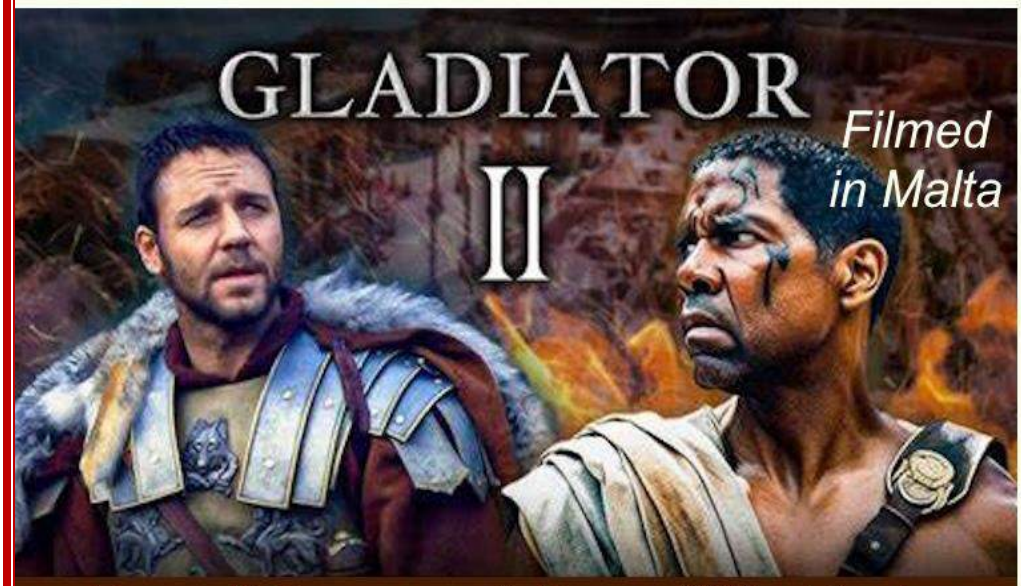
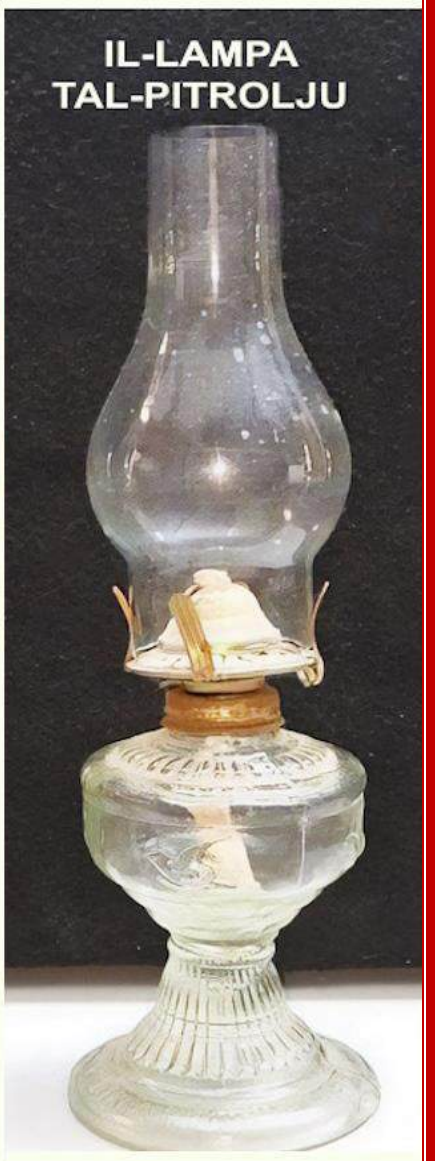
JOURNAL FOR MALTESE AROUND THE WORLD

# MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

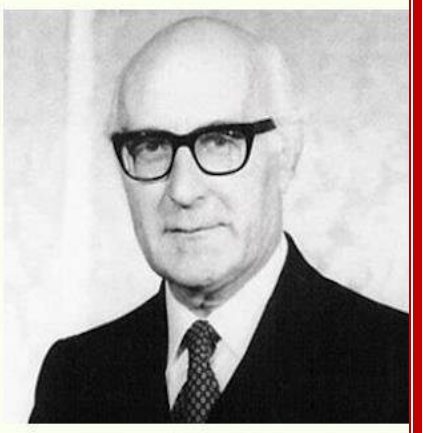
Editor: Frank Scicluna OAM MQR JP maltesejournal@gmail.com




Russell Crowe and Denzel Washington



**THE MALTESE JOURNAL PROMOTES CONNECTIVITY, FRIENSHIP AND UNITY AMONG ALL MALTESE LIVING ABROAD**



***SIR ANTHONY MAMO***

**The First President of Malta**

# ‘They Built the Colosseum!’ – Denzel Washington Says Gladiator II Is ‘The Biggest Film’ He’s Been On

Sharon Knolle

The first trailer for “Gladiator 2” dropped Tuesday, and audiences are already clamoring for Nov. 22, when the Ridley Scott sequel for Paramount Pictures hits theatres.

The anticipated feature stars Paul Mescal as Lucius, the nephew of the original film’s Commodus (Joaquin Phoenix) and son of Lucilla (Connie Nielsen), who, like that project’s hero Maximus (Russell Crowe), must fight for his life in the Colosseum. Here’s more about his character and the rest of the cast, which includes returning characters and new faces alike, in our full “Gladiator II” cast and character guide.

**Paul Mescal as Lucius**

“Aftersun” Oscar nominee Paul Mescal plays Lucius, the nephew of former Emperor Commodus and son of Lucilla, although he is unaware of his royal lineage. In the 2000 film, Lucius was played by Spencer Treat Clark and here, a fateful turn of events finds him becoming a gladiator like his childhood hero, Maximus. As he says in the trailer, “I never forgot it — that a slave could take revenge against an emperor.” Mescal’s other projects include the moving 2023 drama “All of Us Strangers” with Andrew Scott and the Hulu series “Normal People.”

