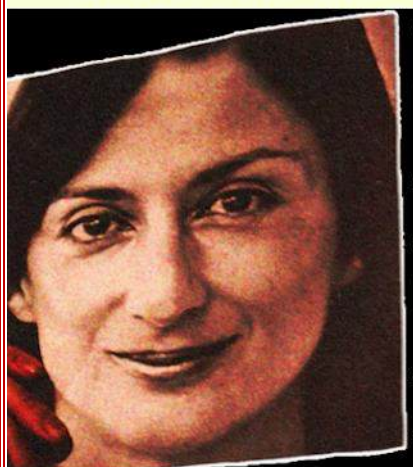
MALTESE NEWSLETTER

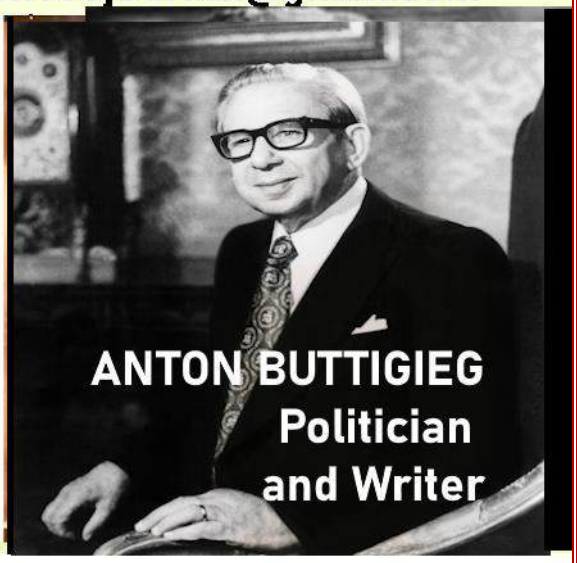
JOURNAL FOR THE MALTESE DIASPORA

Editor - Frank L Scicluna OAM MQR maltesejournal@gmail.com



WE MALTESE LIVING ABROAD JOIN ALL MALTESE AND GOZITANS AND ASK FOR

JUSTICE FOR DAPHNE



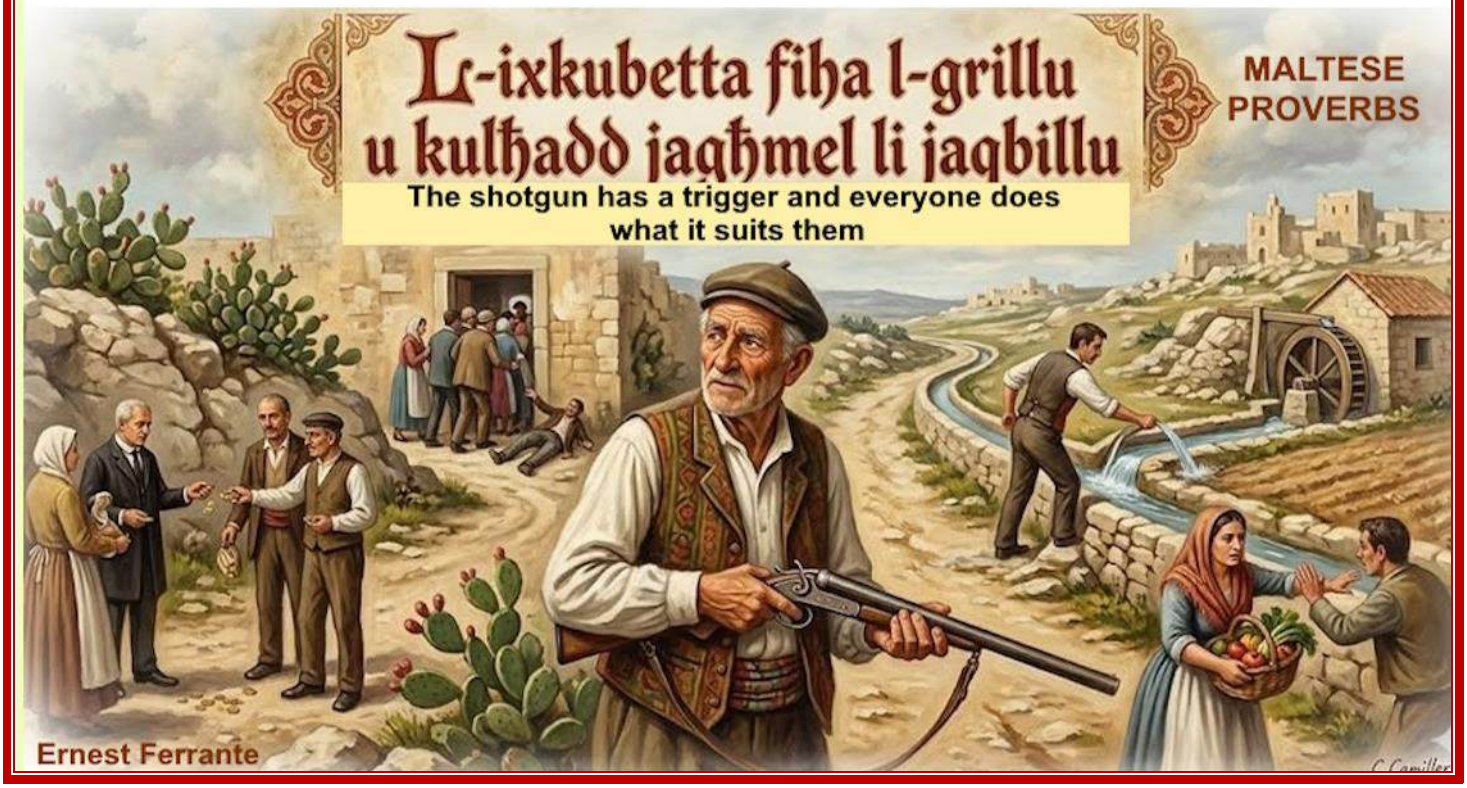
REGATTA - MALTA

8 September

REGATTA

WOLLONGONG NSW

IL-VITORJA- MALTA NATIONAL DAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2026



MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT - DR. REBEKAH BORG AND HER HUSBAND JURGEN IN ADELAIDE

Message to the Maltese Community in SA:

To the Maltese community in South Australia, I simply want to say thank you.

Thank you for the warmth, the kindness, the conversations, the memories, and for making us feel so welcome from the moment we arrived.

Jurgen Borg

Rebekah Borg MP with Frank Scicluna Editor of the Maltese Journal

Being so far away from Malta, yet still feeling surrounded by Maltese people, Maltese traditions, our language, our food and of course plenty of ***pastizzi*** has been incredibly emotional for me. It reminded me that Malta is not only a place on a map. It lives in the people, in the values we carry, in the food we share, and in the way we continue to look after one another wherever in the world we may be.

