist Adonai Camilleri Cauchi għall-Knisja Santa Marija ta' Ġesù (Ta' Ġiezu) fir-Rabat Malta.

Ix-xbiha tiegħet lejn Malta mill-istudio tal-artist fin-Nadur, nhar il-Hadd 12 ta' Marzu mill-Patri Gwardjan Martin Coleiro u Fra Lorrie Zerafa.

Qabel ġiet imbierka u inawgurata minn Patri Martin Coleiro fil-Knisja fir-Rabat ta' Malta, hafna Għawdxin żaru l-istudio tal-artist jitolbu u jtuha qima. Fir-Rabat tegħdet fuq l-artal ta' Sant'Antnin.

Carlo Acutis kien żagħżuġ Kattoliku li minn età żgħira sfrutta t-talenti tiegħu fit-telekomunikazzjoni biex holoq programm li jiddokumenta mirakli ewkaristiċi madwar id-dinja u jipprogettahom fuq websajt



L-artist Adonai Camilleri Cauchi flimkien max-xbiha relikwarja ta' Carlo Acutis

li holoq qabel miet bil-lewkemija.

Huwa ġie beatifikat fl-10 ta' Ottubru tal-2020, jumejn biss qabel l-14-il sena anniversarju mill-mewt tiegħu.

## Il-Via Crucis tal-hajja fil-kwadri ta' George Apap

Kollezzjoni ta' pittura bl-akkwarelli, *Via Crucis* (xellug u taht) magħmula mill-artist Għawdxix mix-Xagħra, George Apap bħalissa tinsab għall-wiri fl-Oratorju tal-Knisja Bażilika ta' Marija Bambina fix-Xagħra.

Il-pittura turi t-Triq tal-Kalvarju, iżda b' differenza. Tul it-triq għal Ġesù msallab, wiehed jiltaqá ma' sitwazzjonijiet differenti fil-hajja ta' kuljum, mimlija wġiegh u tbatija.

Dawn is sitwazzjonijiet jinkludu x-xjuħija u l-frustrazzjoni li din iġġib magħha meta ma' nistgħux inlahqu mat-tibdil fil-hajja tagħna, il-problema tad-droga u t-tbatija fuq il-familja kollha. il-vjolenza domestika u l-effett fuq it-tfal fil-familja, nuqqas ta' ġustizja, il-ġuħ, il-gwerer u l-mibgheda razzjali.

L-inkwadri jwasslu l-messaġġ li wiehed jesperjenza fil-*Via Crucis* personali tiegħu.

Eventwalment, Apap, se jagħti din il-kollezzjoni ta' nkwadri lill-Bażilika biex 'l quddiem tkun esebita b'mod permanenti fil-Mużew tal-Knisja li għaddej ix-xogħol fuqu bħalissa.





*On 6 February this year, the Maltese community in Melbourne lost an icon, a dedicated, humble person, and a well-known sculptor when he passed peacefully away surrounded by his daughters, back into the arms of his beloved Frances.*

*He was so grateful for his life – every day was a blessing, lived with awe and wonder—an opportunity to learn something new,*

*nourishing the mind and soul. His family was his world. He loved them fiercely and tenderly.*

*His friends were a gift he did not take for granted. A most loved husband, father, grandfather, father-in-law, son, brother, brother-in-law, uncle, great uncle, grand uncle and friend. He will be missed.*

## **The Late Joseph J. Borg of Melbourne**

# **A famous sculptor and a man of many talents**

**J**oseph Borg was born in December 1939 in Rabat, Malta. His father, Paul, married Caterina Borg, the sixth of twelve children. His primary schooling was in Rabat and Mdina (in the years during the war, the Rabat Boys Primary School was located in Mdina and the Banca Giuratale and Palazzo Falzon). He attended the Junior Seminary in Floriana as a boarding student for three years.

On his father's death in 1954, his mother sold all she had and moved her family to Australia. They left Malta on 8 December 1954 onboard M.V. Surriento (Flotta Lauro) and arrived in Melbourne on 5 January 1955. They settled in their home in East Hawthorn.

On arrival, Joseph elected to start work to help the family income; otherwise, the load would fall solely on two elder sisters. He began work as an apprentice fitter and turner at Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation at Fishermen's Bend Port

of a design draftsman.