**Denzel Washington as Macrinus**

Two-time Oscar winner Denzel Washington stars as Macrinus, a power player in Rome who wants to overthrow the current rulers. As we learned in the trailer, he sees Lucius as his “instrument” to take down Marcus Acacius (Pedro Pascal), the Roman general who trained under Maximus.

In 2022, Washington became the most-nominated Black actor in history after scoring his 10th Oscar nomination. Besides his winning performances in “Training Day” and “Glory,” he has elsewhere been nominated for “Malcolm X,” “Cry Freedom,” “The Hurricane,” “Flight,” “Fences,” “Roman J. Israel, Esq.” and “The Tragedy of Macbeth.”

**Pedro Pascal as Marcus Acacius**

Pedro Pascal, star of “The Last of Us” and “The Mandalorian,” plays one of the film’s key villains, Gen. Marcus Acacius. He ends up facing off with Lucius in the arena, as apparently according to Macrinus’ plan. Pascal previously played Oberyn Martell in “Game of Thrones” and Javier Peña in “Narcos.” His films include “Wonder Woman 1984,” “The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent” and Pedro Almodóvar’s “Strange Way of Life” with Ethan Hawke.

**Joseph Quinn as Emperor Geta**

Joseph Quinn plays the ruthless Emperor Geta, who rules Rome alongside Emperor Caracalla (Fred Hechinger). He is previously best known for starring roles in “Stranger Things” and “A Quiet Place: Day One,” and looking ahead has been cast as Johnny Storm, aka the Human Torch, in the upcoming “Fantastic Four” film.

**Fred Hechinger as Emperor Caracalla**

Fred Hechinger’s previous credits include “Thelma,” “Fear Street: Part One,” “The Woman in the Window” and Season 1 of HBO’s “The White Lotus.” He’s also in the upcoming “Kraven the Hunter.” He plays Emperor Caracalla, who shares power with Quinn’s Emperor Geta.

**Connie Nielsen as Lucilla**

Connie Nielsen as Lucilla in “Gladiator II” (Credit: Paramount Pictures)

Conne Nielsen returns to “Gladiator” to reprise her role as Lucilla, who in the first film tried to help former lover Maximus overthrow her brother Commodus. In a key scene from the trailer, she gives her son Lucius (Mescal) a ring that once belonged to Maximus. The actress’ other films include “Wonder Woman,” “Nobody” and “Origin.”

**Derek Jacobi as Sen. Gracchus**

Derek Jacobi as Sen. Gracchus in “Gladiator” (Credit: Universal/DreamWorks)

British actor Derek Jacobi returns to play Sen. Gracchus in “Gladiator II.” In the first film, he plotted with Maximus and Lucilla to overthrow Commodus. The actor’s many other films include Kenneth Branagh’s “Hamlet,” “Henry V” and “Dead Again,” as well as “Gosford Park” and the TV Series “Good Omens” and “The Sandman.”

# The Church of St Francis of Assisi in Qawra celebrates 25 years of consecration

In 1954 two garages were bought and served as a chapel. In those days, shepherds were still tending to their flocks and farmers tilled the harsh soil of most of Buġibba and Qawra.

Some years later a small church was constructed to serve mainly summer residents. In 1979 the new church of Buġibba was consecrated and dedicated to St Maximillian Kolbe. The Franciscan Conventual Friars of St Paul's Bay were preparing themselves for the expansion of the community in Buġibba.

In the late 1960's, the rocky peninsula of Buġibba and Qawra started to flourish with tourists. Hotels and holiday apartments sprung up around the coast. Plots of government land were given to young couples to build their homes. Young families started to grow in Qawra and in the 80's, the friars had the foresight to build a large church and surrounding complex to cater for an ever-increasing community. Visionary architect Richard England was entrusted with the design of a church for a growing community.

On the 11 th August, 1999 Archbishop Mons. Ġużeppi Mercieca consecrated the new church of Qawra to God and it was dedicated St Francis of Assisi.

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the consecration of the church, the friars and the community have prepared four days of celebrations (see full programme below), the highlight of which will be on Friday 9th August. After the 6:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Mass, Prof. Richard England will deliver a talk on the creation of sacred spaces and his visual insight when he designed the Qawra church.

Throughout these twenty-five years, the Franciscan friars have maintained a strong Christian community. Proof of this is the faithful church attendance over the weekends, despite the fact that Qawra is now a cosmopolitan place.

The Qawra community is living the Franciscan spirit through the liturgy and the sacraments, and through the various church groups that enrich this community – Pre-youths, Altar servants, Diaconia feeding and supporting people in need, church choir, catechism classes and various other groups.

# Sir Anthony Joseph Mamo
# The First President of Malta

**(9 January 1909 – 1 May 2008)**

DR. ANTHONY MAMO was the FIRST PRESIDENT OF Malta and previously served as the last Governor-General of the State of Malta before the country became a republic. He was also the first Maltese citizen to be appointed Governor-General, and before independence, briefly served as acting Governor.

Mamo was born in the town of Birkirkara the son of Joseph Mamo and Carla Brincat. He was educated at the University of Malta where he earned a bachelor's degree in 1931 and his law degree in 1934.

Sir Anthony had been in private practice as an advocate for just over a year when he made the Public Service his career. In October 1936, he was appointed member of the Commission which, under the chairmanship of Judge Harding, was entrusted with the task of preparing a Revised Edition of all the laws of Malta. This task took six years to complete. He was in private practivce a year before joining the civil service. He served as Crown Counsel from 1942 and later became attorney general.

In the meantime the Second World War broke out and, although the Commission's work was carried on. Sir Anthony as like so many others, gave his services for refugee work and the welfare of those hit by war.

amo was never involved directly in politics. He was appointed as Chief Justice of Malta in 1957 where he served until 1971 when he was appointed as Governor-General, the first Maltese to hold that office, serving until 13 December 1974, when Malta was proclaimed a republic. He served as president from that date until he was succeeded by Anton Buttigieg on 27 December 1976. He was given knighthood in 1959.

