MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

10 YEARS

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

An Independent Journal for Maltese Living Abroad

MALTESE LIVING ABROAD ARE PROUD OF THE CMLA AND THE MALTESE JOURNAL

Working Together

Maltese e-Newsletter

This journal is truly the means of spreading the news around the four corners of the globe. TheMaltese roots can never die. Somewhere, somehow, we all have our story to tell.

THE PEN IS MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD

MARYANNE CUTAJAR KILLED IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT - MELBOURNE

THE 16TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE MALTESE LIVING ABROAD (CMLA)

The Council for the Maltese Living Abroad convened for its annual meeting on the 30th and the 31st of October 2024 at Palazzo Spinola in St Julian's. Comprised of 15 members, including representatives from Australia, the United States, the European Union, and the United Kingdom, the Council gathered in Malta to discuss its work, address issues faced by Maltese communities abroad, share ideas and proposals, and devise a strategic roadmap for the future of the Council. The meeting, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade Ian Borg, also included a discussion with President Myriam Spiteri Debono on challenges faced by the Maltese diaspora. Key topics included the Maltese language, citizenship, regional councils, as well as a number of presentations on collaborations with other entities.

MALTESE LIVING ABROAD PROUD OF THE CMLA AND THE JOURNAL

Working Together

CMLA AIMS TO

- **Preserve the continuation of a harmonious working relationship between the COUNCIL and the JOURNAL for Maltese Living Abroad.**
- **Publish in this Journal of the list of delegates and the constituents they represent.**
- **Every delegate works with and informs all entities in their jurisdiction on the proceedings, recommendations and resolutions of the meeting**
- **Every delegate becomes available for all Maltese living abroad and associations to discuss any issues, proposals and/or problems affecting his/her constituents and present them to the Council for consideration and implementation.**
- **Bring unity, connectivity, transparency, understanding and harmony between all members and communities of Maltese living abroad.**
- **Give credit and recognition to the Maltese achievers in community service, arts, education, law, politics and medicine**
- **Maintain strong links with all the societies and communities scattered around the world and be the spokespersons of the Maltese they represent.**

LIL MARIA ATTARD
(f'jum mewtha)
minn Michael Cini 9. XI. 2024

Ma konniex ħbieb. Nistqarr qajla kont nafek.
Id-drabi fejn tkellimna kienu ftit.
Le, mhux fit-triq inkella waqt xi festa,
iżda l-isptar ħdejn sodda tal-marid.

Dawn il-waqtiet qaluli wisq dwar ħajtek;
Kont bieżla, dejjem sejra bħal mekkuk,
bieb qalbek miftuħ beraħ sabiex twieżen,
attenta għal dawk illi jeħtieġuk.

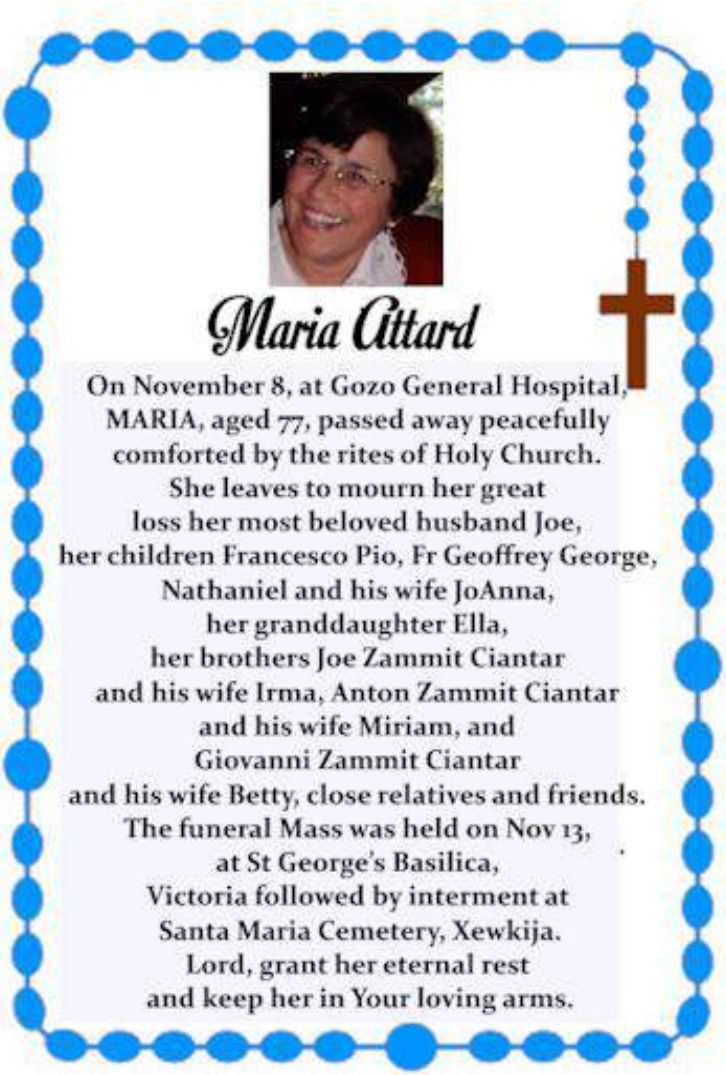
Ta' żewġek il-maħbuba fl-hemm u fl-hena,
ta' wliedek kont qaddejja lejl u nhar,
eżempju ċar, sabiħ illi jfakkarna,
kif għandha tkun tassew mara tad-dar.

Il-ħlewwa 'lli biha kont mogħnija,
intgħaġnet fil-karattru tal-ulied,
b'għemilhom kull fejn jirfsu dlonk idakkru
u jsebbħu ta' madwarhom l-ħajjiet.

U naħseb ma nkunx qiegħed jien niżbalja,
jekk ngħid li qalbek daqet ferħ bla truf,
meta lil Geoffrey rajt fuq l-artal tiela',
biex joffri s-sagrifiċċju tal-ħaruf.

Żgur f'ħajtek kellek kemm il-morr u l-ħelu,
li ġabu fuq ħaddejk il-ferħ u d-dmugħ,
immˈ inti b'fidi soda u b'qalb qawwija,
bqajt miexja ' l -quddiem b'kuraġġ żagħżugħ.

Il-wiċċ kattiv tal-mard lejk tefa' ħarstu,
bħal kieku ried sa l-aħħar jippruvak,
l-uġiegħ u l-ħsieb tal-firda għafsu fuqek,
immˈ int ma ħallejt xejn biex jingannak.



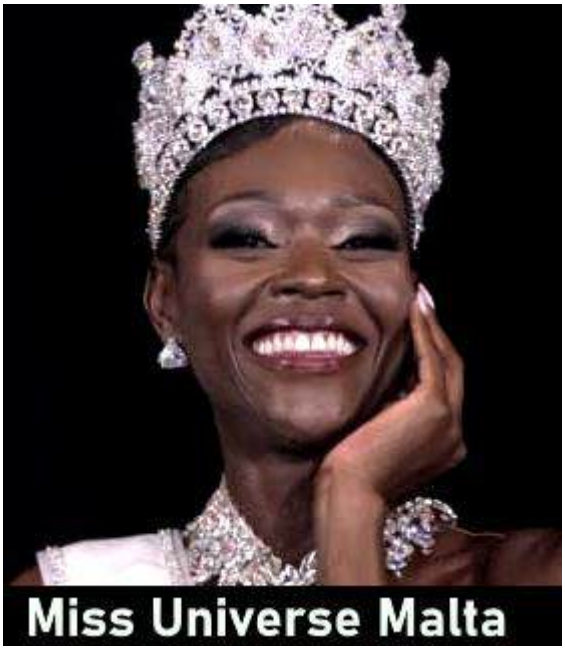
Bħal fjura rajt it-tlugħ ta' xemx ħanina,
ħassejt ma' ġismek kesħa waqt l-inżul,
ta' jiemek rajt it-tmiem bil-ħeffa riesaq,
u fhimt li żmienek magħna mhux se jtul.

U kellu jkun Novembru biex jiftaħlek,
tal-ġenna l-bieb biex hemm tidħol tistkenn,
ħallejt vojt kbir u ħafna qlub maqsuma,
ta' djulek minnufih għosfor il-kenn.

Daqshekk issa tbatija, uwġiegħ u biża`,
imiss il-ħlas wara l-piż tas-salib,
u jien b'qalbi mnikkta ngħidlek grazzi,
għax lil familti tajt tassew ħabib.

