



CATENIANS

**Strengthening family life
Through friendship and faith**

Malta and Gozo Province 23

NEWSLETTER

No. 1

January – March 2022

**MENSIJA CIRCLE 294, VALLETTA CIRCLE 316,
VICTORIA-GOZO CIRCLE 325,
ST JULIANS CIRCLE 346, SAN LUCJAN CIRCLE 361,
SAN PAWL CIRCLE 386**

MISSION STATEMENT

- To promote unity within the Province.
- To encourage initiatives that create a special bond among all the Brothers of the Province's Circles and their families, including support for those in need and charities.
- To feature articles of general interest with a bias towards the Catholic faith and its ideals, including regular columns, opinions, academia, art, culture and other areas of interest.
- To serve as a strong voice for the Catenian Association in Malta and Gozo.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Louis Cilia - Chairman

Laurence Grech - Vice-Chairman, Editor and Representative of Mensija Circle

George Cassola – Secretary, Representative of Valletta Circle

David Felice-Pace – Member, Representative of Victoria-Gozo Circle

Julian Zarb – Member, Representative of St Julians Circle

Carmel Bonello – Member, Representative of San Lucjan Circle

Lawrence Zammit – Member, Representative San Pawl Circle

CONTACTS

Chairman: azzsin.cilia06@gmail.com

Vice-Chairman & Editor: lwrncgrech@gmail.com

Secretary: george.cassola@gmail.com

CONTENTS

	page
• Laurence Grech – Editorial.....	4
• Joseph Delia and John Psaila – Inaugural Messages	5
• Joseph Delia – What a wonderful world it could be	6
• Louis Cilia – Information and guidelines on the new Provincial Newsletter	8
• Fr Blake Camilleri – The Word of God for YOU	9
• Walter Xuereb - Mewg	10
• Joseph R Pace – Ħabbejtek, Poezija	10
• Carmel Lino Cutajar – China’s Terracotta Army	11
• Kenneth Abela – Offering one’s services as a volunteer	14
• David Felice Pace - Oxford’s Circle stellar Brothers	15
• Vincent Lungaro Mifsud – Malta’s Cine Circle’s double anniversary	17
• Lawrence Zammit – Looking after your life’s savings	21
• Steve Fenech – Malta in the Middle Ages (1)	23
• Carmel Bonello – Projects and assistance for persecuted Christians	27
• Circles Roundup	29
• To note in your diaries	33
• Padre Pio’s words	34
• George Cassola – Time to relax	35
• Joking apart	38



Laurence Grech
Editor



The Provincial Newsletter is intended to convey information and views from the Provincial Council, create closer co-operation between all

THE STRONGEST LINK

Welcome to this first issue of the Catenian Association's Malta and Gozo Province Newsletter. One earnestly hopes that this quarterly publication will be a worthy successor to the Mensija Circle Newsletter, the brainchild of outgoing Circle president Louis Cilia, who single-handedly published ten issues packed with interesting news and reading material from a number of regular contributors.

That newsletter was, deservedly, very well received. Bro Louis dedicated considerable time and effort to this venture, a taxing responsibility which one could not reasonably have expected him to continue to carry alone, which is why the Provincial Council decided to take over the publication of the newsletter which now has a wider remit, encompassing all six Circles in Malta and Gozo.

Bro Louis of course continues to play a pivotal role in this new publication, being responsible for its layout and presentation, with the help of the other six members of the editorial board representing all Circles.

Circles, by carrying news of their activities and initiatives, serving as a platform for the exchange of views, and offering a variety of opinions, features and even entertainment, as can be seen from the varied contents (in both Maltese and English) of this first issue.

We therefore invite all members, and their spouses, to use this newsletter to express their opinions through letters or features and to tackle any current issue, though not of a politically partisan nature.

One such issue, for example, is the question of whether the Association should accept or reject our Australian Brothers' amendment to the Statute removing the word "practising" from the rule that prospective members should be "practising Catholics". Circles in Malta and Gozo are, or have been, voting on this motion. Another is the question of whether it is about time membership of the Association is open to women.

In short, we look forward to this newsletter becoming, for Malta and Gozo, the strongest link in the chain (*catena*) from which the Association takes its name.