This visit has meant so much to me because I was able to share it with Rebekah, Beth and Marcus. Seeing my children meet members of our extended family, seeing them surrounded by the Maltese community here, and knowing that they are now creating their own memories of Australia is something I will carry with me forever.

here is something very special about being thousands of kilometres away from Malta and still being able to sit around a table, hear Maltese being spoken, share stories, laugh together and enjoy pastizzi that somehow makes you feel like home is not so far away after all.

To all those who left Malta many years ago and built a life here while keeping such a strong connection to home, you have created something very special. You have kept our culture, our traditions, our food and our sense of community alive for the generations that followed, and that is something to be immensely proud of.

I would also like to give a special thank you to Nina Abela, President of the Maltese Guild of South Australia, for the warmth with which she welcomed us and for the work she continues to do in keeping the Maltese community together.

From left – Rebekah Borg, Dolores Muscat, Nina Abela and Frank Scicluna and the children Beth and Marcus.

Rebekah Borg with the President of the Maltese Guild Nina Abela

We also had the pleasure of visiting the Maltese Senior Citizens Association of South Australia, who meet at Kilburn Hall, and meeting their President, Godwin Gauci. It was another lovely reminder of just how active and close-knit the Maltese community remains here in South Australia.

We came to Adelaide mainly to be with family, but we are leaving with the feeling that our family here is much bigger than we imagined.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for making us feel at home on the other side of the world. Malta may be thousands of kilometres away, but during our time here, it never felt very far.

We will return home with full hearts, beautiful memories, and an even stronger appreciation for the bond between Malta the Maltese community of Adelaide.

Until we meet again, grazzi mill-qalb, saħħiet and keep the pastizzi warm for us :)

WELCOME REBEKAH AND JUREN TO SOUTH AUSTRALIA

It was a pleasure to meet and welcome Rebekah and Jurgen Borg. Their trip from Malta to Australia was highly valued by the members of the Maltese Community of Adelaide. Their friendly and approachable demeanour was appreciated by all. They visited various Maltese associations and met with other notable individuals, including Jurgen's family, who live here. We extend our gratitude for your visit, as well as for your warmth and wonderful personalities.

Rebekah Borg is a Maltese politician, lawyer, and engineer, currently holding the position of Shadow Minister for Planning. She has previously served as the Shadow Minister for the Environment, as well as the Shadow Minister for Lands and Consumer Rights. In the 2026 general election, she was elected in both the 7th and 11th districts. On behalf of the Maltese community, I thank you and wish you a safe trip back to Malta. Frank Scicluna - Editor

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT IN MALTA
What's Happening in Malta
International News

The readers of this journal for Maltese Diaspora have ben following the court drama of the killing of Maltese journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia for these last two months.

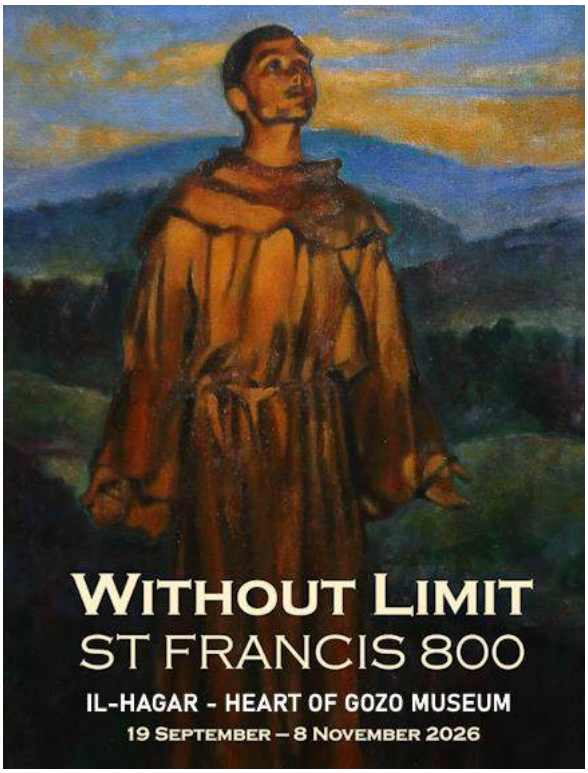
One of Malta's richest men has been found not guilty of involvement in the murder of the anti-corruption journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia.

The verdict, which is expected to be appealed against by the prosecution, came as a blow not only to the victim's family, but to the politicians and campaigners who regard the case as a landmark action in the fight to protect press freedom in Europe.

Nearly nine years after Caruana Galizia's death in a car bombing in October 2017, a jury of six women and three men found Yorgen Fenech, 44, not guilty of both counts with which he had been charged: complicity in the voluntary homicide of Caruana Galizia, and association with the intention of committing a crime.

Delivered few days ago the verdict was decisive. To gasps from the gallery and cheers from Fenech's relatives, the forewoman announced jurors had voted to dismiss both counts by an eight-to-one majority. We hope that one day we will see the end of this prolonged saga and find out who masterminded this cruel car bombing of this Maltese journalist. Keep on following the leading Maltese newspapers every day/.

==========



800TH ANNIVERSARY – SY. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
19 SEPTEMBER - 8 NOVEMBER 2026

Il-Ħaġar | Heart of Gozo Museum is joining the rest of the world in commemorating the 800th anniversary of the death of Francis of Assisi with yet another exceptional exhibition that will bring together under one roof no fewer than 60 works of art depicting the beloved Saint. This temporary display, which has long been planned and devised to coincide with the Saint's feast day, will feature works by artists Annibale Carracci (1560–1609), Pietro Paolo Zahra (1685–1747), Ġanni Vella (1885–1977), Agostino Camilleri (1885-1979), Franco Caprioli (1912–1974), Anton Inglott (1915–1945), Willie Apap (1918–1970), Harry Alden (1929–2019), Antoine Camilleri (1922–2005), Ġanni Bonnici (1932-2019), and Anton Agius (1933-2008), together with a long list of living artists from Gozo, Malta and beyond. Curated by Joseph Calleja, Without Limit: St Francis 800 will be inaugurated on Saturday 19 September at 19:30 and can be viewed until 8 November 2026. Everyone is invited to the opening.

The exhibition will, of course, be accompanied by catalogue number 40 in the Il-Ħaġar Gems series, and is supported by Visit Malta, Midsea Books, CVC Media and a number of private institutions.