MARIA ATTARD is the dear wife of our Gozitan correspondent Chev. Joe Attard. The editor, staff and readers convey their condolences to the Attard family for the loss of this gracious, beautiful and lovable person. Frank Scicluna - Australia

BEATRICE NJOYA CROWNED MISS UNIVERSE MALTA 2024



Beatrice Njoya has been crowned Miss Universe Malta 2024. The 39-year-old single mother of three, who was born in Cameroon, is not only breaking barriers with her age but also bringing a powerful story of resilience and hope to the international stage.

Beatrice will represent Malta at the 73rd Miss Universe competition this upcoming November in Mexico, marking a significant milestone in the pageant's history as the oldest contestant ever to compete.

Beatrice's journey to the crown is nothing short of remarkable. Born and raised in Cameroon, she faced numerous challenges throughout her life. As a survivor of domestic violence, Beatrice's story is one of strength and perseverance. She moved to Malta to seek a better life for her and her children, where she has worked tirelessly to rebuild her life. Her experiences have shaped her into a passionate advocate for women's rights and domestic violence awareness, making her a beacon of hope and inspiration for many.

At the Miss Universe Malta 2024 pageant, Beatrice captivated the judges and audience with her poise, elegance, and powerful message. Her journey to the crown was filled with determination and hard work, and her victory was celebrated by many who see her as a symbol of triumph over adversity.

Beatrice's win is also a significant moment for the Miss Universe organization, highlighting the inclusive and evolving nature of the competition. Her participation challenges traditional norms and sets a precedent for future contestants, showing that age is no barrier to achieving one's dreams. The first runner-up of the competition was Janei Desira, who also delivered an impressive performance. However, it was Beatrice's unique story and remarkable presence that ultimately won the hearts of the judges.

As Beatrice Njoya prepares to take the stage at the Miss Universe competition in Mexico, she carries with her the hopes and dreams of many who have faced similar struggles. Her journey serves as a reminder that with resilience, courage, and determination, one can overcome any obstacle and achieve greatness. Malta and the world will undoubtedly be cheering her on as she competes for the Miss Universe crown, showcasing the beauty and strength of a true survivor.

MALTA'S POPULATION - ONE IN FOUR IS NON-MALTESE

According to the National Statistics Office, more than 542,051 people live in Malta at the end of 2022, with 137,376 – or just over 25% – being foreign nationals. Based on this new data, the number of foreigners living in Malta since then has jumped by 8,534 people, a rise of 6.2%. The 2024 population density in Malta is 1686 people per Km^2 (4,367 people per mi^2), calculated on a total land area of 320 Km2 (124 sq. miles).

MEMORIES - Dar l-Emigrant, Valletta 1971

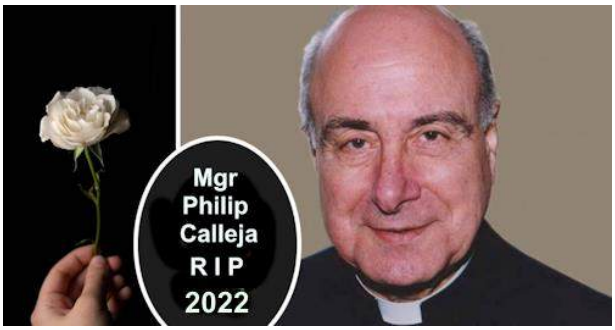
The Late Mgr Philip Calleja was recognised for his lifelong sterling work

Laying the foundation stone of Dar l-Emigrant in 1971: standing on the right are Archbishop

Michael Gonzi, Prime Minister George Borg Olivier and Governor General Sir Maurice Dorman. Sitting on the left of Mgr Philip Calleja (at the microphone) is Mgr Emmanuel Gerada, who, at the time, was Archbishop Coadjutor and Employment Minister Vincent Tabone. Broadcaster Charles Arrigo, who was delivering a live commentary for Rediffusion, is standing next to Tabone. February 10, 2021, marked the 50th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of Dar l-Emigrant, Castille Place, Valletta.

The building was erected as a permanent symbol of this country's tribute to Maltese emigrants and a monument witnessing Malta's bond with them. Its foundation stone was laid by Prime Minister George Borg Olivier and blessed by Archbishop Mgr Michael Gonzi.

This building was an appreciation to all those who have always had the best interests of Maltese emigrants and their families at heart, primarily Mgr Philip Calleja, the indefatigable former leader of the Emigrants' Commission. Mgr Calleja dedicated his life to uprooted people, first as the champion of post-war Maltese migrants and their families and then as the leading pioneer defender of refugees seeking protection and help in Malta.



Up to March 2020, at the venerable age of 91, the late Mgr Calleja was still regularly making himself available at *Dar l-Emigrant* to help whoever knocked on his door seeking his advice or assistance. It was only the COVID-19 pandemic and the indispensable precautions that had to be taken that kept him away from *Dar l-Emigrant* and what is most dear to him: helping others.

The late very able researcher and historian Fr Lawrence Attard OP, writing in the Times of Malta on June 24, 1975, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Emigrants' Commission, had this to say:

"The history of migration from these islands, especially post-war migration, is now to a great extent the history of the Emigrants' Commission. That commission was providentially fortunate in that, since 1953, it has had as its driving force Mgr Philip Calleja, who, since then, has dedicated his priestly life to migrants and to all people whose life has been affected by emigration.

Mgr Philip Calleja was the champion of post-war Maltese migrants and their families as well as of refugees seeking protection and help in Malta- Charles Buttigieg

"The enthusiasm of Mgr Calleja has inspired a dedicated group of people who willingly offer their services to prospective migrants, to their dependants and to Maltese living abroad. These services are given to all who seek the help of the commission; no fees are charged, no irrelevant questions asked and the whole procedure is conducted by experienced priests and lay people in total privacy."

Mgr Calleja enjoys various international and local recognitions for his lifelong sterling work for Maltese emigrants and asylum seekers reaching Malta.

On March, 16, 2010, Stephen Gatt, president of the Federation of Maltese Abroad, presented to Mgr Calleja a plaque which states as follows: "In recognition of a lifetime of service, labour and travail well in excess of the call of duty in the interests of Maltese migrants across the diaspora."

Mgr Calleja was also granted certification by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on September 23, 2004 "in appreciation for years of dedicated service and close collaboration".

The Emigrants' Commission was the UNHCR's operational partner in Malta from 1987 to 2004, when the UN agency's role in the island had taken a new form in the light of Malta's Refugees Act.

On November 1, 2019, Mgr Calleja was also honoured by the University of Malta, acclaiming him "a meritorious candidate for the degree of Master of Letters (Honoris Causa) of this Alma Mater".

In its motivation, the university recognised "the significant contribution made by Philip Calleja to the social well-being of our communities, especially through his persevering commitment to the welfare of migrants and his contribution to the process of relocation; through his role as founder of the Migrants Commission.

OPINION OF OUR READERD

My proposal is to deal with issues relating to diaspora citizens

1. voting in both the Malta general elections and EU parliament,
2. distance voting in all elections and
3. the addition of one diaspora electoral district and two elected observers with no voting rights to the Maltese Parliament with negligible impact on the current operation of the Maltese Parliament.

The three matters - Voting Rights, Distance Voting and Maltese Karta tal-Identita - are of vital importance to diaspora Maltese citizens. It is worth noting that I have worked on this concept (proposal) with HE Dr George Vella, President Emeritus, The Hon Tonio Borg, The Hon Carmelo Abela, Prof Carmen Sammut, and several members of FOMA and the CMLA. All generally understand that my draft proposals are plausible and worthwhile, and they would finally solve many flaws in how we deal with citizens living overseas. Implementation by the Maltese Parliament would be a major victory for Maltese citizens. To receive more information contact **Prof Stephen Gatt on** gattsp@gmail.com

Our Sponsors

USEFUL INFORMATION FOR MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

In recent years, there was a considerable increase in the number of Maltese nationals travelling abroad for business or leisure. While this is a positive sign, it has also brought about a new set of challenges and a significant increase in requests for consular assistance, the majority of which could be easily avoided if travellers are properly guided about what to do prior to travel.

Consular assistance is regulated by the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (1963) and consists of an array of consular issues related but not limited to cases taking place abroad and involving Maltese nationals. Issues range from loss/stolen or expired passports to hospitalisation and deaths, violence and criminal offence, family disputes and deportation of Maltese nationals.

Further, consular assistance also includes legal matters in the form of notifications on maritime contraventions, transmission and processing of rogatory letters, EFTA Court documentation, information related to deaths/incidents of foreign nationals, documentation for request for transfer of sentenced persons, transfer or request for extradition of local/foreign nationals.

The General Consular Affairs Unit which forms part of the Client Service Office (CSO) also handles requests received by foreign missions to visit foreign inmates at the Correctional Service Agency and the setting up of polling stations in Malta by Embassies for foreigners living in Malta to be able to vote in elections taking place in their homeland.

