



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Journal for Maltese Living Abroad



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Our Beautiful Island



**HANDS
OFF
GOZO**

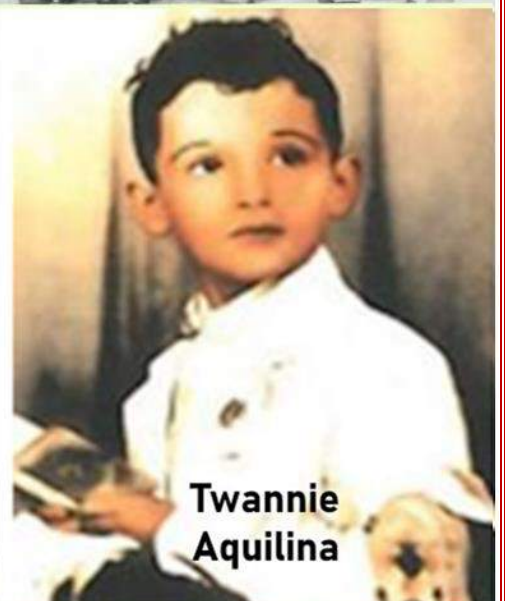
**We left Malta in the 50-70s
because of overpopulation**



**And now Malta is
overpopulated with foreigners**



MURDER OF THE CENTURY



**Twannie
Aquilina**



**Find out who
LISA ZAMMIT is?
Page 6**

**August
in Malta**

**REAR STURGEON
SUPERMOON**



RESTORED LETTER OF ST IGNATIUS LOYOLA PRESENTED**TO MDINA
CATHEDRAL
MUSEUM**

The Archive Conservation Laboratory of the Archdiocese of Malta presented the Cathedral Museum in Mdina with a meticulously restored letter attributed to St Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits. Dating back to the years 1548-1549, the letter is tied to the establishment of the Jesuits' college and university in Messina.

The Jesuits in Malta received this invaluable letter, along with other documents that seek to document the transmission of this letter, from their counterparts in the Sicilian province, reverently placing them within a sealed reliquary at the very heart of the church of their Collegium Melitense in Valletta. The reliquary was first opened in 1995 by the esteemed historian Mgr Vincent Borg. In his capacity as the President of the Capitular Commission of the Cathedral Museum, he secured the necessary permissions from ecclesiastical authorities to bring the reliquary to the museum in Mdina for exhibition and research purposes.

Over the past months, diligent and meticulous efforts at the Diocesan Archive Conservation Laboratory have been devoted to the restoration of these precious documents, ensuring their preservation for generations to come.

Beyond its profound spiritual significance as a relic associated with Saint Ignatius of Loyola and cherished as such for nearly four centuries, the letter vividly illustrates the notion that a solid academic formation is a necessary tool for evangelisation.

**Prof Stephen Gatt loves the Journal**

Proset, Frank. I love your Newsletters - Journal for Maltese Living Abroad. I print out selected pages and take them with me to Australian Maltese Chamber of Commerce and MaltaHubNSW Inc. meetings, Football (Sydney fc) matches, community BBQs and picnics, family 'do's', Heraldry and Order of Malta, etc.

They make wonderful 'conversation starters'. Sometimes, I make multiple copies for distribution, eg. last week, at the AMCC Maltese Pastizzi Cafe luncheon in King Str Newtown - the

distribution of the Maltese population in Malta including the very high proportion of non-Maltese residents in Malta and the appalling living conditions and accommodation of migrant, casual, temporary and refugee adult workers in Malta. You seem to have got the balance just right - public interest stories, Malta Govt announcements, events, achievements, activities of the many Maltese groups... without getting bogged down in politics or controversy. Keep it up, Frank. Yours is a true labour of love. You are the glue which keeps the community together. Onwards to edition 500.

Professor Stephen Gatt, NSW AUSTRALIA



MSSP FATHERS CHAMPIONS OF MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

Fr. Mario Micallef mssp

Dear Frank First of all, congratulations and thank you for your commitment in regularly publishing the Maltese Journal. Such endeavors are often very instructive and informative, and help bridge the gap between one's place of origin (or, often indeed, that of one's parents or even grandparents) and the country one currently calls home.

I was particularly struck by the picture on the last page of the latest issue of the Journal, number 486. A group of people, probably belonging to the same family surrounding what I presume would be a grandmother with her passport in hand. They are either leaving Malta or have just arrived in Australia. At the bottom of the picture there is a little boy, sitting on his small suitcase, with his head resting in his hands. Only God knows what was going through his head at that moment. A new beginning is always a bit scary with all the unknowns. Definitely, one of the questions that would have gone through his mind would have been: Now what?

This reminded me of the first MSSP priest who accompanied a group of Maltese migrants to Australia, back in 1948. It was Fr Augustine Grech (Dun Wistin), who accompanied a group of 451 Maltese bound for Australia aboard the **SS Strathnaver**. Probably not unlike the boy in the picture, going to Australia was not his choice. He did it out of obedience to his bishop, the late Msgr Michael Gonzi, who had already agreed with the Maltese government to send Maltese priests to accompany the many migrants leaving for Australia in those post-war years. Already in February of that same year, in fact, the Minister of Emigration Mr John Cole had informed the Maltese Parliament that there was "strong cooperation between the Ecclesiastical Authorities in Malta and the Government for the spiritual welfare of Maltese

migrants", and some Maltese priests would "soon be leaving for Australia".

Without going into too many details, we know that it was a tough beginning for Dun Wistin – definitely not unlike the first few years of most migrants beginning a new life. One can still picture Fr

Augustine's forlorn figure at Pymont, sitting on his suitcase (again, the image of the boy in the picture!), asking himself: Now what?

Since Dun Wistin's arrival, MSSP brothers and priests have been ministering to Maltese migrants in Australia for 75 years. From here I would like to salute all those Paulists who freely and generously offered their lives to minister to the needs of Maltese migrants and their families. Times and realities change. Unfortunately, the MSSP's numbers are not what they used to be, and the average age of our active members is daily increasing. Sadly, we have already had to let go of a number of our houses. As for the future, we have to be realistic and admit that, given our limited numbers, things will have to continue to change. I believe it would be a good idea for both Paulist priests and members of the Maltese community to plan ahead for what the future might hold – to sit together, like the boy in the picture, and see what the possibilities are. 'Now what', is a question that remains always relevant.

Fr Mario Micallef MSSP Ex Parish priest of St Paul the Apostle Parish, Canada



MALTESE
E-NEWSLETTER



Dr. Mark Said wrote this article

in MALTA INDEPENDENT 3 years ago

In recent years, we might have been feeling a Malta more crowded than it used to. Indeed, there is a valid and well founded reason for this, supported by reliable statistics.

By the end of 2018, Malta's population growth was the largest in the EU and in the preceding years, up to 2012, it placed either first, second or third in the EU list of population growth. By the end of last year, the total population in Malta was estimated at 0.5 million people and it is estimated that it will keep on growing at a fast rate for the years to come. Yes, we have been made to listen to the exaltation of population growth in that it means more labour force, bringing about more economic benefits such as expansion of tax bases and increased consumer spending at local businesses.

But more people means an increased demand for food, water, housing, energy, healthcare, transportation, and more. Not to mention that all that consumption contributes to ecological degradation, increased demographic conflicts of all sorts and a higher risk of large-scale disasters like pandemics.

We are living on a barren landscape with a limited fresh water supply and topping the list for population density at 1,380 per square kilometre. The islands only manage to produce 20% of the food requirements and therefore has a heavy dependency on foreign trade to maintain its population.

What does all this augur for Malta's future?

An aging population coupled with dwindling birth rates, escalating housing prices, overcrowding and caving infrastructure were just some of the factors responsible for the rising dissent among Singaporeans. Eventually, government there came out with a White Paper on Population, outlining a strategy to ensure sustainable population levels in the face of low birth rates and an aging society and a plan to increase Singapore's land area by nearly 8% to accommodate the new population. Although government stressed it would maintain a strong Singaporean core in spite of an incoming surge of

foreigners, the majority of Singaporeans remained, and still remain to date, sceptical about its promise to deliver.

