

JOURNAL FOR MALTESE AROUND THE WORLD



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER



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Filmed in
Malta



Ridley Scott's Napoleon drama

JOAQUIN PHOENIX EMPEROR NAPOLEON



EASTER SUNDAY
IN MALTA

We wish our readers a happy Easter Season

President calls for radical action to address environmental challenges and avoid future tragedies

The President of Malta Dr. George Vella calls upon the Planning Authority and other regulatory authorities to take radical decisions with solutions to the current state of the environment.

by Marianna Calleja THE INDEPENDENT

President of Malta George Vella has called upon the Planning Authority and other regulatory authorities to take radical decisions with solutions to the current state of the environment.

"If need be, radical decisions should be taken to stop practices that are not giving us the desired results. This needs to start with immediate effect," Vella said when addressing the 4th edition of the Malta Architecture and Spatial Planning (MASP) Awards organized by the Planning Authority.

The President highlighted the need for immediate action to counteract the negative impact of development on the environment.

He noted that two trends were working against each other - the efforts of interdisciplinary teams to create excellence and a much bigger group of architects and engineers contributing to an ever-increasing sprawl of impersonal construction, taking up all available open spaces.

Citing Gozo as a prime example of this overdevelopment, Vella warned about a negative effect on tourism and on small communities gradually losing their sense of identity.

President Vella welcomed recent legislation aimed at ensuring more competencies and controls for construction companies and introducing more awareness of the need for security for construction workers.

However, he stressed that enforcement across the board needed to be seen to, especially to avoid a repetition of tragic events where buildings collapsed due to faulty workmanship or uncontrolled work practices taking place in building sites adjacent to people's homes.



"I was pleased to note that low carbon footprint materials and passive environmental measures were considered for all the categories awarded this evening. Of particular interest were projects of public open spaces that create the public safe green areas within our densely built-up villages. The recovery and rehabilitation of historic gardens for this same purpose is also commendable. These are places that help restore the individual's well-being," remarked President Vella.

He was particularly pleased to note that public open spaces and historic gardens were being recovered and rehabilitated for the same purpose, which helps to restore individual well-being.

President Vella also paid tribute to architect Martin Xuereb, who is renowned for his landmark works on architectural projects across Malta and Gozo and encouraged young professionals to take inspiration from his works and aspire to achieve projects of the highest standards as he did.

The President presented the President's Award to architect Conrad Thake.



Holy Week & Easter 2023

From Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday: pray, love, and have fun! Street processions, marching bands, bell ringing, pageants, statue carrying, and passion plays. It's Holy Easter in Malta! It may even be busier than Christmas for its sheer organization. As many Maltese people are very religious, in most churches believers are gathering in large numbers to commemorate the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Holy Week in Malta starts on the Friday

preceding Good Friday with the solemn procession when the statue of Our Lady of Sorrows is carried across Valletta and other towns.

Malta continues to celebrate on Palm Sunday when palm leaves and olive branches are blessed in churches, but the main festivities pick up during the Easter Triduum—Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. On Maundy Thursday, the Maltese people traditionally make the 'seven visits' (visits to seven different churches to pay homage to the Altars of Repose). On Good Friday, various towns and villages honor the Passion of Christ with solemn processions of statues in which participants are dressed as biblical characters. Some processions include men bearing a cross or dragging chains tied to their bare feet, as an act of faith or penance. The procession in Zebbug with horses and colorful costumes attracts many visitors due to its extravagance.

The holidays peak on Easter Sunday when the morning ringing of church bells announces the Resurrection of Christ. Traditionally, all events are held in churches. Joyful processions stroll through the streets accompanied by bands playing celebratory tunes. The village of Xaghra is home to Gozo Easter Festival with folk singing, dancing, and traditional Maltese food. Easter Sunday is also celebrated with a special family lunch. People visit relatives and friends, exchange good wishes and small presents. Children are given chocolate-coated Easter eggs and a 'figolla' — an almond-filled pastry in the shape of a rabbit, lamb, fish, or heart covered in sugar icing



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FR. DIJONISJU MINTOFF TURNS 92

We congratulate Fr. Mintoff who celebrated his 22nd, birthday on April 1.



Fr. Dijonisju Mintoff is the founder of the Peace Laboratory which he has been leading since March 1971. Father Dionysius was ordained a priest in 1955. • In recent years, Father Dijonisju was at the forefront of continuously welcoming groups of immigrants in the same Peace Laboratory. Many are those who consider him as the Apostle of Jesus in our times.

Father Dijonisju always expressed strong criticism of racism and he is at the forefront to help those who need it. He was also at the forefront to give help to the immigrants who were without food after a fire in the Centre of Hal Far which had led to a lack of supply until

the investigations could be completed.

In October 2019 Father Dijonisju Mintoff was also recognized for his work when he was given the Active Seniority Award. In the same year but in April, Father Dionisiu Mintoff was also nominated for the UNESCO Peace Prize.

Marching for the Unborn with our Chaplains



Image courtesy of Photos by Giovanni Portelli/Life & Family Institute

Members and volunteers of The Order were highly visible in support of the annual Day of the Unborn Child held at St Mary's Cathedral and along the streets of Sydney's CBD district. Thousands attended the Mass and participated in the march, a very public Catholic display led by three chaplains of the Order, Archbishop Anthony Fisher and supported by his Auxiliary Bishops

Danny Meagher and Richard Umbers. We were blessed to have the keynote speaker, Steve Mosher from America, join us in our reserved seats as he is also a knight of the Order.

Our volunteers were out in force as well. A highly visible and impressive Eight-Pointed Cross standard of the Order was at the front of our group which consisted of pregnant mothers, infants in prams and over 20 highly energetic young adult volunteers added to an already powerful human message of family solidarity.



Marian Belsten and Kimberly Hatherly (talk.mt)

A 68-YEAR-OLD BRITISH WOMAN OBTAINED A CERTIFICATE IN PROOFREADING IN MALTESE

She considers learning the Maltese language to be the best journey of her life. Read also March 31, 2023 Little by little in our country the custom has started to come that foreigners from different countries who come to live in Malta start learning the Maltese language, to the point that when you hear little children speaking Maltese you start to

doubt whether they are Maltese or foreigners. Linguistic studies show that the older a person gets, the more difficult it is to learn a new language. In fact, even in our own country, in the last years of primary school we started to introduce a third language for the students with the aim of having a clearer idea of the third language they wish to train in during the five years of secondary school.

However, although age can serve as an obstacle in learning in general and more so in languages, a foreign person at the age of 68 who has just obtained a Certificate in Proof Reading in Maltese is a clear example of how much perseverance is able to overcome many barriers.

From tourists to proofreaders in Maltese Talk.mt met Marian Belsten, an English resident of Bugibba, who loves the Maltese language.

She originally came to Malta on a long vacation to prepare for a swimming competition that was going to be held in our country. She explained to us that when a tourist visits the Maltese islands it is not easy to pick up and leave, so much so that she eventually decided to continue living in Malta. She has been resident in our country for the last 11 years.

