

# Maltese eNewsletter



Journal for Maltese Living Abroad

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AN EPIC  
MOVIE



IN CINEMAS  
NOW

Filmed  
partly  
in Malta

Joaquin Phoenix Is Here to Conquer  
in First 'Napoleon'



THE PRESIDENT OF MALTA  
DR. GEORGE VELLA  
PRAISES THE  
MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER



Miss Universe Malta

EMMA PORTELLI

2023



Heritage  
Malta

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**Message of His Excellency President  
Vella  
to the Maltese Living Abroad  
December 2023**

*Ninnota b'sodisfazzjon kbir li l-entuzjażmu u l-imħabba tal-Maltin li jgħixu barra komplew jissahhu tul iż-żminijiet. Ghalkemm pajjizi ohra issa saru d-dar tagħkom, tafu aktar minni kif ir-rabta tagħkom ma' Malta ma waqfitx mat-tluq lejn artijiet ohra, izda tmur ferm lil' hinn minn hekk.*

*Dan għaliex intom, il-Maltin u l-Għawdxin li tgħixu barra tagħmlu parti kbira mill-familja Maltija madwar id-dinja.*

**I want to start by conveying my congratulations and sincere appreciation to Mr Frank Scicluna for his steadfast commitment and determination to produce this informative and comprehensive newsletter that covers not only the Maltese communities in Australia, but our diaspora dispersed all over the globe.**

Over different periods of our history, the Maltese people settled in all parts of the world, from Australia to the United States of America and Canada to mention but a few. I find it remarkable how out of a population of half a million, there isn't a place in the world where you do not come across people from Malta and Gozo.

I have worked with Malta's community abroad quite extensively as Chairman of the Council for the Maltese Living Abroad during my tenure as Minister for Foreign Affairs between 2013-2017. I strongly encourage you to actively participate in the Council for the Maltese Living Abroad which continues to serve as the focal point for information, advice, and coordination to the Maltese communities across the world.

Throughout my time serving as President of the Republic of Malta, I continued to build on the work of my predecessors in maintaining and strengthening Malta's link with the Maltese living abroad.

I had the honour and great pleasure to visit to a large number of Maltese communities across the world. These visits were an excellent opportunity to further strengthen the very close and long-standing links between Malta and our diaspora.

All the foreign dignitaries I met during these visits always refer to the Maltese community with the



highest possible praise. They all refer to the characteristics that make the Maltese stand out as a community, such as their hard work, perseverance and a strong sense of community.

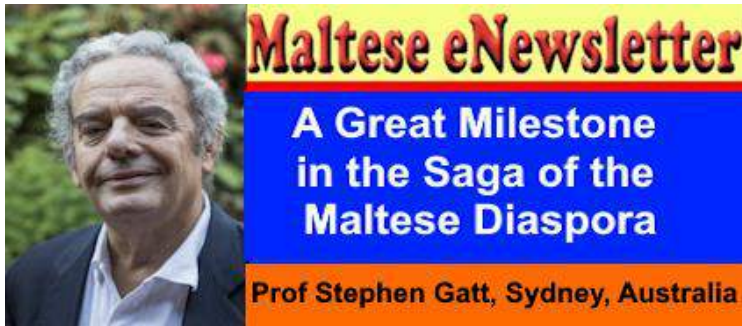
In this respect, I appeal to all the Maltese communities across the world to carry on doing their utmost to ensure that Malta continues to be mentioned with the greatest possible respect and esteem that our country deserves.

It is noteworthy how members of the Maltese communities like Mr Scicluna have been continually committed in keeping the Maltese identity alive. In this regard, I always emphasize the importance of encouraging all the Maltese living abroad to continue using the Maltese language. Our language is a unique treasure that binds us together and makes us who we are - Maltese.

Looking ahead, we must ensure that the same sense of pride and belonging towards the Maltese Islands is also instilled in the younger generations. In this context too, I believe that beyond the grammar and linguistic elements of the Maltese language, it is important to teach them about the origin and historic development of the language throughout the years. It is crucial to instil in them an interest in the Maltese language by explaining how our native tongue reflects Malta's rich and varied historical heritage.

Without prolonging any further, I conclude by thanking all the Clubs and Associations of the Maltese communities abroad for promoting and protecting the Maltese traditions and customs despite the distance and the challenges. I also appeal to all the members of the Maltese community living abroad to visit Malta regularly to revive the roots of your Maltese identity, where you will always be welcomed with open arms.

Grazzi.



The 500th Issue of The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora has just seen the light of day.

Also known as the Maltese e-Newsletter, the Journal has been the glue holding Maltese living outside Malta together for many years. This popular e-Journal is the brainchild of Frank Scicluna, one of the great patriots of our time, who lives in Adelaide, South Australia.

The circulation of this Newsletter - a major misnomer because this publication is far broader

than any newsletter or journal - is not restricted to Australia. Therein lies the wonder of the internet. Frank's output is of major interest to all migrants and their offspring in all countries where Maltese families have chosen to live and settle.

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora has something in it for everyone Maltese or Maltese at heart.

A labour of love for one man has grown from humble but noble origins into a font of news, knowledge and miscellanea. An unpretentious newspaper with extremely broad international readership is free to all and does not rely heavily on advertising or sponsorship to get the message across to thousands of recipients of the Newsletter.

When the print media went into decline, Frank Scicluna stepped into the breach by producing a Malta-specific synopsis of 'goings-on' in Malta and amongst the Maltese communities globally from his base in South Australia. Anyone who subscribed by voluntarily sending in their email address requesting regular readership, from anywhere, were kept updated with the home country and beyond.

Profoundly apolitical, the emphasis was on light-hearted reporting of items of interest to those families that may have lived overseas for sixty or more years and their children and future generations but still strongly identified with their quintessentially Maltese roots.

The content is almost outrageous because it is not designed like a newspaper - memorabilia, public interest stories, vignettes about Maltese heroes who 'made it' overseas, nostalgia, lessons in the Maltese language, recipes (in Issue #500, it was Qarabali Mimli), special contributions from all sides of politics, trivia with a Maltese flavour, 'blasts from the past' in the diaspora communities, traditions of the Maltese, and reports on events in Malta (carnival, religious holy observances - Good Friday, Easter, Christmas - as well as the observances of these festas in Australia, Canada, the US of A and the European Union), notes on the treasures of Malta or the architecture - but like a regular collection of general interest articles with a common thread - Malta and the Maltese especially those overseas.

Nothing is irrelevant if it is of interest - the overseas visits of Maltese Presidents, Speakers of the Maltese Parliament, Prime Ministers, Ministers and Shadow Ministers and Leaders of Industry as well as cultural, sporting and social entrepreneurs and creatives in opera, ballet, pop music, għana, art, medicine, research, language, archaeology... anything that is current or catches Frank's eye from as many sources as possible.

This journal follows the exploits, histories and activities of the Maltese people and their clubs, community councils, and organisations and their radio and television stations, museums, collections, libraries, language schools and artefacts and to advertise their forthcoming events.

There was a time when the mighty newspapers outside of Malta and Gozo did the heavy lifting. The Maltese Herald from Sydney and Malta GC from London did a fine job of keeping Maltese updated but with the financial unprofitability and eventual closure of these broadsheets and the demise of their editors-in-chief, like the legendary Lino Vella, there was a great need to keep the Malta - diaspora links alive.

Into the unknown jumped a number of brave expatriates - Frank Scicluna and the Journal / e-Newsletter of the Maltese Diaspora, Lawrie Dimech and Joe Cutajar with the Voice of the Maltese and Dan Brock with The Maltese Presence in North America. There must be others, all dedicated to the Maltese who are no longer Malta-based but whose numbers are not dissimilar to those who, in times of local tribulation and hardship, especially the post-WWII era and the trials of independence, the republic and colonial powers leaving the islands and creation of a fledgling nation chose to stay put and tough it out. Migration was a major component in the history of Malta fifty years ago. It is these journalists,

radio and television presenters, language teachers and, now, social media interactives that have ensured that the communities overseas remained quintessentially Maltese.