OPINION

JOHN MANGION

Dear fellow readers, it is evident that the publication of over 600 editions of the only journal dedicated to Maltese living abroad is not a business venture. Thousands and thousands issues of the journal have been distributed FREE OF CHARGE across the globe, particularly to the Maltese Diaspora. There are no subscription fees, no paid advertisements, and no grants involved.

So, why does Frank continue to write this journal? The answer lies in his deep love, appreciation, and desire to share the language, history, culture, and heritage of the Maltese Islands – Malta and Gozo. He has dedicated his time and expertise to create a beautiful and essential journal for his fellow Maltese and Gozitans.

I believe that the journal is archived in several libraries, including the National Libraries of Malta and Gozo, as well as in numerous museums, clubs, schools, and Facebook pages for both present and future generations. This journal serves as a valuable research resource for many teachers and students of the Maltese language. Furthermore, we know that it is printed and distributed in various locations, including South Australia, Malta, and Gozo.

At times, we fail to give adequate recognition where it is deserved. We should express our gratitude and appreciation for having such a remarkable publication that provides us with an outstanding bilingual, non-political, and free journal.

Thus, let us express our gratitude and at the very least, say THANK YOU to the editor, as there may come a time when this journal ceases to exist, and I question whether it will be replaced. A treasure is missed and valued only when it is lost. Let us rally behind Frank and demonstrate our appreciation for him. Let's join the many other correspondents and send him poems, our clubs; events, prose, articles, and news for publication to keep our journal alive.

DONATE

Bank - Commonwealth (Australia) BSB - 065106
Account No. - 00502597 Name - Frank Scicluna

FOR OVERSEAS DONORS - CommBank's BIC/SWIFT Code: CTBAAU2S

THE ANZAC MONUMENT ERECTED IN MALTA BY THE MALTESE AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE LATE MR NICK BONELLO OAM

Mr T. ZAPPIA Member of Makin South Australia:

On 2 April 2011 the member for Hindmarsh, Mr Georganas, and I attended the Malta ANZAC War Memorial Committee of South Australia's special fundraising evening. A number of dignitaries, including South Australian Governor His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC and Mrs Scarce; National RSL President Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO and Mrs Doolan; South Australian State RSL President Jock Stratton; the Honorary Consul of Malta, Mr Frank Scicluna OAM and Mrs Josie Scicluna; and others, including several state and federal MPs, attended. Proceeds from the evening are being used to construct an ANZAC war memorial in Malta in recognition of the wounded ANZACs who were evacuated from Gallipoli to Malta during World War I.

It is believed that more than 4,000 wounded Anzac soldiers were evacuated to Malta in World War I, where they were hospitalised and cared for. Many of them died, and their bodies were returned to Australia and New Zealand, but it is estimated that about 200 Australians and 70 New Zealanders are today buried in Malta. Her Excellency the Governor-General of Australia, Quentin Bryce, on her first state visit overseas and on the first visit by an Australian Governor-General to Malta, laid flowers on the graves of Anzacs buried there.

I wish to acknowledge the support of Malta and the Maltese people extended to Australia and the Australia especially during World War 1 when thousands od wounded soldiers were sent to Malta from Gallipoli, Turkey to be hispitlised. Over 300 of them died and were buried in Malta nost of them at the Pieta Military Hospital.should not be forgotten. I have no doubt it was gratefully appreciated by the soldiers who were sent there and by their families.

The six-metre-high memorial, which will cost about $200,000, is being designed and sculpted by Gianni Bonnici. It will be created in the Argotti Botanical Gardens, in Floriana, Malta, and is believed to be the first ANZAC memorial to be erected outside of Australia, New Zealand or Gallipoli. The close ties between Malta and Australia continued after World War I, and, following World War II, substantial numbers of Maltese people migrated to Australia, where, like so many other post World War II arrivals, they quickly settled into their new homeland, worked hard and contributed to Australia's growth and prosperity.

Ever since the first Maltese free settler, Antonio Azzopardi, came to Australia in 1838, the number of Maltese people in Australia has steadily increased. According to the 2006 census figures, there were about 154,000 people in Australia who claimed Maltese ancestry. Today, the Maltese migrant community in Australia represents the largest Maltese community outside of Malta. Many of them came to South Australia and settled in Adelaide's northern suburbs. Today they have their own regular radio segment on community radio PBA FM. I grew up with Maltese school mates and work mates and feel proud to refer to so many of them—in fact, too many to individually name—as personal friends. I particularly acknowledge the Maltese contingency who participate in the

Salisbury RSL remembrance services each year. They are good people whose warmth and compassion reflects the characteristics that earned Malta the title of 'Nurse of the Mediterranean' in World War I.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of members of the ANZAC War Memorial Committee of South Australia: Mr Charles Figallo, who is the CEO; Edgar Agius OAM JP; Joe Briffa; Carmelo Farrugia OAM JP; John Mangion; Peter Salerno; Peter Hollams; and the Honorary Maltese Consul in South Australia, Mr Frank Scicluna, for their huge efforts in support of the establishment of the memorial in Malta. For the families of those Australian and New Zealand soldiers who were nursed there and for those still buried in Malta the memorial will be particularly significant

---

GUESS WHO TURNED 98 CHARLIE FARRUGIA OAM A MALTESE PIONEER

Charlie Farrugia from Adelaide is one of the co-founder of the South Australian RSL Maltese Sub Branch established in 1968 and was for many years uts President. over 20 years

During his time as President Charlie provided lunches twice a month to ex-servicemen, their families, friends and guests in the Prospect Community Hall with the larger events. Like ANZAC Dinner Dances being held in the Prospect Town Hall.

The Maltese RSL evolved as a direct result of the camaraderie, concern and mateship for the welfare of others. The ethos of compassion and service remains today by the motivating influence of people like- Charlie. Charlie brought together like minded people who may be at risk of social isolation due to the age of their members.

Charlie survived the relentless bombing of his homeland Malta in WW2, won his parachutist wings while serving with the British forces in 1947. In 2016 Charlie was presented with the RSL's highest award, the Meritorious Service Medal. He was granted a life membership in 1997 and the OAM medal in 2010 for 'sterling work rendered to the Maltese community these past 50 years'. On a local level, City of Prospect acknowledged and recognized Charlies work with the Maltese community and his commitment to the remembrance of those who served and the their families. After receiving agrant from the South Australia Government he together with the then Honorary Consul Frank Scicluna erected a beautiful monument at the prospect Memorial Gardens to honour the Australian and New Zealand soldiers who were wounded in Gallipoli, hospitalized, died and buried in Malta at the Pieta Military Hospital.