"When I came to Malta I decided that it is important to learn the language of the country in order to communicate with the people and to show respect to the country," stressed Marian. Although she has done several courses to train professionally in the Maltese language, she feels that her competence in speaking is not as strong as that in writing. She pointed out that this happened due to the limitation in the time allocated for the practice of spoken Maltese in the courses because reading and writing are given more importance during the lessons and therefore this unfortunately stifles the room for practice.

Meanwhile, she explained that this was the main reason that instigated her to start the proofreading course - a university course with MQF level 5 through which students strengthen their knowledge their spelling, syntax, grammar, and punctuation. A few days ago, Marian managed to complete this course successfully as she passed all the exams. The challenges and satisfaction of the Maltese language Marian said that she took several lessons with qualified Maltese teachers, where she even started studying the Maltese language from the ground up until she eventually reached the Intermediate Level and also obtained the Test Reading Certificate in Maltese.

She clarified that she has not yet continued to study Maltese at an Advanced Level because this level consists of a lot of literature and her desire was to focus more on the language from a linguistic aspect, rather than a literary one. In one of her observations, Marian expressed the fact that those Maltese who claim that Maltese is difficult to write, this happens because when a person learns the native language he/she learns it from a very young age.

This means that as children we have learned to speak, then when we attend school we continue to refine speaking and learn to write. It is from the beginning of the world that the first means of communication is speaking and not writing.

On the other hand, people whose Maltese is not their native language and/or have started learning Maltese at an age where they are competent in writing, this is beneficial for them because they learn Maltese from books and know where consonants such as g and h should be placed.

When she was asked to express her opinion on whether the Maltese appreciate their language enough, while she observed that there are many Maltese who have a great love for the language of their homeland, she said that there are others who consider English an easier language because the language serves as a means of communication that connects them with the rest of the world.

Like everything else, language learning is a journey that requires a certain determination and that brings with it a number of challenges in order to eventually give you the desired satisfaction.

Therefore, she encouraged those foreigners who intend to learn Maltese to do so at an opportune time where they have enough time for learning to make sure they get a wonderful experience like she had. Marian describes her experience during learning the Maltese language as "the best journey of her life".

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In memory of

MARY HELEN ATTARD

Born in Birkirkara, Malta on 31st October, 1927 and passed away on 10th April 2018 in Five Dock in Sydney, NSW (Formerly of Strathfield).

She was married in 1947 in Naxxar, Malta to Joseph Benedict ATTARD who passed away in 1993.

They migrated to Australia with their daughter Vivienne in 1949.

She is missed and loved very much by her two children, Vivienne and Monica and her grandchildren, Matthew, Rebecca and Sasha.

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BBC releases first-look images for major new drama series Ten Pound Poms



The six-part series follows a group of Brits as they leave dreary post-war Britain in 1956 to embark on a life-altering adventure on the other side of the world

Published: 28 March 2023

Written by Danny Brocklehurst (Brassic, Ordinary Lies) and produced by Eleven (Sex Education, Red Rose) first-look images have today been released of Michelle Keegan (Our Girl; Brassic) as Kate, Faye Marsay (Game Of Thrones; Black Mirror) as Annie

and Warren Brown as Terry (The Responder; Luther) in upcoming drama Ten Pound Poms which is coming soon to BBC One and BBC iPlayer in the UK and Stan in Australia.

The six-part series follows a group of Brits as they leave dreary post-war Britain in 1956 to embark on a life-altering adventure on the other side of the world. For only a tenner, they have been promised a better house, better job prospects and a better quality of life by the sea in sun-soaked Australia.

But life down under isn't exactly the idyllic dream the new arrivals have been promised. Struggling with their new identity as immigrants, we follow their triumphs and pitfalls as they adapt to a new life in a new country, far from Britain and familiarity.



Faye Marsay as Annie and Warren Brown as Terry

At the heart of the drama are Annie (Faye Marsay) and Terry Roberts (Warren Brown). They try to make the best of the situation for their family, but the poor living conditions at the migrant hostel and local attitudes towards immigrants test them in ways they couldn't have imagined.

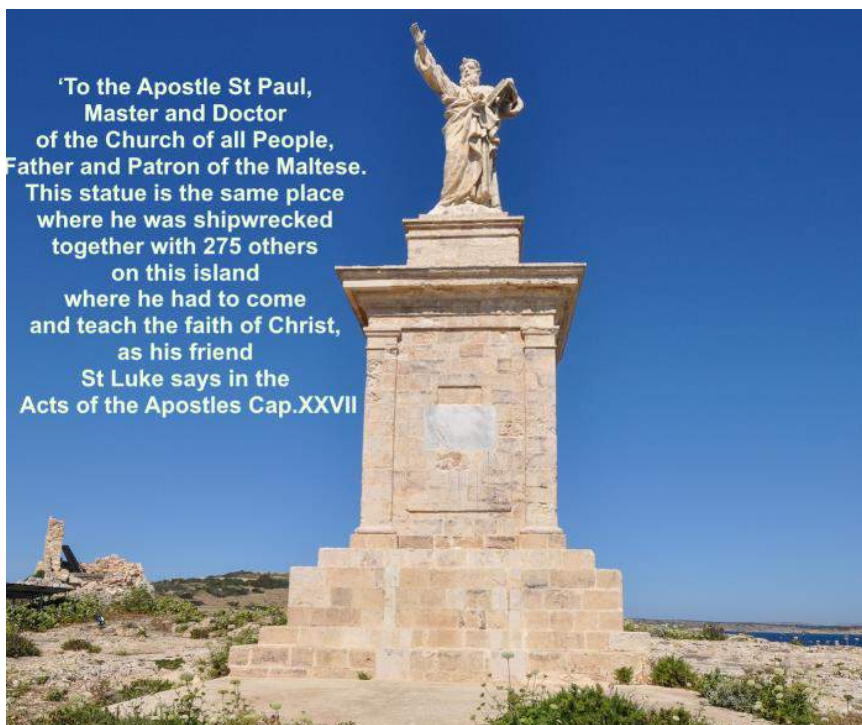
They aren't the only people at the hostel avoiding the truth. Kate (Michelle Keegan) is a young nurse who arrives without her fiancé and will do whatever it takes to try and rewrite her devastating past. Bill (Leon Ford) has lost his family business back home and is so desperate to prove he's living the Australian dream that he'll stop at nothing in order to get a lifestyle he can't sustain. Teenager Stevie (Declan Coyle) comes from a troubled background and hopes to use this new adventure to escape his oppressive father. Meanwhile, Ron (Rob Collins), an Indigenous Australian war veteran, struggles with feeling like an outsider in his own country.