Joseph finished his Diploma of Mechanical Engineering at Swinburne, graduating in 1966. On reaching this milestone, Humes offered him a scholarship to attend the University of Melbourne to obtain a Degree in Mechanical Engineering. He finished his studies in 1968, graduating in August 1969.

After finishing his studies, he was promoted to Design Engineer, designing machinery and other steel products such as oil-storage tanks, chimney stacks, cracking columns for oil refineries, etc.

It gave Joseph an excellent grounding in steel structural design. In 1972 Humes amalgamated its steel business with Tubemakers of Australia, forming a new entity called Steel Mains Pty Ltd.

After two years, he was promoted to Senior Engineer in charge of the design office, answering to the Chief Engineer. Part of his job included spending considerable time trouble-shooting in factories in Sydney, Newcastle, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide and Hobart. He also represented the company liaising with various water authorities and sitting on some Australian Standards committees.

In 1981 he was

transferred to one of the pipe manufacturing factories in Victoria (Somerton) as Works Engineer, in charge of all the maintenance and capital works. The factory then had four production lines and a fabrication division. After a three-year stint, he was recalled to Head Office to take charge of designing a Catalytic Cracker for B. Kwinana (WA), the largest cracker built in Australia at the time.

In 1986, Joseph was appointed Engine-



**Joseph Borg ... sorely missed**



**Joseph (right) was instrumental in commissioning the bust of St George Preca sculpted by Mr Peter Corlett. ABOVE: with the late Victor Borg at the unveiling and blessing of the bust in 2009 that was installed on the grounds of St Patrick's Cathedral**

Melbourne while attending Swinburne Technical College, having started his engineering studies.

After completing his apprenticeship, he was transferred to the tool-design office as a design draftsman. He worked on various projects there, including the Ikara anti-submarine missile and the Mirage aircraft.

In February 1964, Joseph changed jobs and started work at Humes Ltd, a leading manufacturer of steel and concrete pipes that was heavily involved with manufacturing and constructing some of the penstocks for the Snowy Mountain Scheme (Murray I, Murray II and Tumut III power stations). His position was that

ering Services Manager at Tubemakers Water Pipe Division. During this time, he designed two very large Spiral Pipe mills, one for South Africa and another for the Kwinana Factory (WA). The South African mill could produce pipes from 600 mm up to 2400 mm in diameter and up to 18 metres in length. He went over to commission the mill in 1996. He retired from work in 2000.

One of his interests was the design of large steel sculptures. This came about in 1974 when his Chief Engineer asked him whether he would be interested in looking at the design of a sculpture proposed for installation near the new arts centre on St Kilda Road.

He met with the sculptor, Inge King and the fabricator Mr Keith Fasham. After looking at the model and discussing the proposed sculpture, Joseph agreed to do the design analysis.

Drawings were prepared, and the statue was eventually erected on the lawns between the Concert Hall and the State Theatre in 1981 (below).



*\*Continued on page 21*

# Founder of the Maltese Historical Association

*\*Continued from page 20*

Joseph Borg was involved with many other public sculptures in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and other provincial towns in Australia (including the two on the right) and overseas (New Zealand and the USA).

He was a member of the Institution of Engineers, Australia. He was involved with the Maltese Community Council of Victoria for several years, serving as President between 1991 and 1993, and was instrumental in founding the Maltese Historical Association in 1987, acting as Secretary and President on a number of occasions.

He also helped to organise the Home Visitation Programme for the MCCV. In 1995, Joseph was invited to become a member of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St John (SMOM) by Sir James Gobbo. He was also a life member of the Catholic Walking Club of Victoria.

Joseph was married to Frances nee Lee (deceased), whom he met at the Catholic Walking Club of Victoria. Together they raised five daughters. Among his many interests were walking, music, astronomy, geology, archaeology, history, languages, travelling, etc.



Three of several sculptures that Joseph Borg was involved in. Above: *The Bird*, by Emily Floyd, *Aurora* (left) by Geoffrey Bartlett, and (below) Deborah Halpen's *Angel*



## Maltese Seniors Social Welfare Day Groups

### Llandilo Maltese Seniors

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

### Merrylands Social Maltese Seniors

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

### Fairfield Active Maltese Seniors

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

Group Leader: Dorothy Gatt.