The 500th issue of this Journal dedicated to those who sought to start from scratch and create a better pattern and lifestyle for themselves and their children is truly a landmark event.

We stand in awe of the achievement of one man - Frank Scicluna- who had the courage, resilience, foresight and capacity to keep his hand on the tiller long enough to publish 500 editions.

Hail, Frank Scicluna.



## Kif jgħaddi ż-zmien!

### Żewġ ritratti tal-istess triq

JOE AXIAQ (SBS)

*Dan huwa ritratt tal-istess triq: in-Niżla tat-Triq ta' Għajn Melel miż-Żebbuġ Għawdex*

**għax-Xwejni.** Ir-ritratt abjad u iswed tpoġġha fuq il-Facebook taż-Żebbuġ Għawdex fis-16 ta' Novembru 2020. Id-dettalji dwaru huma: **Retro Gozo – Josef Karl Bajada – The lady's name was/is Rasanna. Photo & info forwarded to us by David X.**

Kemm għabli tifikiriet. Ma niftakarx x'kien jisimha dik il-mara, imma għadni niftakarha fi tfuliti, b'dik il-mixja mghagġla, kważi b'qabza żgħira, bi tbissima, niezla fl-għelieqi fil-qrib b'xi basket tač-čarruta jew čurniena mitwija f'idha biex taqta' ftit imżiewet jew xi ħaxix ieħor tal-ikel.



**Joe Axiaq  
Melbourne**

L-għelieqi ta' taħt it-triq minn fejn għaddejja dik il-mara kienu tagħna, b'cejječ žgħar ta' raba' mdawra bil-ħitan tas-sejjeħ, jinfdu minn waħda għall-oħra f'fetħa fl-istess ħajt, qisha bieb. Tidher is-siġra kbira tat-tin taħt il-ħajt baxx tat-triq, kważi tilħaq it-triq. Kont nixxabbat u ninzel minn dik it-triq biex ninzel fl-għalqa naqta' t-tin. Mal-ħajt fuq il-lemin mal-fetħa tal-bieb jidhru s-siġar kbar tar-rummien. Fil-ħarifa kien jitfačča l-pitirros u dawk is-siġar kienu jimtlew bil-pitorrissi jaqbzu u jzekzku fuq il-friegħi u taħt is-siġar. Aħna t-tfal konna nonsbulom bit-trabokki. Fl-għalqa tas-siġra tat-tin kellna bir żgħir u kienu jwissuna biex ma nittarfox madwaru u jbeżżgħuna li fih l-imħalla u titla' għalina u tiġbidna fl-ilma jekk noqogħdu nittawlu fil-bir. F'dawk l-għelieqi li kienu maqsuma wkoll b'ringieli ta' siġar tal-bajtar tax-xewk, biex jilqgħu għall-kenn tar-rih, missieri u n-nannu kienu jizirgħu l-qargħa ħamra u l-ful. Kien hemm siġar oħra tal-għajnbaqar fl-irkejjien taħt il-ħitan.

Kif jidher mir-ritratt bil-kulur li ħadt fl-2016 waqt li kont għal vaganza f'Għawdex mill-Awstralja, dawn l-għelieqi issa huma mirduma biex twessgħet it-triq. Fl-idjaq parti tat-triq fejn iddur f'kantuniera, kemm kemm kien jgħaddi ħmar bil-karettun u jekk ikun ġej xi trakk tal-ġebel jew karozza opposti ta' xulxin xi ħadd minnhom kien ikollu jregġa' lura fil-parti l-aktar wiesgħa, fejn għad hemm il-fdalijiet tal-bieb minn fejn kienu jidhlu għall-ilma taħt il-Ponta ta' Għajn Melel. Ki jgħaddi ż-żmien u kif jinbidlu l-affarijiet.

*(Nota – Għalkemm l-istess triq, ir-ritratt abjad u iswed meħud faččata tat-telgħa waqt li r-ritatt bil-kulur meħud faččata tan-niżla.)*

**PS: Nifrahlek tal-hames mitt (500) harga tal-gurnal tant popolari fost il-Maltin imxerrdin mad dinja**





Introduced to Malta by the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem upon taking possession of the islands in 1530, the Maltese Cross has become an intrinsic part of Malta's culture and heritage, as well as a much-cherished symbol by the Maltese.

#### **What is the Maltese cross?**

The Maltese cross is a symbol that is most commonly associated with the Knights of Malta (also known as the Knights Hospitallers), who ruled the Maltese islands between 1530 and 1798. The Maltese cross is nowadays widely used and associated with Malta as a country, used by the national airline Air Malta as part of its livery, and even featuring on the Maltese Euro coins, for example.

#### **What does it look like?**

The shape of the Maltese cross is star-like with four V-shaped arms that are joined together at the tips. It's frequently used either in black and white or red and white and is symmetrical both vertically as well as horizontally.

#### **What's the history behind the cross?**

Although the Maltese cross is most famously associated with the Knights of Malta, as well as Malta itself as a country, it is thought the symbol evolved from a closely resembling cross found on coins minted in Amalfi (an Italian republic) during the 11th century.

#### **What's the meaning of the Maltese cross?**

The Maltese Cross formally adopted by the Knights Hospitallers of St. John in 1126, stylistically owes its origins to the crosses used in the crusades, when it was identified as the symbol of the "Christian warrior": **its eight points denote the eight obligations or aspirations of the knights**, namely "to live in truth, have faith, repent one's sins, give proof of humility, love justice, be merciful, be sincere and wholehearted, and to endure persecution".

## **THE MALTESE CROSS**

With time, the eight points also came to represent the eight *langues* (or "tongues", but in effect national groupings) of the noblemen who were admitted to the famed order, namely those of Auvergne, Provence, France, Aragon, Castille and Portugal, Italy, Baviere (Germany), and England (with Scotland and Ireland).

The Maltese cross remains the symbol of the **Sovereign Military Order of Malta**, which is still in existence (and active as an international organisation for medical and humanitarian aid (Saint John Ambulance Brigade) ) today. As part of its present-day teachings, the cross represents eight beatitudes (or 'blessings'). A good first aider in service of the Order of St. John is Observant, Tactful, Resourceful, Dextrous, Explicit, Discriminating, Persevering and Sympathetic.

#### **The Knights and the Maltese Cross**

The Knights of Malta (Order of St. John) can trace their origin to a group of monks attached to a hospice built in the Holy Lands to aid pilgrims. Over time, the monks started offering an armed escort to travellers as they passed through perilous Syrian territory. Following the success of the First Crusade, the Knights Hospitallers evolved into a military order.

The link between the Maltese Cross and these islands was forged with the Knights' arrival in Malta in 1530. By then, the Cross had become the established symbol of the Order, and as the Knights set about putting their stamp on these islands through their inspired architectural feats and patronage of the arts, so the Maltese Cross provided the signature to this glorious legacy. The Cross found itself on coats-of-arms, palaces, hospitals, the entrances and gates to various forts and towers, on fortifications as well as on coins, cannon, monuments, churches, paintings and frescoes, furniture, silverware and jewellery.

Valletta is home to the world's largest concentration of portrayals of the Maltese Cross. The palaces and churches constructed during the long rule of the Knights, as well as the many treasures they house, are bedecked with this representation of aristocratic and autocratic power. The Maltese Cross, however, has come to epitomise not only one of Malta's most glorious historical periods but also anything which is intrinsically Maltese



ORDER OF MALTA

## COMMEMORATION OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE RELICS OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST TO THE ORDER OF MALTA

**Our Holy Patron – St John the Baptist  
Chev. Prof Stephen Gatt**

While exploring the rich liturgical history of our Order, the annual Commemoration of the Presentation of Relics of Saint John the Baptist on the 21st of November emerges as a profound and sacred tradition.