A similar situation could well be developing in our country within the next few years and it is somewhat amazing how such a concern did not even minimally transpire from the conclusions of the recent State of the Nation conference. Out there, we can perceive a spatial and mental sense of being overwhelmed felt by large swathes of the public.

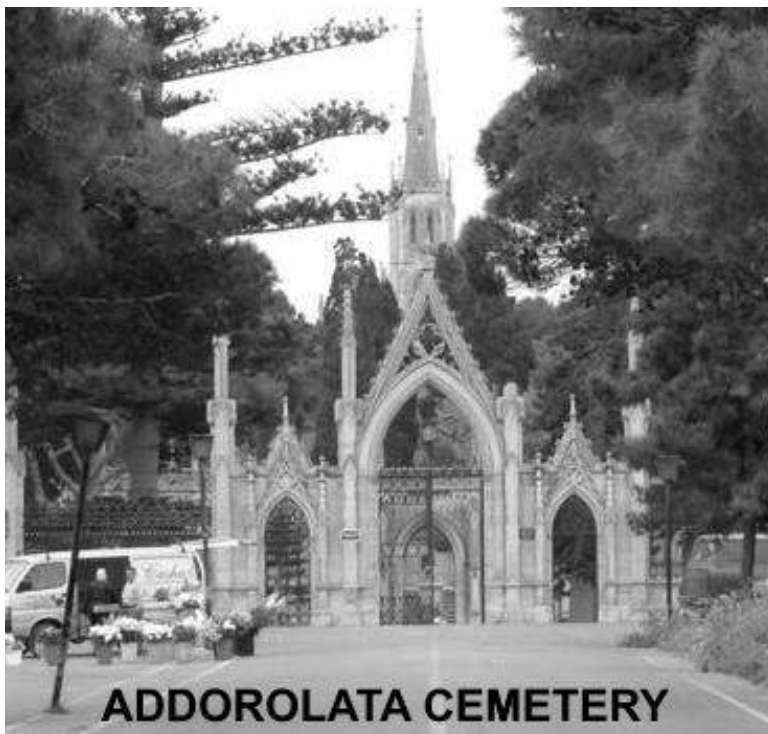
Much of Malta's population growth is taken up by foreigners coming from EU regions, Africa and even far off lands harbouring different social customs and cultures to ours. One point that did definitely come out from that State of the Nation report is the undeniable fact that we Maltese are not particularly keen on multiculturalism. A potential loss of Malta's national identity is an even more pressing problem than overpopulation, I believe. It has been eroded so much already, and with an eventual heavy influx, it may be destroyed. And to add insult to injury, we are constantly being reminded that we could be the minority population figure in 17 years' time.

If one is to have a sound basis to plan our infrastructure it would make sense to reduce the inflow of foreign workers, moderate the flow of new citizens and maintain permanent resident population at about the present size. We would do well to ponder on whether overpopulation will make Malta a happier place or whether the economy is really that important. On an individual basis, excessive population growth may reduce output per worker, repress levels of living for the masses and engender social strife.

On a national level, democracy cannot survive overpopulation. Human dignity cannot survive it. Convenience and decency cannot survive it. As you put more and more people on our limited shores, the value of life not only declines, but it disappears. It will not matter anymore if someone dies.

Our immediate future leaders will have to devise ways that can stabilize the human population without unpleasantly imposed restrictions. If we do not halt population growth with justice and compassion, it will be done for us by nature, brutally and without pity, and will leave a ravaged Malta for generations to come.

**COCKTAIL OF MALTA'S POPULATION
Locals (Maltese), Europeans, Foreigners,
refugees and tourists**



Malta' biggest cemetery holds some surprising stories

The Santa Maria Addolorata Cemetery was inaugurated in 1869 following a seven-year construction period that cost 33,000 British pounds.

Designed by architect Emmanuele Luigi Galizia and built entirely out of limestone, the cemetery is currently undergoing the first major inauguration in its 150-year-old history. Years of neglect have taken their toll on the site, but there is still much to see.

Here are few facts you probably did not know about Malta's biggest cemetery.

Other religions were not welcome

At the time it was built, the Addolorata was reserved for Roman Catholics from Valletta, Floriana and Cottonera. In the early 1960s, Prime Minister Dom Mintoff opened up the cemetery to burials of anyone, of any religion, in what became known as the Six Points of Mintoff to reduce the Church's influence and privileges in Malta.

Nobody wanted to use it

At the time it was built, bodies were buried in churches – except for cases of contagious illnesses like cholera and the plague when they were buried in outdoor designated burial grounds. But initially, people were reluctant to bury their loved ones outside a church. Although inaugurated in 1869, the first burial was made in January 1872.

The first burial was technically ineligible

The first person to be buried there, in common grave number 1, was Anna Magro, a pauper and a widow

Facts about the Addolorata cemetery

with no relatives. Ms Magro lived in Mosta and was originally from Naxxar.

At the time, the cemetery was only for people from Floriana, Valletta and Cottonera. Ms Magro's burial was authorised by the cemetery on the grounds that she had died in the Floriana Hospital. The following day, a six-month old baby boy who died from meningitis was also buried there.

Where do remains end up?

Ever wondered what happens to remains once the common graves are cleaned? They are put into ossuaries: large underground rooms within the cemetery itself.

Also, a grave cannot be opened before a year after a burial if it carries no slabs from the inside. This means that, if a family

member dies within a year of another member of that family, they have to be buried temporarily elsewhere and then moved to the respective grave after two years – which is the minimum time period when exhumations are allowed.

With an entrance of its own, the section happened to flank a rubbish dump. People soon started calling it

A walk throughout the cemetery will reveal some interesting, even haunting, monuments and graves. Like the grave of Giuseppe Gouder, an 18-year-old who died in a tram accident in Ghajn Dwieli on September 30, 1905. A weeping angel tells the story of 19-year-old Giulio Mifsud, born Benghazi, who died on February 15, 1942 – during WWII – “to save the life of his friends”.

Famous among visitors are the graves of eight-year-old murder victim Twanny Aquilina who was partly beheaded with a breadknife in Valletta on August 23, 1960. His mother Giga was accused of the murder but always denied killing her son. The child wears his Holy Communion outfit in the commemorating monument.

Another famous grave is that of Fr Alfred Gatt – a most sought confessor and counsellor believed to have the ability of healing and knowing the unknown – who died on March 26, 1937, aged 64. Also interesting is the life-size elegant statue of Italian born Maria Paleri, who died on in December 1889, aged 33



Entire German family joins the Catholic Church in Qala

BY [GOZO NEWS](#) · This year's festa week in Qala kicked off with the whole family of Meißer Sternberg, including parents David and Kristin and children Kacey, Tyron, Shane and Damon, receiving the sacraments of Christian initiation in the Qala Parish Church from Archpriest Edward Xuereb. Kristin was received in the full communion of the Catholic Church, five members were baptised, three confirmed and received the Holy Eucharist.

Qala Parish explained that the function is part of a systematic

journey of weekly catechesis to adults and of the regular catechism imparted to children by the Parish and the Girls Section of the Museum Society.

The celebration brought a novelty to the traditional programme of feast events by highlighting the current pastoral outreach to the ever-increasing number of foreigners coming to live for good in the locality, the Parish said. In the homily, Fr. Xuereb stressed the need of "responding to this sign of the times represented by the challenge of conveying Christ to these persons who by now constitute a significant portion of the population."

Along these lines, apart from the encounters for adults about the faith, catechism classes in English, before First Communion and before Confirmation will be launched, thanks to the assistance of Lynda Ann Sprong. Starting from the 13th of August, a Holy Mass in English will also be celebrated every Sunday at 9.30am at the Parish Church of Qala.