Mamo was married to Lady Margaret (née Agius) from 1939 until her death in 2002. They had three children; Josephine (married to Victor E. Tortell), Monica (married to George Pisani) and John (married to Tessa née' Scicluna).

Mamo died on 1 May 2008 at the age of 99, at Casa Arkati in Mosta An oncology center in Mater Dei Hospital.

---

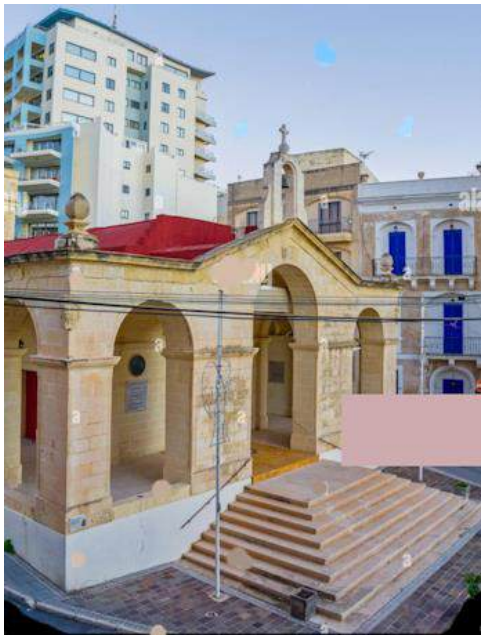
## Saint Cajetan

I have a soft spot for this saint as he was the patron saint of my home parish as a boy, at Hamrun in Malta. He was a priest in northern Italy during the time of the Protestant Reformation. He was a catholic reformer very concerned about the splits developing in the church at his time. To help with this reform he started a congregation of secular priests. He sent them out to revive the church. Indeed the church is always needing reform! However, as the fathers of the church warn us, reform must not be done without keeping unity and communion in mind. As we fragment and move away from apostolic authority we can also move away from the fullness and integrity of faith. History gives plenty of testimony to this.

I find a very helpful quote from Saint Cajetan

'Do not receive Christ in the blessed sacrament so that you may use him as you judge best, but give yourself to him and let him receive you in this sacrament, so that he himself, God our saviour, may do to you and through you whatever he wills ....'

He encouraged others on the path to sanctity which only happens when we surrender to God's invitation and will. God wants the absolute best for us more than we want it for ourselves ...God loves us infinitely more than we love ourselves.



## Malta, St. Paul's Bay or San Pawl il-Bahar: 17th century church of St. Paul's Bonfire, also known as St. Paul's Shipwreck Church.

The old fishing village of St Paul's Bay, now merged with Buġibba, has retained something of its traditional Maltese character and has a few historical sights.

The 17th-century Church of St Paul's Bonfire stands on the waterfront to the south of Plajja Tal'Bognor, supposedly on the spot where the saint first scrambled ashore. A bonfire is lit outside the church during the Festival of St Paul's Shipwreck (10 February). Mass times are listed at the front of the church.

## Malta's airport welcomed over 4 000 000 passengers in first half of 2024

The company which manages Malta's international airport has announced that in the first half of the year more than four million passengers passed through its airport. During a press conference, CEO Alan Borg presented the strong results achieved by the company during the first half of the year, leading Malta International Airport to perform better than other airports in southern Europe, including Italy, Germany and Spain.

Malta International Airport welcomed 4.1 million passengers in the strongest first half of the year, as passenger movements during the first six months of 2024 registered an increase of 18.4% over last year. The months which registered the biggest growth in this period were March, which exceeded 2023 levels by 30 per cent, February (+25 per cent) and January (+23 per cent).

This exceptional growth in passenger traffic also led the company to report an increase in revenue from both the aviation and property and sales sections, as revenue in the first half of the year reached €66.4 million, while net profit stood at €22.1 million.

"Our excellent performance in every aspect of operations in the first half of the year has put the company in a strong financial position for the rest of 2024. These results enabled the company to distribute the largest interim dividend so far to shareholders, and to continue investing in the development of Malta International Airport," Borg said. TVMNEWS.

Id-Dar tal-Providenza
Homes of Persons with Disabilities

# Friends of Providence House N.S.W.

# ACT OF GENEROSITY

## DAR TAL-PROVIDENZA

On Saturday the 20th of July 2024, a cheque to the value of $17,000 was presented to Id-Dar Tal-Providenza on live T.V during their Fund-Raising Marathon.

A cheque from the Friends of Providence House N.S.W. was presented by its Co-Ordinator, Jim Borg and Secretary, Rita O'Dwyer, during the second day of the Annual Volley Ball Maratona sponsored by B.O.V. Jim Borg was introduced by the T.V. Host where he briefly explained how the Friends of Providence House N.S.W. was formed in 2011 and that to date approximately $195,000 have been raised in favour of Id-Dar Ta-Providenza.

Fr. Martin, who was also on stage, thanked the Friends of Providence House N.S.W. for their generosity. He also mentioned how he met Jim Borg for the first time in 2011 and then came for a visit to Australia in 2013 to officially launch the Friends of Providence House at a big Concert in conjunction with the Maltese Cultural Association of N.S.W. at Wentworthville Leagues Club.

**We are now back in Sydney and starting our new Fund Raising campaign for 2024/2025. Full banking details in our attachment.**

Any donations made straight into our official Commonwealth Bank account attract no fees. Every dollar raised will go to Id-Dar Tal-Providenza Malta.

This institution relies to a large extent on sponsorships and public donations and has an annual expense of 7 million Euros

($12 million). It looks after around 120 persons with very special needs on a 24/7 basis and employs 20 staff and has approximately 150 volunteers.

**SO PLEASE HELP THIS WORTHY CAUSE.**

# Mother and her baby in Perù survived through generosity of the Maltese and Gozitans

Fiorella Pace

Five years after being ordained as the first Bishop of the Missionary Society of St Paul, MSSP, Bishop Giovanni Cefai who is based in Perú told TVMnews that at the beginning he faced numerous challenges, including the climate in a location which is 4,000 metres above sea level. Bishop Cefai added, however, that he continuously witnesses the good being done among the people there, thanks to donations from the Maltese people. Bishop Cefai emphasised the importance of keeping in close contact with the people, particularly the sick and poor, despite being a bishop.