Produced by Eleven, Gaynor Holmes executive produces for the BBC and Amanda Duthie and Cailah Scobie for Stan with Joel Wilson, Olivia Trench and Jamie Campbell executive producing for Eleven. Joining Danny Brocklehurst on the writing team are Ryan Griffen, Smita Bhide and Ava Pickett. It is directed by Jamie Stone and Ana Kokkinos. Sony Pictures Television (SPT) will distribute the series worldwide.

Filming took place in Australia last year and transmission details will be released in due course.

St. Paul's Statue, St Paul's Island

This statue was inaugurated in 1845 and stands 4m high. It is thought to be located near the spot where St Paul was shipwrecked in 60 AD.



'To the Apostle St Paul,
Master and Doctor
of the Church of all People,
Father and Patron of the Maltese.
This statue is the same place
where he was shipwrecked
together with 275 others
on this island
where he had to come
and teach the faith of Christ,
as his friend
St Luke says in the
Acts of the Apostles Cap.XXVII

The large statue of St Paul on St Paul's Island is the work of two sculptors, Sigismondo Dimech (1780-1853) of Valletta and Salvatore Dimech (1805-1887) of Lija, a scholar of Sigismondo. Both of these masons created many other artistic works. The statue alone is about 4m high and represents St Paul holding a book in his left hand while holding up the right hand. At his feet lies the snake which, according to the Acts of the Apostles, came out of the fire and bit his hand. The statue stands on a platform 8.3m high, which is the work of Francesco Spiteri. The

stones are second-grade travertine, and for every four orders of height, pieces of stone shaped like a chain were affixed. The mixture required to fill in the joint lines of the stones is made up of lime mortar, sand and fabricated cement with *puzzolana* of first quality. On the platform a marble slab was fitted with the following words chosen by the Latinist Dun G. Zammit (aka 'Brighella'):

'To the Apostle St Paul, Master and Doctor of the Church of all People, Father and Patron of the Maltese. This statue is the same place where he was shipwrecked – together with 275 others – on this island where he had to come and teach the faith of Christ, as his friend St Luke says in the Acts of the Apostles Cap.XXVII. Salvatore Borg, in memory of this event – in the year 1845 – worked hard for its erection'

The promoters of the fund-raising for the erection of the statue were Fr Francesco Caruana Dingli, Dr Michele Parnis, Filippo Busuttil, Vincenzo Spiteri, and Salvatore Borg, who was the most active among them. The costs of the platform, including the sculptor's fees, amounted to 1,150 *scudi*. The five large stones used for the construction of the statue cost 171 *scudi*, while the sculptors were paid 333 *scudi*. The promoters started collecting money for the statue in 1843, when they set up subscription lists. One list was for the nobility, judges and professionals, and another for residents of the Three Cities. Various persons donated large sums of money and Salvatore Borg himself donated 100 *scudi*. He also allotted an amount of money for the maintenance of the statue.

A year before the statue was inaugurated in September 1844, work on the platform and statue was ready but only half of the money required was collected. It took another year to collect the whole amount. The statue was inaugurated and blessed on 21st September 1845 at 5 pm. The parish priest of Mellieha as well as clergy from St Paul's church in Valletta were invited. Prayers were said and hymns were sung. The ceremony ended with the firing of cannon shots, after which the people returned home with kerosene lamps as it was already dark .



Members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem Lieutenancy of Malta (EOHSJ Malta), together with Lieutenant Roberto Buontempo at the Order's annual general meeting held on March 18, 2023 at the Radisson Blu Hotel in St Julian's.



Fr. Geoffrey George Attard

‘Drive through’ mill-Parroċċa tal-Fontana - Gozo

Fuq skript ta’ Fr. Geoffrey G. Attard,

matul l-ewwel jumejn tal-Gimgha Mqaddsa, iż-żgħażaġh mid-Drama Group tal-Parroċċa tal-Fontana ngabru fi Triq John Gaspard Le Marchant u ipprezentaw din id-Drive Through ‘Miet Hu Biex Nghixu Ahna’ mqassma f’sittwaqfiet mibnija fuq il-ġrajjet tal-Passjoni u l-Mewt tal-Imghallem Divin.

Din kienet Rappreżentazzjoni Drammatika ta’ djalogi immaginattivi minn persunaġġi bibbliċi li jidhru fir-rakkonti tal-Passjoni kif misjuba fl-erba’ evanġelji. Kif għidna organizzata miż-Żgħażaġh tal-Fontana bl-iskop li tattira lil dawk li jixtiequ jsiru jafu iktar dwar il-messaġġ Nisrani u kontemporanju li dawn iż-żgħażaġh xtaqu jwasslu billi jagħtu l-hajja lil diversi karattri bibbliċi li niltaqgħu magħhom fil-Liturġija tal-Kelma matul il-Gimgha Mqaddsa u fl-Iskrittura li matul is-sinjura ispirat diversi diversi xogħlijiet tal-Arti fl-Ewropa u lil hinn. Mort mal-mara u tassew haadt gost nara għadd ta’ żgħażaġh, li għalkemm taht sema lewn iċ-ċomb u riħ xi ftiit qawwi, ma qatgħux qalbhom imma wara li tgħallmu l-iskript bl-ament, taw l-enerġija kollha tagħhom u għamlu hilitom biex wasslu l-messaġġ li kellu f’moħħu l-awtur.

Tassew prosit u grazzi. Din kienet il-ħames sena li dawn iż-żgħażaġh għamlu dan l-esperiment ta’ produzzjoni teatrali bla ma qagħdu jaraw x’s joffrilhom it-temp fuq rashom imma libsu l-ħwejjeg tal-epoka u ma ħarsux lura. L-ewwel produzzjoni kienet ‘*is-Seba’ Kelmiet*’ ta’ Joseph Bezzina; it-tieni waħda kienet ‘*Hawn jien Mulej*’ ta’ Raymond u Marianne Zammit; it-tielet, ‘*L-Ikkundannat*’ ta’ Joanne Debrincat u r-raba waħda, ‘*Mela Alla Siket?*’ tal-Kan Simon Cachia, Kappillan tal-Parroċċa. Din is-sena mess lill-Kan Fr. Geoffrey G. Attard li jipprovdi l-iskript.

‘Drive through’ from Fontana Parish – Gozo

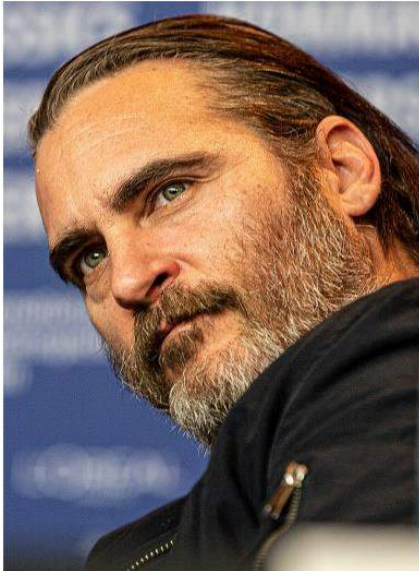
From the script of Fr. Geoffrey G. Attard, during the first two days of Holy Week, the young people from the Drama Group of the Fontana Parish gathered in John Gaspard Le Marchant Street and presented this Drive Through ‘He Died so that We Live’ with six stops built on the events of the Passion and Death of the Divine Master.