### Maltese of Bankstown

*\*(All Groups are coordinated by The Maltese Community Council of NSW) with a sponsorship from Multicultural NSW. Contact the MCC Welfare Offi-*

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

### Daceyville Maltese Seniors

Meets the last Wednesday of the month in Meeting Room One, No. 3 General Bridges Crescent, Daceyville. Note: The Groups also arrange regular Bus Trips. Join us and make new friends. Group Leader: Doris Scicluna.

### The Sutherland & St George Maltese Group

Meets every first Wednesday of the month in July, September, November & December and in February, April & June 2023. From 10:00am to 12noon at the Miranda Community Centre 93 Karimbla Rd cnr Kiora Rd Miranda. Meetings are interesting & informative. Membership is free, so is Morning Tea/Coffee/Cake.

Outings every other month. Come & make new friends. For more information contact our Coordinator: Charles Mifsud JP Phone (mb 0421 662 298).

### Greystanes Maltese Seniors

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

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

### Men's Group

Meets every last Tuesday of the month at the MCC Centre at 59b Franklin Street Parramatta West (next to the Primary School), from 10 to 12 noon. Discussion, information and renew friendship. Pastizzi, Kinnie etc. available. Contact Fred on 9863 2550.

*cer: Marisa Previtera JP on 0414 863 123. The MCC offices are at 59b Franklin Street (Cnr Young St) Parramatta West NSW.*



# At 111 years Maria Stella becomes the oldest person in Malta

RonBORG  
writes from Adelaide

**M**aria Stella Farrugia, born on the 7th of March 1912, turned 111 this year and is the oldest known person in Malta.

Born in Mosta, Maria lived in Imsida, but during the war, when one of her brothers died at 37 years during an air raid she resided in Hamrun. Her mother also lived to a grand old age of 100.

Maria has lived a simple life and had three children, Josephine (now deceased), Angelo, who lived in Sydney (dead 1979), and Carmen. Being a seamstress, she earned money to supplement the family income by doing crochet and making blankets.

Maria even went around the streets selling fresh milk from the family goat. She recalls going to Msida to wash her clothes at "L-Ghajn Tal-Hasselin" (the communal washing area). She became a widow in 1962.

Maria is currently cared for by her daughter



**111 year-old Maria Stella Farrugia**

ter Carmen, a professional cake maker (of course, she made a special cake for her dear mother!) and the mother of two kids, Steven and Lucienne.

Maria enjoys the simple life and foods;

she enjoys a nice plate of "Minestra" and a slice of "Hobż biż-żejt u żebbuġa" (Vegetable soup and a piece of bread with oil and olives).

Maria used to enjoy going to "Tombla" (Bingo), going through old photographs and recounting anecdotes about people and events like the 1918–19 Spanish flu epidemic in Malta. However, she keeps saying that life was better when she was younger.

She recalls how the family attended the "Ora Santa" every Thursday night and cherishes her Catholic faith. She insists, "if one does not recite the Rosary, one won't sleep. Her motto is, 'Life is in God's hands; there are no secrets'".

Maria treasures the family, and it is, therefore, no wonder that her extended family, even here in Adelaide, Melbourne, and Sydney, think of her so fondly.

*Maria Stella, Happy Birthday, may the Good Lord be with You always!*

## Brothers From Malta ... in Adelaide!

A handful of Maltese in the state of South Australia spotted a promo on the Internet for the *Brothers from Malta*. However, the movie was not destined to be shown in little old Adelaide!

There was quite a bit of disappointment among the community about missing out on this movie that involved Malta; therefore, Mrs Debbie Cosford raised a petition among the Maltese community to prompt the promoters to rectify this anomaly. That might have jarred the promoters to show "The Brothers From Malta" movie at the Picadilly Theatre in North Adelaide.

The event was given publicity at a St. Catherine Society Luncheon, on the Maltese Community radio programmes, and of course, also by word of mouth among the



The "Brothers From Malta" movie tells the story of estranged immigrant brothers Joe and Charlie (Julian and James Galea), who must set aside their seven-year grudge and road trip across California with a gassy dog and precious family heirloom to fulfil their dying sister's wish (Liza Galea). Through its fractured family dynamics and comedic relief, it explores a universal problem: families being torn apart.