MALTA - Through the ages

Until 50 years ago, the 'profane' were buried separately - outside the Addolorata Cemetery



The profane section. Photo: Matthew Mirabelli

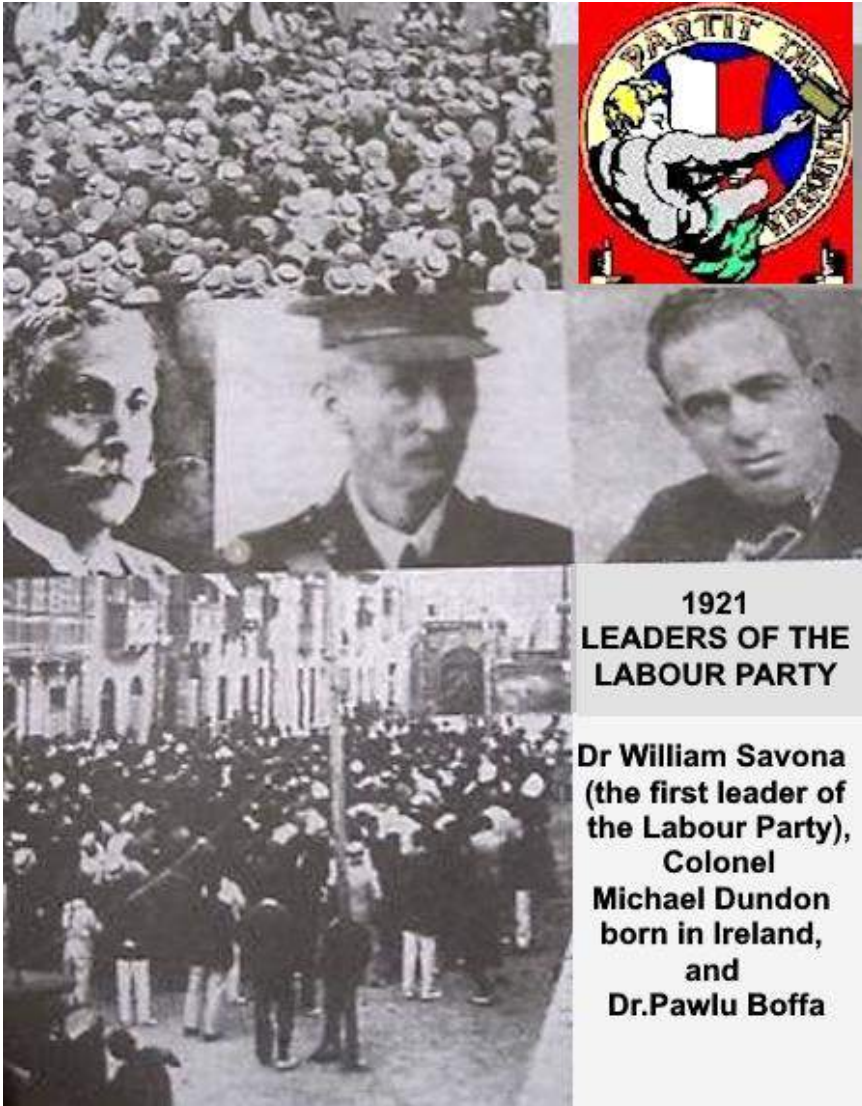
Until 1972, people considered to have lived an immoral life – like those who had extramarital affairs, committed suicide or babies who died before being baptised – were buried in an area known as the Profane Section.

With an entrance of its own, the section happened to flank a rubbish dump. People soon started calling it "*Il-Mizbla*". Burials there could only take place in the darkness of night and family members and priests were banned from attending. Restored in 2019, the area still has bitter hints of a painful past with fresh flowers and soft toys laid on the graves of babies buried there.

Lisa Zammit of Msida is the only woman in Malta

buried in the non-consecrated part of the Addolorata Cemetery in Paola known disparagingly as "*Il-Mizbla*", because she was one of the many that supported the Labour Party which in turn aggravated the Catholic Church in Malta. A monument in her name was erected in Msida near "*Ghajn tal-Hasselin*".





1921
LEADERS OF THE
LABOUR PARTY

Dr William Savona
(the first leader of
the Labour Party),
Colonel
Michael Dundon
born in Ireland,
and
Dr. Pawlu Boffa

Foundation, first years, and first government (1921–1949)

The Labour Party was founded as the **Chamber of Labour** in 1921 by one of the union branches affiliated with the Imperial Government Workers Union. Band clubs and other organisations were invited to send delegates to the Party's founding meeting on 15 March 1921.

Led by Colonel William Savona, the Party contested the general elections held in 1921 and 1924 under the new Constitution that gave the country a measure of self-government. The Labour-Constitutional alliance won the 1927 general elections, but Labour lost ground, gaining 13.9% of votes, three seats in the Legislative Assembly and no representation in the Senate. Strickland became Prime

Minister. Labour leader Savona was not elected, and the leadership of the Labour parliamentary group was temporarily entrusted to Colonel Michael Dundon. The Presidency of the Party and leadership of the parliamentary group was taken up by Paul Boffa later that year. In 1930, it adopted a party anthem.

Labour gained nine seats out of ten in the elections held during November 1945, in which, contrarily to previous elections, all men over twenty-one years of age were entitled to vote. The Party's electoral programme, for the first time in Labour's history, did not make any reference to religion. Boffa's Government was supported by the General Workers' Union, and it carried out a number of reforms, such as the abolition of the Senate, the abolition of plural votes, as well as the introduction of women's right to vote. However, Labour deputies resigned from their posts in July 1946 due to mass redundancies at the Dockyards. In the meantime, the '*MacMichael Constitution*' had been introduced, granting self-government to the Maltese. Labour's participation in the subsequent October 1947 elections was once again supported by the General Workers' Union. The Party won 59.9% of the vote and twenty-four seats out of the possible forty within the Legislative Assembly. Paul Boffa became Prime Minister whilst Dom Mintoff became Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Reconstruction. The Labour Government introduced Income Tax and Social Services for the first time in Malta.

**REFLECTION
BY
CHARLES GAUCI
BISHOP OF DARWIN**



We choose something because there is something that we like about it. There is always some good that we are attracted to.

A thief is attracted by something that they like. One who abuses power is attracted to the feeling of power. Another who indulges in pornography is attracted by gratification etc...

These choose the much lesser good instead of justice, care and respect for others and the dignity of authentic sexual behaviour etc...

In today's gospel, Jesus is telling us that God's plan for us and the world is about the greater good that has in mind for us.

What God invites us to, is the absolute and greatest good for us.

Jesus also tells us that if we are 'bad fish' instead

of 'good fish' then there are consequences. We cannot be part of God's plan for us if we abuse our free will and reject it. God desires all to be with him. However, we have free will and can choose to accept or reject God's invitation. This is indeed a self-inflicted choice. We are also reminded that there are values that last forever. However, God is always inviting us to let the Holy Spirit lead us to a new and deeper understanding of God's wisdom and revelation.



**** Bħal dejjem, grazzi mill-qalb tagħli jogħġbok tibagħatli l-Maltese E-Newsletter, xi ħaġa li nkun qiegħed nistena bil-ħerqa

allavolja mħinix emigrant, il-bogħod minn id-daqsxejn ta gżira għażiza tagħna. Fil-kas ta din l-edizzjoni rrid nringrazzjak ukoll għall-fatt, illi fpaġna 8 għoġbok tippubblika l-ittra li bagħattlek rigward il-memorji nostalgici li ġabli l-artiklu preċedenti li ġibt fuq l-Orkestra Filarmonika ta' Malta. J'Alla inti u l-kollaboraturi tiegħek, tkomplu twasslullna aktar edizzjonijiet daqstant interessanti u pprezentati b'mod li jpaxxi l-għajn. Saħħa u tislijiet. Freddie Tonna – Malta

*** Frank, Many thanks again for your Newsletter. I was somewhat taken aback by the current population. The quoted figure of 550 000 was quite a surprise, no doubt due to the emigrants. What is the hereditary Maltese percentage in the figure? At the rate of emigration, when will the foreigners overtake the local Maltese. Ronal Andrews Durban South Africa

*** Thanks again it was very interesting as always once I receive it I start reading till last page. Thanks Frank regards John Gauci

**** Just wanted to say what a marvellous idea you had here. It is wonderful and definitely gives everyone a chance to access any editions they may have missed – and I can tell you, we do not want to miss out on any of these wonderful newsletters. Thank you so much for all of them – they are just amazing. Take care, Marion from Brisbane

**** Your journal is not only promoting Malta and Gozo all around the world, but it is a champion and defender of all Maltese living abroad. We need online newsletter like yours. You really call a spade a spade and I can assure you that the authorities take notice of your constructive topics. I visited Malta recently and I met a lot of people who read your journal. J. Attard Detroit USA



**YOUR STORY
MATTERS**

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

Malta's WW2 Miracle at Mosta

by Margaret Waters

A Slice of Heroic History in a Small Mediterranean Town

At first glance, the town of Mosta in Malta appears to be nothing to write home about. It's an average sized market town in the middle of the island with shops and roads and people going to work and school. But on closer inspection there are two stunning features that draw visitors to Mosta time after time – the magnificent 19th century domed church at its centre and the story surrounding it.