This was a Dramatic Representation of imaginative dialogues from biblical characters that appear in the accounts of the Passion as found in the four gospels. As we said it was organized by the Fontana Youth with the aim of attracting those who wish to find out more about the Christian and contemporary message that these young people wanted to deliver by giving life to various biblical characters that we meet in the Liturgy of the Word during Holy Week and in the Scriptures which over the years has inspired many different works of Art in Europe and beyond. I went with my wife and we really enjoyed seeing a number of young people, who although under an inclement weather and a strong wind, they did not give up but after learning the script by heart, they gave all their energy and performed their efforts to deliver the message that the author had in mind.

Congratulations and thank you. This was the fifth year that these young people did this experiment of theatrical production without waiting to see what the weather would offer them, but they wore the clothes of the era and did not look back.

The first production was ‘*Seven Words*’ by Joseph Bezzina; the second one was ‘*Here I am Lord*’ by Raymond and Marianne Zammit; the third, ‘*The Condemned*’ by Joanne Debrincat and the fourth one, ‘*So God is Silent?*’, by Canon Simon Cachia, Parish Priest. This year it was the turn of Canon Fr. Geoffrey G. Attard providing the script.

Sony Set Thanksgiving Theatrical Release for Ridley Scott's 'Napoleon'



relationship with his wife and one true love, Josephine, played by Vanessa Kirby.

The film is all about the rise and fall of the legendary French general who lived between 1769 and 1821. According to *Vogue*, the film is also about the French general's love story with Joséphine, who

From Apple Original Films, the historical epic starring Joaquin Phoenix will play exclusively on the big screen before making its streaming debut in another sign that the tech giant is serious about moving into the theatrical space.

In another major theatrical move, Apple Original Films teaming with Sony to give Ridley's Scott an exclusive worldwide run on the big screen before debuting the movie on Apple TV+. The historical epic opens in cinemas 22 November. 2023, the eve of the lucrative Thanksgiving corridor. From Apple Original Films, the historical epic starring Joaquin Phoenix will play exclusively on the big screen before making its streaming debut in another sign that the tech giant is serious about moving into the theatrical space. Directed by Scott from a screenplay by David Scarpa, Napoleon stars Joaquin Phoenix as the infamous French emperor and military leader. The film is from Apple Studios in conjunction with Scott Free Productions.

Napoleon is described as an original and personal look at Napoleon's origins and his swift, ruthless climb to emperor, viewed through the prism of his addictive and often volatile

became his wife.

Scott himself said that he always had fascination with Napoleon: "He came out of nowhere to rule everything – but all the while he was waging a romantic war with his adulterous wife Josephine.

He conquered the world to try to win her love, and when he couldn't, he conquered it to destroy her, and destroyed himself in the process..

Other locations, besides Kalkara shooting the film included Attard, Senglea, Valletta, Mellieħa, Siggiewi, Mdina and the Malta Film Studios. Tentatively titled *Kitbag*, the film is expected to be released in November 2023.

Unlike other films about Napoleon, the film will reportedly feature six major battle sequences,





Bishop Charles Gauci celebrating Palm Sunday at Wurrumiyanga with the Tiwi people in Darwin, Australia



THE NORTHERN TERRITORY - AUSTRALIA
covers 1,349,129 square kilometres (520,902 sq mi),
making it the third-largest Australian federal division,
and the 11th-largest country subdivision in the world.
It is sparsely populated, with a population of only 249,000
half as many people as in Malta.
The largest population center is the capital city of Darwin.



Suited-Up and Ambitious, Listen To Why Malta's Youths Had Emigrated To Australia

By [Johnathan Cilia](#)
Lovingmalta.com

It's no secret that swathes of Maltese men and women upended their entire lives to start a new chapter halfway across the world in Australia – but hearing the reasons why gives a powerful insight into their motivations.

A recently-unearthed clip posted by Malta Audio Visual Memories shows a Maltese journalist from MTV – the precursor to Malta's current TVM – speaking to a group of young men ahead of their trip to another continent.

Suave, smoking cigarettes and looking confident, the men explain why they decided to take the plunge. Speaking to the reporter, one man explained why he was ready to work in hard manual labour in Australia as he was used to that kind of work on the island.

"I've always worked in tough conditions, I'm used to this kind of work," said one man.

Similarly, another man, who said he was from Msida, said he worked in a quarry with rocks. One man was clear about his dreams: "I'm going to find my fortune."

Another man explains how he had recently lost his job and needed to find work.

Maltese immigration to Australia reached its peak during the 1960s. The majority of Maltese immigrants reside in Melbourne and Sydney, and continue to hold Maltese culture and traditions close to their hearts. www.lovinmalta.com/lifestyle/nostalgia/watch-suited-up-and-ambitious-listen-to-why-maltas-youths-had-emigrated-to-australia/

If you emigrated to Australia, Canada or USA in the 1960s tell us your story.

THE AZZOPARDIS



At Portland Beach

Mary and her three boys - Tony, 5 years, Roger, 4 years and Godwin, 3 years - migrated from Malta to Australia, arriving on 25th August 1949.

Their father 'Edgar Azzopardi' had arrived earlier to work on a farm in Narrawong, near Portland, Victoria.

The family was sponsored by the farmer as there was a shortage of farm hands after the war.

Their parents felt there would be a better future for the children in Australia. "As a four year old on the SS Asturias I recall getting lost on this enormous ship, and the purser eventually taking me back to my mother".

"I also recall my mother buying wares off the boats that came out to the ship

in the Port of Aden. They would raise baskets on ropes with the wares in them and then lower them again with money to pay for them. There are many members of the extended families now, and all are residing in Australia". Roger Azzopardi



Passport Photo

CRAFTED WITH LOVE

Story by Godwin Gauci - Adelaide, Australia

Hello. My name is Godwin Gauci and I run a Men's Shed at Pooraka in South Australia.

In 2022, I was approached by a representative from R.M. Williams, a world-renowned footwear and clothing manufacturer here in South Australia to see if we were interested in making a handy tool to remove boots from the feet without bending down.

They are called "BOOT JACKS" as you can see me making a boot jack in the picture below. This tool makes it easy to remove the boots for all and in particular for those with limited mobility. It is good to see an iconic Australian company sourcing's out Australian goods made locally.

I made a few samples for the representative to look at, using various Australian timbers and he picked the one made in Tasmanian Oak. There is the R.M. Williams logo on the top of the boot jack and they have incorporated the Men's Shed logo on the back. There are a few processes in making these tools and several craftsmen have dedicated their time and effort in producing are 40 boot jacks per week.

We purchased the wood from a local timber merchant. A few shedders got onto some of the machines, using their expertise and began

to mill the timber into the right width, length and thickness.