This observance, marked by the recitation of nine lessons, serves as a poignant reminder of the spiritual legacy that has endured for centuries within our Order, a special devotion to our Holy Patron Saint John the Baptist.

The historical resonance of this commemoration extends back to the fourteenth century. The Order's liturgical manuscripts from this era provide tangible devotion to the Commemoration of the Presentation of Relics of our patron saint. In the entries, the authors of these sacred texts meticulously penned in the Commemoration in red ink (noting it was a red letter day).

The annual Commemoration of the Presentation of Relics of Saint John the Baptist was particularly celebrated by the Order's German-speaking houses, with the calendars of the 14th century psalter-hymnal from the Commandery in Colmar, the 15th century gradual-prosary from the Commandery in Turin, and the 15th century breviary from the Commandery in Darmstadt all listing it. The significance of this commemoration is further emphasised by its presence in the 14th century sanctoral section of the breviary from the Order's Commandery in Freiburg. It is remarkable that these documents, which are well over 500 years old, have

survived at all and all trace their origins to the German region, underscoring the deep-rooted reverence of our Order for Saint John the Baptist. Moreover, many if not all the members of the Order in these Commandries may never have actually seen for themselves the relics of our Holy Patron held in safe custody by the Order first in Rhodes and later Malta.



One cannot discuss the veneration of Saint John the Baptist's relics without acknowledging a remarkable event that unfolded in the late fifteenth century. In the year 1484, a relic of profound significance, the right arm of Saint John the Baptist, embarked on a journey from Constantinople to the island of Rhodes. This extraordinary event was made possible through the gesture of Sultan Bayezid II, who reigned from 1481 to 1512. The Sultan's decision to bestow this sacred relic upon the Order as part of a peace treaty was a testament to the deep respect and admiration held by various communities, even beyond the Christian faith, for the Order.

The historical account of this momentous event is meticulously preserved in the writings of Guilelmus Caorsin (c.1430-1501), Vice-Chancellor of the Order and a historian of his time. His work, *Rhodiorum Historia*, which was published in 1496, stands as a historical treasure trove.

Within the pages of the *Rhodiorum Historia*, Caorsin provides not only a detailed account of the translation of the holy right arm of Saint John the Baptist, but also a profound commentary that delves into the spiritual significance of this act.

This is one of two events the Order has historically celebrated as an optional memorial on the 6th of May, the Translation of the Relics of Saint John the Baptist.

It is through such accounts that we gain insight into the profound faith and unwavering dedication that has defined the Order's members and leadership for more than nine centuries.

They remind us that the Commemoration of the Presentation of the Relics of Saint John the Baptist is more than a ritual; it is a testament to the enduring faith, dedication, and reverence that have shaped the identity of the Order over the centuries. It serves as a beacon of spiritual guidance, reminding us of the rich legacy inherited from our forebearers and the sacred duty to preserve and uphold the values of the Order today and into the future.

## People Increasingly Turn to Social Media For News



In these days of conflicts, protests, economic recession and angst among the world's population a recently issued report shows that consumers continue to shift away from traditional media sources for their news and are moving more towards social media and messaging services to find the information and news.

Long gone are the days of people getting most of their news only from a local TV station, printed newspapers and radio. Over the last decade we already saw the substantial decay of Maltese using traditional news sources and instead the Internet becoming a major source of news, particularly for the 18 to 40 year old demographic.

As newspapers have fallen dramatically in usage, and the national newscasts have dropped in ratings, the swing to new sources of information has accelerated considerably. Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism at Oxford University has

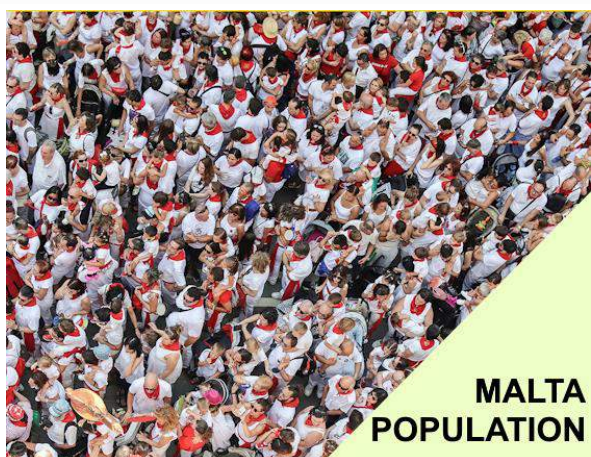
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recently issued a report on the state of digital news around the world.

One of the very notable facts coming out from the study is the heavy use of Internet, blogs, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. The shift away from traditional news media sources is being led by the younger generation, in this case people under 25 years old. Two-thirds of that age cohort said they use Instagram for gathering news information. The same age group reported that they were two times more likely to look at news on social media apps.

Facebook leads with 36% of social media consumers using the social media giant for consuming news. YouTube had 21% of social media users looking at news on the popular video site. WhatsApp had 16% of consumers in that group and 12% used Twitter. Facebook owns both Instagram and WhatsApp.

In this time of political and social upheavals, it is interesting to note that the Reuters study (conducted by YouGov, a research agency) only found 14% of people in the US trusted news on social media compared to 22% in regard to news gathered from search engines. Also, as further evidence of the power of social media in driving news to consumers, social media as a news source, saw ongoing growth with news consumers, unlike platforms such as all online sources combined, TV, and print.



According to the data revealed by the National Statistics Office, Malta and Gozo's estimated total population stood at 542,051 by the end of 2022.

This means that the country's total population was up by 4.2% when compared to the previous year, driven by a total net migration of 21,798 persons.

Third country nationals made up 83.1 per cent of the total net migrants in 2022, with 65.8% of this sample being men.

The natural increased reaching the lowest value over the past 15 years, at 79, the result of 4,309 resident live births and 4,230 resident deaths in the

reference year. The NSO also revealed that, by the end of 2022, nearly 53% of total residents were male. An accumulated 15.1% of the entire population was under the age of 18 while 18.6% was aged 65 and over. #MaltaDaily



## Traditional Chinese Medicine therapy in Malta

The 19th China Medical Team



### embarks on a mission

Brought to you by Mediterranean Regional Centre for Traditional Chinese Medicine

The 19th China Medical Team for Malta, from left, Dr Gao Jingliang, Dr Gao Youling, Dr Yang Zhijie, Jiang Chao, Yin Guanglei and Dr Feng Hua sitting in front.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of China dispatching its first medical team to Malta by the Health Commission of Jiangsu Province in China. In 1994, China and Malta signed a cooperation agreement in the field of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), and the Mediterranean Regional Centre for Traditional Chinese Medicine (MRCTCM) in Paola was officially established.

Annually, the Health Commission of Jiangsu Province issues a call for doctors, interpreters, and cooks interested in providing their services worldwide. Rigorous selection ensures that the chosen candidates offer the best service to the patients in the different countries. While most of the Centres are located in Africa, Malta's Centre is the only one in Europe.

This September saw the arrival of the 19th China Medical Team for Malta which consists of four doctors, Dr Feng Hua, Dr Yang Zhijie, Dr Gao Youling, Dr Gao Jingliang, an interpreter, Ms Jiang Chao, and a chef, Mr Yin Guanglei. Based at the MRCTCM, the team acts as a small self-sufficient community.

Dr Feng Hua and Dr Yang Zhijie both hail from Wuxi TCM Hospital in the city of Wuxi, whereas Dr Gao Youling and Dr Gao Jingliang come from

Yangzhou TCM Hospital in the city of Yangzhou. Both hospitals are renowned for their professional service and care, and both are affiliated with Nanjing University of Chinese Medicine - one of the earliest universities of Traditional Chinese Medicine founded in China.