REGATTA

Isla has achieved the remarkable feat of winning the traditional Regatta for the first time in ten years, surpassing seven other clubs to secure the prestigious Regatta Shield. The Regatta serves as an annual event for enthusiasts, who converge in the Grand Harbour to witness eight clubs compete for victory. Isla secured the championship by triumphing in the race referred to as "tal-kajjikki" in the senior category and concluding with a victory in the "tal-pass b'erbgħa". Every year, Birżebbugia, Bormla, Kalkara, Marsa, Marsamxett, Isla, Birgu, and Siġġiewi face off against one another in this event as well as the more widely recognized 8 September regattas. The race commences in the Grand Harbour, with THOUSANDS OF spectators cheering for their preferred team. This tradition has its origins over 200 years ago, when boat races were a frequent feature during feast holidays.

Ir-rebbieħa tar-Regatta ta' Jum il-Vitorja
Senglea 25 darba, Bormla 22 darba, Marsa 14-il darba, Kalkara 7 darbiet, Birgu 3 darbiet, Marsamxett darbtejn
Ir-rebbieħa tax-Shield fl-aħħar 10 snin
2016 – Marsa, **2017 –** Bormla, **2018 –** Bormla, **2019 –** Bormla, **2020 –** Marsa, **2021 –** ma saritx, **2022 –** Bormla, **2023 –** Birgu/Bormla, **2024 –** Birgu, **2025 –** Isla, **2026 –** Isla
Riżultati tal-Kategorija Open
Tal-Midalji – 1. Birgu 20 punt, 2. Bormla 12-il punt, 3. Isla 6 punti
Frejgatini – 1. Bormla 12-il punt, 2. Isla 8 punti, 3. Birgu 4 punti
Tal-Pass b'żewġ imqadef – 1. Isla 20 punt, 2. Bormla 12-il punt, 3. Birgu 6 punti
Kajjikki – 1. Birgu 12-il punt, 2. Bormla 8 punti, 3. Isla 4 punti
Tal-Pass b'Erbgħa – 1. Isla 24 punt, 2. Bormla 16-il punt, 3. Marsamxett 8 punti
Riżultati tal-Kategorija B
Tal-Pass b'żewġ imqadef – 1. Birgu 20 punt, 2. Isla 12-il punt, 3. Birżebbuġa 6 punti
Kajjikki – 1. Bormla 12-il punt, 2. Isla 8 punti, 3. Kalkara 4 punti
Tal-Midalji – 1. Bormla 20 punt, 2. Isla 12-il punt, 3. Kalkara 6 punti
Frejgatini – 1. Birgu 12-il punt, 2. Isla 8 punti, 3. Bormla 4 punti
Tal-Pass b'Erbgħa – 1. Birgu 24 punt, 2. Isla 16-il punt, 3. Bormla 8 punti

Maltese eNewsletter
Read, Enjoy, Support and Share this Journal

ĦARSA LURA LEJN IŻ-ŻJARA TIEGĦI FL-AWSTRALJA:

Mill-korrospondent taghna il-Kav Joe M Attard- Ghawdex 2026

Ma kenitx twila għall-ħin li għaddejt fuq l-ajruplan imma nħossni sodisfatt għax kont milqugħ kulfejn mort b'mod speċjali miż-żewġ ħuti bniet Adelina u Rose flimkien ma' żwieġhom Lawrence u Louis li b'idejhom miftuħa laqgħu lili u lil ibni Francesco Pio li kien qed jakkumpanjani. Xtaqt noqgħod iktar billi jien illum irtirat imma ma ssugrajtx niġi lura waħdi u allura illimitajt din iż-żjara għal ħmistax għax daqshekk seta' joqgħod barra mix-xogħol ibni Francesco Pio. Imma kif jgħidu mill-mitluf tieħu li tista' u allura rajt li anke ż-żmien twil li għaddejt fuq l-ajruplan iservini ta' pjaċir u ta' vaganza.

Melbourne kienet ix-xitwa u allura bil-pjaċir kollu ma batejt xejn mis-sħana li qed taħkem lil pajjiżna; dawn ħuti joqogħdu ftit metri bogħod miċ-ċentru fi djar komdi ta' sular wieħed bil-front garden u allura xħin tqum fil-għodu tgawdi mill-arja friska u nadifa; b'xorti tajba xita xejn u stajt immur fi knisja ftit passi bogħod. Kelli l-okkażjoni li niġi intervistat minn tliet radio stations li jtellgħu programmi għall-emigranti tagħna. Wieħed minnhom kien l-SBS radio fdat f'idejn l-idejn għaqlija ta' Joe Axiaq imwieled fiż-Żebbuġ Għawdex li dawwarni wkoll mal-istazzjoni li jippreżenta programmi f'mhux inqas minn wieħed u sittin lingwa naturalment inkluż il-Malti. 3ZZZ huwa stazzjon ieħor immexxi minn Paul Vella u martu Salvina li wkoll huwa segwit ħafna u jilqa' ħafna requests mis-semmiegħa.

Stazzjon ieħor bil-Malti, 98.9 North West FM huwa dak immexxi minn Emmanuel Brincat li għadu kemm talabni poeżija għall-festa ta' Stella Maris li f'Melbourne sa ssir f'nofs Ottubru. U la qed nitkellmu fuq il-festi, emigrant Għawdxi li ilu l-Awstralja għal żmien twil huwa Frank Galea minn wara Sant Wistin li stedinni għall-Pontifikal tal-festa tal-Assunta bis-sehem ta' Kor mill-Filippini u talabni wkoll naqralu poeżija lill-Assunta quddiem knisja mimlija nies, bosta minnhom Maltin u Għawdxin, quddiem l-istatwa tal-Assunta li hija replika eżatta ta' dik li għandna fil-Katidral ġewwa ċ-Ċittadella fil-preżenza tal- Isqof mill-Filippini li tant ħa gost li wara l-quddiesa sejjaħli u staqsieni: 'What were you telling the people! They looked so happy!' billi wara li spiċċajt naqra l-poeżija kien hemm applaws li jtarrax! Jiena weġibtu li jien poeta minn Malta u kont qed infaħħar lill-Assunta bil-versi tiegħi. Spiċċa biex talabni l-kopja tal-poeżija! Wara l-quddiesa assistejt ukoll għall-purċissjoni li ssir bl-istatwa akkumpanjata wkoll mill-banda.