Visit website – **www. consularplus.gov.mt/general-consular-affairs?lang=en**

The Directorate for Consular Services and Maltese Living Abroad

The Directorate assists all Maltese travellers who find themselves in distress whilst abroad. In such situations, the Directorate acts as the main point of contact between the individual who is abroad and his/her family in Malta, to facilitate any possible support and ensure that all services rendered are provided in the best possible manner and in a timely order.

Who to contact in case of emergency

The Ministry provides emergency consular assistance 24 hours a day including weekends and public holidays. If you are abroad and need help, you can call the Maltese Embassy, the High Commission or the Consulate in the country you are visiting, when present, or the Ministry in Valletta. After office hours, the Ministry operates through a Duty Officer who takes note of your request and, if possible, assists immediately. When immediate assistance is not possible, your request will be referred for action to the officers in charge at the Consular Services and Maltese Living Abroad Directorate. You can access addresses and telephone numbers of Missions abroad online by clicking on **Malta Representations** and **Find Representation**, and select the country of which you require Malta's diplomatic contacts. Always go to the Webiste of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs = **www. foreign.gov.mt/**

Maltese Living Abroad Unit (MLA)

Voluntary Registration

Services provided by Missions Consular Services

Visas for Foreign nationals to enter Malta

Further information on Visa Advice for Foreign Nationals may be obtained from the ConsularPlus website.

Assistance to Maltese citizens in distress whilst abroad

If Maltese nationals need emergency assistance while abroad, they should either contact the nearest Maltese Embassy or Consulate; or the Ministry on 00356 21 242 191 which provides emergency consular assistance 24/7. The Ministry operates an after-office hours service through a

Duty Officer who takes note of requests and if possible, assist immediately. When immediate assistance is not possible, requests will be referred for action to the Consular Service Office.

Public Registry Certificates (Life Events)

The Public Registry is responsible for the issuance of birth, marriage, civil union, free status and death certificates. The certificates can be ordered in person from the Public Registry Office in Marsa or online on www.certifikati.gov.mt and have them delivered to an address of one's choice. When ordered online, a certificate can also be ordered with an Apostille/Legalization certificate. More information regarding the services offered by the Public Registry website.

Maltese Passports

The Passport Office which falls under the remit of Identity Malta issues a Maltese passport to Maltese citizens and assists Maltese Embassies and Maltese High Commissions abroad to issue or renew Maltese passports for Maltese citizens residing abroad. The validity of an ordinary Maltese passport is ten years for adults over 16 years, five years for minors between 10 and 15 and two years for minors under 10 years of age. More details about the Maltese passport can be obtained on the Passports Office website.

Maltese Citizenship

Community Malta Agency is responsible for administering Maltese citizenship applications. The Agency processes applications for the acquisition of Maltese citizenship by birth, by registration, by naturalisation through long term residence, by merit for exceptional services and for exceptional services by direct investment in Malta. More details about the acquisition of Maltese citizenship can be obtained from the Community Malta Agency website.

Voluntary Registration for Maltese Citizens Living Abroad

The Maltese living Abroad register comprises of the voluntary notification of Maltese Diaspora. This voluntary notification seeks to further inform, strengthen and compliment the consular services offered by the Maltese Government.

The Register encompasses three different Forms.

Forms and Instructions are available below:

Form D – Voluntary Registration for Maltese Citizens Travelling and Living Abroad:

Form V – Voluntary Registration for Maltese Nationals of Value Living Abroad:

Form O – Voluntary Registration of Maltese Diaspora Non-Governmental Organisations

All this information may be found on the Webpage of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
www. www. foreign.gov.mt/

Address
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade
Palazzo Parisio Merchants Street Valletta, VLT 1171 Malta
Telephone 2124 2191
Email malteselivingabroad.mfet@gov.mt

Villa Portelli, Main Guard, Jesuit church among 40 restoration projects

Owen Bonnici says Budget 2025 will ensure preservation of Malta's history

Emma Borg

Owen Bonnici speaking at Villa Guardamangia. Photo: Jonathan Borg

Forty restoration projects will kick off, continue, or be completed over the coming year, the Culture Minister said. Speaking at Villa Guardamangia - one of the key projects on the list - Owen Bonnici outlined how the 2025 budget will impact the culture sector and ensure the preservation of Malta's historical assets. The extensive list includes ongoing projects and new initiatives to enhance cultural heritage sites.

The main projects include:

- Villa Guardamangia in Pietà, with an investment of €10.2 million in European funds;
- Villa Portelli in Kalkara, with an investment of around €800,000 over this year and next;
- The Jesuit Church in Valletta, with a total investment of €4.5 million;
- The Maritime Museum in Birgu, set for completion by 2027;
- The World War II Victims Monument in Floriana;
- The additional fortification restorations of the Cottonera and Santa Margerita Lines;
- The Vendome Tower in Marsaxlokk;
- The San Ġwann t'Għuxa Windmill in Cospicua;
- The Marsa Tram Station.

Another significant project is the Main Guard building in Valletta's St George's Square. Heritage Malta will oversee its restoration with €600,000 in national funds, with a target completion date of 2027. The Main Guard was initially built as a guardhouse in 1603 by the Order of St John, and it remained in use after the British took over.

"This is a strong restoration programme that will continue to beautify our country, safeguard the unique heritage of our islands, and, above all, provide Maltese and Gozitan families with a country of quality," Bonnici said.

Malta's cultural footprint will expand internationally in 2025, as the country participates for the first time in the prestigious Gwangju Biennale in South Korea.

Additional developments include a Sculpture Garden at the Malta International Contemporary Art Space (MICAS), which will receive €600,000 in funding, and a €3 million investment in Malex House, which is the property of PBS. This project will include an underground car park, a large studio, and office spaces equipped with state-of-the-art technology.

A new site in Paola is also being developed to provide studios and offices for dancers and artists, a collaborative project with MCAST and the Performing Arts Agency.

"A quality country is recognised not only by its economic success but also, and importantly, by how well it cares for its heritage, arts, and cultural sectors," said Bonnici.

The minister also highlighted several recently completed projects, including the restoration of the Grandmaster's Palace and the launch of MICAS in 2024. With these successfully concluded, he indicated that the next primary focus would be the Culture and Arts Hub in Marsa. He noted that Festivals Malta would soon issue the first of two tenders for this project following recent budget allocations.

ISIMGħUNA - LISTEN TO US

Children lay out their vision for Malta in conference with national leaders

Malta ESG Alliance holds ISIMGħUNA conference to bring children and national leaders together to talk about the country's future

by **Nicole Meilak**

Students from independent, church, and state schools had their say on Malta's future (Photo: Malta ESG Alliance)

Children aged 11 to 14 presented their ideas for a sustainable Malta to national leaders during the ISIMGħUNA conference, organised by the Malta ESG Alliance (MESGA).

The event brought together students from independent, church, and state schools across Malta and Gozo, and gave them a platform to express their thoughts on sustainability and the future of the country.

National leaders were also present at the conference, including the President, the Prime Minister, members of parliament and other key stakeholders.

According to MESGA Chairperson David Xuereb, the conference's name was chosen by the students themselves.

Students discussed each of the 17 sustainable development goals (SGDs) and asked business leaders about Malta's progress on key challenges.

Throughout the conference, artist Joe Farrugia illustrated the students' ideas in real-time, creating artwork that captured the themes and emotions expressed by the young speakers.

Artist Joe Farrugia illustrating the students' ideas during the conference

This art piece will travel to schools across Malta and Gozo, spending a week at each institution to inspire other students with the vision shared at ISIMGħUNA.

Closing the conference, President Myriam Spiteri Debono said she admired the students' passion and commitment to their community. "I was impressed by your interest in the world around you and the care you show for your community, especially regarding poverty," she said.

"Your education is crucial for securing meaningful jobs that will support your families. As the leaders of tomorrow, it's essential that you become a beacon of integrity and justice," she said.

Honoured with the Special Jury Award at the German International Film Festival 2024

WHO WOULD YOU TELL?

"An artistic witness given with competence, clarity, compassion, and great dignity."
Mgr Charles Scicluna - Archbishop of Malta

"A disturbing chapter in our history, often brushed (down) under the rug."
Mr Herman Grech - Chief Editor Times of Malta

"A very distressing and moving film." Her Excellency Ms Jenny Cartmill -Former Australian High Commission in Malta

Premiere screening and Q&A to be held at the
New South Wales Parliament House - Parliament Theatrette on
Thursday, 21 November 2024 at 6pm at 6 Macquarie Street, Sydney

Following the premiere of Fish Isle Films' feature documentary in 2023 in Malta and its recent win at the German International Film Festival 2024, it is now time for the New South Wales audience to see the insightful and moving documentary Who Would You Tell?.