I feel it is very necessary for a priest and missionary to stay close to the people, because it is there that one feels Christ is communicating with us every day. We meditate and pray on the words of Christ every morning, but Christ then speaks to us through our brethren in need.

Monsignor Giovanni Cefai has been Bishop of Huancane' in Perù for the past five years. He is the first bishop within the Missionary Society of St Paul. He recalled that when he had gone to Huancane', the Nuncio had told him that he would have one of the most difficult postings, possibly a posting no one wanted.

We faced numerous challenges and we had to start afresh. From the pastoral aspect, the human aspect, to create an infrastructure and try and do one's best to help these people.

Monsignor Cefai explained that his day as bishop of Huancane' starts with morning prayers. After breakfast he spends about an hour on administrative work, after which he visits villages and camps to check on the people's needs.

Poverty, hunger, sickness, lack of education... we do our best through the structure we set up to help these poor people.

We asked Bishop Cefai to tell us about unforgettable experiences during these five years. One of these is about a mother and her baby, who were saved thanks to the donations of the Maltese and Gozitans.

The woman was in her last weeks of pregnancy, there were major complications and the hospitals had given up hope. However, we managed to save both the mother and her baby. Whenever she now sees us, she cries with happiness and says it is thanks to us that she and her baby survived. I also recall a nun who has been living in the forest for 30 years. Without electricity or simple basic needs. One can just imagine. She hails from France. I remember the first time I visited, I asked for the bathroom. Her reply was that I had the whole forest. It was all available!

Monsignor Cefai explained that Huancane' is 4,000 metres above sea level, resulting in depleted oxygen levels. It is home to some 20,000 persons, including many who work in the gold mines. The bishop added that there is much suffering, and even the sick and dying sleep on animal skins instead of beds. Bishop Cefai added that thanks to donations from the Maltese, these people are provided with assistance in matters of health, education and food, with the MSSP running kitchens for the poor and elderly.

# L-Assunta fil-Belt Victoria

Ninsabu fl-eqqel tal-istaġun sajfi meta niesna tieħu ftit tal-mistrieħ u tgawdi l-baħar; oħrajn jitħajru jaqbdu l-vapur jew l-ajruplan u jmorru jżuru pajjiżi 'l bogħod minn xtutna biex igawdu d-dehriet, il-pajsaġġ, l-ikel tajjeb, mużewijiet u dak kollu li għandhom x'joffru artijiet ħafna ikbar minn tagħna. Iżda ninsab ċert li l-parti l-kbira tan-nies tagħna jew ma jaffordjawx jieħdu vaganza barra minn xtutna inkella jippreferu joqogħdu hawn u jgawdu l-baħar u x-xemx li l-Mulej għoġbu jżejjinna bihom. Mhux biss imma jitpaxxew ukoll bil-festi tagħna kollha kulur, briju, ferħ, fuzjonijiet sbieħ reliġjużi, baned, logħob tan-nar, mixegħla, armar fit-toroq u x'naf jien. Jiġu jżuruna wkoll ħafna mill-emigranti tagħna li bla dubju, għalkemm bogħod minn artna, jibqgħu marbutin ma' art twelidhom. Kull belt u raħal f'Malta u Għawdex għandhom il-festa tagħhom li għaliha jibdew ihejju minn xhur qabel. Bla dubju l-festa titlob ħafna u ħafna spejjes u dawn ma jaqgħux mis-sema u allura jibda l-ġbir kemm fil-knejjes għall-festi ta' ġewwa u kemm fit-toroq tagħna biex tħallas għan-nar, għall-baned, għall-armar u dak kollu li titlob festa. Nemmen li l-poplu tagħna jħobbhom il-festi u allura kulħadd jagħti dik xi ħaġa biex ikollu festa ħelwa u sabiħa. Importanti li niftakru li l-patrun għandu jkun iċ-ċentru ta' kollox u nkunu minn tal-ewwel li nattendu l-funzjonijiet sbieħ li jsiru fil-knisja parrokkjali, il-pontifikal ta' jum il-festa u l-Purċissjoni bl-istatwa li toħroġ iddur mat-toroq tagħna f'jum il-festa. Ħalli mbagħad nidddevertu wkoll fil-marċijiet, naraw t-tlielaq tradizzjonali tal-bhejjem u l-logħob tan-nar.

Dan kollu li għidt sa issa nsibuh fil-festa tal-Assunta li ssir bl-akbar pompa fil-Belt Victoria fil-ħmistax ta' Awwissu fejn insibu l-Knisja Katidrali mżejna b'kapolavur ta' Koppla, u statwa ħelwa ta' Marija Mtellgħa s-Sema mkenna mis-swar taċ-Ċittadella li serviet ta' kenn għal Għawdxin fi żmenijiet koroh meta l-għedewwa riedu ijassruna. Kienet l-Assunta li fl-erbgħinijiet ħelsitna mill-ħruxija tal-għadu u wasslitilna fil-port tagħna l-Konvoj ta' Santa Marija li refagħna minn xagħarna u ħelisna minn tant gwaj. Kien ukoll fit-twelid tal-Assunta li t-Tieni Gwerra ġiet fi tmiemha u l-poplu tagħna seta' jieħu n-nifs u jibda jgħix ta' nies fil-paċi u l-prosperita'. Ċertament li din hi waħda mill-ikbar festi li tiċċelebra l-Knisja Kattolika; tant hu hekk li f'Malta nsibu sebat irħula li jfakkru din il-festa u tnejn oħra f'Għawdex. Kulħadd bl-imħatra min jagħmlilha l-ikbar festa lil din l-Omm tagħna Reġina tas-Sema u l-art.