The grandeur of the magnificent architecture seems out of place in such a small settlement but it expresses the strength and commitment of an entire community as it was built by the local townspeople around an original structure in the late 19th century and exhibits the third largest unsupported dome in Europe, after St Peter's in Rome and St Paul's Cathedral in London.

Looking up at the tall columns and ornate entrance to the church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, is one way to absorb the beauty and magnitude of the undertaking of such a fantastic structure and the devotional energy that created it. It sort of raises the question 'why is this here'? Unlike the aforementioned cathedrals of St Peter and St Paul, which provide an epicentre for religious worship and administration in two of the world's great cities, the appearance of this type of structure in supposedly the 'middle of nowhere' can create a kind of baffling wonderment. But, on the other hand, it truly reflects the the Christian community of people that live there.

Coming to marvel at the Rotunda, with its twin bell towers and impressive colonnades at the entrance is worth a visit in its own right, but the thing that draws you to Mosta, however, is the story of the events that occurred on 9th April 1942 when a full congregation of over 300 people inside the church survived an aerial attack from enemy planes that dropped at least four 1000 pound bombs, aimed directly at the church in the centre of Mosta.

One might ask why a seemingly isolated church in a rather small Maltese town might be a target for enemy bombs? There are no apparent military or industrial installations there but in the light of the bigger picture the pieces start to fit together.

Malta was relentlessly bombed by Axis forces to such an extent that more bombs fell on Malta in just two months during 1941 than on London during the whole of the Blitz. Many Maltese people fled the cities as their homes were destroyed and lived in rural areas, tunnels and caves for large sections of the Second World War. So strategic was the island



of Malta in the battle for Europe that it became the linchpin of supply routes to the North African campaign on both sides of the conflict with the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and their allies stationed around the naturally deep harbour of Valletta intercepting supplies to Axis forces commanded by Field Marshall Rommel on the North African Front, while Axis commanders viewed Malta's collapse as vital in their battle to take Egypt and the Middle East in its efforts to crush the Allied forces and prevent them from gaining entry to Europe from its southern borders on the Mediterranean. Malta was under siege and in danger of being starved into submission.

One of the enemy bombs came through the roof of Mosta's dome and bounced off two of the church's interior walls before coming to rest without exploding inside the church. No one was hurt. Two others hit the building but again rebounded and then landed in a crowded marketplace; they too failed to detonate while a fourth bomb landed in fields nearby. There were no casualties. The incident was deemed a miracle - an episode which no doubt strengthened the resolve of the Maltese people and ultimately helped turn the tide of the war.

visitors can see the bomb (now defused of course) which is on display along with photographs of the event in the Sacristy at the rear of the church

The church is opened by volunteers and the opening times seem unclear as church leaflets didn't state this particular information but our visit was between 3pm -5pm on a Monday afternoon and a chance conversation with other holidaymakers revealed that morning time openings were also available (but they arrived shortly before mid-day – just in time to see it closing). The island of Malta was awarded the George Cross, Britain's highest civilian award for bravery by King George VI in 1942 to honour the sacrifice and bravery of the Maltese people. A similar acknowledgement was also made by U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt.



29 MAY 1942 TRAGEDY IN MOSTA OF THREE CHILDREN

During the Last World War (1939-1940) many RESIDENTS OF Mosta lost their lives including children. All over Malta there were several deaths of children when the enemy started throwing what were known as "Anti Personnel Bombs".

Among these were those in the shape of writing pens, and slightly larger bombs in the shape of a butterfly and another attractive shape that people used to collect until they were warned of their

danger. On 29 May 1942, three children from Mosta lost their lives while they were playing with some other children in a field behind their house. In the subsequent investigation it was concluded that they had found a small bomb "Butterfly Bomb" and it exploded as soon as they touched it. Three other children were with them were slightly injured and were taken to hospital.

The dead children were Frangisku Bezzina aged eleven, Huh Albinu aged ten and Edwin Gatt aged twelve. The field was in front of where today is the Convent of the Augustinian Nuns in Triq Ponsonby.

These three children lived in Triq Il-Kungress Eucharistiku right across the street from each other. These incidents did not affect Mosta alone. Shortly before this incident, three other children had already died in various places in Malta.

Between March 1st and June 9th 1942, six children died, ten were seriously injured and eleven were slightly injured.

After the tragedy of Mosta, the British Authorities made a big propaganda on Rediffusion which were the only means of broadcasting at that time. A large number of leaflets were distributed in homes with designs showing different types of "Anti Personnel Bombs" as well as a large propaganda was carried out in schools. Victor B. Caruana

Further Roman structural remains discovered close to Domvs Romana



Parts of three walls, almost three metres deep, as well as other structural remains, have been discovered during excavations in an area adjacent to the Domvs Romana in Rabat, Heritage Malta said Thursday.

Although evidence suggests domestic use, the area uncovered so far is

still too small to confirm with certainty that it is part of a house. Excavations will continue next year in order to shed more light on the remains.

The discovery was made during this summer's excavation season for the Melite Civitas Romana Project, an international research project centred around the Domvs Romana and surrounding lands.

The project is led by Heritage Malta, with David Cardona as its representative and Lead Director, in collaboration with the Institute for Digital Exploration (IDEX) of the University of South Florida, with Dr Davide Tanasi as Co-

director, and a team of Australian and British archaeologists called Intercontinental Archaeology, with Robert Brown, Andrew Wilkinson and Dr Benedict Lowe as Co-directors.

The latest discovery may be described as part of a puzzle with many pieces still missing. Its contribution is, however, on

multiple levels. First and foremost, it helps in the understanding of the excavations held in the area by Sir Temi Zammit between 1920 and 1925. Secondly, it adds more data on our understanding of the structures in the area. Finally, it is yet another step forward in trying to understand how these structures fitted within the overall layout and the everyday life of the ancient Roman town of Melite.

The walls were discovered at the back of the Domvs Romana but works were also carried out in other areas, with discoveries

and stratigraphy that will provide further data about the town of Melite, evidence for which is scant and highly scattered. In other areas, the excavations were targeted at re-discovering the trenches excavated by Zammit, in an attempt to re-evaluate the interpretations given a hundred years ago.

All of these are being carefully investigated and, most

importantly, documented using different methodologies, including digital means such as 3D scanning and photogrammetry. It is thanks to these that the discoveries can be studied away from the site, as well as being eventually accessible to the public as in this case through the following

link: <https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/mcrp-area-3-trench-a-2023-ea637c4956ad450abcf3ac89665d62a0>

The site is currently partially backfilled to protect it from damage until the next excavation season to be held in 2024. Once

the area is fully researched and documented, Heritage Malta, in conjunction with its project partners, conservators and the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, will determine the best way that the site is to be protected.

All discoveries made during the Melite Civitas Romana Project will be presented at a public seminar planned to be held during the 2024 excavation season.