Any contribution in the form of articles, opinion pieces and letters, are most welcome. They should be sent in Word Format, together with any relevant illustrations, to the Editor, Laurence Grech, at lwrncgrech@gmail.com

MESSAGES RECEIVED ON THE INAUGURATION OF THE FIRST ISSUE OF THE PROVINCIAL NEWSETTER



Joseph Delia
Provincial Director

Congratulations to the Brothers, Chairman, Officers, and members of the newly formed Editorial Board of our Province's Newsletter/Magazine.

May this laudable initiative go a long way in strengthening the bond among the Brothers of the Province's Circles.

Belonging to a Circle means having the friendship and fraternal care of, on average, 29 Brothers, whereas the Province provides such friendship and fraternity among 170 Brothers. So, the more we get to know each other through inter-Circle dialogue and contacts the richer the benefits of membership.

May the new Provincial Newsletter/Magazine be a platform of publishing material by as many Brothers from all the six Circles as will spoil the Editorial Board for choice.

Long may this venture endure.



John Psaila
Provincial President

It is with great pleasure that I am writing to you on the launch of the very first issue of the *Malta-Gozo Province 23 Newsletter*. This newsletter is the natural successor to the *Mensija Circle Newsletter* so ably produced and edited by Bro. Louis Cilia for the past two years. Well done Bro. Louis and thank you for agreeing to serve on the new Editorial Board.

The Members of the Board need no introduction. They are all professionals in their fields and they bring to the Board a wealth of knowledge and experience. Furthermore, the Board includes at least one member from each Circle. This is an excellent way of promoting unity in our Province.

While on the subject of unity I must say that the pandemic may have drastically upset our way of life, of holding meetings and events. But, in a way, through our virtual meetings it has generated a new sense of unity among ourselves. We were all very happy to physically meet with and interact with those Brothers we had been seeing on our computer screens during the preceding months.

We are all grateful for the very good number of events that the various Circles were able to organize during the latter half of 2021.

Needless to say, our thoughts must be focused on the future. Being inquisitive persons, I am sure that if we had a crystal-ball we all would be very tempted to look into it to see what the future holds. This is not possible.

Our best hope is faith in God. We need to pray constantly to the Blessed Virgin Mary to intercede for us with the Lord.

The launch of the newsletter comes about as I am about to end my year as Provincial President. It was an interesting year. It was a busy year. It was a strange year because of the public health situation. I am pleased to have been able to serve, and I thank all those of you who so willingly worked with me. Thank you all!

I wish the incoming Provincial President all the best.



Joseph Delia
Director, Malta & Gozo Province

What a wonderful world... it could be

**I see trees of green
Red roses too
I see them bloom
For me and you**

**I see skies of blue
And clouds of white
The bright blessed day
The dark sacred night**

**The colours of the rainbow
So pretty in the sky
Are also on the faces
Of people going by
I see friends shaking hands
Saying, 'How do you do?'
They're really saying
'I love you'**

**I hear babies cry
I watch them grow
They'll learn much more
Than I'll ever know**

**Yes, I think to myself
What a wonderful world
Oh yeah"**

So go the lyrics of the song recorded in 1967, composed by Bob Thille and George Weiss and rendered immortal by the inimitably warm interpretation of Satchmo, as Louis Armstrong was affectionately known.

It is a paean to the beauty of unpolluted nature, of neighbourly love, and of healthy human development. Of course, one might say that observance of the Ten Commandments should guarantee us a wonderful world. Pope Francis translates the Commandments into today's global realities.

What a wonderful world it would be if the world's superpowers, the captains of industry, leaders in finance, and media barons heeded the appeal Pope Francis made last October at the World Meeting of Popular Movements:

"I ask in the name of God:

- the great pharmaceutical laboratories to release the patents ... to allow every human being to have access to the vaccines;
- financial groups and international credit institutions to allow poor countries to assure the basic needs of their people and to cancel those debts that ... are contracted against the interests of those same people;
- the great extractive industries ... to stop destroying forests, wetlands, ... to stop polluting rivers and seas, to stop poisoning food and people;
- the great food corporations to stop imposing monopolistic systems of production and distribution that inflate prices and end up withholding bread from the hungry;
- arms manufacturers and dealers to

completely stop their activity, because it foments violence and war;

- the technology giants to stop exploiting human weakness, people's vulnerability, for the sake of profits without caring for the spread of hate speech, grooming, fake news, conspiracy theories, and political manipulation;
- the media to stop the logic of post-truth, disinformation, defamation, slander and the unhealthy attraction to dirt and scandal, and to contribute to human fraternity and empathy with those who are most deeply damaged; powerful countries to stop aggression, blockades and unilateral sanctions against any country; conflicts must be resolved in multilateral fora.