Forsi mhux Hi kienet li fl-aħħar Gwerra ħelsitna minn flaġell hekk kbir meta bomba tal-għadu nifdet il-koppla ta' waħda mill-knejjes tagħna u baqgħet nieżla bla ma kkaġunat danni tant kbar! Nitolbuha lil din Ommna biex tissokta tħarisna minn kull deni l-ewwel tar-ruħ u mbagħad tal-ġisem; nitolbuha żżommna poplu magħqud li jaħseb fil-proxxmu tiegħu u jgħix skont ir-rieda ta' Binha Gesu'. Ma rridx inħalli barra li marbuta ma' din il-festa tal-Għawdxin ikollna wkoll l-Wirja Agrarja li ssir fil-Ġonna Pubbliċi ta' Villa Rundle u nies minn kullimkien jimlew dawn il-Gonna popolari tant miżmuma tajjeb biex jaraw il-prodotti u tant xogħol tal-idejn flimkien ma' tjur, bhejjem u x'naf jien. Ikollna fostna wkoll il-President ta' Malta, din is-sena Għawdxija fost l-Għawdxin, li tqassam il-premjijiet lil tant esebituri. Imma ħa nieqaf hawn u nintasab quddiem il-ġawhra ta' statwa li nsibu fil-Katidral tagħna u ninsġilha dawn il-vrus li ta' kull sena joħorġu mill-fomm ta' qalbi. U dan ma jistax ikun mod ieħor meta niftakar li ommi Lola, Alla jaħfrilha, kienet tant devota tal-Assunta u rat l-ewwel raġġi tax-xemx u trabbiet u kibret fi Pjazza Savina, tefgħa ta'ġebla bogħod mill-Katidral tal-Assunta. Insellem ukoll lil żewġ poeti

Rabtin li ma kenux joqogħdu bogħod minn xulxin, Ganninu Cremona u Dun Gorġ Mercieca li tant faħħru u għollew lill-Assunta bil-vrus mirquma tagħhom; ċert li ferħet ħafna bihom din l-Omm tagħna tas-Sema meta lemħithom quddiemha! Ma rridx inħalli barra lill-ħabib tiegħi Anton F. Attard, poeta, folklorista u storiku li kiteb volumi dwar l-istorja taċ-Ċittadella, il-Knisja f'Għawdex u l-Katidral tal-Assunta kif ukoll niseġ versi mill-isbaħ lil din l-Omm tagħna tas-Sema, u li llum ħalliena wkoll. Imma ħa niġu għal sehmi biex dan jibqa' mniżżel meta jien ukoll ikun imissni ningħaqad ma' dawn il-ħbieb!

## *MARIJA ASSUNTA*
## *15 Awissu*

***O Marija mtellgħa s-Sema***
***Reġina tas-Sema l-art***
***Itfa' ħarstek fuqna kollha***
***Eħlisna mill-hemm u l-mard***

***Li ta' spiss ifeġġu fuqna***
***U jordmuna taħt riġlejhom;***
***Oħroġna minn taħt difrejhom***
***U mill-qilla ta' idejhom***

***U iġborna lkoll madwarek***
***F'din il-festa mqaddsa tiegħek –***
***Uliedek irridu nibqgħu***
***Imdawrin ferħana miegħek.***

***Aħna nafu li 'l uliedek***
***Inti żgur ma tinsihomx***
***U li mdejqa u mnikkta***
***Int bla dubju ma tridhomx!***

***Għiritna kollha bi ħġarha***
***Ħarġet dlonk illum minn darha***
***Sabiex tilqgħek u ċċapċaplek***
***U tagħmillek din iż-żjara!***

***Waqt li tkun iddur mat-toroq***
***Idħol żur lill-morda tagħna,***
***Fejqan sħiħ kun int li ttihom***
***Sabiex jerġgħu lura magħna.***

***Reġġa' lura l-ferħ u l-hena***
***Agħti l-ferħ lill-imnikktin,***
***Agħti x-xogħol lil min hu qiegħed,***
***Urihom wiċċ il-Bambin.***

***Fuq ir-Rabat kollu xerred***
***It-tbissima, tant barkiet***
***Sabiex l-Għawdxin f'darhom jgħixu***
***Bogħod min-niket u l-inkwiet.***

***Ħu ħsieb tant mijiet ta' ħlejjaq***
***Li f'dal-jiem jiġu jżuruk***
***F'din il-Knisja kollha mżejna***
***U mħabbithom dlonk juruk.***

***Ma rridx nagħlaq din il-kitba:***
***Isma' dit-talba qasira –***
***'Ħarstek żomm fuq Malta w Għawdex***
***Tħallihomx tad-dnub ilsira!'***

**Kav. Joe M Attard – Ghawdex 2024**

I WOULD TO THANK ALL THOSE WHO KINDLY SENT A DONATION
IF YOU WANT TO HELP HERE ARE MY DETAILS

COMMONWEALTH BANK
BSB: 065-106 Account Number: 0050 2597
NAME: Frank Scicluna

# Tradition lives! Wives of fishermen carry Marsaxlokk festa statue in age-old custom

*The fisherman's wives give thanks to Our Lady of Pompeii for keeping their husbands safe while out at sea*

*Francesca Vella*

Malta's traditional fishing village Marsaxlokk celebrated its parish feast last weekend, which honours Our Lady of Pompeii. A charming custom of this particular feast is that of the wives of the village fisherman carrying the titular statue in a procession surrounding the parish church.

In a video posted yesterday, several women of various ages can be seen singing along to the marching band's music, while sharing the burden of the statue on their shoulders. This is quite an unusual sight, as the carrying of the statue is usually reserved for men. However, the women of this village perform this symbolic tradition to express their thanks to Our Lady of Pompeii for keeping their husbands safe while out at sea.

It is likely that such a tradition started in a time when going out to sea to catch fish was a more dangerous task, as they lacked the modern tracking and weather prediction technology that exists today. However, this tradition still serves to bring about a sense of community between the fishermen's wives, while providing a sign of support towards their husband's toils at sea.

*Have you ever witnessed this charming tradition?*

Francesca Vella - Francesca has always felt most at home in a cinema or theatre, particularly if musicals are involved. She loves to read, write, and share about her experiences of both the fictional and the real world.

# MALTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT sets ambitious plan to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050

Gozo News

A Net Zero Carbon Plan has been unveiled by Malta International Airport, which outlines the company's decarbonisation strategy and sets ambitious targets for the airport to reach carbon neutrality by 2025 and achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Malta International Airport's Head of Sustainability and Analytics, Justine Baldacchino, explained that the company has already made significant strides in its sustainability journey, reducing emissions within its control by 31% since 2015 and steadily climbing the rungs of Airports Council International's Airport Carbon Accreditation programme.

"As we work towards our next two milestones of achieving carbon neutrality next year and a 65% reduction in emissions by 2030, Malta International Airport will be employing the two-pronged approach of investing in the production of clean energy and seeking opportunities to improve the energy efficiency of its facilities," Baldacchino said.

To this end, the company said that it is currently investing in a number of large-scale projects, including the expansion of Malta International Airport's renewable energy portfolio through the introduction of new photovoltaic farms both at landside and at airside, the upgrading of heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems within all airport buildings, and the conversion of all airfield lighting to more efficient LED alternatives. *Photo: Malta International Airport*

**Dear Frank,**
**I thought it's about time that I tell you how impressed I am about your journal. I have sent every journal that I have received to three friends of mine here in Melbourne and one in London. I just cannot imagine all the work you put into its publication and your research well do you get all this info from ? Well done and keep up the good work. Benedict Soler**

**We always like to read the reflections written by Bishop Charles Gauci of Darwin. We learn so much. We are proud of him as a fellow Maltese/Australian. Joseph and Anne Bugeja - CANADA**

**I have been saving all the newsletters for these last few years on my USB. It is my pleasure to go through them every now and then and re-read the stories. Thanks for your wonderful work and patience. Sam Abela - USA**

**THE MALTESE JOURNAL IS FREE, NON-POLITICAL AND BILINGUAL**

# The song 'GHAZIZA' performed by Laura Bruno wins The People's Song

The People's Song was held on Saturday 3rd August at Pjazza Teatru Rjal, where the sixteen finalist songs accompanied by the Malta Concert Orchestra are heard. For the 48th edition of The People's Song 120 original songs were submitted.

In the final the winners were selected by an expert jury together with a popular jury. The popular jury was made up of members of the public as well as members of the Malta Concert Orchestra.

The song 'Ghaziza' performed by Laura Bruno on words and music by Mark Spiteri Lucas was declared L-Għanja tal-Poplu 2024. The song talks about motherly love. The division when the mother goes missing is hard and one who hopes that the mother will still lead him throughout his life.

Photo: Martin Agius

Laura Bruno was also awarded the Enzo Gusman award for best interpretation.

The song 'Namra' sung by Florence Aquilina with her words and music was ranked second. Namra is a song on gestures, thoughts, dreams and hopes of having a grip on a person. The song style is 'celtic folk'. In third place it ranked the song 'Fissidni' performed by Dario Bezzina, with words and music of the same Dario Bezzina. The song expresses the love between son and mother. The singer-songwriter is asking his mother to say it like when he was young. He promises that he will not get older, he will be there and take care of her.

The award for best social theme went to Lon Kirkop with the song 'Straight' performed by himself. The song talks about his personal experiences over the years as a gay person. Society always expected him to be 'the typical man'. What was expected of him was different from what he really is or what he wanted in his life. Straight talks about other challenges that unfortunately Kirkop still faces in his own life because he is gay. Finally Kirkop is happy as he is.

The organising committee presented the prize L-Għanja Għana lil Renato Micallef for his contribution to the Maltese song. Renato performed the song 'Lace with Geocities' by author George Saliba and composer Dominic Galea.

---

## Maltese Community Council of Victoria,

## Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady 2024

**On Thursday, 15 August 2024 the Catholic Church celebrates the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. On this Feast, Catholics traditionally celebrate Mary going to heaven. The tradition is that 'God took Mary, body and soul, to heaven after her life on earth had come to an end.**

**Fr Lonnie Borg mssp will celebrate Mass on the 15 August at 6:00pm at the St Paul's Chapel , Parkville, Melbourne, Victoria,**

**Everyone is welcome**

# The man who instilled terror in the Maltese Islands

Tunisian Ben Ali Wahid Ben Hassine died at Mater Dei Hospital in November 2019 who had been receiving treatment.

Ben Ali Wahid Ben Hassine had been found guilty in February of 1988, together with another Tunisian national, of the murder of four men, two taxi drivers and two foreign nationals, an Englishman and a Frenchman.

Ben Hassine had been condemned to life imprisonment in February 1992 for the quadruple murder of two taxi drivers and two men, one British and the other French, in an 18-day killing spree that shocked the island. The criminal court had recommended that Ben Hassine serve a minimum of 22 years behind bars.

Ben Ali Wahid Ben Hassine had instilled terror in the Maltese Islands in February 1988, when he carried out four callous and brutal murder-robberies over an 18-day period. The murders were so gruesome that some people were unwilling to leave their homes at the time.

Hassine's murders were particularly gruesome. His third victim was shot in the head and had his face caved in with a rock in an attempt to prevent the victim from being recognised, this after Hassine had failed at decapitating the body. The fourth and final victim was also a taxi driver who was killed by a gunshot to the head.

The murder investigation had led to the arrest of a number of Tunisian men, amongst them Mohsen Mosbah Bin Brahim and Ben Ali Wahid Ben Hassine. Both men were 26 years old at the time. The two Tunisians were both handed life sentences in 1992, after pleading guilty to avoid a trial by Jury.

Ben Ali Wahid Ben Hassine, had filed a human rights action in October 2014 arguing that because life sentences were not subject to revision in Malta, his fundamental human rights had been breached.

## MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF NSW RADIO PROGRAM

### Every Sunday on 2GLF-fm 89.3

Tune in from 10am for an hour of *Maltese Voices*: Music with Marthese Caruana.