The treatments available at the Mediterranean Regional Centre for Traditional Chinese Medicine (MRCTCM) in Paola

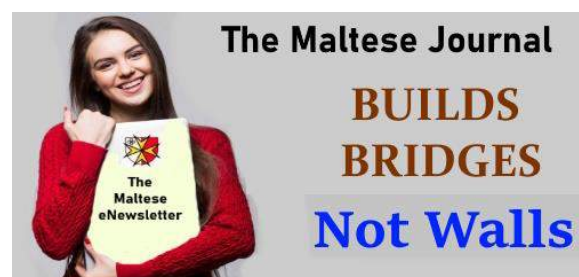
The team of four Chinese doctors provides a holistic and comprehensive range of treatments to their patients to improve their quality of life through affordable healthcare, based on Traditional Chinese Medicine wisdom and modern medical advances.

The MRCTCM is open from Monday to Friday: 9.00am – noon and 3.00pm – 5.00pm. Saturday: 9.00am – noon.

The Chinese doctors are also available at Mater Dei Hospital from Monday to Saturday from 8.00am to noon. Every Wednesday afternoon, a doctor is available at Gozo General Hospital.

Highlights:

- Experienced team of Traditional Chinese Medicine physicians;
- Pain management: migraine, headache, joint pain, sciatica, fibromyalgia, trigeminal neuralgia, cervical spondylosis, slip disc, arthritis, osteopathy;
- Digestive system disease: stomach ache, diarrhea, constipation, IBS;
- Chronic Disease Management: tinnitus, fatigue, long covid symptoms;
- Men and women's health: infertility, dysmenorrhea;
- Dermatological diseases: eczema, acne, urticaria, herpes zoster;
- Insomnia and depression;
- Rehabilitation and recovery after critical illness;
- Preventive treatment of disease.







## Friends Of the Earth Relaunches Malta Farm Map to Promote Direct Sales of Local Produce

Oh My Malta

Friends of the Earth Malta (FoEM) relaunches its 'Malta Farm Map', an initiative designed to foster and champion local farmers, enabling them to sell their fresh fruits and vegetables directly to consumers. This innovative project is aligned with FoEM's mission to safeguard local farmland permanently and educate the public about the significance of consuming locally sourced produce.

The 'Malta Farm Map' is an online platform dedicated to showcasing local farms and producers who wish to bypass intermediaries in their sales transactions in Malta and Gozo. Martin Galea De Giovanni, Director of FoEM, expressed the intent behind this service, saying, "This free service aims to connect farmers and customers directly. At Friends of the Earth Malta, we regularly receive inquiries from our members seeking information on farmers selling their local produce directly to consumers."

The primary goal of the 'Malta Farm Map' is to establish a direct sales platform for agricultural producers and customers, enabling them to easily identify where and how to purchase products and services directly from local farms. This initiative seeks to bridge the gap between small, local producers and consumers.

The 'Malta Farm Map' is readily accessible online, boasting user-friendly navigation on both desktop and mobile devices. Users can explore the interactive map to locate farmers in their vicinity, discover farm shops, farm markets, and organic produce suppliers. By clicking on the map icons, users can access brief descriptions of the

farmers, the products they offer, and their contact information.

Visit the [website](#) to identify their nearest local farmer and purchase fresh, locally grown produce directly from them.

You can also register on the platform through the provided [form](#). By participating in this initiative,



both consumers and farmers will play a vital role in supporting the local farming community.

Eating sustainably produced food not only benefits our own well-being but also plays a crucial role in preserving our environment. Friends of the Earth Malta is committed to supporting sustainable agriculture and promoting the consumption of fresh, seasonal produce cultivated by local, small-scale farmers.

**BE PART OF THIS  
ENCYCLOPAEDIA  
TELL US YOUR STORY  
AND SHARE IT**



The Malta Council for Science and Technology, with the support of the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade and the Ministry for Education, Youth, Sport, Research and Innovation, and is reaching out to Maltese researchers working abroad to participate in a mapping exercise of Maltese researcher diasporas. This mapping exercise aims to lay the foundation for future initiatives in bridging together Malta's domestic R&I ecosystem and leading Maltese scientists abroad.

Interested Maltese researchers

conducting research in any given domain are invited to sign up to the Voluntary registration of Maltese Nationals of Value Living Abroad via this link: <https://foreign.gov.mt/formv>

[Affarijiet Barranin](#) | [Edukazzjoni](#) | [Malta Council for Science and Technology](#)

## The Crib's Journey with St Francis

[Heritagemalta.mt](https://heritagemalta.mt)

This festive season, take a trip back in time and let yourself be transported amidst the winding streets with humble rocky dwellings, flickering lanterns and garigue landscape of the millennia-old nativity story, when visiting the exhibition 'The Crib's Journey with St Francis', taking place at the Grand Master's Palace in Valletta.

Through a collaboration between Heritage Malta and Għaqda Hbieb tal-Preseppi, under the auspices of HE the President of Malta, an astounding collection of more than sixty traditional cribs and nativity figurines will be adorning one of the halls of the Grand



Master's Palace. The exhibits are creations of both Maltese and foreign artists and groups, and are made of a variety of materials, including real rocks, paper mache, glass and jablo amongst others.



This exhibition forms parts of a string of initiatives around the globe, locally spearheaded by Għaqda Hbieb tal-Preseppi, celebrating this year's 800th anniversary since the first crib was created by St Francis in Greccio, Italy. This episode is regarded as the dawn of this cherished Catholic tradition which throughout the years spread around the globe and became a staple Christmas decoration in households, artistically recounting this solemn night.

Two other displays will be taking place in parallel at the Parliament building in Valletta and the Agostinian Convent in Rabat, Gozo, whilst a number of workshops aimed at various audiences sharing expert knowledge and guidance on the methodology and history of crib-making will be offered throughout. For more information you are invited to follow the voluntary group's social media channels.

To ensure that your visit to the exhibition is truly memorable, Heritage Malta's Publishing Department has commissioned an exclusive commemorative and limited edition 15-figure nativity numbered set, created by crib master Pawlu Muscat in the traditional 'tas-sold' style and consisting of all the typical characters. Both this unique set and also an informative, illustrated catalogue will be available for sale on site and online on [www.heritagemalta.mt/store](http://www.heritagemalta.mt/store)

This exhibition will run from Sunday 19th November to Sunday 21st January 2024, opening every day. Opening hours for November are 10:00 – 18:00. Admission is on a donation basis, which will be directed to the Malta Community Chest Fund. Entrance is through Merchants Street.

This festive season, take a trip back in time and let yourself be transported amidst the winding streets with humble rocky dwellings, flickering lanterns and garigue landscape of the millenia-old nativity story, when visiting the exhibition 'The Crib's Journey with St Francis', taking place at the Grand Master's Palace in Valletta.

Through a collaboration between Heritage Malta and Għaqda Hbieb tal-Preseppi

Għawdex-Malta, under the auspices of HE the President of Malta, an astounding collection of more than sixty traditional cribs and nativity figurines will be adorning one of the halls of the Grand Master's Palace. The exhibits are creations of both Maltese and foreign artists and groups, and are made of a variety of materials, including paper mache, glass and jablo amongst others.

This exhibition forms parts of a string of initiatives around the globe, organised by the International Friends of the Crib Federation, celebrating this year's 800th anniversary since the first crib was created by St Francis in Greccio, Italy. This episode is regarded as the dawn of this cherished Catholic tradition which throughout the years spread around the globe and became a staple Christmas decoration in households, artistically recounting this solemn night.

Two other displays will be taking place in parallel at the Parliament building in Valletta and the Agostinian Convent in Rabat, Gozo, whilst a number of workshops aimed at various audiences sharing expert knowledge and guidance on the methodology and history of crib-making will be offered throughout. For more information you are invited to follow the voluntary group's social media channels.