Poolside escape at The Edge Lido, Radisson Blu Resort, St Julian's



Uninterrupted horizon views that are simply breathtaking

With the mercury continuing to rise steadily, it's time to dip into a poolside paradise and cool off in style this summer. Say goodbye to packed-out beaches and the hassle of searching for parking in the scorching sun, as The Edge Lido beckons you to a truly fabulous day at the pool. This secluded oasis of relaxation and leisure promises a sensational day of summer bliss, with

everything you need conveniently at hand, from complimentary parking and delectable food options to comfy sun loungers and refreshing showers for that post-swim glow.

Set within the five-star Radisson Blu Resort in St Julian's, The Edge Lido sits tantalisingly close to the water's edge, placing you within touching distance of the sea. From here, a gentle breeze is pretty much a constant companion, meaning you can bask in the sun while staying refreshed throughout the day. The lido itself seems to blend seamlessly with the surrounding coastline, offering uninterrupted horizon views that are simply breath-taking. It truly feels as if you've slipped into a secret haven by the sea.

The sprawling lagoon pools ensure there's plenty of room for everyone in the family to splash about and have a fabulous time in the water. Kids will especially love sliding down the small water slide, which interconnects the pools on different levels. After your swim, sink into a plush sun lounger for a peaceful lie down under the shade of your umbrella. Sip on an ice-cold cocktail and soak up those gorgeous views.

I sincerely thank all those who sent a small donation towards the production of this weekly journal.

If you would like to help these are the bank details -

Bank ; Commonwealth (Australia)

BSB: 065-106

ACC. NO: 0050 2597





RESTORATION OF ST CAJETAN PARISH CHURCH IN HAMRUN

The restoration and conservation of the façade of the Parish Church of St Cajetan in Hamrun have been completed. The restoration work, amounting to €200,000 with 80% co financing from European Union funds, was inaugurated by Bishop Joseph Galea-Curmi and Parliamentary Secretary Chris Bonett. Also present for the inauguration were the Administrative Secretary of the Archdiocese of Malta, Michael Pace Ross, and the parish priest, Fr Walter Cauchi.

Thanks to this project, which was partly financed by the parishioners' contributions, works were carried out on the external

façade of the church to address deterioration resulting from exposure to pollution and natural elements. The restoration included cleaning, desalination, stone replacement, pointing, fixing of stepped cracks, and the removal of electrical fixtures and metal inserts. Wooden and metal apertures, some of which had cracked glass, were also restored or replaced.

Bishop Galea-Curmi thanked all those who contributed to these restoration works. He said that the work carried out should help the church building remain in very good condition, so that the church, which is the house open to all, can welcome all who accept the invitation to gather within it as part of the people of God. The church of St Cajetan can still be seen from various places, which is a blessing considering that certain high rise buildings do not permit us to appreciate the beauty of buildings that are everyone's heritage. The Bishop appealed for a concerted effort to protect our cultural patrimony that helps us recognise our identity as a nation.

Parliamentary Secretary Chris Bonett said that thanks to the European Fund for Regional Development, €4,000,000 are being invested in restoration projects being carried out by the Archdiocese of Malta in 33 churches in Malta, in order to conserve, protect and promote ecclesiastical, cultural heritage. "This is another investment, carried out through European funds, thanks to which the Hamrun Parish has restored the façade of this church that is so dear to the Hamrun community, in line with this government's work towards restoring the cultural heritage of our country," Dr Bonett said.

Mr Pace Ross thanked Vaults who carried out restoration works, architect Ramon Gauci, and EMCS for their consultancy services. The church of St Cajetan was opened for worship in 1875 and became a parish church in Hamrun in 1881. This is one of a number of churches in Malta that are benefiting from the European Fund for Regional Development 2014 2020.



Joseph Calleja – Attur Malti tal-imghoddi

Greg Caruana – NSW Australia

Joseph Calleja twieled fl-4 ta' Awwissu 1897 fl-iMda Malta. Il-genituri tieghu kienu Pasquale u Eleonora Calleja. Missieru kien arkitett u ommu kienet mara tad-dar. Joseph Calleja studja fl-iskola ta' San Giljan u wara studja fil-kulleġġ ta' San Aloysius. Sa 12 il-sena hu qala lira sterlina għall-Milied u b'din il-lira huwa xtara zewg tuzzani orgnijiet tal-halq (harmonika) u organizza banda fil-lokal tieghu stess, li mix-shows li kienu jagħtu bdew jaqilaw mitt lira fil-gimgha.

Wara li missieru bghatu Londra biex jistudja l-inginerija, Joseph Calleja malajr ingagga ruhu fis-swali tal-muzika u kellu success fil-kant tieghu. Huwa kellu jibdel kunjomu għall Joseph Spurin, kunjom ommu minhabba li kellu inkwiet ma missieru li ma ridux jaqbad din il-linja tal-palk u l-kant. Intant wara, Calleja inghaqad mas-servizz tal-vapuri Inglizi, u wara li kwazi dar id-dinja għal sentejn u nofs il-vapur li kien fuq qala torpido fl-English Channel u spicca l-isptar għal tlett xhur wara huwa kien mgħoti midalja u spicca bl-unuri kollha. Wara hu telaq lejn l-iStati Uniti. Kif wasal l-Amerika huwa ma kellux xogħol, izda huwa waqa' għall-karriera tieghu tal-kant u beda jkanta għar-Red Cross u s-servizzi Amerikani.

Calleja beda l-karriera tieghu fuq l-istage fil-gurnata ta' l-armistizzju. Wara li spiccat l-ewwel gwerra, huwa kellu xi ftit success fil-Vaudeville. Huwa kien jgħix billi kien jiehu hsieb il-forn tal-hobz ta' fejn kien joqħod, u wara huwa kellu job ta' bil-lejl jirringa u jahsel il-karozzi. Sa dan ittant huwa kien jittanta xortieh f'xi tejatru u l-ufficini tagħhom. Fl-aħhar il-kumpanija Henry W. Savage bghatet lil Calleja f'Denver, fejn għamel id-debut tieghu ikanta fil-choir ta' Jerome Kern's fil-kummidja musikali "Have a Heart". Fl-istagun ta' wara l-attur Malti kellu parti fil-musical "Pietro" (1920), huma qabdu tour għal 40 gimgha. Joseph kien jgħin lil innifsu bil-paga billi kien jahdem bħala assistant stage manager u jirringa t-trakkijiet għal tlett dollari kull trakk.

Calleja kellu l-ewwel parti li kienet importanti fuq l-istage fil-kummidja "The Broken Wing" (1920) li l-atturi principali kienu George Abbott u Louis Wolheim. Huwa kien jistudja hafna u anki l-partijiet kollha ta' shabu, u hawn l-attur Malti beda jigi magħruf u deher fil-film messikan 'Presiner of Zenda', fejn kien idoqq il-kittera u jkanta song

jisimha "Adelai". Calleja kkompona il-muzika u staqsa lil Abbott biex jikteb il-versi (lyrics) u wara s-song kienet ippublikata u eventwalment kienet success tant li li akkwistaw 42,000 dollari kull wiehed, li kienet somma sabiha għal dawg iz-zmienijiet. Hawn huwa kompli bis-successi tieghu u rega' kellu success iehor bil-musical "The Broken Wing". Dan il-musikal kellha success tajjeb tant li spicca Londra fil-Music Hall t'hemm. Wara erba' xhur ix-show spicca u mill-Londra Joseph Calleja irritorna Malta fejn irranga ma' missieru u bil-permess tieghu rega beda juza il-propja isem tieghu u għamlu bħala Joseph Spurin- Calleja.