Then join the Radio Team of the Maltese Community Council of NSW for a weekly radio program from the Maltese community across the state, news from the Islands of Malta and other interesting topics

# Dr Anthony Ronald Buhagiar OAM A Maltese Pioneer in NSW

**Anthony Ronald Buhagiar** was a general practitioner and trade unionist in New South Wales, Australia. Dr Anthony Buhagiar practiced as a GP in Wentworthville, NSW from 1957. He was always regarded as a very capable doctor, who worked hard for the Maltese community. In addition, he was involved in various other activities, including:

Dr. Buhagiare was the Honorary Chairman, Medical Board of **Parramatta Hospital Medical Board**, Affiliate Physician **Westmead-Parramatta Hospital**, and Executive member of the **Medical Staff Council**. He was also Consultant in Palliative Care at **Westmead Hospital of NSW**.

He also occupied the presidency of the **Australian Medical Association** in NSW (1984-84). He was Founding Fellow and President of the College of General Practitioners, an examiner and member of the NSW Faculty of RACGP Foundation and President of the **Western District Division of General Practice.** ***He was also an examiner in Obstetrics for the*** *Royal Australian College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists'*. Involvement in Maltese community. He was one of the original members of the committee Villaġġ San Duminku in Blacktown, (1985-88). He was also a member of the Maltese sub-committee, **Transcultural Mental Health**.

**Awards and recognitions** He was honoured with the **Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)** in 1999 for his services to medicine in the field of General Practice and to the Maltese community. Dr Anthony Buhagiar died on the 25th of July, 1999

# GETTING MARRIED IN MALTA OR GOZO

Linda Hohnholz

**Malta and its sister islands Gozo and Comino, an archipelago in the Mediterranean, boasts a year-round sunny climate and 8,000 years of intriguing history.**

It is no wonder that "The Bachelor" selected Malta for one of its episodes (E4) from the latest season. With its picturesque backdrop, coastal views, historic architecture and sites that create a romantic ambiance, Malta is the best destination for stunning wedding settings as well as unforgettable honeymoons.

Malta, home to three UNESCO World Heritage Sites, is perfect for couples who are looking for unique and memorable venues. Valletta itself, Malta's Capital, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, built by the proud Knights of St. John, and offers plenty of spectacular historic settings. In addition to luxury hotels, baroque palaces with gardens, and converted farmhouses (in Gozo), some of these historical venues are themselves Heritage Malta sites such as St. Angelo Hall, the Terrace at the Malta Maritime Museum, Egmont Hall at Fort St. Angelo, Castellania Courtyard and the Garden at the Inquisitor's Palace. Couples opting for a Monday through Thursday wedding will only have to pay for set-up and catering, and are exempt from venue rental fees. Discounts are also available at other Heritage Malta sites if the wedding is held Monday through Thursday.

In Maltese culture, marriages are lavish affairs, but whether couples are planning a laid back "I do" for close family or a spectacular affair for 200, any wedding held there will be one to remember. The celebration can take whatever form couples wish from a meal or cocktail party to a lavish reception, the old-fashioned way. Large buffet receptions are very much part of the traditional Maltese wedding.

This Mediterranean archipelago has a wide selection of experienced, professional caterers who can offer local fare including dressed tuna to barbecues, mouth-watering buffet and finger foods. The 'Going away' ritual can be memorable: whether couples choose a horse-drawn Karozzin, a sleek limousine, or even a traditional Dgħajsa boat on the Grand Harbour.

**Honeymoons** Following a wedding held in Malta, couples then have time to explore and discover the diversity of the Maltese Islands. With something for every interest, the possibilities are endless, ranging from the cosmopolitan side of Malta to the lure of *Calypso's Isle*, Gozo, and the solitude of Comino. More information on Weddings in Malta may be found on visitmalta.com/en/weddings-in-malta, where couples can also find the 4 official Destination Wedding Planners for contacts in Malta.

# RABBIT STEW HAS AN ENDURING APPEAL THAT DRAWS ATTENTION TO MALTA'S RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE AND CULINARY TRADITIONS

In the Maltese islands, rabbit stew has a long history of cultural significance. Wild rabbits quickly gained popularity in Malta when the Phoenicians introduced them as a dependable source of fresh meat. Because of their availability and affordability, they rapidly became a staple of regional cuisine. The popularity of rabbits soared after the Knights of St. John received Malta from Charles V of Spain in the 16th century. After the Knights issued edicts outlawing rabbit hunting in an effort to rescue them from extinction, eating rabbit came to represent defiance against the Order's restrictions and a statement of Maltese identity.

After the lifting of the ban on rabbit hunting, the Maltese began domesticating local rabbits and raising them alongside other livestock. Rabbits are still used in traditional Maltese dishes, both domestically farmed and imported.

Fenkati, lavish feasts focusing on delicacies made from rabbit, are organised across the whole island all year round. Often, the main course is superb rabbit meat served with liver or heart as a garnish, while the starter is pasta with rabbit ragu. Side dishes can include British-style chips or the traditional Maltese patata fil-forn, roasted potatoes seasoned with fennel seeds and rosemary. Maltese rabbit stew is traditionally prepared by marinating rabbit joints in a combination of red wine, vinegar, bay leaves, and thyme. This meal has countless variations, and every family has a well-kept secret recipe.

Ultimately, Rabbit stew has an enduring appeal that draws attention to Malta's rich cultural heritage and culinary traditions, making it a valued dish that documents the island's past.

**STUFFAT TAL-FENEK OR MALTESE TRADITIONAL RABBIT STW RECIPE**

Ingredients to make your own Maltese rabbit stew:

1 rabbit, 1.5 – 2kg

Marinade

350ml red wine

3 fresh bay leaves

4 cloves garlic, peeled

Sauce

1 brown onion, finely diced

2 cloves garlic, finely diced

3 fresh bay leaves

3 tbsp tomato paste

1.5 litres tomato purée

1 cup water

80ml extra virgin olive oil

Peeled potatoes, cut into chunks

Maltese rabbit stew is easy to cook, all you need is time:

Marinade= Combine marinade ingredients in a large bowl.

Remove rabbit kidneys and liver and remove front and back legs, cutting each in half and cut saddle into 5 pieces. Place rabbit pieces, kidneys and liver into marinade and refrigerate overnight, turning several times. To cook the meat, strain rabbit, without throwing away the liquid and discarding garlic and bay leaves. Cover with lid, add new bay leaves and bake for 2 ½ - 3 hours.