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## Malta Pavilion at the Biennale Arte 2024

### Artist and curators selected for the Malta pavilion at the Biennale Arte 2024

At a press conference held at the Malta Maritime Museum, Owen Bonnici, Minister for National Heritage, Arts and Local Government announced that Maltese artist Matthew Attard shall represent Malta at the prestigious International Art exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia. The 60th edition of the Biennale di Venezia opens on 20 April 2024 until 24 November 2024. The Malta pavilion is commissioned by Arts Council Malta.

Minister Bonnici explained that established in 1895, La Biennale di Venezia, is a platform for the exhibition of the works of international artists and today it is recognized as one of the most prestigious international cultural institutions for the presentation and promotion of contemporary art.

He said that it will be the first time that the national pavilion will be entrusted to a single Maltese artist. He explained how Matthew Attard's project for the Malta Pavilion, 'I will follow the ship', explores ideas of human existence and survival at the point of convergence between history and the future, the physical experience and the digital input.

Mary Ann Cauchi, Director for Funding and Strategy within the Arts Council Malta, said that through Malta's participation in the Biennale, Arts Council Malta shall strengthen Maltese art and culture on an international level, as well as promote the creative and cultural sector. She said that Matthew Attard's exhibition will combine Maltese cultural heritage with artificial intelligence technology.

Ms Cauchi said that it is an honour for Arts Council Malta to be the commissioner and to give all its support to this very important event in the world of art and culture, and the Council will strive to continue to put Malta and its artists, on the international map.

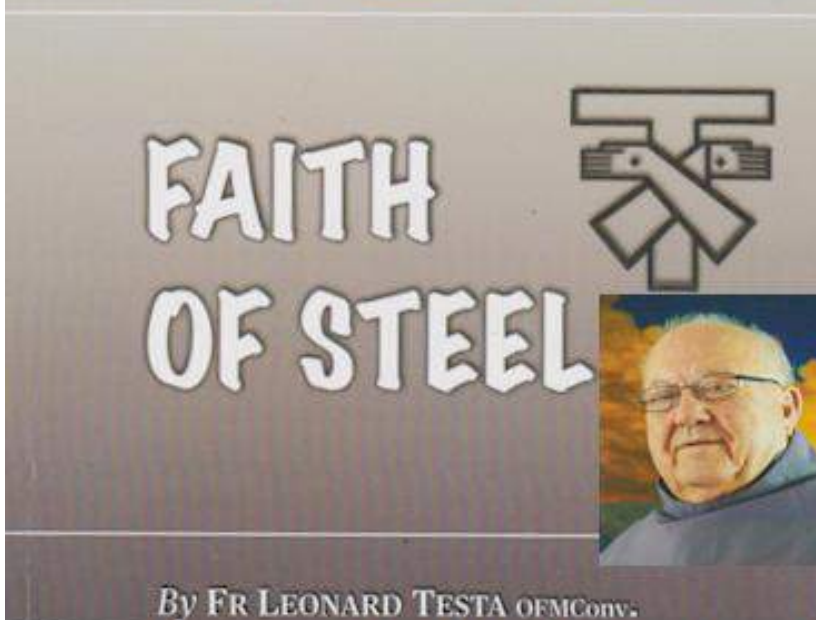
Matthew Attard said that his solo performance entitled, 'I will follow the ship', consists of a new art commission that combines cultural heritage and cutting-edge AI technology. It shall be curated by - Italian-American curator Sara Dolfi Agostini and Maltese curator Elyse Tonna, both of whom are active in the Maltese art scene through various collaborations. Maria Galea and Galleria Michela Rizzo will take care of the management of the project.

Attard explained the concept behind 'I will follow ship'. He said that the meanings and values of the anonymous drawings of the seafarers are relevant to current our present times, where computer and internet technology have led to an artistic emancipation of the masses. The idea was conceived to catalyze the spectator's attention through a technological device that allows digital interaction and collective thought speculation about the future. In fact, the graffiti of the sea pieces are unique to Malta, but they echo many other cultures whose relationship with the sea was—and still is—crucial, as can be seen in the engravings of Venice itself. In a time of climate change, sea level rise, and questions about humanity's place in a hyper-technological world, these signs of hope, these elemental metaphors ingrained in the depths of human knowledge, find themselves in the middle of the Pavilion to reveal what is hidden behind the screens.

The members of the Evaluation Board were the Architect Adrian Mamo, the Artistic Director of the Manoel Theatre; Dr. Katya Micallef, Curator of MUZA; and Daniel Azzopardi, the Artistic Director of Spazju Kreattiv. The evaluation was chaired by Mary Ann Cauchi, Director within Arts Council Malta.



## FAITH OF STEEL (Fr Leonard M. Testa OFMConv.)



The recent publication although attributed to Fr Leonard M. Testa OFMConv., is actually the combined effort of three other people, Mr & Mrs J. Zaklikowski, of Polish descent, Mr David Toohey, Australian of the famous Australian Toohey Family and Max Chiodo of Italian background well-known in the Illawarra region South-East of NSW more than a historical, It is mainly a photographic documentation a part of the historic early 1930 Wentworth Estate, at Warrawong NSW.

I started penning down the information and photography in 2019 at the break of Covid19. Through the concerted effort the book managed to get to print.

Our aim was to recognise those Men and women, both religious and Lay, who were not only the pioneers but also those who continued to build Warrawong Community on the foundation of the pioneers, predominantly of Irish/Australian background our common faith was the only common factor we identified with and helped us to not only to be loyal Australians but Catholic Australians.

The Maltese Community had a small presence in 1936 through Joe & Mary Cassar, from Qormi Malta, who initially

lived at Griffith, working at Hoskins Steel Works, which moved to establish itself at Port Kembla NSW, developing into what it is well known as the BHP, the Big Australian. The Cassar family was employed by the Steel Works which in those days provided the material for Sydney Harbour Bridge' often referred to as the 'coat-hanger'!

The late 1940's after the war saw the influx among others the Maltese Community settled in the Illawarra region, some eight kilometres South of Wollongong, the regional Capital City. Initially the majority of the Maltese that first settled in the Cringila area within walking distance of the BHP factory.

The factory provided Hostels nearby for the workers. Once they were employed, and the 1950's saw a lot of work, the Men managed to buy a block of land nearby, built initially a shed for their habitation. It was a Spartan way of living. These men in 1951 got together to form a group, initially known as 'Il-Ghaqda' still active today at Cringila. Through the efforts of both the Maltese Community and the local and Maltese Catholic Hierarchy, the Community managed to have a Maltese priest Fr Victor Bonello OFMConv., from Xaghra Gozo. He was the first parish priest. Previously the Carmelite Friars from Wentworthville catered for the spiritual needs of the Maltese namely Fr Robert Cassar OC, Fr Michael Camilleri OC and Fr Licari OC. These laid strong foundation of Faith in the People of God, catering for many ethnic groups as you'll experience in this shot photographic documentation 'Faith of Steel.'



## Message from the Minister for Multicultural Affairs

### South Australian Multicultural Highlights

South Australia has always been a proud multicultural state.

The 2021 Census revealed our great state is now home to people from about 200 countries, speaking some 180 languages and practicing more than 90 different religions.

New migrants and refugees of all ages continue to be welcomed to our shores, and we all benefit from the richly diverse languages, cultures, and traditions they bring with them.

The state government is keenly aware our established and emerging multicultural communities make a profound contribution to the economic, social and cultural life of our state.

That is why at the 2022-23 State Budget, we committed an additional \$16million over four years for grants and other programs to enrich our multicultural sector and strengthen our communities.

I am proud to share [South Australian Multicultural Highlights](#) that captures some of our early achievements in delivering on that significant investment.

**Hon Zoe Bettison MP**

**Minister for Multicultural Affairs**

## Christmas stamp issue depicts the Nativity scene



This festive season a set of three stamps depicting the Christmas Nativity theme is being issued by MaltaPost.

Linking all three stamps is a golden star hovering above the Virgin Mary and Child, above an angel announcing the birth of Jesus and above a decorative Christmas wreath.