With the promises of a better future in a new foreign land, "WHO WOULD YOU TELL?", which is co-produced by Fish Isle Films and Strada Reali tells the story of three brothers from Malta separated from their destitute family at a young age and sent to Tardun in Western Australia under the child migration scheme. What was supposed to be a second chance turned into a lifetime of regret, pain and missed opportunities that deeply affected their journey to adulthood.

Fifty years on, Raphael, Peter and Manny reflect on their stolen childhood and how the sexual, emotional, and physical abuse they experienced shaped their entire life.

Through interviews and archive materials, the documentary navigates back through their memories of abuse, homesickness and severed family ties. Their story unravels the historic failure of a scheme backed by two governments; the broken promises of the Catholic Organisation that received them; and features outcomes of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse recommended by then Prime Minister, Julia Gillard in 2012.

FREE Q&A screening: Thursday, 21 November 2024 at 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Register at: https://events.humanitix.com/who-would-you-tell-documentary-screening-with-q-and-a Survivor Manny Ellul will be in attendance at this event.

This is the first feature documentary produced by Fish Isle Films which recently was honoured the Special Jury Award at German International Film Festival 2024. This follows the success of their black/dark comedy short film "BLACKCAT" which won him a Remi Award at the WorldFest-Houston International Film Festival.

A trailer of the documentary is available for preview at http://whowouldyoutell.com.

Link to Press Kit and Images. A 70-minute feature documentary Directed by Dery Sultana Written and produced by Ramon MizziCinematography by Alexis Mizzi Co-produced by Fish Isle Films and Strada Reali

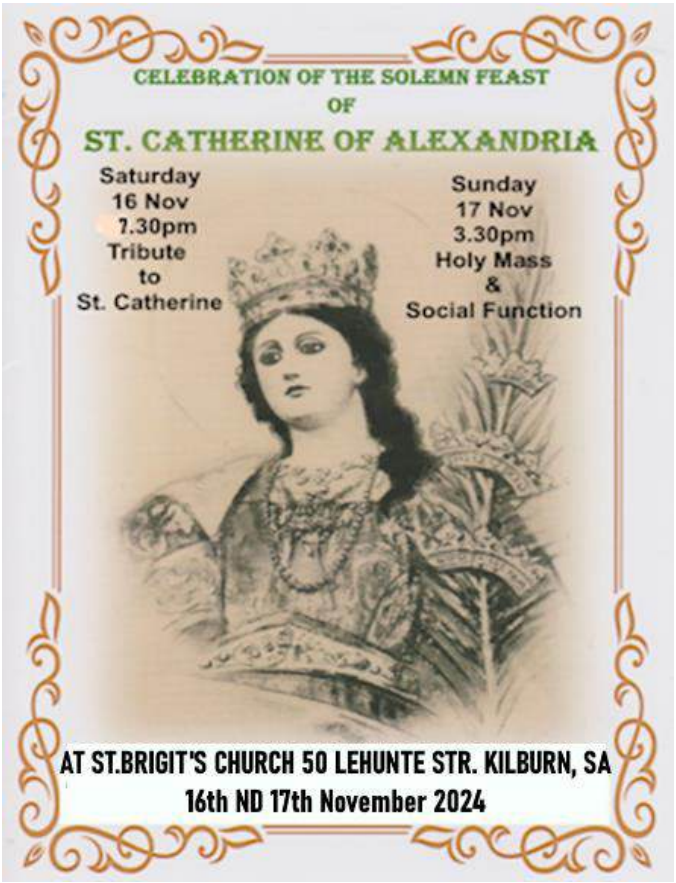
JUM SANTA CECILJA

Open day at St Cecilia Chapel later this month
November 2, 2024 3:57 PM
Wirt Għawdex

Wirt Għawdex will be hosting an open day at St Cecilia Chapel on 17 November, a few days before the feast of St Cecilia, the patron saint of music. The event will be held between 10am and 5pm.

In a statement, the NGO said said the general public can visit the medieval chapel, which is the only one in Gozo from this period. They can also join a guided tour, besides buying food and drinks and books, which will be on sale.

There also specific events being held on the day. These include a presentation by Aurora Folk Group at 10.30am which will be followed by a talk that will be delivered in the English language by Alex Vella Gregory, titled *Vita Beata: Sacred Music and Faith in a Capitalist World*. The events then resume in the afternoon with a performance by the Sir M.A. Refalo 6th Form Student Orchestra led by Mro Joseph Grech at 2pm, *Music in Malta – From Prehistory to Vinyl* – a documentary by Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malta at 3pm and the closing event will be a reading and interview with Trevor Żahra hosted by Leanne Ellul in Maltese. Wirt Għawdex



St Cecilia's chapel is located next to St Cecilia's tower, in Triq Ta' Lambert, Għajnsielem, limits of Wirt Għawdex is encouraging the public to come by bike on foot or by using public transport. All activities are free of charge, and those who those who bring a cup and plate with them will benefit from a 10% discount on Wirt Għawdex's publications. These initiatives are part of the European Week for Waste Reduction.

The NGO thanked Merlin Publishers, The Travellers, and Tal-Massar Winery for their help, as well as their volunteers.

One may visit Wirt Għawdex's Facebook page for more details.

The President, Ms Bernadette Buhagiar, and the committee invite all the associations and the members of the Maltese Community to join in the feast of St. Catherine

C31 ANNOUNCES LEADERSHIP TRANSITION AS LONG-SERVING CHAIR STEPS DOWN

Joseph Matina

On the 21 October 2024, The Community television broadcaster C31 announced that its Board has accepted the resignation of Mike Zafiropoulos AM as Chair of the Ch 31 board.

The Board elected Joseph Matina as the new Chair, with Megan Velo stepping into the role of Deputy Chair.

Joseph Matina has been known for his major contributions as an Executive on the Maltese Community Council of Victoria incorporated. He is currently the Treasurer of the MCCV and the Chair of the Multicultural Events.

Joseph is a qualified accountant who has operated his own business for the last 38 years. He holds a full Real Estate Licence in Victoria and holds a position as the responsible manager on an Australian Financial Services Licence. In addition, he is registered with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission as a self-Managed Superannuation auditor.

Joseph is also a translator with CultureVerse for the Maltese language and have had several interviews on SBS Radio on the Maltese Language programs with Joe Axiaq.

Apart from his volunteer work at the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, Joseph has set up a Charity to raise money to build education centres in the Philippines and assist families to support their children while studying through university. This not only provide Children with reaching University, but such an investment provides future professionals for the community.

As an experienced Board member of several not-for-profit organisation, Joseph will not only lead to expand the Community Television Network but also will represent the Maltese Community on the Board. Joseph will be working on providing Maltese related programs on the CTV in the near future for all the Maltese Community to enjoy. CONGRATULATIONS, JOSEPH.

MALTESE GYMNASTICS MAKES HISTORY WITH BRONZE MEDAL IN BAHRAIN

By **Jason Borg** - MaltaSport

Maltese gymnastics celebrated a groundbreaking achievement as Sophie St John clinched a historic bronze medal at the ISF Gymnasiade Under-18 Games in Bahrain—the first-ever medal for Team Malta in this prestigious competition since the Malta Schools Sports Federation (MSSF) began competing in 2006.

Sophie's outstanding journey didn't end with the bronze. Competing in the Floor Final, she delivered a strong performance to finish in 5th place, showcasing her skill and resilience on the international stage. Her achievements mark a pivotal moment for Maltese gymnastics, inspiring young athletes back home.

On Day 1, Sophie and her fellow junior gymnast, Lyana Curmi Inguanez from GymStars Gymnastics Club, proudly represented Malta under the expert guidance of Coach Nataliya Berehova. Sophie's consistency saw her place 14th overall, earning a remarkable 46.599 in total. She qualified as second on Beam with a score of 12.933 and sixth on Floor with 12.400, securing a well-deserved spot in the apparatus finals.

Meanwhile, Lyana also impressed, finishing 30th out of 44 talented gymnasts worldwide. Her dedication and determination made her another inspiring figure for Maltese sport.

A heartfelt thanks goes to Coach Nataliya Berehova for her invaluable mentorship, which has been instrumental in leading these young gymnasts to such impressive success. Both athletes have set a new standard for Malta, making the nation immensely proud and igniting hopes for the future of Maltese gymnastics on the international stage.

SALUTATION
Peace be with You

Society of Christian Doctrine - Malta

The custom of exchanging the greeting of peace at Mass is found in the words of St Augustine in the 4th century: "After the Lord's Prayer, say 'Peace be with you.' Christians then embrace one another with a holy kiss. This is the sign of peace."