Fl-14 ta' Frar 1925, Calleja deher għal l-ewwel darba fit-Town Hall go New York City, akkumpanjat mill-pjanista Ferdinand Greenwald. Hawn hu wara fic-car li għandu vuci tassew għolja bħal xi baritone. Hu kien iħobb juza l-vuci tieghu billi kien ikanta aria tal-jani bħal Rodolfo; minn ta' Puccini, La Boheme u ohrajn bħal ta' Verdi it-Trovatore u r-Rigoletto. U hu stess kien ikkompona xi arias li intgħogbu ferm. Joseph Calleja beda jiehu isem tajjeb gewwa Broadway u Hollywood u fil-1925 ingħata l-parti ta' ambaxxatur Spanjol fil-produzzjoni Princess Flavia. Sa dan ittant dan l-attur Malti kien ibiegh pjanijiet li kien jagħtieh li l-istore owner. Issa Joseph Calleja beda jkollu partijiet f'films fejn soltu kien ikollu l-partijiet ta' xi vagabond, għalkemm fil-verità huwa kellu qalb tad-deheb.

Joseph Calleja lahaq il-quccata tieghu fil-film the "Miracle" (1930) u għall-parti tieghu fil-film "Touch of Evil". Il-magħruf artist ta' Hollywood Orson Welles qal, "X'attur għandna b'dan Joseph Calleja" Fl-1934 huwa kien rebah il-'bad guy' tas-sena bħala attur. Huwa kien ikkuntrattat minn Metro-Goldenwyn-Mayer li hallitlu li jkun jista jahdem fuq il-park għal sitt xhur fis-sena. Huwa kien magħruf sew fid-dinja tal-films fejn huwa kien qed jidher f'partijiet primarji u fl-1935 the "New York Times" għamiltu f'kategorija mal l-aħjar għaxar artisti irgiel tas-sena. Huwa kien qed jiehu sehem f'diversi films bħal "Algiers", "Five Come back", "Golden Boy", "The Glass Key" u "Gilda" (1946), fost ohrajn.

Issa dan l-attur Malti kien prominenti go Hollywood u issa beda jagħzel hu liema partijiet jahdem. Għall-parti tieghu fil-film "Algiers" bħala spettur tal-pulizija huwa kien mogħti rikonoxximent minn-National Board of Review. F'Novembru tan-1941 huwa sar Cittadin Amerikan. Fit-tieni Gwerra dinjija Joseph Calleja kien il-leader tal-War Relief Organization fil-iStati Uniti.

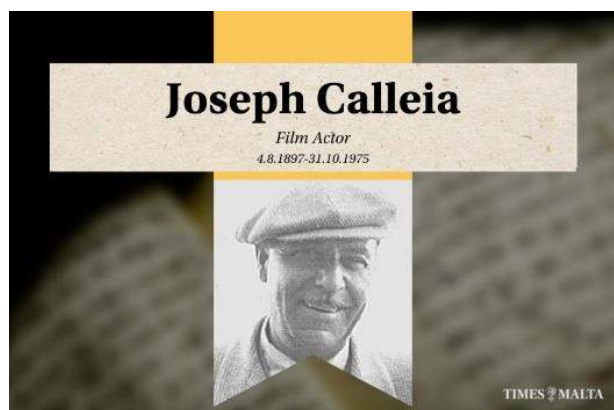
Id-dar fejn twieled giet meqruda bil-bombi tal-ghadu fil-gwerra u l-familja tieghu kellhom jiehdu refugju jew jiskennu fil-katakonbi li hemm ir-Rabat. Fis-sena 1943 huwa accetta li jiehu sehem f'tour militari li tkun ta' kant u kummiedji biex jaghljenaw ftit lis-sudati militari lejn in-North Africa propabbli minhabba li fit-tour kienet inkluza Malta, li ghalieh dejjem bghaqet art twelidu. F'dan it-tour huma kienu jzuru sptarijiet fejn kienu ikunu qed jigu kkurati il-feruti ta' l-allegati. U dan Joseph Calleja ghamlu, u wara dam fuq ghoxrin sena jiehu sehem f'partijiet principali go films li fost l-ohrajn huwa nghata award fil-film "Touch of Evil". Huwa ha sehem f'madwar 'l fuq minn 50 film barra x-shows li kien jkollu fuq il-palk fi musikals go Broadway u t-Town Hall ta' Londra.

Joseph Calleja Spurin irtira fl-1963 u mar lura lejn art twelidu. Il-mara tieghu Eleonora Vassallo Calleja li hu kien izzewweg fl-1929 mietet fl-1967 u mar joqghod San Giljan fejn xtara dan go triq 82 Mrabat li ghal l-ewwel, sid din id-dar kien qallu li mhix ghall-biegh, u Joseph Calleja wiegbu li xejn fid-dinja

m'hemm li ma jinxtarax, u qallu tini prezz taghha u jien naghtihomlok. Kif fil-fatt hekk gara u stra u mar joqod fiha fejn , peress li kienu tellaw xi bini u attewlu l-veduta ,x'ghamel Dan l-attur Malti huwa tella bhall turrretta ta zewwg sulari biex jitla u jkun jista jar ail-bahar u l-kosta ta quddiemu.; naturalment hu kien ihobb imur jom kuljum fis-sajf ,li kien jaghme ghax hu kien ihobb jinzel ghal nofs siegha u jitla lura. Kien jhobb il-pjanu u dejjem l-istess noti, imma dik kienet hajtu, huwa kien bniedem ta' karità kbira. Kellu habib tieghu sacerdot li kien jigi jarah ta' spiss u dan is-sacerdat kien jaghmel hafna karità minn fuq dar dan Joseph Calleja.

Joseph Calleja miet fil-31 ta' f'Ottubru 1975, fl-eta ta' 78 f'San Giljan, Malta u gie midfun f'qabar tal-familja fic-cimiterju ta' Marija Addolorata, f'Rahal Gdid.

Fuq nota persolani jien ghandi madwar 20 DVD tal-films ta' Joseph Calleja li kienu mghotija lili mill-mibki Joe Deguar, ex-vice president tal-Melita.



Biography Joseph Calleia

Born on August, 1897, died on October, 1975

Michael Schiavone

The son of Pasquale Calleja and Elena née Falzon, Joseph was born in Rabat, Malta and educated at St Aloysius College. He was first cousin to the later President of Malta and Maltese medical doctor Dr Vincent Tabone. As a teenager, he formed a harmonica band and toured abroad. In 1914 he left Malta, spending

some time singing in the capitals of war-ravaged Europe.

Calleia initiated his film career in Hollywood by appearing in two B films, 'His Woman' (1931) and 'The Girl in the Cab' (1933). He made his mark with 'Public Hero No.1', in which he interpreted the part of a criminal. This was followed by 'RiffRaff' where he played the role of a ladies' man and co-starred with Jean Harlowe and Spencer Tracy. In 'Tough-Guy' he co-starred with the child-actor Jackie Cooper where he sang a couple of bars of a folkloristic Maltese tune. His next film was 'Exclusive Story' with Franchot Tone. He also starred in 'Valentino', 'The Light Touch', 'Underwater', 'Hot Blood', 'Touch of Evil', 'Cry Tough', 'The Alamo', and 'Johnny Cool', amongst other films. He admitted a preference for stage performance rather than film acting, although he made over 50 films.

Calleia took part in the best plays on Broadway including Ten-minute Alibi, The Front Page, Grand Hotel, and Broadway. His performance in the film 'Algiers' won him the Critics' Award. Francis Ford Coppola wanted Calleia to play the role of Don Vito Corleone, eventually passed on to Marlon Brando, in his epic 'The Godfather', but declined due to health reasons.

Calleja married Eleonor née Vassallo and they lived at Mrabat Street, Sliema

Joseph Calleia was commemorated by a bust at Saqqajja, Rabat in 31October 2005 on the thirtieth anniversary of his death.

This biography is part of the collection created by Michael Schiavone over a 30-year period.

Mystery still shrouds ‘worst’ Malta tragedy in World War II

Giuseppe Zahra with his wife Polly, daughter Mary and baby. When his father died in 1939, Francis Polidano, 20, joined the Royal Navy, only to perish a year later, together with 50 other Maltese serving on the aircraft carrier HMS Glorious. Their...