The new stamps will be issued in sheets of 10, with each stamp measuring 31mm x 44mm, a comb perforation 13.9 x 14.0 and bearing the Maltese Cross watermark.

Each sheet measures 185mm x 118mm and was produced in the offset process by Printex Ltd.

The issue consists of 50,000 of the €0.38 stamp, 30,000 of the €1.50 stamp and 15,000 of the €2.00 stamp.

The philatelic issue will be available from all Post Offices in Malta and Gozo as from Tuesday, the 21st of November.

Orders may be placed online at [www.maltaphilately.com](http://www.maltaphilately.com) or by mail from the Philatelic Bureau, MaltaPost p.l.c., 305 Qormi Road, Marsa, MTP 1001; by telephone 2596 1740, via e-mail: [info@mal](mailto:info@mal)

<https://gozo.news.com>



## ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE PARISH, TORONTO, CANADA NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER DANCE

Sunday, December 31, 2023

Doors open at 6:30 pm

Come ring in the New Year with your Church Family!! \*\*\*

Presenting an 8-Course Meal!!

Antipasto (including Seafood Salad)

Stracciatella Chicken Soup

Lasagna (Homemade Pasta) ENTRÉE Roast Beef, Potatoes, Veggies Tossed Green Salad

Fruit, Ice Cream Filled Crepes topped with Fruit Sauce

Assorted Pastries - Tea & Coffee

One bottle each Red & White wine on each table with free glass refills

Champagne at Midnight Fruit Punch Fountain

Door Prizes Adults - \$75.00 Children (5 - 12 yrs. old)

\$40.00 Children under 5 yrs. – free

For tickets contact Freda Mifsud at 416-762-1891

\*Payments & Bookings must be made no later than December 26<sup>th</sup>

### Fr Emmanuel (Manny) Bonello

Manny Bonello was born on 21 January 1956 in Xaghra, Gozo, Malta. His parents Rita and Joseph are both deceased. Manny is the second last of a family of nine children. After Primary and Secondary schooling, Manny entered the Sacred Heart Major Seminary of Gozo in October 1974 to start his studies for the priesthood. Manny came to Australia July 1979 until August 1980 and did his pastoral intermediary year here as work experience. He lived with his brother and sister-in-law Tony and Mary and worked manually for a year at the Cardboard factory in North Sunshine. Once the year was completed, he returned to Gozo to continue his studies and was ordained priest on 25 June 1983 in the Cathedral of Gozo Malta. In 26 October 1983, Manny arrived in Australia and started his priestly work in the Melbourne

Archdiocese. He was then appointed assistant priest in the following parishes: Flemington for 3 months, East Keilor for 3 years, Moreland for 2 years, Moonee

Ponds for 5 years, and North Reservoir for 6 months and as parish priest in Hadfield for 13 years. Manny was appointed parish priest of St Joseph the Worker Parish, North Reservoir on 4 July 2007. Manny barracks for North Melbourne (Kangaroos). He likes listening to classical music especially opera, and enjoys working in the Church of Melbourne.



**I thank all those who sent a small donation towards the  
production of this journal**

**If you would like to contribute these are the details**

**Bank: Commonwealth (Australia)**

**BSB: 065-106**

**Account: 0050 2507**



## OUR READERS' OPINION

Congratulations dear Frank. You work hard to keep alive Maltese traditions and for this

alone you deserve a great medal. May the President of the Republic of Malta, recognise the great sacrifices that you do to remind the Maltese people living in Malta and abroad, that we are a unique nation with many kind-hearted persons who simply love to remember, all that has happened in their life from childhood to adulthood. We can never forget what we inherited from our parents and which

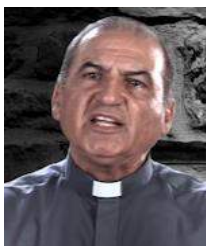
still keeps our hearts warm to this very day.

May the blessings of God be with you dear friend Frank. Thanks again for remembering my name and send to me every issue of the E-NEWSLETTER. Your message travels the world and keeps alive the Maltese traditions. Sincere best regards George Stagno Navarra

**FROM GIBRALTAR** - I received the newsletter from my brother David Vassallo - I live In gibraltar. Please can you add me to the mailing list for Maltese abroad newsletter! Many thanks Mrs Marguerite Galloway



Congratulations on a superb 500<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Maltese Newsletter. Memorable edition indeed; I am sure you are aware how much pleasure your electronic journal brings to so many Maltese expats who remain Maltese in their hearts, wherever they live and work outside their native country, and moreover remain proud of their heritage. With my sincere appreciation and gratitude,  
Kind regards **Prof Sir Alfred Cuschieri, MD**



Congratulations! Frank. This is a treasure trove not only for us Maltese citizens, but for everyone who wants to know more about our linguistic riches, culture, religion, history and so forth. This is challenging and so fruitful. May God bless your efforts and determination to fulfill all that helps us grow not only in all that we do as a country, but also all that we teach to others through our hospitality, love and respect to others. May God bless you always Frank.

Thank you Fr. Emanuel Parnis MSSP



Ghaziz Frank, ma nistax insib kliem addatat bizzejjed biex nesprimi il-hajr tieghi lilek talli tibghatli regolarment il-Maltese eNewsletter. Il-Bambin izomm idejh fuqek biex tkompli f'dan ix-xoghol li eluf ta' qarrejja japprezzaw. Bravu tassew! Sahhiet u tisljiet.

Lina Brockdorff



I have been receiving the Maltese e-Newsletter for a couple of years and I have saved them all on my USB. I have learnt so much about Malta, the homeland of my parents. One day I will travel to Malta and visit all the places that you have included in your journal. Thanks Frank. Steve Abela - Canada

congratulations on reaching the 500 edition, all the friends that i have introduced to your journal tell me how much they enjoy reading it. Keep up the good / excellent work you do.

**MARIO BEZZINA**

Finally, the Maltese in South Australia have a professional, truly informative journal. Well done Frank. **JOHN FARRUGIA \_ ADELAIDE**



# The Maltese Bride: 19th – 20th century

## Bridal wear in Malta [heritagemalta.mt](http://heritagemalta.mt)



In this exhibition, entitled *The Maltese Bride: 19th – 20th century bridal wear in Malta*, five wedding dresses from the national textiles collection are being exhibited at the Inquisitor's Palace – National Museum of Ethnography, in Birgu. The gowns date back to the 19th and 20th century and one of them, worn first in 1979, was donned for a second time in 2001 by the original bride's daughter.

The earliest exhibit is a silk lamè handmade wedding dress from the first half of the 19th century. A black blouse and skirt bought in 1917, a 1952 satin

wedding dress sewn by the bride's mother and embroidered by the bride herself, and a 1965 wedding dress complete with veil, created by a dressmaker, are also on display. The fifth gown is a 1979 creation, complete with a hooded cape, designed and sewn by the bride and her mother. This dress was worn again by the bride's daughter on her own wedding day 22 years later.

The exhibition is further enhanced through two interviews – one with the son of the 1917 bride and another one with the bride whose dress was worn by herself and her daughter.

Wedding dress styles and fabrics varied considerably over the years, as attested by this exhibition. Telecommunications, the advent of photography, printing of fashion and needlecraft books, magazines and patterns, as well as the manufacture and production of various fabrics and haberdashery items, all left their mark. Besides fashion trends, other factors that influenced bridal preferences included the bride's family's socio-economic, religious and financial status, or the bride's personal situation, such as being orphaned or widowed.

The exhibition runs until July 2024. Its launch coincides with Birgufest, happening on the 13th and the 14th of October in Birgu. On Saturday 14th, as part of Birgufest, the Inquisitor's Palace and Fort St Angelo will be offering extended opening hours and a combo ticket for both sites will be available at only €3. The ticket may only be bought at the door.

## MALTA: Who Is Yulan Law?

The eleventh artist in our Who Is series for the Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2023 is Yulan Law from Malta.