In the primitive church at Rome and in the Eastern Church, the kiss of peace was offered after the first part of the Mass and before the Eucharistic Prayer. Early baptismal documents also indicate that the exchange of peace was reserved only for the 'faithful,' and so catechumens were dismissed before the Prayer of the Faithful, which was followed by the Kiss of Peace. In the Western Church the sign of peace was moved quite early to where it is as Augustine described it and where it is today. The Western Church saw a close link between peace and communion–peace with one another before receiving the Prince of Peace.In the Middle Ages the laity were excluded from the sign of peace and it was then dropped altogether from the Mass; the only remnant of the rite was the action of the priest kissing the altar Vatican II restored the ancient rite of peace to all who participate at Mass.

During one Easter period in 1957, I met the late Archbishop Justin Simonds coming out of the sacristy at St Mary's church, West Melbourne. He stopped to speak with me and said: "I heard that the greeting among yourselves is "Peace be with you". The Archbishop commented that it was a wonderful greeting and should be used among all Christians. He also said that he would be going to Rome for the 'ad limina' visit and would suggest the idea to Pope Pius XII.

On his return from Rome, he told me that the Pope liked the idea very much. It may seem presumptuous that this idea came directly from the Society of Christian Doctrine but is it possible that this suggestion to the Pope by Archbishop Simonds may have assisted in the re-introduction of this greeting into the Liturgy.

PRECA COLLEGE – ALBANIA

Preca College started its activity back in 1993 under the guidance of the Society of Christian Doctrine. It has always been ranked among the best private high schools in Albania. The culmination was in 2014 when it was ranked the best private school in Albania, achieving the highest results in Matura exams.

Preca College has contributed to the education of more than 20 generations, having students continuing their studies in the best universities inside and outside Albania as well. Through the hard work and dedication of the qualified academic staff, it sets the standards for qualitative learning. Preca College strives to receive its students with the same healing and teaching attitude that Jesus showed towards all those who befriended him. Thus, Christ the Teacher is our model on whom we cast our behaviour and all our activities.

Inspired by the call received by St George Preca, our college lives a particular spirituality where the virtues of humility and meekness are the prevalent attitudes that guide us. At Preca College we work through our daily routine with the knowledge that we are constantly nourished by the presence of God.

To provide a holistic education, the college endeavours to form an educational environment that encourages students to develop new talents and obtain the necessary knowledge that empowers them to live up to their full potential.

WE NEVER FORGET OUR Quiet Achievers

Dear Editor. My talk you published in your last issue of your Newsletter brought back many memories of many Maltese/Australian I worked with and others who offered their contributions in one way or another within the Maltese community of the State where I worked and lived in i.e. NSW. Recently I dedicated two talks on the radio. entitled the Little Heroes... with the full title ***The Little Heroes. of the Maltese community in NSW***. The 60 years of life of La Valette is a glaring monument of a number of these heroes who throughout the years with hard work and dedication built something which has been beneficial to the community. What is even more important is the fact they achieved all this all though their sense of altruism and their love for the culture of their homeland. I should emphasise their voluntarism: that sense of offering a service not because you expect anything in return but to offer it all for the good of the cause. And the cause was offering a haven for the new arrivals. and help to build bridges between the new world and the new.

La Valette social and religious centre is a beacon of all this thanks to the pioneers and the many leaders who offered their services to keep it going. That was an example of a field of action which showed the generosity of spirt to help others in need.: which was also a practical proof of the sense of altruism which proved to be quite common within the Maltese Community in Australia. Whether in the field of education, sports, journalism, entertainment. radio ... the history of Maltese in Australia is dotted with many achievements which assisted the migrant to settle and to keep the link between the old and the new. I am not going to give lists of names. However, I am sure. that in every State, in this case I am talking about Australia there are and were groups of volunteers , call them silent achievers or little heroes who offered their talents to organise to write to publish, broadcast, anyway to sow a seed or two to help the community and also prepare the community to take part in the multicultural culture over the last 50 or so years.

One may well say that the Maltese community in Australia was a community fit for heroes.... In many suburbs there are unbuilt monuments and 'medals never offered to these heroes who without much education and faced. with some or strong opposition put their hand on the plough and filled the needs of the community. I may add, without much recognition and appreciation for what they have done For this we members of the Maltese community should be very grateful to the many who offered their time and services free of charge. I am not going to mention names as I would be putting my head on a very dangerous block. However, it will be remiss of me not to mention this newsletter, a journal for Maltese Living Abroad, and the hard work of Frank Scicluna who over the years has offered his voluntary contributions for a very worthy cause.

I mentioned only one but I'm sure that there are many others in a number of cities, States and countries all over the world or wherever this newsletter is read who kept the Aussie /Maltese or USA/Maltese or Canadian /Maltese Flag flying high with pride and honour. Let us remember them and extend to them our thanks, gratitude and recognition.

Victor V. Vella M.A.(Sydney. Univ.) Baulkham Hills, NSW

(Victor can be heard every week on SBS Radio (Maltese) and on North West FM 98.9 (Melbourne)and 2GLF 89.3(

VALLETTA FC U CARITAS MALTA JNIEDU KOLLABORAZZJONI TA' GĦARFIEN U SAPPORT GĦAR-RIABILITAZZJONI MILL-ABBUŻ TAD-DROGA

Il-Kollaborazzjoni tingħata t-tema Bounce Back

Valletta FC u Fondazzjoni Caritas Malta jħabbru l-kollaborazzjoni bi skop ta' għarfien dwar riabilitazzjoni mill-abbuż ta' droga u wkoll bħala sapport lejn persuni li jinsabu fl-irkupru tagħhom.

Din l-inizjattiva tħabbret mid-Direttur ta' Caritas Malta Anthony Gatt u Claudio Grech President tal-Valletta FC, li timmarka pass importanti fejn tgħaqqad l-isports mas-soċjal.

Il-kollaborazzjoni tiffaċilita l-qawwa tal-isport biex jitwassal messaġġ ta' tama, resiljenza, u rkupru għall-persuni li huma dipendenti fuq sustanzi. Permezz ta' attivitajiet ta' ġbir ta' fondi, outreach fil-komunità u programmi edukattivi, Valletta FC u Caritas se jaħdmu flimkien biex permezz tas-sapporters tal-football Malti tkompli titneħħa l-istigma tad-dipendenza fuq is-sustanzi u tiġi promossa l-attività sportiva u sapport għar-riabilitazzjoni.

Anthony Gatt afferma li persuni jistgħu jirkupraw minn dipendenza permezz ta' sapport tal-komunità. Din il-kollaborazzjoni ma' Valletta FC hija xhieda tas-sapport kif il-komunità tilħaq persuni li jinsabu fl-irkupru. Anthony Gatt esprima l-apprezzament lejn Valletta FC li ressqet lejn Caritas bi tliet dimensjonijiet: l-ewwel biex isir ġbir ta' fondi għas-servizzi kollha li Caritas tagħti mingħajr ħlas lil dawk l-aktar vulnerabbli; it-tieni biex issir kollaborazzjoni ta' għarfien u informazzjoni dwar is-servizzi ta' riabilitazzjoni ta' Caritas; u t-tielet biex issir promozzjoni għall-football bħala attività sportiva li toffri natural high u alternattiva sana kontra l-konsegwenzi devastanti tal-abbuż ta' sustanzi. Id-Direttur ta' Caritas Malta kkonkluda billi rringrazzja lill-Valletta FC li qed jagħtu eżempju u jinkorraġġixxu clubs oħra biex jagħmlu l-istess.

Claudio Grech spjega kif il-partijiet għażlu t-tema Bounce Back għal din il-kollaborazzjoni, u qal "bħalma qed naħdmu b'saħħa 'to bounce back' bħala club tal-football, wara li t-team ġie relegat l-istaġun li għadda, irridu nibagħtu l-messaġġ ta' tama lil dawk li għaddejja minn sitwazzjonijiet diffiċli, minħabba d-dipendenza fuq id-droga, u li anki huma 'they can bounce back' mill-isfidi tagħhom. Dan il-ftehim jirrappreżenta impenn pożittiv lejn il-komunità, u permezz ta' din is-sħubija ma' Caritas, bl-għan li jispira t-tama u jiffaċilita rkupru, permezz tal-qawwa tal-football li jista' jagħmel id-differenza fil-ħajja tan-nies."