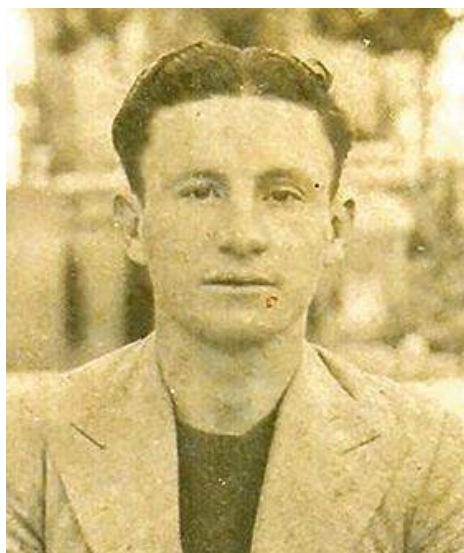
Times of Malta
HMS Glorious in Grand Harbour.
Photos provided by Salvu Azzopardi Giuseppe Zahra with his wife Polly, daughter Mary and baby.

When his father died in 1939, Francis Polidano, 20, joined the Royal Navy, only to perish a year

later, together with 50 other Maltese serving on the aircraft carrier HMS Glorious.

Their relatives are still waiting for answers about the incident in which 1,531 men lost their lives. It was the worst tragedy for Malta during World War II, according to Glarac Association Malta chairman Salvu Azzopardi. Francis Polidano, a relative of Mr Azzopardi, took up the job as an assistant steward aboard the aircraft carrier at a time when war was looming on the horizon and jobs were very scarce. His mother, Carmela, did not take the news well and his brother, Charlie, who was also in the navy, pointed out that he had enlisted during peacetime, not during the war.

HMS Glorious left the island after some routine work at Malta Drydocks and headed for Alexandria.



Upon her arrival there, the captain received orders to go straight to the UK so that the carrier could join the Home Fleet. It played an important part in the Norwegian campaign and the British forces evacuation from Norway.

But tragedy struck on June 8, 1940 when the carrier, escorted just by two destroyers, was intercepted by the German battlecruisers Scharnhorst and Gneisenau and was sunk by gunfire. Over 1,200 died.

Francis Polidano

But there was not to be any closure for the Polidano family who, for months, was told that Francis might have survived and was being held prisoner.

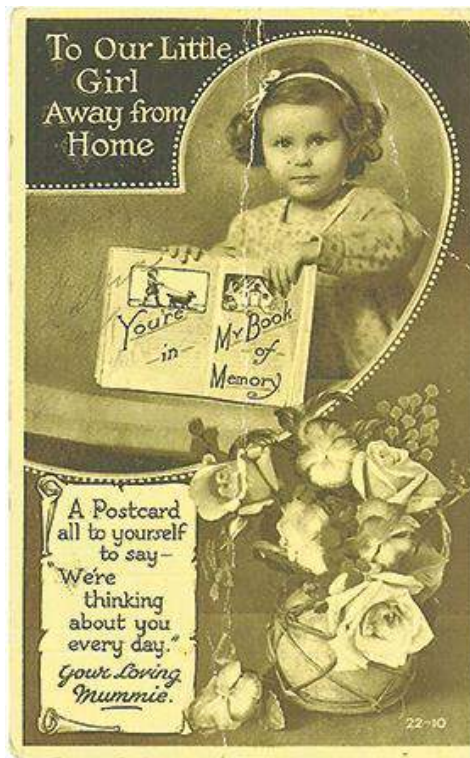
His mother was asked by the Red Cross to provide clothes, blankets and food, telling her that he could have been traced. Almost a year later, she received a letter informing her that, unfortunately, Francis had to be presumed dead as all attempts at finding him had failed.

Mrs Polidano was told to go to the UK to receive her son's medals but she could not make it because tragedy struck her family again. She lost her youngest daughter, Mary, 17, to shrapnel wounds during one of the air raids on Floriana.



**Maltese
eNewsletter**

**Our journal has got the balance just right...
positive, constructive and educational subjects
without getting bogged down in politics or controversy.**



Mr Azzopardi said that when news of the aircraft carrier's sinking reached England, both parliamentarians and the public raised questions on why the aircraft carrier was allowed to leave the safety of a convoy with only two destroyer escorts just months after the sinking of HMS Courageous in similar circumstances. Furthermore, the carrier had, strangely, not been flying combat air patrols.

It also transpired that a Royal Navy heavy cruiser – HMS Devonshire – had been very close but did not assist.

The cruiser was carrying the Norwegian royal family, Norwegian MPs and Norwegian gold bullion.

"To my dear adorable daughter. This postcard is for you so that you will never forget me" – the last message sent by Giuseppe Zahra to his daughter Mary before he died on HMS Glorious.

The only distress signal sent by HMS Glorious was picked up by HMS Devonshire but vice admiral John Cunningham thought it was too garbled to make sense and increased speed without taking further action, Mr Azzopardi said.

Faced with growing discontentment within Parliament and the public, the British government decided to keep the case under wraps for 100 years.

The Glarac Association Malta organises a yearly service to pay tribute to all of the men who died on HMS Glorious and her two destroyer escorts, HMS Ardent and HMS Acasta.



12-Year-Old Maltese Chess Prodigy Nick Calleja Shines at International Festival

By Ibrahim Gaddari

Young chess prodigy Nick Calleja Urry, aged just 12, has made Malta proud with his exceptional performance at the 23rd International Chess Festival of Saint-Lô, held in Normandy, France in July.

Competing against a strong field, he achieved an impressive sixth place out of 113 players.

Nick participated in the under-12 and under-1400 category, where he showed his skills against opponents hailing from France, Lithuania, Nigeria, and the Czech Republic.

Across the eleven rounds of intense strategic play, he secured seven wins, two draws, and just two losses. Notably, Nick went on an unbeaten streak of six games, finishing the tournament

with a total of eight points, just a single point away from securing second place.

This achievement gains more significance when considering Nick's performance rating for this tournament, which was more than 200 points above his current ranking, according to a post-game analysis rating system.

Nick started on his chess journey at the remarkably young age of five. His talent has since been recognised at both national and international levels.

He was chosen to represent Malta at the European Youth Chess Championships twice, in 2019 and 2022, held in Slovakia and Turkey respectively.

Nick's next challenge awaits at the 2023 edition of the European Youth Chess Championships, scheduled to take place in Mamaia, Romania this September. mmw.maltalovin.com

The child murder which shocked Malta...



Teachers said the boy often came with marks and bruises which he tried to hide and begged school officials not to report once they were noticed. He was also sometimes sent to school with food that was inedible, something which

The legacy of the murder of the century is as strange and confusing as it is upsetting. Two parents convicted of murder, two siblings washed away in the aftermath, harrowing tales of abuse but, above all, an image of a young boy in a white suit, his life extinguished before it had even begun.

Twannie Aquilina was only eight years old when he was found murdered in his Valletta home on August 23, 1960. The case shocked Malta, the murder of a child having been committed so callously and coldly by those who were meant to protect him.

The state in which the boy's body was found was horrific and it was clear, even with the forensic methodology available at the time, that a great violence had been committed upon this child.

The discovery of deep lacerations and scratches marking the nearly decapitated body, as well as the discovery of brain matter were all given as testimony during the trial that followed.

Perhaps what stands out the most from this case is that Twannie's parents; his mother Luiga and stepfather Emmanuel Camilleri, were found guilty of his murder. While both maintained their innocence, the bulk of the evidence, a jury of their peers and the court of public opinion certainly did not agree. Giga's daughter and Twannie's younger sister, Carmen, also testified against the couple, although in later years she publicly recanted and called for the investigation into her brother's murder to be reopened.

The image of Twannie in his white Holy Communion suit, the same one used on the holy pictures his mother printed and distributed of him, still captures the imagination and paints the portrait of a tragedy. While attitudes towards children were very different in the 1960s than today's, even by the standards of the time, many made the case that Twannie was mistreated at home.

his classmates at school noticed and often shared their lunch with him.

Teachers said the boy often came with marks and bruises which he tried to hide and begged school officials not to report

During the trial it emerged that Twannie received frequent beatings from his mother and stepfather. On one such occasion, a neighbour recalls Camilleri tying the boy to a bannister to prevent him from escaping and beating him as well as burning him with lit cigarettes until he screamed.