Ħassejtni qiegħed Għawdex mill-ġdid għall-festa ta Santa Marija. Jum ieħor kont mistieden għall-Ballu ta' Santa Marija f'sala sabiħa armata għall-okkazjoni b'ikla galore u l-banda fejn iltqajt ma' salt Għawdxin jgħixu Downunder. Kelli x-xorti wkoll niltaqa' ma' Dr. Gioconda Schembri, Consul General f'Melbourne u ma' Dr. Victoria Borg, imwielda x-Xagħra mill-Kunsill ta' Albanvale Ward li għamlet studju profond fuq id-Depression u tatni kopja tat-Tesi tagħha waqt li jien rreċiprokajt billi tajtha kopja tal-Ktieb tal-Poeżiji tiegħi Vol 2 'L-Għanja tat-Tifkira' li se jiġi llanċjat fl-10 ta' Novembru fil-Palazz tal-President Sant'Anton. Qrib il-Katidral Gotiku ta' Melbourne iltqajt ukoll mal-koppja Joe Apap, bin ġenituri Għawdxin magħruf għall-kanzunetta tiegħu dwar il-Kangaroo li huwa attiv ferm fil-kamp mużikali.

L-Awstralja kbira mhux bħal Għawdex tagħna u ħuti ħaduni f'bosta postijiet li bħalhom ma rajt qatt, fosthom Plazas u Supermarkets ta' daqs bla qies fejn tista tqatta ġurnata sħiha. Żjara intetessanti kienet f'Bacchus Marsh fejn insibu Santwarju għażiż tal-Madonna Ta' Pinu fejn kont mistieden naqra l-Lezzjoni tal-quddiesa u iltqajt ukoll ma' xi Għawdxin fosthom sinjura mix-Xewkija li fakkritni li darba kont ngħallem lil ħuha Eddie, illum Monsinjur u Kanċellier fil-Kurja tal-Isqof. Jum ieħor ħaduni nżur il-Blue Mountains, ċentru turistiku għall-aħħar fejn ħadd ma jonqos li jieħu ritratt mat-Three Sisters, tliet ġebliet ta' daqs mhux ħażin li jiġbdulek l-attenzjoni. Kelli l-okkażjoni wkoll li mmur fuq il-qabar tal-

unika qaddisa Awstraljana Mary Macillok, miżmuma b'tant għożża f'kumpless li kien jinkludi kunvent u knisja ħelwa.

Ħuti ma naqsux li naqbdu l-ajruplan u nagħtu titwila lil Sydney fejn ma jidlam qatt u l-ħajja hija ferm mgħaġġla u kkulurita. Ma stajtx ma mmurx nara s-Sydney Opera House u s-Sydney Bridge, il-mekka ta' tant turisti. Irkibna wkoll il-lanċa u ħaduna dawra mal-port. China Town wkoll kienet attrazzjoni basta tiekol l-ikel tagħhom li jien ma jinżillix! Imma mimlija ħwienet fejn issib tixtri dak kollu li tista' toħlom. Ma niftakarx iktar fejn mort u ħaduni imma ċert li din iż-żjara ma ninsiha qatt; bla dubju l-ewwel u l-aħħar li rfist fuq dak il-kontinent li jilqa' fih eluf ta' nies li marru hemm biex jagħmlu futur u rnexxielhom. Jalla jgħixu hienja u f'saħħithom; dan nixtiequ minn qalbi lill- għeżież ħuti li żgur ma joħolmux li jirritornaw f'din ir-roqgħa art fejn jien għad irrid li nagħlaq għajnejja.

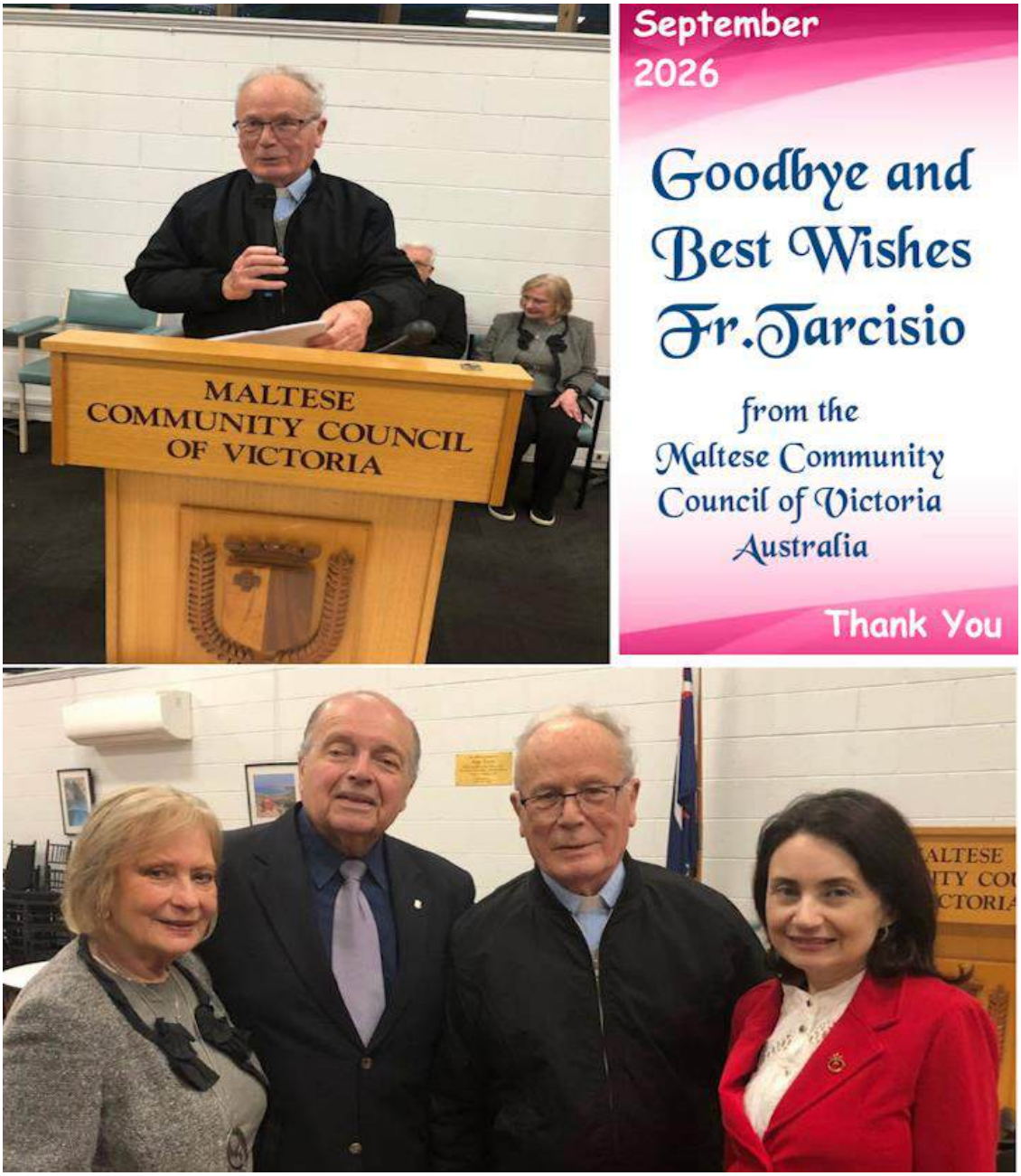
IL-KAV. JOE M ATTARD IN AUSTRALIA

MALTESE COMMUNITY OF ADELAIDE
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Maltese Senior Citizens meet for lunch every Friday 10am-3pm at Kilburn

---

Maltese Guild of SA members and friends meet every Tuesday at the Maltese Cultural Centre - Beverley from 10am - 3.30pm



The Maltese Community Council of Victoria (MCCV) was honoured to host a farewell reception for Fr. Tarcisio Micallef MSSP at the Maltese Centre in Parkville.