Maltese. Eventually, the Maltese cinemagoers jam-packed the theatre when the film was shown on Sunday, 26th February.

This light-hearted comedy had the audience giggling throughout the movie. But it did not end there, as at the end of the film, the large audience in attendance, many of

whom had not met up for quite some time, assembled in the theatre lounge to 'catch up' in a very cheerful atmosphere.

The conversations were rather boisterous, and the lounge was so overcrowded that the theatre management had to 'gently persuade' the people to move on and continue the assembly outside the theatre.

The "Brothers From Malta" movie was very well received. It managed to reunite a sizeable congregation of the Maltese community in a happy atmosphere!

Surely it would be good if the promoters of shows of general interest to the Maltese Communities around Australia were to publicise their activities in a publication such as *The Voice of The Maltese* that is read Australia-wide.

### MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF NSW



Radio programme for  
the Maltese

Every Sunday 11 am to Noon.

An hour filled with information  
and news. On-demand:  
[www.89.3fm.com.au/on-demand](http://www.89.3fm.com.au/on-demand)



# Community News

## Maltese Language School of NSW

A division of the Maltese Community Council of NSW Inc. Established in 1999  
Learn about the Maltese language, the culture, lifestyle, cuisine, traditions and the amazing history of the magnificent Mediterranean islands of Malta and Gozo.

Classes available for beginners and those who already have a confident grasp of the Maltese language. Adult and Children's classes available.

**All classes are online.**

Positions available for people who can assist with teaching the Maltese Language.

Call Lisa for an information package on 0419 418 547 or email [mls@mccnsw.org.au](mailto:mls@mccnsw.org.au).



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**MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA INC.**

447 Royal Parade Parkville, Victoria Australia

### Pożizzjoni ta' għalliem/a part-time tal-lingwa Maltija

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

Applikanti għandhom ikollhom għarfien sewwa tal-Malti kemm miktub u mitkellem. Tahrig għall-għalliem/a u riżorsi sabiex tkun tista' tgħalliem jiġu pprovduti. Dan huwa xogħol imħallas.

Ibgħat l-applikazzjoni bid-dettalji akkademici lil: [edwidgeborgatt@gmail.com](mailto:edwidgeborgatt@gmail.com).

Għal aktar tagħrif ċempel: **0466 079 814**, ħalli n-numru tat-telefon u nċemplulek lura.



## La Valette Social Centre

Inc. 175 Walters Road, Blacktown Tel. 96225847

*The Legends Showcase! Mark Andrew Tabone performing as Dean Martin, Buddy, Tom Jones, Austin Powers & Elvis Presley. Saturday 20*

*May. For tickets: [lavalette.com.au](http://lavalette.com.au) or call 0405 233 144*

*REMINDER: The AGM will be held on Friday 24 March at 7pm.*

### St Nicholas Festa Committee

Dates for 2023

Saturday 29 April – Variety Night

Sunday 2 July – Imnarja

Sunday 15 October – Fete

Saturday 11 November – Dinner Dance

Sunday 2 December – Festa

## Tune in to Radio and Television

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

On Demand and podcasts on [www.sbs.com.au/maltese](http://www.sbs.com.au/maltese)

**SBS TV:** SBS TV news from Malta every day at 4.30 pm on Channel 35 also on demand.

### VICTORIA

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

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



Listen live on [www.northwestfm.org/ethnic-radio/](http://www.northwestfm.org/ethnic-radio/)

**97.9 FM Melton:** Tuesday 6.00pm to 8.00pm Maltese Program. Presenter: Miriam Vella. Live streaming on [www.979fm.com.au](http://www.979fm.com.au)

### NSW

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

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

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

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

### QUEENSLAND

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

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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



# Sports starts here



## Hamrun win ninth title with four matches to spare

It had been on the cards for quite some time before they beat Gzira United 1-0 on Day 22 of the Championship to win their ninth title. That match put the icing on the cake as Hamrun got more than the point they needed to become 2022/23 Premier League Champions, their ninth and second in three years with four matches to spare.