**Preheat oven to 150oC**.

Heat olive oil in a heavy based over medium heat and gently brown meat on all sides, seasoning with salt and pepper. Cook until golden and set it aside.

Fry onions and garlic till they are soft, then add tomato paste and red wine and cook for a minute to let the ingredients mix their flavours. At this point add tomato purée and water and mix well.

Return rabbit to the pan, add bay leaves and potatoes.

Cover with lid and bake for 2 ½ - 3 hours.

**The Brağjoli exclusive cooking workshop at the magnificent Inquisitor's Palace in Birgu, is being held on Monday 19th August 2024 by Heritage Malta!**

Participants will learn about the cultural significance of brağjoli and enjoy crafting and tasting this beloved local dish.

There will be **two sessions – each bilingual – one for kids from 09:00 till 11:30, and another for adults from 18:30 till 21:00.**

Adult participants will be offered a glass of wine during each session, enhancing the culinary experience with a touch of local flavour. All attendees are **encouraged** to bring an extra container to take home their delicious creations.

**Important disclaimers: Unfortunately, the venue is not wheelchair accessible, and the course may expose participants to potential allergens such as wheat, eggs, nuts, and gluten.**

Tickets, priced at **€30 for kids and €40 for adults**, can be reserved **online www. heritagemalta.mt/store or at any Heritage Malta museum or site.**

**e**

# MONTEKRISTO OF HAL FARRUG - SIGGIEWI

Located in the heart of the Siggiewi valley, in the limits of Hal Farrug, the Montekristo Estate offers in-house catering and entertainment facilities as well as providing a large list of professional services that include catering, event organization and endless themed function opportunities for both the local and international clientele.

Montekristo Estate operates a selection of flexible, becoming venues that are able to host and accommodate a wide range of functions and activities in its attractive and unusual surroundings. The Estate boasts of no less than ten singular indoor and outdoor venues, all of which ooze individual charm and charisma. No matter how intimate or large your guest list might be, Montekristo Estate is able to accommodate your wedding within one of its various indoor or outdoor venues. The unique versatility of Montekristo Estate implies that every wedding can be as unique and creative as you choose it to be. In addition, minimal sound restrictions, ample parking facilities and extensive weather back-up facilities ensure that your event not only runs smoothly throughout but is also truly memorable. All of the venues found within the Estate are managed and operated by MonteKristo Catering, offering clients a one-stop-shop approach with regards to venues and catering services. We ensuring that your wedding is as unique and magical as you've always imagined it.

# United Nations endorses Heritage Malta's WreckLife project

Ġozo News

The WreckLife project, an initiative aimed at deepening our understanding of the intricate relationship between historic wrecks in Maltese coastal waters and their surrounding marine environments has been officially endorsed by the United Nations Ocean Decade.

Heritage Malta's Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit (UCHU) made the announcement and explained that WreckLife addresses the challenges of wreck degradation and its impact on marine organisms and ecosystems.

It said that by examining temporal changes in climate and their effects on the marine environment and using a comprehensive, interdisciplinary approach, the project aims to enhance our ability to predict future degradation and develop effective strategies for preserving these underwater cultural heritage sites.

Heritage Malta's UCHU said it "stands firmly upon three foundational pillars: Explore, Record, and Share. This commitment is exemplified through a range of initiatives aimed at disseminating underwater findings to the public."

Chief among these are Heritage Malta's Virtual Museum (www.underwatermalta.org), a platform that invites the public to explore the historical sites found in Maltese coastal waters, and the Dive into History 360 programme, which brings these sites to life through high-resolution 360-degree virtual reality experiences offered to diverse audiences in schools, active ageing centres, conferences, and events both locally and globally.

The WreckLife project takes the Unit's work to new levels, as it aligns itself with the United Nation's Ocean Decade global initiative, UCHU said.

It added that the United Nations' endorsement of the project underscores the importance of preserving underwater cultural heritage worldwide. The project focuses on identifying critical ocean knowledge, building capacity and increasing the use of ocean knowledge."The shipwrecks in our seas are studied as ecological islands, merging archaeological methodologies with biological research that includes sediment sampling, temperature mapping and light measurements," said UCHU. Scientific diving operations as well as other undersea technologies are utilised for monitoring and data collection, providing high-resolution data for unprecedented insights into the ecological dynamics around these underwater archaeological sites.

WreckLife brings together a diverse team of experts from various fields and institutions, including various departments at the University of Malta, thus generating valuable knowledge that transcends disciplinary boundaries, developing new research methodologies and promoting innovation.

By publishing open-access articles and engaging with the public through educational programs and interactive online platforms, the project ensures its research findings reach a broad audience, promoting ocean literacy and environmental stewardship.

UCHU stressed that WreckLife sets a new standard for managing historic shipwrecks and their ecologies, contributing to the conservation of underwater cultural heritage worldwide.

*Photo: Heritage Malta – Maryland Bomber – John Wood*

The Malta Royal Opera House - Pity - it was never rebuilt

# INVITATION

**The Maltese Chaplaincy would like to invite the**
**Maltese community, families and friends**
**to celebrate the feast of**
**Maria Bambina (known as 'Il-Vitorja')**
**At St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney NSW**
**Sunday, 8th September 2024**

**Procession and Rosary will commence at 2.30 pm, followed by a concelebrated Mass by Maltese Clergy.**
**Main celebrant: Mons Giovanni Cefai MSSP,**
**Bishop of Huancanè, in Perù (from Gozo)**
**Everyone is encouraged to attend and participate in this traditional feast.**
**Mass will be bi-lingual.**
**Free refreshments will be served after the celebration at**
**De Piro House, 19-21 Stanley Street, Sydney**
**(a short walking distance from the Cathedral)**

***Rev Fr Tarcisio Micallef MSSP***
***Chaplain for the Maltese Community***
***in the Archdiocese of Sydney***
***Tel: 02 9380 8398***