MCCV President Mrs Antonia Camilleri warmly welcomed guests and paid tribute to Fr. Tarcisio's remarkable journey and his many years of dedicated service to the Maltese community.
The gathering also heard heartfelt words from Dr Gioconda Schembri, Consul General for Malta in Victoria; Fr. Silvio Bezzina MSSP, Provincial of the Australian Region; Fr. Lonnie Borg MSSP; and Fr. Edwin Agius MSSP, before Fr. Tarcisio shared a few words of his own.
Fr. Tarcisio has made an enduring contribution to Maltese communities in Australia through his many years of service, guidance and commitment. His passion and dedication also played an important role in the establishment of the Ċentru Malti in Parkville, helping it become the vibrant home of the Maltese community that it is today. MCCV extends its sincere gratitude to Fr. Tarcisio for his invaluable contribution and wishes him every blessing and happiness for the journey ahead.
Thank you Emmanuel Brincat for capturing these lovely moments

PRESS RELEASE

MTARFA MILITARY HOSPITAL

HAILEYBURY MALTA'S PERMANENT CAMPUS IN MTARFA OFFICIALLY OPENS

An investment of around €19 million is breathing new life into the former Royal Naval Hospital while further strengthening Malta's international educational offering

The permanent campus of Haileybury Malta in Mtarfa was officially inaugurated yesterday by Deputy Prime Minister Ian Borg, together with Minister for Education and Sport Byron Camilleri. Through an investment of approximately €19 million, the project has transformed the former Royal Naval Hospital into a modern and sustainable international school.

Haileybury Malta welcomed its first 50 students in September 2023 at temporary premises in Ħal Tarxien. Three years later, the school is beginning a new chapter at its permanent campus in Mtarfa, where it will provide education from Nursery through to Sixth Form.

Part of the investment in the project was supported by the Malta Development Bank, which mobilised €10 million through the Guaranteed Co-Lending Scheme to finance eligible measures relating to climate action, environmental sustainability and infrastructure. Following its rehabilitation, the building is expected to use approximately 75% less primary energy.

Deputy Prime Minister Ian Borg said that the project serves as a model for how historic buildings can not only be preserved but also given renewed value and purpose.

"As someone who has lived in this area throughout my life, it gives me great satisfaction to see this building given a new life and purpose while respecting its history and character. This is a clear example of the role the Government is playing in creating the conditions and financial structures necessary for responsible investment to be undertaken and to generate lasting value for our country. A place originally built to care for people has today become a place of learning and development," said Dr Borg.

Minister Byron Camilleri said that the opening of the campus represents an important step in strengthening and diversifying the educational opportunities available in Malta.

THE MMG CONCERT BAND OF VICTORIA

HAD THE PLEASURE OF PERFORMING AT THE SAN GEJTANU FESTIVAL AT BRIMBANK SHOPPING CENTRE IN VICTORIA

It was a wonderful and fun day filled with Maltese food demonstrations, activities, community spirit, and of course, traditional Maltese marches performed by our band. It was fantastic to see such a great crowd in attendance and to share a little piece of Maltese culture here in Melbourne.

We hope that for those who may have been hearing this style of music for the first time, we were able to give you a taste of the rich musical traditions that form such an important part of Maltese festas. For those who migrated or have or haven't been to Malta in recent times, we hope our music brought back fond memories of your time in Malta, the village festas, and the traditions that continue to hold a special place in your hearts.

Events like these are a wonderful way to celebrate our heritage and connect with the wider community. It was also great to reconnect with so many familiar faces we hadn't seen in a while. These moments are what make community events so special.

A special shout out goes to all of our musicians who attended and performed on the day. Your dedication, commitment, and support of MMG are always appreciated.

We would also like to extend a very warm thank you to **Adam Farrugia Borg**, one of our musicians, who has stepped into the conductor's role while Tanya is overseas in Malta. Thank you, Adam, for the passion, enthusiasm, and leadership you bring to MMG and to our musicians. We are grateful for your support.

Finally, thank you to **Brimbank Shopping Centre**, for inviting us to participate in the festival.

DR. ANTON BUTTIGIEG PRESIDENT OF MALTA POLITICIAN AND ACADEMIC

(19 February 1912 – 5 May 1983)

Anton Buttigieg was a Maltese political figure and poet. He served as the second President of Malta from 1976 until 1981.

Anton Buttigieg is the 3rd most famous Maltese Writer. His biography has been translated into 20 different languages.

Anton Buttigieg was born in Qala, Gozo, on 19 February 1912, the third child of Salvatore and Concetta (née Falzon) Buttigieg. He was educated at the Government Primary School, Qala (from 1916 to 1922), the Gozo Seminary (from 1923 to 1927), St Aloysius' College Malta (from 1928 to 1930) and the University of Malta, where he graduated Bachelor of Arts in 1934, and Doctor of Laws in 1940.

In 1944 he married Censina and had three children – John, Rose and Emanuel. She then died. In 1953 he married Connie Scicluna, who also predeceased him. In 1975, he married, lastly, to Margery Patterson.

During World War II (1942–1944) he served in the Police Force as Inspector and after he practised the Law. In 1955 he also served as an acting Magistrate. He was the Law reporter and leader writer of the Times of Malta from 1946 to 1948 and the Editor of The Voice of Malta from 1959 to 1970.

He embarked on a political career and was first elected to the Legislative Assembly for the Labour Party in 1955. He was re-elected in all subsequent elections and held his seat in Parliament up to the time of his resignation in October 1976. From 1959 to 1961 he was President of the Malta Labour Party and from 1962 to 1976 its Deputy Leader. When the present administration took office in 1971, he served his country as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

He was a delegate to the Malta Constitutional Conferences held in London in 1958 and in 1964. He was also a representative to the Consultative Assembly in the Council of Europe (1967–1971), where he was elected Vice-President (1967–1968). In October 1976 he resigned from the House of Representatives.