Bħala parti minn din l-inizjattiva, Caritas Malta se jkollha l-logo tagħha preżenti fuq il-kit ta' Valletta FC u channels diġitali, filwaqt li jiġu dedikati attivitajiet anki permezz tas-sapporters li se jġorru din il-missjoni. L-ewwel attività se tkun il-Bounce Back Caritas Cup, triangular tournament bejn Valletta FC, Gżira FC u Lija Athletics FC. Dan it-tournament se jsir nhar is- Sibt, 9 ta' Novembru fid-Dingli Training Grounds, bid-dħul minn din l-attività jmur kollu lejn l-attività annwali tal-Maratona ta' ġbir ta' fondi ta' Caritas Malta. Ukoll programmi speċjali bħal 'Football for Recovery' clinics u serje ta' taħditiet fejn jispikka l-irwol tal-isports f'bidla pożittiva fl-Akkademja ta' Valletta FC.

Għall-iktar informazzjoni, wieħed jista' jżur www.vallettafc.net u jsegwi l-kampanja via #bounceback - Marica Cassar PR & Fundraising Officer

Media Shot

"THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME"

live musical on stage in Gozo

Last preparations are being held for the grand musical production **THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME**, a musical by Disney Theatrical being produced for the first time in Malta at the Don Bosco Oratory Theatre in Gozo. This musical, based on the 1996 Disney film and Victor Hugo's 1831 novel *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* tells the story of Quasimodo, the hunchbacked bell-ringer of Notre Dame, and his desire to one day be integrated in the outside world.

This musical, with music by Alan Menken, lyrics by Stephen Schwartz, and book by James Lapine, is being produced on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the newly rennovated Don Bosco Oratory Theatre. Following the special license granted from *Music Theatre International* of London, currently last rehearsals are being organised for this unique musical performance which is coinciding as well with the inauguration of the newly restored iconic cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris.

The best local artists will be taking part, together with some special guest artists from Malta. Ludwig Galea will be interpreting the main part of Quasimodo, whist the young promising artist Krista Mercieca would be portraying the other main role of Esmeralda, together with a cast of about ninety other persons, including musicians, singers, choristers and dancers**.**

The opening night of **"THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME"** will be this Saturday 9th November at 7.30pm, with a repeat performance this Sunday 10th November at 2.30pm *(matinee show)*. Then there will be two other performances, one on Saturday 16th November at 7.30pm, and a last performance on Sunday 17th November at 5.30pm.

Tickets for **"THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME"** can be obtained from the Don Bosco Oratory Theatre of Gozo every day between 5.00pm and 6.00pm, or else by phoning on 21556616 or 99487751. Online booking is also available through the website theatre.donboscogozo.org or donboscogozo.org.

ORDO EQUESTRIS SANCTI SEPULCHRI HIEROSOLYMITANI Locumtenentia Melitensis

SOLEMN INVESTITURE

On Saturday, the 16th of November, at 10:30 am, His Eminence, the Cardinal Grand Master, has appointed His Grace Monsignor Charles Jude Scicluna, Grand Prior and Archbishop of Malta, to preside over the annual Solemn investiture. This event, which involves the investiture of new Knights and Dames in the Lieutenancy of Malta of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, will take place at St. John's Co-Cathedral, Valletta.

A significant number of foreign dignitaries will attend the ceremony, and we are deeply honoured to welcome various distinguished guests. Leading the list is His Excellency Ambassador Leonardo Viscount di Modrone, Governor General of the Order and former Head of Protocol of the Italian Republic, along with Lieutenants and representatives from Europe, as well as from America and Canada for the first time.

A total of ten Knights and Dames will be invested, including Dr. Chris Barbara, Clinical Chairperson of the Pathology Department at Mater Dei Hospital.

You are kindly invited to cover the event. Should you require a comment before the ceremony, please be at the venue by 10:15 am at the latest. **Valentina Lupo, DHS Communications Director**

THE REGISTERS OF BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES IN MALTA AND GOZO TO OUR ANCESTORS

By Tony Mamo

This article looks at the registers of births, deaths and marriages since the arrival of the Hospitallers (Knights of St John) in 1530. From then on, the Church kept registers of these events until 1889 when the Public Registry of the Maltese Colonial Government assumed responsibility for this function.

In Europe, the 16th century was a period of great religious turmoil that divided people, towns and nations. The Catholic Church which for centuries was the dominant religion, had lost its way, as corruption, greed, nepotism, and immorality undermined the very foundations of this great institution. An anti-Catholic movement known as Protestantism quickly grew and spread across northern Europe and "threatened to annihilate" the Catholic Church. Alarmed by the spread of Protestantism, Pope Paul III (1534–1549) convened the Council of Trent (1545–1563) to reform the Church and to repel the spread of Protestantism. Among the Council's many reforming decrees, were two which are essential to this article: (i) parish churches were to keep registers of births, deaths and marriages and (ii) aspirants to the priesthood were to be trained and educated in a diocesan seminary.

The parochial registers contained details of practising Catholics. Anyone not on the registers was presumed to be a non-practising Catholic or a Protestant and could be investigated by the Inquisition. This reform imposed certain rights and obligations on the parishioners.

Baptism was the entry point to the Catholic Church. Therefore, a Catholic family was obliged to baptise their new-born baby and the officiating parish priest was required to record the event in the Register of Births. A Catholic couple had a right to marry in the parish church, subject to satisfying certain conditions including that they were free to marry for life. Again, the officiating parish priest was required to record this event in the Register of Marriages. Finally, there was the "Liber de Statu Animarum", a register kept by the parish priest containing details such as names of family members, relationships, births, address, and sacraments such as confirmation, confession, communion, marriage and death. After the Council of Trent, the Church started recording every important life event of parishioners in the parochial registers.

Despite this registration system, the Church in Malta faced many external and internal threats. Protestantism arrived in Malta and found adherents among the educated people. These also acquired and read books forbidden by the Church. Then there were religious crimes including sorcery, witchcraft, bigamy, breaking the rules of fasting and abstinence, blasphemy or swearing and apostasy. These religious crimes were likely to be prevalent in the crowded streets, houses and taverns of Valletta, Birgu, Senglea and Cospicua. In these cosmopolitan harbour towns, the Maltese mixed with foreign sailors, visitors and merchants, some coming from Protestant countries. They exchanged news on happenings in Europe or money for a book forbidden by the Church.

In an attempt to stop the spread of anti-Catholic behaviour, the Pope established the Inquisition, a Church tribunal or court with its own judges, prosecutors, prisons etc to investigate, prosecute and

punish heretics and people who committed religious crimes. The Inquisition encouraged Catholics to denounce people whose behaviour was suspicious. The punishment for these religious crimes depended on the nature of the crime: some offenders received a spiritual punishment (e.g. going to mass), some were flogged, some were exiled from Malta for a number of years, some were executed in public (burning), some were condemned to rowing on the galleys and some were fined and had their assets confiscated.

In July 1574, Pope Gregory XIII (1502-1585) sent the Italian Mgr. (Monsignor) Pietro Dusina to Malta to ensure that the Church had taken steps to implement the reforms of the Council of Trent, to stamp out heresy and religious crimes and to resolve the differences between Bishop Royas and the Grand Master La Cassiere. Mgr. Dusina was the first full time inquisitor of Malta. He was an energetic and hard working priest who, during his short stay in our islands, visited about 430 churches and chapels and wrote a detailed account of the religious life in our islands. In his role as inquisitor, Mgr. Dusina presided over twenty-five cases including those against Judge Dottor Ludovico Platomone and Don Pancratio Michallef, Archdeacon of the Cathedral, who were found guilty of conversing with heretics. In Malta the Inquisitor's Court was located in Birgu.

The Hospitallers came to rely on the four registers kept by the Church to estimate the population of our islands and the amount of grain required to be imported from Sicily to feed the population of our islands.

England, our colonial masters, also relied on the Church of England parish registers which did not include the births, deaths and marriages of Catholics and non-conformists. Accordingly, on 1st July 1837 the British government introduced the civil registration of births, deaths and marriages which applied to all people living in England irrespective of their religious beliefs. In Malta, civil registration was introduced on 3rd August 1889, when the Colonial government established the Public Registry which took over responsibility for the recording of births, marriages and deaths. The records of the Public Registry, however, goes back to 1864. So, if you want to get a birth certificate of one of your ancestors who was born before 1864, you have to go to the parish church. If he/she was born after 1863 you have to go to Identita` Malta.

The registers of births, deaths and marriages for some parishes have been microfilmed and are freely available on the Maltese Diocesan Archives website (https://archives.church.mt/). The family tree on my father's side includes the names of my ancestors and their date of marriage. Recently I was able to trace their marriage in the microfilmed parish records. My earliest known ancestor married in 1595 in Siggiewi and he was probably born in 1575. It is fair to say that his father probably fought in the Great Siege of 1565.