Next process in the burning of the logo's followed by the gluing and screwing the bottom foot and then a piece of felt is glue on the cut out to protect the boots from being scratched. Finally, it is Oiled, using Linseed Oil to protect it from the weather or getting damaged.

At the end of the year, the shedder's were



invited to do a tour at the R.M. Williams factory at Salisbury, here in South Australia, seeing first hand how the boots are manufactured with so many processes in machining the Leather to shape and cut to produce the Boots.

We, at the Men's Shed, are happy to be associated with R.M. Williams, an iconic Australian company to use the craftsmanship of local shedders, being rewarded with the association to using their talents and expertise in woodworking. The Shedders are all volunteers from many walks of life coming together in companionship. The Men's Shed is a non-profit organization to help the local community.



Maltese eNewsletter

**IF YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL
SHARE IT WITH OTHERS. WE LOVE
TO HEAR FROM YOU. SEND IT TO US**

Clock tells tale of earlier times

THE clock tower in Victoria Street in Mackay is made of concrete bricks manufactured by a machine invented by Maltese immigrant John Muscat.

Mr Muscat invented the machine in the early 1950s at a time when brick was not the traditional building material used in the Mackay district.

He built his own home out of bricks manufactured using the machine. The machine is to be donated to the Mackay Historical Society at Greenmount.

Mr Muscat, 88, now lives at St Vincent de Paul Home in West Mackay.

His son-in-law Mr Rick Doran said Mr Muscat was planning to return to Malta next year for the first time since he emigrated to Australia in 1948.

Mr Muscat, his wife Evangelista (dec) and seven children lived in Farleigh for a couple of years after emigrating and he worked in the sugar industry.

The family then moved to Hocken Street, North Mackay, where Mr Muscat had purchased a block of land.

Mr Doran said his father-in-law always had a dream of developing a



IMMIGRANT John Muscat: invented brick-maker.

business making blocks out of concrete.

He said after sourcing information from a number of people, including companies in the United Kingdom, Mr Muscat made the brick-making machine and a machine for producing floor tiles.

The family lived in a shed while Mr Muscat built a family home using bricks made from the completed machine. The house still stands today.

Three other dwellings were built using the bricks.

Our aim
is to
unite but
not to
divide

We support
and respect
all Maltese
living
abroad
and every
association
who for
centuries
promoted
the good
name
of Malta
and Gozo



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JOHN Muscat's brick-maker will be donated to the Mackay Historical Society.

Another
amazing story
of the Maltese
in Mackay,
Queensland
Australia



Just published, the 'Feasts Edition' of the gazette 'IL-FURJANA' 'The Lion of Floriana' is 295 years old. The Editorial Board of the gazette 'IL-FURJANA' has just published the April issue of this Florianite paper. In keeping up with an unwritten tradition, the April/May annual issue is labelled as, 'The Feasts Issue' because it always coincides with the celebrations of the parochial feast of the Patron Saint and protector of Floriana, and Malta, Saint Publius. This year's feast will be celebrated at Floriana between the 16th and 23rd (both days inclusive) of April 2023.

It couldn't be otherwise that this issue includes information and photos regarding works and projects in hand going on in the church dedicated to Saint Publius. Works which had been announced by the Rev Archpriest of Floriana Canon Charles Cini during the celebrations held on the 22nd of January last on the occasion of the Liturgical Feast of Malta's first Bishop.



Amongst other things these projects include: The full restoration inside the main dome, and, the walls on the outside of the vestry and parvis. There's also the ongoing work in the Crucifix transept that included new paintings for the vault. There's also work in progress on the reconstruction of a brand new Triumphal Arch that will replace the one that was completely destroyed after an arson attack on the night of the 27th of April 2019. As all these

projects cost a lot of money the Florianite people are encouraged to donate as much as possible to alleviate the financial burden.

The feast of St. Publius is also covered in the main feature of this issue, this encompasses the symbol, the Icon of Floriana and the Florianites, the Lion. The feature takes the cue from the fact that the Lion of Floriana's monument cum fountain, this year reaches the venerable old age of 295 years (1728-2023) in our midst. The story of this monument is accompanied by photos and historical paintings. Other info is This issue includes also an article



by Julian Holland, Secretary of the Fsobians Club regarding activities held during the past months.

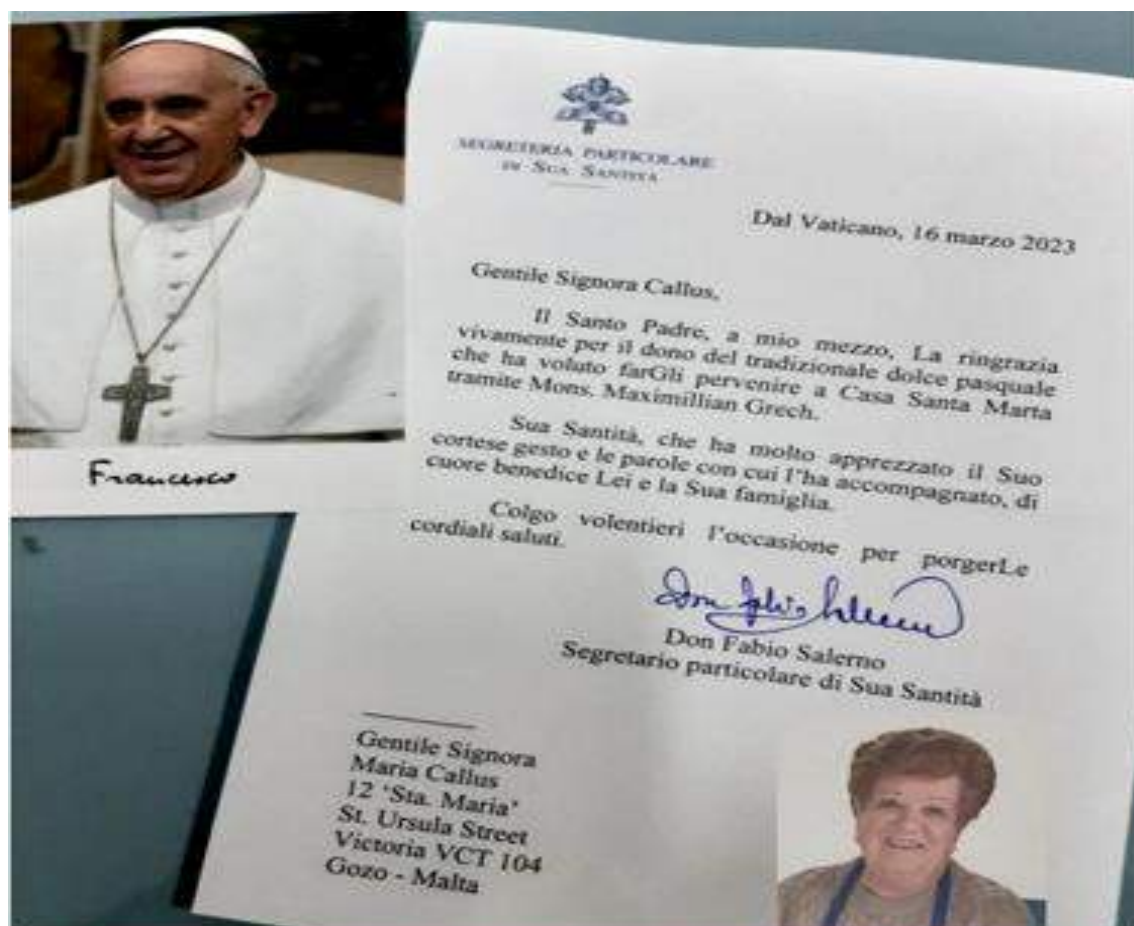
In 'IL-FURJANA' of April one also finds various pages of news about Floriana and it's people such as: The publication of a book written by an ex Editor of this gazette Dr David Fabri; A national honour bestowed on Professor Henry Frendo; Dr Joan Abela who has become a lecturer at the Faculty of History at the University of Malta: Homages paid to the late Father Thomas Moore OFM conv. and Sister Cettie Dimech both deceased recently and, on a much happier note, about a bride from Floriana and her husband who met His Holiness Pope Francis at the Vatican. Normally 'the Feasts Issue' of 'IL-FURJANA' would be the first of the