On 27 December 1976 he was elected as the second President of Malta.

Buttigieg also distinguished himself in the field of literature. During his undergraduate days he was one of the founder members of the 'Għaqda tal-Malti – Università' (26 January 1931). He was a Member of the L-Akkademja tal-Malti (Academy of the Maltese Language).

Annabelle's Kitchen

Melting Moments

Classic British buttery biscuits, soft, delicate and utterly delicious.

Ingredients

110 g butter or baking margarine, softened
75 g caster sugar
1 medium egg
1 tsp vanilla essence
175 g self-raising flour
Desiccated coconut or rolled oats, for coating
Glacé cherries, quartered, to decorate

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C / 160°C Fan / Gas Mark 4. Grease or line two baking trays.
2. Cream the butter and caster sugar together until light and fluffy.
3. Beat in the egg and vanilla essence until well combined.
4. Gradually stir in the self-raising flour to make a soft, slightly sticky dough.
5. With lightly floured or damp hands, divide the mixture into small walnut-sized portions and roll into balls.
6. Roll each ball in desiccated coconut or rolled oats and place on the prepared baking trays.
7. Flatten each one slightly and place a small piece of glacé cherry in the centre.
8. Bake for 10–15 minutes, until lightly golden but still fairly pale.
9. Leave on the trays for a few minutes before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely.

Annabelle's Kitchen note: *These are best kept slightly soft and tender in the centre rather than baked until deeply golden — the delicate texture is what gives traditional Melting Moments their name.*

"MANY LANGUAGES IN MALTA, BUT BEFORE ALL, MALTESE" – ADRIAN GALEA IN VICTORY DAY CEREMONY SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

On Monday evening, a special commemorative occasion was held to celebrate the Malta National Victory Day when Malta celebrates the 8th of September. The evening began with the notes of the Allied Forces of Malta Band on the arrival of Prime Minister Robert Abela and his wife Lydia Abela.

Victory Day

On the theme of 'Lejla ta' Tifkira', (A Night to Remember), the session was addressed by Professor Adrian Grima, the Head of Department at the Malta University who dedicated his speech to the importance of the Maltese language that underlines and determines the identity of the Maltese community.

Professor Grima related the experiences of families during the Second World War, recalling the words of his grandfather who was a gunner with the Royal Malta Artillery, to explain the big story of individual events gathered from individuals who lived and spoke the words.

He maintained the Maltese language remains string as the first language of the majority of Maltese. However, he warned that amongst youngsters, this is changing.

He said that more than a third of youths aged between 16 and 25 relate that Maltese and English is their first language.

He said he does not belief that Maltese will die off but this can be helped by those who fail to use the language every day.

Professor Grima contended the greatest treat is not the presence of foreigners, or the strength of English, but the use of the language by parents, grandparents and educators ir its use. He stressed the greater need of books, films, games, podcasts and technology in Maltese.

He also appealed for greater sustenance by the Kunsill Nazzjonali tal-Ilsien Malti, (the National Council of the Maltese language) and said the future of the language lies in the vision and will of the country's leaders.

He maintained that all citizens, whatever their origin, should have the opportunity to have a good grasp of Maltese.

He ended by saying of the remembered links with Victory Day and maintained that "Malta has many languages, yes, but before all, Maltese by the Maltese".

7 Maltese personnel die in AFM patrol boat explosion GOZO - 7 September 1984

The **Patrol Boat *C23* tragedy** occurred on 7 September 1984, when the *Swift*-class patrol boat *C23* of the Maritime Squadron of the Armed Forces of Malta (AFM) was severely damaged by an explosion while dumping illegal fireworks off Qala in Gozo, Malta. Seven people – five soldiers and two policemen – were killed, and the only survivor of the incident was severely injured.
The patrol boat *C23* was repaired and it returned to service, later being renamed *P23*. It was decommissioned in 2010 and it now remains at the AFM base at Hay Wharf as a memorial to those killed in the explosion.

Background
The patrol boat *C23* was originally built as *PCF 813*, a Mark II Patrol Craft Fast for the United States Navy. It was one of two Swift boats which were donated to Malta, the other being *PCF 816*. Both boats arrived in Malta's Grand Harbour on 6 February 1971 on board the USS *Wood County*, and were designated as *C-6823* and *C-6824* respectively. The official handover ceremony took place on 5 April 1971, and they were designated *C23* and *C24*.
They were the first vessels to be operated by the Maritime Troop of the Malta Land Force upon its establishment in November 1970.[1]
The Maritime Troop was renamed a number of times, acquiring its present name Maritime Squadron of the Armed Forces of Malta in 1980.

Explosion
The explosion took place on 7 September 1984, during a routine operation while dumping illegal fireworks about 2 miles (3.2 km) off Qala Point in Gozo. The fireworks had been seized by The Malta Police Force from the limits of Żabbar a day earlier. The exact cause of the explosion is not known, but it is believed to have occurred when a spark caused by the closing of a hatch blew up the fireworks that were on the boat's deck.[2][3]
Five soldiers and two policemen on the boat were killed, leaving only one survivor who managed to beach the boat on the island of Comino and raise the alarm despite being injured.[1][2][3] The deceased were aged between 20 and 36.

Aftermath

P23 laid up at Hay Wharf in 2013, with the *Protector*-class *P51* moored nearby

Five of the seven bodies were found after the explosion, three by a helicopter and two by a patrol boat. The bodies retrieved by the helicopter were taken to the Gozo General Hospital.[4] The day after the incident, 8 September (a public holiday, Victory Day), was declared as a day of national mourning. The bodies were brought to Malta on board the patrol boats *C28* and *C29*, and they were given a military funeral which was attended by thousands of people. The flag-draped coffins left St. Luke's Hospital, and the funeral was led by a 48-man guard of honour from the AFM's Task Force.[2]

The explosion caused a change in policy, with fireworks no longer being carried on patrol boats but on towed barges. Today, disposal of illegal explosives is no longer carried out by AFM patrol boats.[2]

The damaged patrol boat *C23* was towed to the Manoel Island Yacht Yard, where it was repaired by having its bow rebuilt. It subsequently re-entered service with the Maritime Squadron. It was later renamed *P23*, and it was decommissioned on 18 April 2010. The boat is now located at the Squadron's base at Hay Wharf in Floriana as a memorial. Its sister ship *C24* (later renamed *P24*) was decommissioned at the same time and it was donated to the Maritime Museum of San Diego in 2011. The ship was replaced by another P-23 vessel.