Yulan Law is fourteen years old. She began singing at the age of five and started learning piano and violin shortly afterwards. She is of partial Chinese descent through her father Yau-Mun Law, who is the captain of the Maltese football club Santa Venera Lightnings. Yulan has taken part in various singing competitions in Malta and internationally, including Sanremo Junior 2019. In 2020, she was a finalist on the first season of *Malta's Got Talent*. Earlier this year, she finished runner-up on the first season of *The Voice Kids Malta*. Her coach on the show was Destiny, who won Junior Eurovision 2015.

Apart from music, Yulan also hopes to study medicine and become a doctor one day.

Yulan attempted to represent Malta at Junior Eurovision on three occasions before this year. In 2019, she reached the final of the selection. In 2020, she performed "Deck of Cards" in a duet with Gianluca Cilia. In 2021, she performed "Change" and "On My Way" in the final, finishing third with the latter.

Yulan was selected to represent Malta after winning the Malta Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2023. She was selected using a combination of jury and public voting. Her entry for Junior Eurovision 2023 was selected through an open call after her win.

The song that Yulan will perform in Nice is called "Stronger". It was written and composed by John-Emil Johansson, Sandra Wikström, Isak Alvedahl, Elise Hedengren and Yulan herself.

Malta debuted in the Junior Eurovision Song Contest in 2003 and has gone on to win the contest twice. In 2013 on their return to the competition in Kyiv, Gaia Cauchi won the competition with "The Start". She was the first winner of a Eurovision event for Malta. In 2015, Destiny Chukunyere took victory in Sofia, Bulgaria with the song "Not My Soul". Malta finished last at the 2005 contest in Belgium, 2019 edition in Poland and the 2022 edition in Armenia. Malta joins North Macedonia as the Junior Eurovision country with the most last place finishes, finishing last three times.







GIBRALTAR

MALTA

## GIBRALTAR AND MALTA

A [Maltese](#) community has existed in [Gibraltar](#) since shortly after its [capture](#) by an [Anglo-Dutch](#) fleet in 1704. Following the [Capture of Gibraltar](#), most of the existing population elected to leave, leaving behind a small population of around seventy (mainly neutral [Genoese](#) people). Immigration from

neighboring Spanish towns soon followed, giving Gibraltar a very [cosmopolitan](#) population. Years of coexistence and intermarriage on the [Rock](#) soon led to a coalescence of [Maltese](#), [Italian](#) and [Andalusian](#) culture, preserving the Mediterranean and [Catholic](#) nature of Gibraltar despite the centuries of British rule.

Gibraltar, [Malta](#) and [Cyprus](#) were the three stepping stones whereby Great Britain controlled

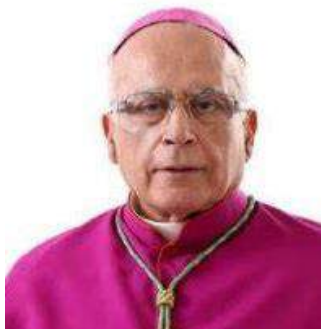
Typical Gibraltar gharry somewhere up the Rock. This style of coach was a Maltese import and was often referred to as a Malta gharry during the late 19th and early 20th century (1890s)

MALTESE  
KARROZIN

the [Mediterranean](#) and the vital route to the [Suez Canal](#) and thence to [India](#). Gibraltar prospered with the arrival of 19th century trade with [North Africa](#) and the presence of the [Royal Navy](#). This prosperity attracted immigrants from neighbouring Mediterranean lands and in 1885 there were about 1,000 Maltese people living in Gibraltar. Early in the 20th century the British undertook vast naval works and improvements to the existing [fortifications](#) of [Gibraltar](#) to make the rock practically impregnable. The naval base in Gibraltar was to prove its strategic value in the two [world wars](#). Given the common cultural

bond between Malta and Gibraltar, the prospect of lucrative employment spurred further immigration from Malta.

By 1912 the total number of Maltese living in Gibraltar was not above 700. Many worked in the [dockyard](#) and others operated businesses which were usually ancillary to the dockyard. However, the [economy of Gibraltar](#) was not capable of absorbing a large number of immigrants from Malta and by 1912 the number of Maltese was already in decline as they returned to the [Maltese Islands](#). Eventually those who stayed in Gibraltar became very much involved in the economic and social life in Gibraltar, most of them also being staunch supporters of links with the UK. The situation in Malta was very different, where, despite an earlier [attempt at integration with the UK](#), rising nationalist sentiment led to independence in 1964 and the establishment of a republic a decade later.



**Mgr. Carmelo Zammit Bishop of Gibraltar** (born 19 Dec 1949, Gudja, Malta) is the current Bishop of Gibraltar. Zammit was born in Gudja, Malta, in 1949 and was ordained a priest in 1974. He holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy, Italian and economics, a licentiate in theology from the University of Malta, and a licentiate in canon law from the Pontifical Lateran University, Rome. Before his appointment, he served in a number of pastoral roles in Gibraltar, including judicial vicar, episcopal delegate for Catholic education, school chaplain and parish priest. Upon returning to Malta in 1998, he became chancellor of the archdiocese and judge in the ecclesiastical tribunal. He also served as Canon of the Metropolitan Chapter, as President of the St. John's Co-Cathedral Foundation, and Judicial Vicar in the Archdiocese of Malta.

He was consecrated bishop on 8 September 2016 by Vincent Cardinal Nichols in St. Paul's Cathedral, Mdina. Archbishop Charles Scicluna of Malta and Bishop Ralph Heskett of Gibraltar acted as co-consecrators.



## Aw hi! Uwejja ... Kif ahna, xbin? – How to be Maltese



*Follow these and you'll be as Maltese as the singers wailing on X Factor!*

*Jillian Mallia*

*The People of Malta / Facebook*

Malta has always been a popular destination, but many people wonder in awe of our culture, cuisine and behaviour (the good, the bad and the ugly). So, how can YOU be Maltese, you ask? Follow these 6 easy steps and you'll be as good as gold!

### **Love food**

*Ħobż tal-Malti, pastizzi u te fit-tazza, bigilla, ġbejniet, Twistees and Kinnie. Urgh I'm drooling! Take a*

seat, pour yourself a drink and indulge in these Maltese delicacies. They're delish in every way. You won't be disappointed.

### **Being loud**

"ARA DORIS! KIF AĦNA, ORRAJT?!" screams Lela from across the street. Shouting, hand gestures, and a bubbly conversation is all you need to be qualified as a loud Maltese. No wonder everyone thinks we're constantly fighting while having a conversation. We're #dramatic that way. \*hair flip\*

### **Perfect drivers**

Maltese are EXCELLENT drivers – said no one ever. Want to be exactly like a Maltese driver? Reverse all road rules. Stop sign? No need to stop! Roundabout and intersections? Those indicators are just pretty decorations, right?

### **Must-use words**

To blend in totally with the Maltese clan, use words such as *ta*, *orrajt*, and *hux*. But you'd also want to pay special attention to the word *mela* and *uejja*: "Did you hear about the latest scandal?" *Mela!* "What do you mean?" *Mela...* "*Uejja*, can I go out, Ma?" (please, may I?) and "*Uejja*, it was nothing," i.e. get over it. It's all in the intonation, *ruħ!* Mind blown, right?

### **Festas, festas, and more festas**

Maltese are known for their village feasts, which happen at least every week during the summer months. Attend a Maltese *fešta*, grab delicious treats, listen to the band marches, watch the long procession with the statue of the patron saint, sip on a pint of Cisk and enjoy the fireworks all night.

### **Love of country**

We're patriotic beings, us Maltese. And we can jokingly insult our own country. But one criticism coming from a foreigner's mouth, and a swarm of angry Maltese will be heading the poor person's way. "*Dan x'qal fuq pajjiżi?! Żommuni ŻOMMUNI!*" (What did he say about my country?! Hold me down! HOLD ME DOWN!).