calendar year. But this current year it is the second edition because in January last a special edition was issued to pay homage to the late Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI who died on the last day of last year. This Pope, to date, is the only Pope that set foot in St. Publius

Church at Floriana when he visited Malta in 2010.

Anyone wishing to acquire a copy of this issue, or any other issues please contact: Stephen Tonna on: sanpublju@gmail.com or Freddie Tonna on: annotfre@gmail.com.





MARIA CALLUS SENT A FIGOLLA TO THE POPE

One of the volunteers of the Assumption Cathedral Parish in Gozo sent a Maltese traditional figolla to Pope Francis who a few days later Mrs Maria Callus received a letter of thanks from the Holy See dated 16 March 2023 and signed by Don Fabio Salerno, the Pope's Secretary.



IĦALLUNA TLIET BENEFATTURI 'ŻEBBUĠIN' FI ŻMIEN TA' ĠIMGĦA

Minn Joe M Attard – Ghawdex, Malta

Bejn is-Sibt 25 ta' Marzu u s-Sibt 1-1 ta' April 2023 il-parroċċa ta' Santa Marija Mtellgħa s-sema u l-lokalita' taż-Żebbuġ Ghawdex tilfet prattikament tlieta minn uliedha fis-sens wiesa' tal-kelma. Is-Sibt 25 ta' Marzu, Solennita' tal-Lunzjata, filgħodu kmieni, ħalla dan il-wied tad-dmugħ il-Maestro Ġużeppi Mallia. Iben l-imsemmi mużiċisita Ghawdx i Anton Mallia, Ġużeppi, mexxa fuq l-eżempju ta' missieru u bħalu kien mastrudaxxa u sagristan tal-knisja parrokkjali. Ġużeppi ħadem diversi xogħolijiet fl-injam għall-knisja parrokkjali u kien maestro di cappella tal-istess parroċċa. It-tmexxija tal-kor għaddiet f'idejn bintu Maria u n-neputi tiegħu Franco Cefai, li illum ukoll huwa 'maestro di cappella' tal-parroċċa u assistent-surmast direttur tal-Banda 'Santa Marija'. Ġużeppi kien ukoll president onorarju tal-Banda. L-għada tħabbret il-mewt tal-eks-kunsillier u eks-pulizija Ġużeppi Camilleri, magħruf l-aktar bħala 'il-Giemes'. Kelli x-xorti nsir midhla

tiegħu fl-aħħar tliet snin ta' ħajtu u nista' ngħid li qsamt miegħu konverżazzjonijiet interessanti fid-dar tiegħu fi Triq Għajn Mhelhel. Ċertament kellu għal qalbu lil raħal twelidu li fih twieled u trabba u baqa' jgħix tul ħajtu kollha.

Imbagħad, nhar it-Tnejn, 27 ta' Marzu, tħabbret l-aħbar tal-mewt tal-marmista magħruf Hamruni Ronald Pisani. Pisani ħadem f'ħafna knejjes f'Malta u Ghawdex. Lill-parroċċa-santwarju taż-Żebbuġ ħadmilha l-artal singolari li jiġbed l-attenzjoni ta' kull min iżur is-santwarju tal-parroċċa. Hu rabat ismu maż-Żebbuġ t'Ghawdex hekk li jista' jitqies 'iben adottat' ta' dan ir-raħal. Baqa' jżomm lil dan ir-raħal u ma kinitx tasal festa li ma jhux sehem ukoll fl-orkestra tal-granet tal-festa bħala vjolinista ta' esperjenza. Hekk fi żmien ftit jiem, iż-Żebbuġ tilef tlieta mill-akbar ħbieb tiegħu. Filwaqt li nsellmu l-familjari tagħhom, nibqgħu ngħożżuhom bħala benefatturi ta' dan l-aktar raħal fuqani tal-gżira Ghawdxija.

MALTESE ALL OVER THE WORLD



Australia.

A century earlier they had just ventured in the Mediterranean and Maltese communities can today be traced in Tunisia, Gibraltar, Libya and Egypt. When pondering on issues related to the wave of illegal immigrants hitting the Maltese shores, the Maltese people surely know what it feels like to have to leave your mother country in search of a better life far away.

Although the Maltese Islands never had more than 500,000 native inhabitants, it is estimated that the number of Maltese living around the world is very close to a million. That is because over the past two centuries thousands of Maltese left their homeland in search of a better future elsewhere. In today's terms, they would have been 'economic migrants' and surely not 'illegal immigrants' because their mass migration from Malta was not just organised but also encouraged, especially in the 1960's when it was a handy solution to Malta's economic problems at its dawn of Independence in 1964. Many of these went to English-speaking countries such as the UK, USA, Canada and

Embassy of Malta breaks fast with community in Maghar in the North of Israel



On 27 March 2023, Ambassador Cecilia Attard-Pirotta and her spouse, Mr Ivan Attard, accompanied by First Secretary Mr Charles Calleja and his spouse, attended a breaking of the fast, known as 'Iftar' with the community in Maghar, a city in the North of Israel, at the invite of the mayor of the town, Mr Fareed Ganem, Deputy Mayor Ms Noha Jaber and

Press Release Issue Date: Mar 28, 2023

Muslim Representative Mr Muhammad Shini. On this occasion, Ambassador Attard-Pirotta also received a presentation, by the Middle-School students studying English at the 'Eshol Pais' cultural centre, on the history and geography of Maghar, as well as its societal dynamics. Maghar is a city with an inter-faith community composed of mainly Muslims, Druze, and Christians, with a population of around 25,000. The presentation then ended with some remarks from the city's mayor, who commended the preparation by the students. During her remarks, Ambassador Attard-Pirotta noted the various cultural and linguistic similarities between life in the Maltese Islands and in Maghar. She was remarked how in spite of different cultural and religious backgrounds, communities could live in peace and unity, and the city of Maghar was a living example of this. Ambassador Attard-Pirotta then concluded by thanking her hosts for their hospitality and commended the work the city had been doing to promote inter-faith dialogue.