This relentless logic of profit is escaping all human control ... hurtling towards the abyss. There is still time."

That speech was directed towards multinationals and world movers and shakers.

Lest we illude ourselves by reasoning that we might as well adopt a passive attitude because we have no influence on global trade interests and global politics, Jesus translated God's commandments into their application to our day-to-day decisions by teaching us the qualities we need to train in and develop in us -- the Beatitudes listed in the fifth chapter of the Gospel according to St Matthew.

If the world leaders heed our Pope's appeals and we enrich our behaviour by the values inherent in the Beatitudes, our grandchildren will be able to sing meaningfully, "What a wonderful world!"



The globalization of hope,
a hope which springs up from peoples
and takes root among the poor,
must replace the globalization
of exclusion and indifference!

-Pope Francis

POPE FRANCIS DURING THE FOURTH
WORLD MEETING OF POPULAR
MOVEMENTS ON 16TH OCTOBER 2021



Louis Cilia
Chairman Editorial Board

INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES ON THE NEW PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER

As from January 2022 the Mensija Circle Newsletter has been replaced by a Provincial Newsletter covering three-month periods, this being the first issue. Each issue will contain articles of general and local interest with emphasis, of course, on activities pertaining to Malta-Gozo Province 23 and its six Circles. This first issue covers the period January to March 2022. The aim is to have the Newsletter issued in the last two weeks of each quarter.

The Editorial Board is made up of the following:

- Bro Louis Cilia -- Chairman
- Bro Laurence Grech -- V/Chairman, Editor and representative of Mensija Circle
- Bro George Cassola -- Secretary and representative of Valletta Circle
- Bro David Felice Pace -- Representative of Victoria Gozo Circle
- Bro Julian Zarb -- Representative of St Julians Circle
- Bro Carmel Bonello -- Representative of San Lucjan Circle
- Bro Lawrence Zammit -- Representative of San Pawl Circle
-

The representatives of the six Circles on the Editorial Board will be the main conduit between the Editorial Board and the Circles. This means that any contribution from Circle members for the

Newsletter will need to go through the respective Circle representative on the Editorial Board, who, after examining the contribution (and perhaps discussing it further with the writer) will then pass it on to the Editor. This step is aimed at establishing proper coordination between Circles and the Editorial Board.

Each issue will contain reports from Circles on future or past events to keep members of the Province updated on what is happening throughout the Province and serve also as a PR exercise for the Circle on its activities. For this purpose, a special section entitled 'Circles Roundup' will be included. The information may contain adverts, news, as also photographs of events. The Secretary of each Circle is likely to be responsible for the provision of this information since he would know what is happening within his Circle. A section entitled "To note in your diaries" will show the social programme of events in the whole Province for the three months following the publication of the Issue. This information will be provided by the Secretary of each Circle (always through its representative on the Editorial Board).

All other contributions should follow the lead given by the Mensija Circle Newsletter in having articles on various subjects of interest. Articles can be accompanied by photos. Contributors are urged to limit their contributions to a maximum of 800 words, as the Editorial Board has decided on each issue having 40 pages, unless special circumstances dictate otherwise. Special consideration, however, will be given to articles of great interest that are unavoidably longer than 800 words. With the approval of the Editorial Board these can be published in parts in subsequent issues of the Newsletter.



Fr Blake Camilleri
Chaplain, Mensija Circle

The Word of God for YOU

I remember growing up with a love for books. It was not unusual for me to read a book three or four times, each time finding out new bits of intriguing information about interesting characters and plots.

After experiencing a deeper conversion to Christ, I started reading the Bible with great enthusiasm, understanding that it was actually God's Word that made reading the Bible different from any other book.

My zeal for the Bible was bolstered by this understanding that the entire book was inspired; God was the author. Without the assurance of inspiration, my new love for the Bible may have easily slipped into scepticism, resulting in my Bible collecting dust on the shelf.

Thank God that the Catholic Church which not only assures us that God is the author of the entire Bible, but exhorts all the Christian faithful to learn the surpassing knowledge of Jesus Christ, by frequent reading of the divine Scriptures.