On the third day of the trial, the Times of Malta reported that the prosecution was not even bound to establish a motive for the murder as there was enough evidence to assume that the motive behind the crime was "the hate which both accused had of young Twannie Aquilina who, in spite of the amount of housework which he used to be asked to do, was continuously ill-treated, beaten about and, on at least one occasion, literally tortured".

Giga Camilleri who was found guilty of her son's murder and sentenced to death (later turned into life imprisonment) under heavy police escort during her trial.

The thought any parent feeling such disdain for a child in their care is both appalling and abhorrent and, sadly, not an isolated incident.

"It was excessive," says Ruth Sciberras, director of Agenzija Appogg.

"Thankfully, we don't see child murder cases often, however, abroad such cases are more prolific," she said, making reference to the case of Christopher Watts, who last week was accused of murdering his pregnant wife Shannan and their two daughters, aged three and four.

Despite facing grim cases day in day out, Agenzija Appogg, which was set up in 1999, is still a robust social entity that strives to protect children in hostile situations such as the one Twannie found himself in.



2,000-year-old Roman House Uncovered in Malta Reveals Ancient History of Wealthy Society

Good News Network

-IDEX IN Malta – Melite Civitas Romana Project / University of South Florida

A research team from the University of South Florida has discovered a 2,000 year-old house that once belonged to a wealthy family—still in exceptional condition—during an excavation in Malta.

They collaborated with scientists from around the world on the Melite Civitas Romana Project, uncovering what life was like 2,000 years ago when Romans ruled Malta, the island in the Mediterranean Sea that was a center for both military staging and maritime trade.

Nestled in the heart of the ancient city of Melite, the once lavishly decorated mansion, traditionally known as Roman Domus, had been covered by centuries of soil.

“In use between the 1st century BCE and 2nd century CE, the Domus was elegantly decorated with mosaic floors, wall frescoes and marble decorations,” said Davide Tanasi, the professor and director of the University’s Institute for Digital Exploration (IDEx), who lead the team of six students.

“During the Roman Empire, it was certainly used as a residence by a representative of the emperor or some very wealthy individual very close to the imperial court.”

After a summer of digging, processing and cleaning artifacts

of the Roman Domus, the team discovered a portion of a previously unknown house adjacent to the domus with nearly 10-foot-tall walls, a height Tanasi says is unheard of for the Roman residential units usually found in the Mediterranean area.

Juliana Whittingslow and Sarah Hassam holding a piece of frescoed plaster they found
– Sarah Hassam / University of South Florida News

On a hunt to learn more about the owner of the house and what it was like living a block away from the domus, the team is searching for clues among the findings they have so far: an exquisite interior likely decorated with terracotta floor tiles, frescoed plasters and an ancient waste disposal system full of fragmented pottery, glass vessels, animal



bones and charcoal.

“It was literally the garbage disposed by whomever lived in the house,” Tanasi said. “By studying this deposit, we will learn a lot about the life of who lived in the house. It is surprising how much you can learn about people from their garbage.”

Angela Costello, a USF doctoral student who has been uncovering “amazing Roman structures” in the Melite Civitas Romana said, “Malta is critically understudied despite being a wealth of fantastic archaeology and history from antiquity.”

Another person’s trash has indeed proven to be a treasure for Sarah Hassam, a USF ancient history graduate student. “The most exciting moment for me was during our third week, while cleaning pottery, a small fragment

**Maltese****Historical Association**

Community organisation
477 Royal Parade, Parkville,
VIC, Australia
0425 708 830

Meet up with other like-minded individuals who have a passion or curiosity to learn more about Maltese history, stories, people and more.

I had been scrubbing revealed the engraved letters D-A-O-I, a possible hint for somebody's name. Everyone was pumped and shared theories."

MALTESE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**Members and Friends**

This month's MHA presentation will be held on Zoom on **Tuesday 15 August 2023**, starting at 7.20pm (Australian Eastern Standard Time).

Our presenter will be Adrian Muscat B.Ed.(Hons), M.A. (Melit.), who is a teacher of the Maltese language in Malta and the co-author of various textbooks on the subject. He

will be speaking about the future of the Maltese language in Australia, and the role the Catholic Church played in preserving the language also in Australia. The link below allows you to join the meeting.

Join**Zoom****Meeting**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89233704980?pwd=eTQwKzFCRWtTaFpzOG45d2JRMi9pZz09>

Meeting ID: 892 3370 4980 Passcode: 753975

We have also received a communication from the Maltese Crafts Register. This is a body within the Commerce Department of the Ministry for the Economy, European Funds and Lands in Malta. Its aim is to assist in maintaining records of Maltese Traditional handcrafts practiced by Maltese individuals living abroad. Mr Mark Xerri, a Senior Principal at the Commerce Department in Malta, has requested that we on-forward the following details below to members:

Are you interested in Maltese crafts? Do you want to find or make contact with an artisan who specialises in a particular type of craft in Malta? Do you want to know more about a Maltese craft product or know of family member or a friend who does?

Visit the crafts portal on <https://craftsregister.gov.mt> where you can search for crafts-persons according to the craft sector, find their contact details, and also get a view of the kind of craft products they specialise in.

In case of any further assistance, do not hesitate to contact us on craftsregister@gov.mt

The Office of the Registrar of Crafts, Crafts-persons and Crafts Entrepreneurs,

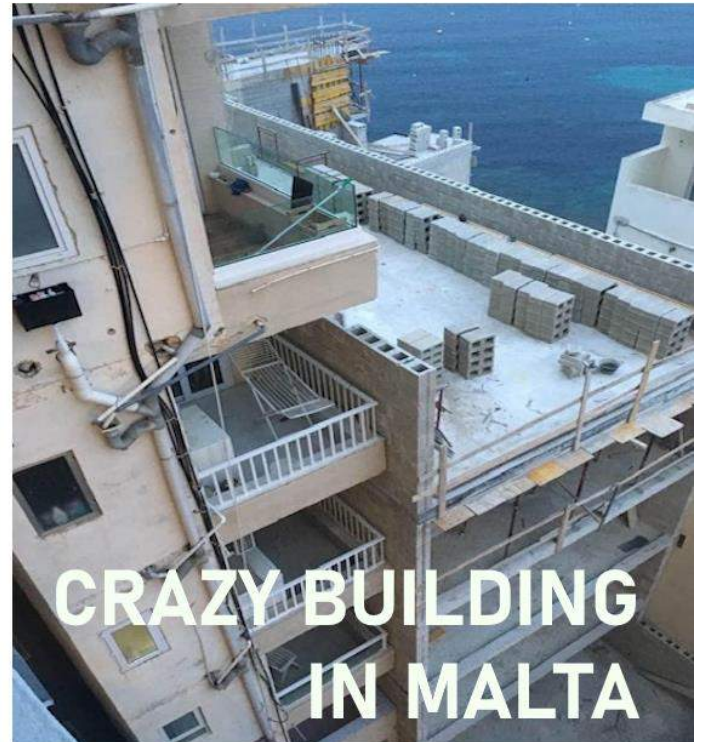
Commerce Department, Malta Best regards Mario Bonnici Treasurer

**Maltese Australian Gold Coast Association**

IMAGINE

If Malta was to reach the population number of 800 000 in 15 years from now, the Maltese would become a minority in their own country. This created many problems for the nation, including the possibility of losing Maltese culture, the Maltese language and the environment as green areas may be taken up to accommodate the packed population.

We already have over 100,000 foreign workers



CRAZY BUILDING IN MALTA

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Journal for the Maltese Living Abroad

This is a bilingual, free and non-political magazine and reaches Maltese around the world.

It's published in South Australia in pdf form and is archived in libraries, schools and community centres the Malta Foreign Affairs website.

The journal is sent to readers in Malta and overseas.

You may receive the journal in your inbox by writing to the editor maltesejournal@gmail.com

Letters for publication in English or Maltese are appreciated.

Editor : Frank L Scicluna OAM MQR JP