WHEN THE MALTESE EMIGRANTS HAD TO LEAVE MALTA
Mr and Mrs John Manche' with their family of eight left Malta on the migrant ship, Castel Felice, to settle at Wentworthville, NSW.

Date: 26 January 1955

The children are Tony 12, Monica 9, Marie 8, Francis 4, George 3, Charlotte 1 and Jeanette 5 months.

Source: Fairfax Photography. Photo: Argus

**THE HISTORY
OF MALTESE
EMIGRATION
IS A VERY
IMPORTANT
PART OF THE
HISTORY OF
MALTA.
WE MUST
PRESERVE
IT**

30 years ago... Malta's most gruesome murder



When bowling champion Sylvia King was burnt alive

One of the most notorious murders in Malta's criminal history took place 30 years ago today, at one of the island's most peaceful spots.

Champion bowler Sylvia King, 36, died when her car was set on fire in scenic Kuncizzjoni, having earlier been kidnapped from Marsascala.

One of the first clues that investigators had found the missing woman was the discovery of a gold pendant in the shape of a bowling pin, embedded into the victim's charred body.

Sylvia King, 36, a social worker, had won the national bowling championships just four days earlier.

The car was still very hot when we arrived. It was totally burnt," said forensic expert Anthony Abela Medici, who was the one who pulled Ms King's charred body out of the back seat of the car set on fire in Kuncizzjoni, limits of Rabat, on the night of April 3, 1993.

Ms King had been abducted near the Sant' Antnin plant and bundled into a car, shortly after she left the Lemon and Lime Bar she owned in Marsascala. Her killers first took her to a dump near Ghaxaq, but

investigators believe plans changed when they saw children playing in the area.

Instead, they drove Ms King to Kuncizzjoni, where she was burnt alive in a car.

"The sheer cruelty of the crime was incredible, certainly one of the worst I've seen in my career," said Dr Abela Medici, who investigated cases like the bloody EgyptAir hijacking in 1986.

Investigators realised they were dealing with a female victim when they turned the body over to find a burnt bra strap.

Parts of the vehicle's shattered window, which melted with the intense heat, were found underneath her head, suggesting she was struggling after the fire started, Dr Abela Medici told *Times of Malta* on Tuesday.

Their suspicions were confirmed when an autopsy revealed soot in the victim's windpipe. She was found with two heavy blows to the head, possibly knocking her out unconscious. The victim's bag, including her personal diary, together with pistols, presumably used in the abduction, were later found in a field in Żabbar.

It took police hours to net the killers. The mastermind was Joseph Harrington, a man with psychopathic tendencies, who wanted to know the whereabouts of his estranged wife. Back then, Ms King was involved in an organisation that supported people in need and had become friends with Ms Harrington, who feared her husband.

Evidence also led the police to drug addict Tony Baldacchino, who admitted with investigators he was involved in the murder.

Mr Harrington was convicted of the murder in 2000 and was jailed for life. He died in 2014.

Mr Baldacchino who had been convicted in a separate trial in 1997, was released from prison in 2002, and was found dead the following year at his flat in Bugibba.

The Mystery of the Bones found in Secret Passages of St. Gregory's Church in Żejtun

Deep-rooted mysteries, which to date remain unsolved, are entrenched in the old parish of St Catherine in Żejtun, popularly known as St Gregory's. Some of these mysteries were discussed at the second national symposium organised by NGO Wirt iż-Żejtun in this church, particularly since they are related to the theme that was commemorated and discussed – the 400th anniversary of the Turkish raid of 1614 on Żejtun and other areas in Malta.

Among the matters discussed was the old inscription that for many years was believed to represent a



A DI GLUGLIGIL
L'ARMATA TORCHESCA INNUMERO DI 60
GALERI IN GIORNO DI DOMENICA 7^{MA} HOKI
INANZI DI, ED HA BUTATO GNTI IN TERRA
NELLA C-ALA DI S. TOMASO NOMINA LA IL
GHIZIRA CIRCA 50 MILA PERSONA, E VENI-
NERO NELLI CASALI ED ARRIVARGHIO FINO
ALLA HAIRA DEL FIDO DI BULEBEL, HANNO
AMAZZATO DIVERSI ANIMALI, HANNO SACH-
EGGIATO DETTI CASALI ED HANNO ABRUZIATO
TUTTI LI HAIRI, HANNO RUINATO A SCATARI-
NA CON TUTTI LI ALTRI EC ESII E SONO ST-
ATI PRESI PARECCI DI LORO AMMAZZATI E SE-
GUITATI IN SINDO LA MARINA, E NON È STA-
TO PRESO NESSUNO DEI CRISTIANI E DELLI CR-
STIANI SONO STATI FERITI IN CIRCA DI VENTI
E DI QUEL DI SINO L'INFRA SCRITTA GIORNATA
IL SETTEMBRE 1614. LI FILIOLI DI QUESTA PARRO-
CHIA CHI SONO STATI NATI, SONO STATI BAT-
TIZATI IN ALTRI PARROCHIE, ESTRATTA DAL
SECONDO LIBRO DEI BATTESIMI DI QUESTA
PARROCHIA.

narrative of what took place on the eventful day of July 6, 1614, when 60 Ottoman galleys anchored at St Thomas' Bay and the port of Marsascala, and from there, 6,000 Turkish soldiers attacked Żejtun and the surrounding areas.

According to the inscription, the Turks pillaged the villages and the churches and chapels they came across, until they finally met Maltese soldiers and cavalry, and retreated back to their ships. Some Maltese were injured but none died, while some Turks were killed and others were captured as slaves.

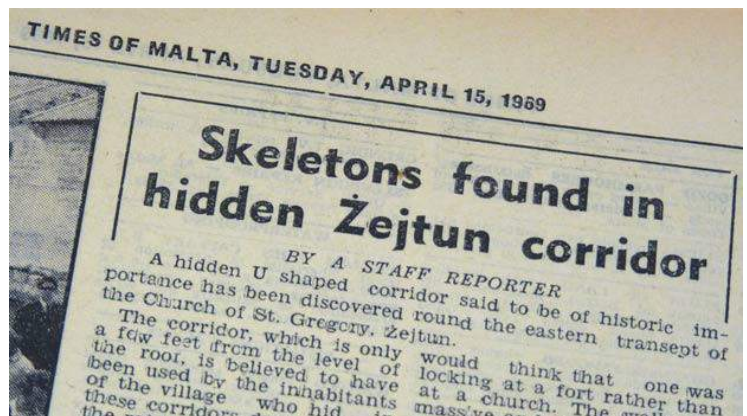
However, when referring to some local archives,

including those written by Ottoman authors, one finds details that do not necessarily concur. So what is the real story?