Inspired by the Holy Spirit

God, who is the primary cause of the Holy Scripture, has transformed the common words found in the Bible into uncommon words by the fact that He is its author. Just as Jesus came clothed in human flesh and was in every way made like men, so does the Word of God come to us clothed in human words. The 'holy' comes 'clothed' in the common.

Communicated through human authors

God fully communicated His intentions while at the same time fully utilising human authors. How did God do this? Clearly this is a mystery of faith which cannot be completely understood, but we do know what inspiration is not.

Inspiration is not God merely assisting man in the writing process. The individuals whom God employed in the writing of Scripture, such as Moses, Matthew, Peter, and Paul were not passive recipients, merely writing out what God had recorded on his divine dictation machine. No, God made use of their powers and abilities, so that with him acting in them and through them, they, as true authors, consigned to writing everything and only those things that He wanted.

For your inspiration

Not only are the Scriptures inspired, but they are written to inspire YOU. The time has come to move forward and join a Bible study group to learn more about those things that God has put down in writing specifically to help you and the people of God as a whole to be able to live the true Christian life. Let us all remember St Jerome's famous words "Ignorance of the Scripture is ignorance of Christ."



"Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path" – Book of Psalms (119:105)

(Note: Each chaplain from the six Circles in Malta and Gozo will in turn be asked to provide a spiritual reflection in subsequent issues of this 'Newsletter').



Walter J Xuereb
P/President Mensija Circle



Joseph R Pace
P/President Mensija Circle

Mewg

Resqin
Imgerbin,
Hekk mibrumin,
Mewgiet bajdanin
Bil-qawwa mimlijin:
għal min intom mghaddbin?
Thabtu ma' blatiet iebsin
biex toħorġu tellifin
u lura mixħutin,
Minn mewg oħra mgħaffġin,
Taħthom imkassbrin
u maħnuqin:
Għajjenin,
Sejrin

Walter J Xuereb
18/05/1967

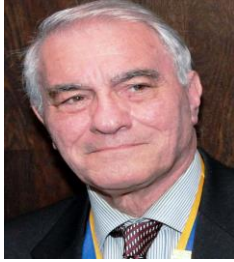
Ħabbejtek, Poeżija

Ħabbejtek, Poeżija, b'żgħožiti kollha tfur,
Meta inti, xejn kburiġa, inżilt biex lili żżur ...
Għax f'ħarstek il-għasliġa kien hemm ġmiel mistur,
u rajt madwarek diġa w tlellix ta' mitt kulur.

Ħabbejtek, Poeżija, jien f'qalbi bnejtlek sur,
Palazz ta' fantasija fejn int tkun tista' ddu;
U ssieħbet ġewwa fija l-Qalb mal-Ħsieb għajjur ...
Bdejt noħlom elf sbuħija, nintilef fl-iċken fjur.

Ħabbejtek, Poeżija, ħabbejtni Int ukoll,
U j'Alla nibqgħu dejjem bla ħadd ma jista' jħoll
Ir-rabta tant qawwiġa li hemm bejnietna llum
Sakemm is-sur jixxejjen, u jżernaq l-aħħar jum!





Carmel Lino Cutajar
P/President Mensija Circle

China's Terracotta Army

In recent months I have contributed articles to the Mensija Circle Newsletter on my experiences while travelling abroad. Thus, for example, I described the Wieliczka salt mines in Krakow (Poland); the Ice Hotel (Lapland); the House of the Virgin Mary in Ephesus, (Turkey); the Postojna caves and the 'human fish' (Slovenia), and others.

I have been encouraged to continue my contributions in the same vein for the new Provincial Newsletter, so I am now sharing my experience in another country, China.