The goal scored by midfielder Luke Montebello who came off the bench to score the all-important tally with nine minutes remaining, gave the champions an unassailable 17-point lead over Gzira at the top of the league ladder.

Despite assuring themselves of the title so early in the season, the players pledged not to let up and to win every remaining match to make it a formidable season.

They celebrated the decisive victory over Gzira all through the night. More celebrations are due when they wrap up their commitments and receive the Premier League trophy after the international break.

Much of the success over the past three years is attributed to the leadership of club Pres-

ident and main sponsor, Gozitan entrepreneur Joseph Portelli but to a high degree, to the players who have only lost once thus far, and their head coach, Branko Nišević.

Hamrun Spartans club were formed in 1907. It has an illustrious history going back 116 years dotted with 26 trophies, and now includes nine national league titles. They won their first in the 1913-14 season. Others followed in 1917-18, 1946-47, 1982-83, 1986-87, 1987-88, 1990-91, 2020-21, and the present one.

### LATEST RESULTS Day 22

Hamrun S v Gzira U	1-0
Birkirkara v Mosta	1-1
Balzan v Valletta	0-0
M'xlokk v Hibernians	3-1
Floriana v Zebbug R	1-0
Pieta H v Gudja U	3-1
Sirens v Sta Lucia	2-1

### Standing after 22 matches

59pts Hamrun S;	42 Gzira U;
41 Birkirkara;	40 Balzan;
39 Hibernians;	37 Mosta;
30 Valletta;	Floriana;
28 Gudja U;	25 Sirens;
24 Marsaxlokk;	14 Zebbug R.;
11 Sta Lucia;	8 Pieta H

## W'polo: Malta qualifies for World Cup

Malta's national waterpolo team finished third in the World Cup B qualifying group in Romania, earning the right to qualify for the semi-finals of the World Cup to be held in Berlin in May.

In the qualifiers, Malta lost 5-9 against Germany but then defeated Ukraine 11-6 and Great Britain 9-7 before losing the last match against hosts Romania 6-13.

New coach Milan Cirovic said that the qualifications confirmed a bright future for the national team.

Meanwhile, the U-17's secured a place among the 16 teams in the European Championship finals. On the way to the qualifiers held in Malta, the youths beat Latvia 34-3, Poland 15-13 and Slovakia 12-5 to ensure qualification. They also defeated Great Britain in their last match, 15-5.

## Malta's upcoming Euro ties in March

The stage is set for the Malta national football team's upcoming Group C Euro Qualifiers for Euro 2024. Malta kick-starts against Macedonia away in Skopje on 23 March, followed on the 26th with the lucrative but certainly much tougher meet with Italy at the National Stadium.

These two matches will also mark the competitive debut of new head coach Michele Marcolini who has been putting his squad of 28 players through its paces with the hope that the team could follow up on the progress - little as that may be - in recent years.

Both matches would be tough for Malta. North Macedonia, ranked 67th in the FIFA list (as against Malta's 167), are formidable

opposition. Only a year ago, they knocked Italy out of the World Cup final tournament.

This will be the seventh meeting between Malta and North Macedonia. Four of those matches were friendly internationals. The others were Euro Championship qualifiers. Malta lost five of those six encounters. The other, a friendly one, finished 1-1.

Malta played eight times against Italy, ALL QUALIFIERS and lost them all. Four were in the World Cup and the others in the European Championship. Italy won all eight. Malta's best results were a 1-1 and two 0-1 ties, the most recent one and most certainly the best being the 0-1 loss in Italy in September 2015.

## FIFA World Cup 2026 with 48 teams and 104 games in total

FIFA has officially announced an expansion to the FIFA World Cup, with the 2026 edition set to feature 48 teams (from 32 since 1998) with 104 games.

The landmark change will mean twelve groups of four teams contesting the group stages, with each team playing the other three in the group.

Almost double the qualification slots have been allocated to the Asian region, with the number of teams increasing from 4.5 to 8.5 (with one place decided through a play-off against another region).

Most probably due to Morocco's stellar 2022 World Cup performances and those of Japan and the Socceroos, Asia and Africa have been handed more of the extra available places than Europe.