At the time of the visit of Mgr. Pietro Dusina in 1574-75, the church did not have seminaries for the formation of priests. Mgr. Pietro Dusina recommended the establishment of a seminary in Malta. Education of priests started to improve: after 1570s the Dominicans established a school in Valletta for the education of Dominicans and lay priests; then in 1593, the Jesuits established a college in Valletta which was also a seminary. Later this college became the University of Malta; in 1703 Bishop Fr Davide Cocco Palmieri (1632 – 1711) founded the seminary in Mdina. The improvement in the education of priests is evident from the marriage records of my ancestors: one marriage record of 1632 had three lines, the handwriting was not neat and the lines were slanting; on the other hand, the marriage record of 1722 had eight lines, the handwriting was very neat and the lines were straight.

,

artscouncilmalta.gov.mt/pages/guidance-advice/artworks/

INTRODUCING ARTWORKS: TRANSFORMING EDUCATION AND WORK THROUGH THE ARTS

With ArtWorks, Arts Council Malta is promoting and investing in the arts as a dynamic learning tool and a diverse career path.

What is ArtWorks?

The educational and professional role of the arts needs to be championed and enhanced. This is the reason why the ArtWorks campaign by Arts Council Malta was conceived.

To Enhance Creativity: We want to help foster educational environments wherein creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration are integral to learning.

To Support Educators: Our efforts are committed to encouraging creative pedagogical methods and best practices to enhance teacher and student wellbeing and performance.

To Bridge the Gaps: We will create spaces and opportunities for dialogue between educational settings and the cultural and creative industry to aid both sectors in finding synergies.

Arts Council Malta has engaged with key players and stakeholders in the Educational and Cultural sector to identify common challenges and opportunities for development which will be addressed by the campaign.

Why the Arts?

Positive changes in education and the working world can happen by promoting the transversal value of the arts in fostering skills such as critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration, in multiple contexts that go beyond specific jobs and industries.

An educational tool. Today's educational landscape is focusing on collaborative and experiential learning, as well as the holistic wellbeing of students and educators. ArtWorks promotes the various art forms and art as a dynamic tool that enhances both teaching and learning experiences for all ages.

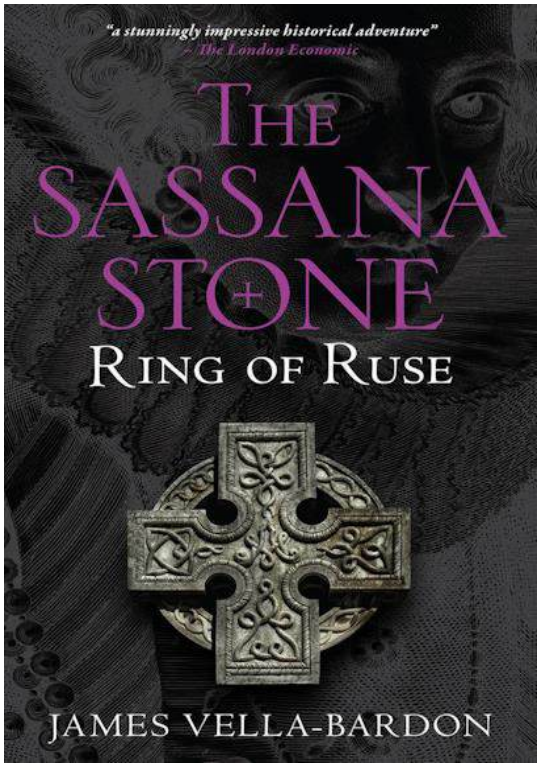
A transformative force. Art in education can enhance problem-solving, empowerment, and resilience. By addressing educational challenges with a multifaceted approach, ArtWorks advocates for the transformative power of the arts and the fostering of the latest skills and approaches.

A diverse career path. Arts education opens up multiple career pathways that empower each person with unique forms of expression. Artistic career paths can open up a dynamic and vast range of opportunities in disciplines ranging from performing arts, filmmaking, visual arts and design to stage and production management, sound and light design and beyond.

An innovation facilitator. Creativity is key to boosting entrepreneurial success in any workplace. Creative thinking allows individuals to develop new and innovative ideas, challenging norms and conventional ways of thinking within and beyond the arts themselves.

Are you interested in studying or working in the Arts?

The cultural and creative sectors in Malta while forming part of a promising future knowledge economy, are thriving. If you are thinking about turning your passion into a path and wondering where to start, watch the stories of some of the professionals who successfully pursued the cultural and creative sectors on **www. artscouncilmalta.gov.mt/pages/guidance-advice/artworks/**



JAMES VELLA-BARDON

RING OF RUSE - Cover Reveal!

Hi all, I'm delighted to reveal the cover of **RING OF RUSE**, the fifth and final instalment in **THE SASSANA STONE PENTALOGY**! Nearly six years after the publication of the series' very first instalment, the saga's grand finale is almost out!

The publication date is 25 November – which is pretty close now!

I hope that Santi fans like this cover (I love it) before they also get to enjoy the last book in this epic, mesmerising series. **RING OF RUSE** answers many questions raised during Santi's incredible Odyssey in 16th C Ireland.

It is with a pinch of sadness that I announce the eventual release of this book, which will hopefully be enjoyed by readers who have been on the ride since first instalment **THE SHERIFF'S CATCH** was memorably published in the UK by Unbound in 2018. Thanks again to all patrons who made that possible.

Those of you who also follow me on Facebook and Instagram will already know that I've been posting some awesome shots of scenes from **THE SHERIFF'S CATCH** (first instalment in **THE SASSANA STONE PENTALOGY**), which I've generated using Meta AI.

I hope you like them – also note that the images posted on Facebook also contain a lot of background info on the historical backdrop as well as the story, in the image subscript (Instagram doesn't allow for lengthy subscripts).

I will be releasing a new image every few days; I've got around another 15 or so shots left to post. Here's the link to the album which contains the images released to date.

Best wishes, - James

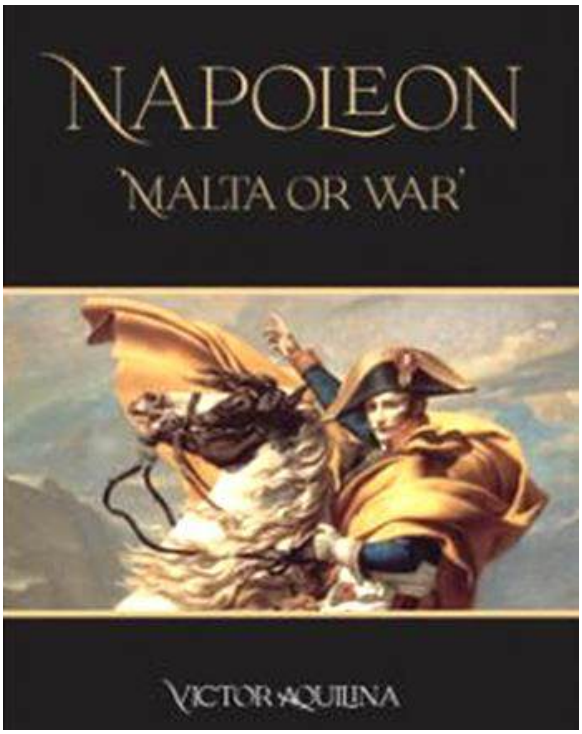
PS oh and by the way – a few Santi fans have been messaging me about physical bookshops whining about not being able to order my books in to their stores. Never fear! For don't forget that you can order ALL of my books online from Amazon (and Barnes & Noble, and Waterstones and every other online bookselling retailer) instead –they'll deliver it to your door too!

PPS and **THANKS AGAIN** to everyone who helped me in every way with the writing, release and promotion of this series (this elephant never forgets and is forever grateful).

PS oh and by the way – a few Santi fans have been messaging me about physical bookshops whining about not being able to order my books in to their stores. Never fear! For don't forget that you can order ALL of my books online from Amazon (and Barnes & Noble, and Waterstones and every other online bookselling retailer) instead –they'll deliver it to your door too!

PPS and **THANKS AGAIN** to everyone who helped me in every way with the writing, release and promotion of this series (this elephant never forgets and is forever grateful).

Like us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/frank.scicluna.3/



‹Napoleon: 'Malta or War' – new book by Kite Group

It is hard to believe it was over Malta that Britain and France had gone to war again in 1803 after a peace deal that lasted only 14 months. Britain had fallen out with Napoleon over a number of key issues, particularly over his disruption of the balance of power in Europe and his ambitions over Egypt. However, it was ultimately Britain's refusal to give up Malta that tipped the scales for war.

When differences between the two powers simmered to boiling point, Napoleon blurted out: "Malta or war." Britain picked up the challenge and the peace deal, the Treaty of Amiens, was thrown into the dustbin of history. But how did Malta come to be pushed into the eye of the storm? Why did Britain hold its ground, and why did Bonaparte concentrate on Malta so much when he was conquering Europe?