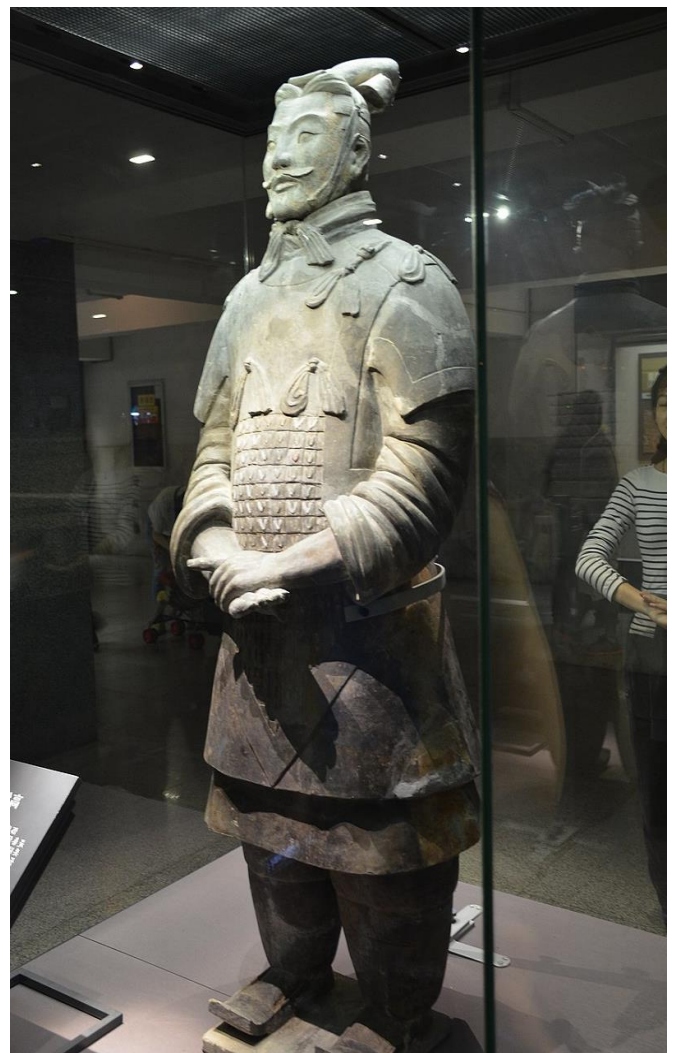
Visiting the site of the famous Terracotta Army, the "Eighth Wonder of the World", in Xi'an, China, was one of the most memorable experiences of my life.

The Terracotta Army is a collection of over 7,000 life-size sculptures depicting the armies of Qin Shi Huang, the first emperor who united China over 2,200 years ago.

They lay buried all this time until they were accidentally discovered over a large area in 1974 by three farmers toiling the soil. The emperor had ordered the building of this mausoleum to protect him in his after-life. The army of life-size warriors, archers, horses and chariots was stationed in military formation near the emperor's tomb. Over 720,000 labourers worked for about 40 years to

complete the army and the mausoleum. Millions of tourists and locals have visited the site. In 2007 two of the terracotta warriors were exhibited in Malta. They aroused great interest.

To see the massive terracotta army on site in Xi'an was an exhilarating experience. Three pits containing soldiers have been unearthed and excavation is still in progress.



Full-dressed warrior ready for war

In one area of the vaults life-size terracotta warriors are exhibited according to their rank or military duties which can be identified by their height, clothing, head gear or weapons. Their true-to life facial modelling is said to have been based on that of real warriors.



GENERAL



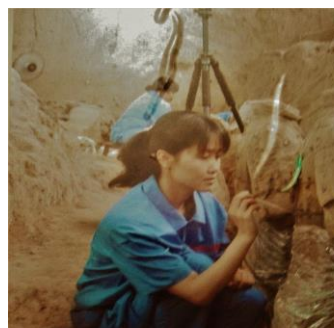
OFFICER



KNEELING ARCHER



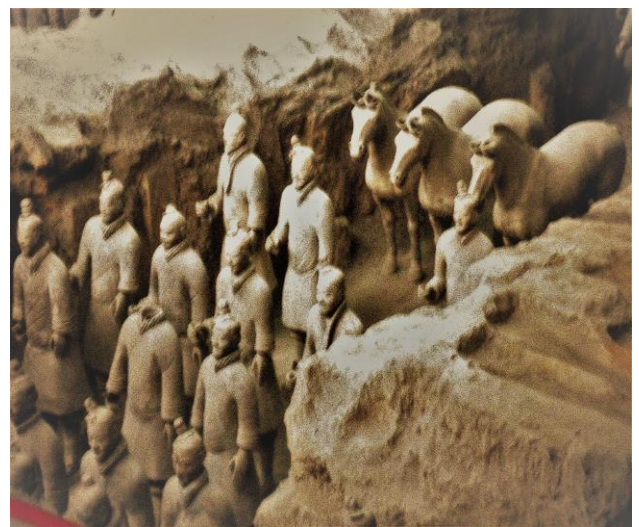
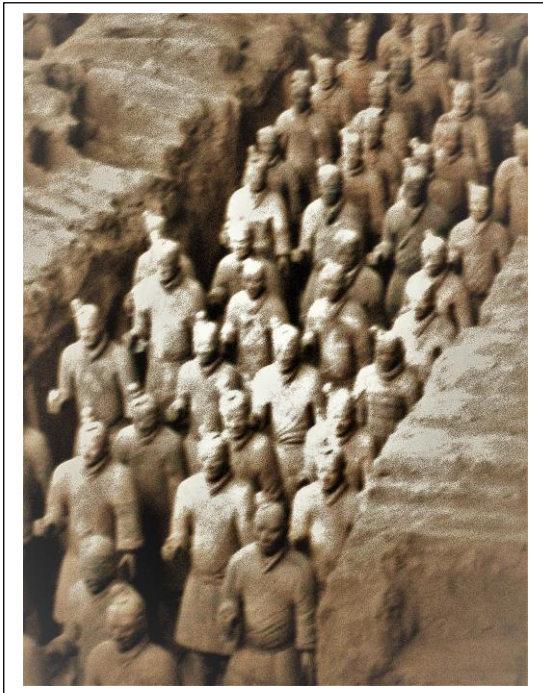
CHARIOTEER