**DEAR FRIEND**  
**IF YOU HAVE AN INTERESTING STORY TO TELL SHARE IT WITH YOUR**  
**MALTESE FRIENDS ALL OVER THE WORLD. WE WOULD LIKE**  
**TO READ IT ON THIS JOURNAL.**

## OLD CHAPELS IN MALTA



### Chapel of the Annunciation in Balzan

Courtesy of Kappelli Maltin | Photo by Caroline Busuttill

This chapel lies in the **oldest part of the village of Balzan, situated in the very middle of the Island of Malta, that is, in its very core.** The first reference we have of this ancient church is found in Msgr. Pietro Dusina's report, which he wrote during his apostolic visit of February, 1575. It is stated that from its very beginning the church was dedicated to the Annunciation. **Professor Stanley Fiorini, an authority on the subject, describes its architecture as that common in Malta during the 15th-century.** As soon as you see it, you will be surprised how much it was preserved in its original state. This fact bears witness to the parishioners' love and devotion towards the Annunciation.

The church's style is simple and rustic. On the inside, the roof rests on six Siculo-Norman arches with rows of stone benches between the arches. **During his visit, Dusina estimated that in those times the church served about 300 worshippers, from 60 households.** Mgr. Dusina was impressed by its beauty and describes the church

as *pulchris* (Latin for beautiful). Today the chapel has one altar dedicated to the Annunciation, but during another pastoral visit, this time by Bishop Tommaso Gargallo in December 1601, the church had three altars: the centerpiece dedicated to the Annunciation, the one on the right to the Visitation of Mary, and the one on the left, also to the Annunciation. **The painter of the titular image of the Annunciation is unknown.** On March 25, a solemn High Mass is celebrated, and many worshippers attend this liturgical function.



### The Ancient St. Catherine Church of Żejtun

Courtesy of the Archdiocese of Malta | Photo by Ian Noel Pace

This large chapel is of very ancient origin. **It used to serve as Żejtun's first parish church, and that's why it is referred to as "The Ancient Church."** Although it is known as the Church of St. Gregory, it is dedicated to St. Catherine. Its antiquity is proved by the fact that it was already built before visiting Bishop

Senatore de Mello had drawn up his Rollo (list) in 1436 of existing Maltese churches. **The original chapel, small and primitive, used as serve as the first parish of the hamlet of Bisqallin, situated in the south-east of present day Żejtun, which was the farthest parish from Mdina.** The chapel functioned until 1492, when it was rebuilt on a larger scale. **After the Great Siege, during which the Turkish forces occupied Żejtun, the chapel was destroyed. After the Turkish defeat, it had to be rebuilt again, on an even larger scale.**

The rebuilt chapel housed three altars — the main altar dedicated to St. Catherine, and the two side altars dedicated to Our Lady of Mount Carmel and to St. Pope Gregory the Great, respectively. **The titular painting replaces an ancient one, which depicts the beheading of St. Catherine.**

**It is very valuable and is kept at the museum of the parish church.** On the outside of the church, there is a stone statue of St. Gregory, which was erected in 1781 to commemorate the yearly pilgrimage from Mdina to Żejtun. The pilgrimage-procession was led



## Maltese Own Band Philharmonic Society Incorporated Sunshine – Victoria - Australia



Hello Frank,  
Firstly, we would like to thank you and your team for your continued dedication in producing this outstanding publication. Our association looks forward to receiving your

journal to keep us informed in both what is happening in our beautiful homeland of Malta, as well as the activities and success stories from our fellow Australian based Maltese associations.

Secondly, we were hoping you might be able to assist us with advertising for our annual Portarlington family day. Our association holds this event in conjunction with the local Portarlington cricket club. It is an opportunity for people to gather and celebrate our Maltese traditions whilst also supporting the local businesses in Portarlington, which has been a meeting place for many Maltese migrants for decades. We are inviting small business owners to hold a stall at our event, and would very much appreciate if you could share this invitation with your readers. Details are as follows:

We're very excited to be able to again invite small businesses to join us and hold a stall at our Portarlington Family Day.

There are a limited number of spots available, so you **must apply by emailing us at [malteseownband@gmail.com](mailto:malteseownband@gmail.com)**

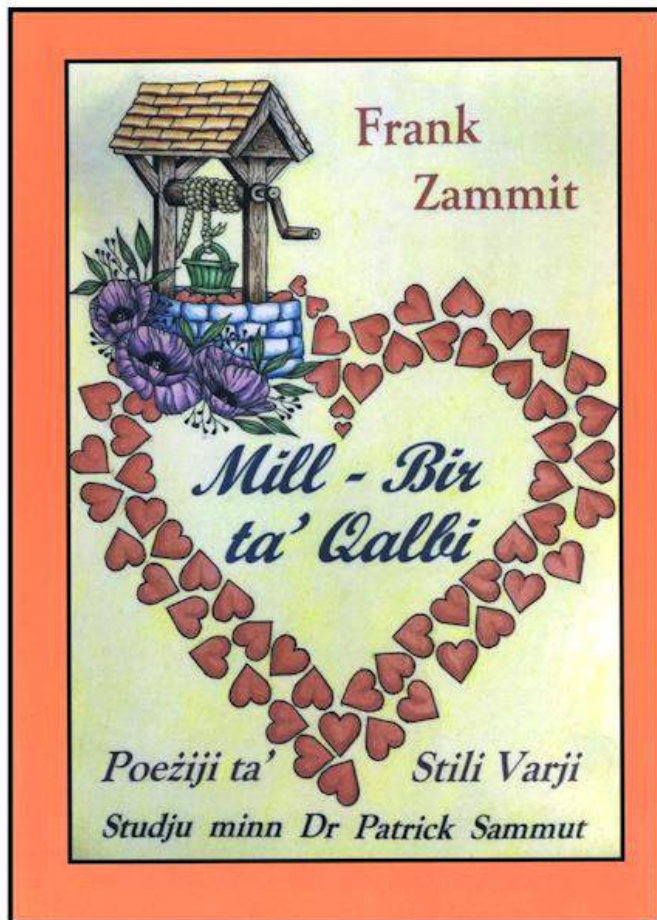
Please note that packaged food items can be sold, but **no food is to be prepared on site**. Stalls will not have access to electricity. It is preferred that stall holders that hold their own Public Liability Insurance. Email us today at [malteseownband@gmail.com](mailto:malteseownband@gmail.com)



**The Journal of all Maltese Living Abroad**







La Valette Social Centre Inc.  
175 Walters Road, Blacktown NSW 2148

La Valette Social Centre is Launching  
the Maltese Poetry Book  
**"Mill-Bir ta' Qalbi"**  
by Frank Zammit  
on Wednesday 6 December 2023  
at 7.00pm  
at La Valette Social Centre.  
All are welcome.

Iċ-Ċentru Malti La Valette se Jniedi  
il-Ktieb ta' Poeżiji bil-Malti  
**"Mill-Bir ta' Qalbi"**  
ta' Frank Zammit  
nhar l-Erbgha 6 ta' Diċembru 2023  
fis-7.00pm  
fiċ-Ċentru Malti La Valette.  
Kulhadd hu mistieden.



Representing small countries with big hearts and pride  
I am a product of German and Maltese Immigrants.  
While I could find everything under the sun German,  
little to no results for Maltese items ever came up  
(except occasionally jewelry, and items relating to  
firemen or the cute puppy).

My passion for my Maltese roots, like many Maltese  
and others from smaller countries is deep.  
There is an obvious under representation of small countries  
and ease to find products online, which is why I created  
Petite Patriots.

A part of my proceeds go to benefit the Maltese Olympic  
Skier, Elise Pellegrin.

Hello everyone! We have added a new product and will be adding  
more as the holidays approach!!!

If you're in Michigan - we will be having a small business  
Sunday sale on the 26th - please stop by to support a  
lot of small business owners and your Maltese Community!

Link to order products: <https://petitepatriots.etsy.com>

**Rachael Cini Darin**