Napoleon: 'Malta or War', just published by Kite Group, gives an in-depth historical account of the negotiations that led to the Treaty of Amiens and of the interminable twists and turns in the arguments over Malta's possession.

It explores Britain's shift in policy over Malta and the Mediterranean, Russia's part in the interplay of diplomatic manoeuvres, and brings to life the contributions of the leading actors in the fast-moving events that led to the Napoleonic Wars and Napoleon's downfall.

Victor Aquilina's latest deeply researched publication delves into an area that has been mostly overlooked by historians and it is essential reading for all those interested in this momentous period.

Aquilina, a former editor of *Times of Malta*, is the author of a number of other books, including *Lord Strickland: Plots and Intrigue in Colonial Malta* and *Churchill, Malta, and Gibraltar*.

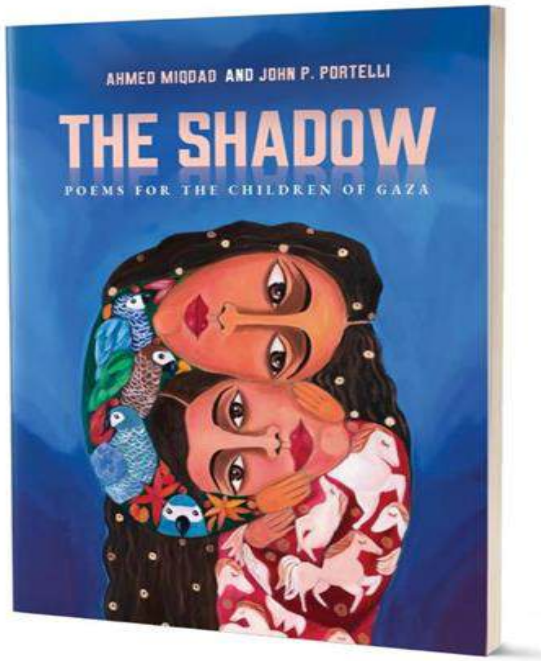
Copies will be available at the book festival from Wednesday, 6 until Sunday, 10 November at MFCC Ta' Qali or online on www.kitegroup.com.mt

---

THE SHADOW:
Poems for the Children of Gaza

The Shadow: Poems for the Children of Gaza is a poignant collection of 42 original poems by Ahmed Miqdad and John P. Portelli, capturing their emotional struggles against personal and collective adversities, ultimately serving as a testament to poetry's power to inspire hope and resilience amidst hardship.

The Shadow: Poems for the Children of Gaza (Malta: Horizons, October 2024) is a collection of 42 original poems (21 by Ahmed Miqdad, 21 by John P. Portelli) which depict the state of being of the two authors since October 2023. Both wrote these poems during a time of struggle: Ahmed with the continuous inhumane oppression of Israel which began in 1948; John with cancer. Miqdad and Portelli through a poetic dialogue with each other share their emotional struggles when facing life and history.



According to Ghassan Zaqtan, an Palestinian internationally renowned poet and award winner: "These poems are an extension of personal destiny in an imagined and real geography. The two poet's intuition reveals a side path that leads to friendship. The poems exhibit an anxiety that grows parallel to the scenes provided so that they have a shadow. Anxiety is the charm of these poems, and it brings together the imagination of poetry with the imagination of place."

The collection includes a brief but insightful introduction by Professor Jamil Khader former Professor of English and Dean of Research at Bethlehem University, West Bank. Professor Khader noted: "In a world where both personal and collective histories are threatened, this collection serves as a testament to the power of poetry to preserve life in the face of death and to give us hope, purpose, and the strength to endure. These poems embody acts of defiance against the forces that seek to erase life."

The collection is available from Horizons Malta and Agenda Bookstores. All proceeds from the sale of this book will be donated to Gaza. The book will also be on sale at the Malta Book Festival.

A GOZITAN WOMAN IN MELBOURNE KILLED IN A FREAK CAR ACCIDENT

MaryAnne Cutajar born in Gozo and mother of 4 was killed in a freak incident on a Melbourne city freeway.

Mary-Anne Cutajar, 46, was driving on the M80 Ring Rd in St Albans when a metal object authorities believe came loose from a passing truck smashed through her windscreen about 4pm on Thursday.

No one else was in the car with the Deer Park woman and she died at the scene. She was driving behind a truck when a ramp fell off and struck her car. The white truck was driving Altona-bound on the Western Ring Road at about 4pm on Thursday when the a piece of metal came off. The ramp careered into the Greensborough-bound lanes and struck Cutajar's car near the Furlong Road exit, in St Albans. It was unclear whether the truck driver was aware of the accident, and by Thursday evening, the police were still hunting them down. The mother and wife have been remembered by her family as a "beautiful soul" in the aftermath of her tragic death. We give our condolences to her husband, family, relatives and friends in Australia and in Malta.

Malta Day 2024: Celebrating 60 Years as a Nation

Embassy of Malta to the United States of America

This year is a special one for the Embassy of Malta to the U.S., as it marks the anniversary of numerous momentous occasions: Malta is celebrating 60 years since gaining independence, 50 years since becoming a republic, and 20 years since its accession to the European Union. This concert puts the spotlight on sheer Maltese talent!

In collaboration with the Embassy of Malta

Online advance reservations for a given performance date will open on a rolling basis, opening every Wednesday two weeks out from the ***date.***

WEDNESDAY. NOVEMBER 20, 2024 AT 6.00 P.M.

This year is a special one for the Embassy of Malta to the U.S., as it marks the anniversary of numerous momentous occasions: Malta is celebrating 60 years since gaining independence, 50 years since becoming a republic, and 20 years since its accession to the European Union. The Embassy of Malta to the U.S. is commemorating these crucial moments in history by organizing a concert at the Kennedy Center on the Millennium Stage, which is intended to put the spotlight on sheer Maltese talent. Join us on the 20th of November at 6 p.m. to experience a glimpse of Maltese talent at the world-renowned **Kennedy Center 2700 F St NW, Washington D.C., DC, United States, Washington, District of Columbia**

Pamela A. Cibrano Aiveen Gallagher-Schembri Davinia Pace
Jeremiah Padilla Kristian Schembri

Ticketing & Entry

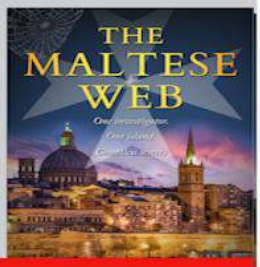
For all Millennium Stage performances, a limited number of reservations are available on a first come, first served basis. Advance reservations do not guarantee a seat, and patrons are encouraged to arrive early. Online advance reservations for a given performance date will open on a rolling basis, opening every Wednesday two weeks out from the date.

For live Millennium Stage performances free tickets will also be available at the Hall of States Box Office on the day of the performance, beginning at 4:30 p.m. Seating first comes, first served. Standing room is available behind the seated area as space allows.

Free Event
Author Talk
A thriller set in Malta

Join author, Sean Richardson, to talk about how he wove everyday life and locations into his thriller set in modern day Malta.

Trid toqtol il-brimba biex tnehhi l-ghanqbuta.



When: Saturday 23 November
Time: 6:45 pm at La Valette Centre
175 Walters Rd Blacktown

FEAST OF SAINT NICHOLAS
SUNDAY 1st DECEMBER 2024
Celebrating the 45th Festa
at the Good Shepherd Parish
130-136 Hyatts Road, Plumpton NSW 2761

Program for the Celebration

3.30pm Festa Mass in English

4.30pm ***Procession from Church to Hall:***
Maltese Concert Band will play Religious Marches

Food & Drinks for Sale: -

BBQ, Chips, Pastizzi, Hobz biz-Zejt / Bigilla.
Kinnie, Beer, Soft Drinks, & other Maltese Food
supplied by ***TRADITIONAL DELIGHTS***

5.30pm ***Entertainment: -***
Maltese Concert Band Programme

The Youth Choir will sing Christmas Carols.

A Jumping Castle, Free Pony Rides & Face Painting
will be available for the children.

7.00pm ***St. Nicholas Festa Committee Raffle is Drawn***
All Winners Will Be Notified

8.00pm ***Santa Claus Arrives:*** Lollies and goodies given to all children

For more information call: -
President: Emanuel Vella on - 0405 677 064 or
Public Relations Officer: Stella Vella on: - 0414 188 226

Come along and bring your Family & Friends to Celebrate our Traditions.

Cook Along
Honey Rings and Christmas Crafts
14 December
Inquisitor's Palace
Birgu 11.30am - 1.30pm

KEEP ON SUPPORTING AND SHARING YOUR JOURNAL