A monument was built at Hay Wharf shortly after the event, and a new one was unveiled on the occasion of the 25th anniversary in 2009. Another memorial is located at the Maritime Museum of San Diego.

The explosion was the worst peacetime tragedy suffered by the Armed Forces and the Police.

IT MAKES FEEL LIKE WE ARE TOGETHER WHILE I`M READING IT.

My name is Vince Bugeja, and I reside in Windsor, Ontario, Canada. I arrived in Canada in June 1952. After a 12-day voyage by boat, we reached New York Harbor; from there, we boarded a train that took us to Toronto, Canada. I lived in Toronto for nearly three years before relocating to Windsor, where I have settled for all these years. Windsor is located across the river from Detroit. Like Detroit, Windsor is a motor city; General Motors Company operated here until five years ago, and both Ford Motor Company and Chrysler of Canada are present. There are two routes to Detroit: one can either take the Ambassador Bridge or the Windsor Tunnel, which runs beneath the river. Until the tragic event of September 11, it was relatively easy to enter the United States, but it has since become more challenging. At customs, one is asked a variety of questions.I was introduced to your Newsletter by an individual from Melbourne, Australia. This person, whom I have never met, has become a dear friend; my parents hail from Rabat, Malta, and so do I. I thoroughly enjoy reading the Newsletter; I find it both interesting and informative. Learning about Maltese individuals, regardless of their location, and information pertaining to Malta, our homeland, adds significant value. For me, it creates a sense of togetherness as I read it. In contrast to Toronto, Windsor is a smaller city, and the Maltese population here is considerably less, but we do have a club, the Malta United Society of Windsor. Although the membership is small, we organize events from time to time. July 1st marks Canada Day. Each year, we celebrate with a large cake shaped like the Canadian flag, and everyone (of course, those who wish to partake) receives a complimentary piece of cake. The fireworks display takes place over the Detroit River. This year, the celebration was particularly grand as Canada celebrated its 150th anniversary. Finally, I would like to commend you on the wonderful work you are doing. Please continue your excellent efforts. Kind regards,

V. Bugeja. July 2017

SAINT UBALDESKA CHURCH IN PAOLA, MALTA

St. Ubaldesca Church (Maltese: *Knisja ta' Sant'Ubaldeska*) is a 17th-century baroque church built during the Order of St. John in Paola, Malta. The building is a historic landmark, being the oldest church established in the locality and is listed on the National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands (NICPMI).
The church is dedicated to Saint Ubaldesca Taccini, who was born in Calcinaia, near Pisa, in 1136, and joined the Order of St. John of Jerusalem at the age of fifteen.

On 31 July 1629, Pope Urbanus VIII issued a papal bull granting the Order the permission to erect a church in the name of St. Ubaldesca, of whom the current grandmaster was very fond, with the following words: "We accept this request and to the aforementioned Antonius, with the Apostolic authority granted by this bull, we give the authority that in the mentioned town in a location of his preference, as long as it is comfortable and just, a church can be built in honour of the aforementioned Saint."[3] On 12 November of the same year, the Order agreed to erect the church. Its foundation stone was laid on 25 August 1630 under the auspice of Antoine de Paule, who was elected as the 56th Grand Master of the order on 10 March 1623. The feast of Saint Ubaldesca was commonly celebrated as the official village feast on 28 May years following the foundation of the original chapel.

After the Military Order left the island, the church became property of the state. After the 19th century, the population of the parish began to flourish and the church struggled to meet the spiritual needs of the people. In 1883 the archbishop received a letter from the parish expressing their wish for the church to fulfill its role for the growing community. On 17 July 1901, the ownership of the church was relinquished to the ecclesiastical authorities, at the request of bishop Peter Pace, to serve as a parish church. During that year, a committee, presided by Marquis Giorgio Crispo Barbaro di San Giorgio and Fr. Francis Attard, was founded to take upon itself the task to foresee that materials were gathered and upgrading works were done on the church. Upgrading works were completed on 15 September 1901. In 1902, the church was enlarged and its original altarpiece, a painting by Bartolomeo Garagona, was replaced by a painting by Lazzaro Pisani.
The church ceased to be the parish church of Paola in around 1928 when religious rituals began to be held within the church of Christ the King, which had been appositely built to cater for the growing population in the town. Between 2007 and 2008 the church underwent restoration works. Prior to the time, the facade had fallen in disrepair, with various structural damages to the sides and roof

Deeply rooted in Malta's history, the feast of San Girgor has been a popular traditional event since the 1500s. The event, which according to popular belief is related to a general vow by the public on their deliverance from the plague, goes back to 1543 but may have started as early as 1519. The popular event is celebrated on the first Wednesday after Easter Sunday and originally consisted of a pilgrimage by confraternities from all Maltese parishes starting from Mdina and ending with a religious ceremony at the Żejtun parish church.

Today, the pilgrimage is somewhat shorter and starts from the chapel of St Clement in Żejtun. From there, participants – accompanied by the archbishop and the metropolitan chapter, the archpriest, the clergy, and the Archconfraternity of St Joseph of Rabat – go to the Żejtun parish church where the *miserere* is sung. The pilgrimage then continues to Żejtun's old parish, popularly known as San Girgor, where mass is said with the participation of all present. After the religious function, the crowd makes its way to Marsaxlokk to relax and enjoy the rest of the day with traditional music and *għana*, food, and – for brave ones – their first swim.

In its drive to encourage and strengthen the traditional and folk elements of this feast, the Festivals Directorate within Arts Council Malta will be supporting the event. This year, In Guardia re-enactors will take on the role of knights from the Order of St John and will accompany the procession to the old parish church, San Girgor. Along the way, artisans will be working on their particular traditional crafts.

After mass, a group of *għannejja* and musicians will entertain the crowd with short traditional songs. They will then get on two animal-drawn carts prepared for the occasion and make their way to Marsaxlokk, following the old route to the fishing village. At Marsaxlokk, two platforms will be set up where, throughout the afternoon, a folk programme which will include two of the main types of traditional *għana* – *daqq tal-prejjem* and b*otta u risposta* – will be held. Nearby, there will also be a number of stalls with traditional crafts such as the loom, filigree, pottery, cane work, glass and lace. It will surely be an interesting afternoon, which can be enjoyed by Maltese families and foreigners alike. An event which will continue to strengthen our folk traditions, deeply-rooted in history while at the same time keeping them alive and relevant to today's society. This event is organised by Arts Council Malta in collaboration with the Zejtun Local Council and the Marsaxlokk Local Council. ***The celebrations were held on Wednesday 19th April at Zejtun and Marsaxlokk Bay***