Other curious issues relate to the 1969 discovery of three secret passages in the old church of St Gregory, in which human bones were also found. At the beginning of the third corridor, some engravings bearing the initials V.A. and C.Z. and the date 19.02.09, thereby suggesting that the corridors had already been discovered before.

Cuttings from the Times of Malta of April 15, 1969.

Rumours say that after the last discovery, the parish priest had searched among the village elders people who had those initials until he traced a certain Carmelo Zahra, known as 'ir-Rangu', who confessed that he had entered the passages



when he was a young boy together with some other individuals. He claimed that they had seen skeletons dressed as soldiers in the passages and that they had some weapons and flags with them. Moreover, he said that some people who were with him removed the objects and took them away, and threatened the others not to mention anything. Indeed, many had been surprised at the frugal objects that were found with the bones in 1969. Could Zahra have been telling the truth?

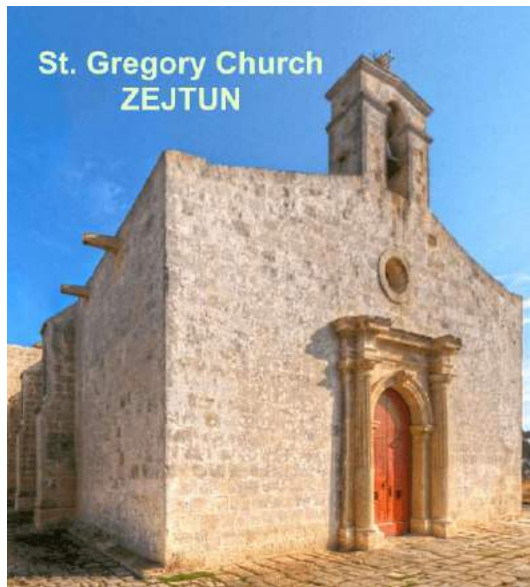
The remains that were collected during the last discovery included a wooden shoe sole with a high heel, a small gilded wooden cross of Byzantine design, odd bits of a gilded wooden frame (perhaps an icon), three coins (two bronze with the cross of the Order, the other gold, but so worn out that it cannot be deciphered), pieces of pottery of the 16th and 17th centuries, fragments of animal bones and a part of

a chain-mail armour vest.

No one knows why [the bones] were found in these secret passages

These are currently stored in one of the rooms in the church and it seems clear, both from their state of preservation and from the display box in which they are stored, that no one has bothered to look at them for many years. In fact, very few individuals knew about their existence. It is a pity that these objects are hidden away from researchers and from the public. Don't they deserve to be conserved and studied and then displayed appropriately?

Likewise, there are various versions of how and who came across the opening to the secret passages. One of the claims is that the person was none other than Ġann Mari Debono, the church sacristan, as published in Times of Malta of April 15, 1969. However, in 2011, Grezzju Vella recounted a slightly different story, saying that he had exposed the opening and entered first inside the secret



passages.



Grezzju Vella showing the location of the opening to the secret passages.

The human remains have also led to another mystery since, to date, no one knows why they were found in these secret passages.

A ballad written by Walter Zahra soon after the discovery of 1969 imagined these people to have been the victims of an Ottoman attack after they had gone there to hide in the secret passages and were found by the enemy.

Over time, this invented story transformed itself into a legend and many villagers believed this to be true.

However, in 1978, Seshadri Ramaswamy

and Joseph Leslie studied these bones and presented a report on their paleopathological studies. They concluded that the bones had been buried in some other place since some of the vertebrae had a plug of soil in the vertebral canal.

Hence, according to this theory, during a particular period, the secret passages in St Gregory's church might have been used as an ossuary.

Many have asked what was the sense of carrying the bones up these passages when they could have been stored elsewhere. And many more have asked why a carbon dating examination has not yet been performed on the bones in order to date these remains and end some of these rumours.

NOSTALGIA FROM HABANA, MACKAY QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA

Habana pioneers found time for soccer



THE Maltese men of Mackay took another pioneering step when in 1926 they formed their own soccer team — believed to have been the first all-Maltese soccer team in Australia. Most of the members lived and worked in the Habana district so they played under that name, wearing jerseys presented to them as a sign of goodwill by Jim Love of the Imperial Hotel in Victoria Street. Pictured are, from back row left, Paul Bartolo, P. Calleja, A.F. Vella, Tony Saliba, S. Portelli, Tony Borg; second row: Jim Camilleri, Andy Frendo, P. Camilleri, J. Deguara, C. Deguara; front row: J. Fenech, Paul Camilleri and Jim Camilleri.

Do you know why there are three black lines on the bus?

These three lines on school buses serve as a purpose.

The bottom line is the floor of the bus.

The middle line is the seat line.

The top top line is the top of the seat.

These lines are reinforced, but they also let firefighters know where to cut in case of an accident

Joseph G Galea



St Sebastian Seniors Association

Mother's Day Social Night

Date: Saturday 6th May, 2023

Time: 6.00pm till 12.00 midnight

Venue: Luxor Function Centre
(503 Sydenham Rd, Sydenham, 3037)

Cost: Members - \$65.00p/p, Non-members - \$70.00p/p
Children 12 and under - \$45.00p/p

Includes: A 3-course meal (A shared antipasti, a main & dessert)
Drinks included - wine, beer and soft drinks
Free tea and coffee

Music: By D.J. Dominic

Dress: Neat

R.S.V.P: Must be paid by 22/04/23

All ladies will receive a free glass of champagne for Mother's Day

Contact:
Monica - 0413 539 046

St Sebastian Bank Account:
NAB

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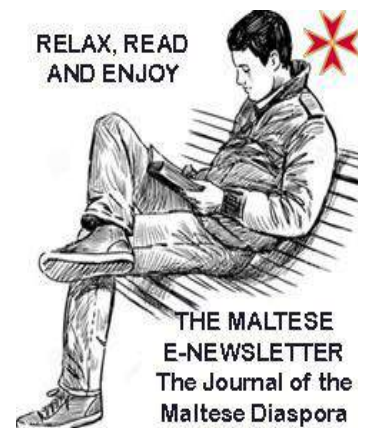
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Prime Minister Paul Boffa and Archbishop Michael Gonzi (standing, centre) seeing off the emigrants about to board the Vulcania.



Maltese emigrant Edward Scicluna kissing the hand of Archbishop Michael Gonzi as he blessed those about to board the Vulcania. Photo: Joe Pace



The Maltese emigrants in front of Customs House before boarding the Vulcania on June 17, 1948 on their way to Canada.

Maltese Migration to Canada

On May 8, 1948, the first contingent of Maltese migrants, consisting of 131 men, left Malta for Canada on board the *Marine Perch*.

They were joined by another 380, on board the *Vulcania*, which departed from the Grand Harbour on June 17, 1948