RESTORATION WORKS



Pit 1: In this, the largest excavated vault, which has been converted to a visitors' exhibition site, there are more than 6000 terracotta warriors and chariot horses which are in square formation, facing the East, symbolizing the eastern patrolling guard regiment defending the mausoleum.



There are also terracotta horses in full bronze plate and with chariots ready at any moment to carry the soldiers for war.

The terracotta warriors hold bronze weapons such as crossbars, arrows, spears, daggers. The charioteers ride in separate formations.



Kenneth Abela
Secretary, St Julian's Circle

Offering one's services as a volunteer...

Giving and receiving are nothing other than the flow of life. For twelve years, as a member of the Volserv Voluntary Services, I assisted nurses, carers and patients once a week at Mater Dei Hospital's Medical Ward 3. I had logged up over 1,000 hours when this hospital ward assistance was halted in view of the increasing numbers in COVID-19 injection cases.

Following the January 2022 St Julian's Circle Meeting I had the pleasure and honour of giving a short talk on Zoom to my fellow members and esteemed guests. The subject, based on my personal experience, being "What voluntary work can I, as a Circle member, be involved in?"

Volserv is an SOS Malta service set up in 2007 in partnership with the Ministry of Health, the Elderly and Community Care, aiming to support patients and relatives at Mater Dei and the Sir Anthony Mamo Oncology Centre (SAMOC).

Volserv accepts applications on-line and applicants are then interviewed to establish which area within the hospital the applicant prefers to give a service. On retiring, through Volserv, at SAMOC I enjoyed not only befriending the seriously ill patients (involving chatting, reading to them, supplying newspapers, taking them to the chapel or the garden) but also, being a qualified massage and aromatherapist, providing

aromatherapy.

Where else can volunteers offer their services voluntarily?

- Hospice Malta require drivers, reception assistance and computer inputting. Here I also help out as a complementary therapist.
- Agenzija Support – their *Sharing Lives* programme helps persons with a disability. I take my 'client' for a weekly coffee and a chat.
- Caritas – apart from providing Christmas lunches, they also appreciate help in administration and collection and distribution of foodstuffs.

Our churches appreciate help in the administration of their offices, their elderly groups, inputting of data, and helping the needy within the parish through the *Djakonija* Group.

Give, and it will be given to you (Luke 6:38). Even as a member of the Legion of Mary, visits to old people's homes, hospitals, and families used to be the norm until the pandemic slowed things down. There is thus a lot one can do. We need to remember that volunteers do not necessarily have the time; but they have the heart.



Helping residents in old people's homes is one way of volunteering one's services



David Felice Pace
President, Victoria-Gozo Circle

Oxford Circle's stellar Brothers

Recently I came across a short history of Oxford's Catenian Circle. Due to its status as a university city, hence very much of a transient place, Oxford had the reputation as 'the home of lost causes'.

The first attempts to form a Catenian group there in the mid-1930s failed. Yet a few years later two committed Catenians addressed a meeting of 24 potential members.

What had changed? During the war years the government turned many of the colleges into 'administration' departments. There was a qualitative change in the population itself.

By 1943 all was set for the inauguration of Circle 126. Twenty-six Brothers were enrolled, and the Circle's success led to the formation of Banbury Circle in the outskirts of Oxford in 1967. Oxford Circle celebrated the 75th anniversary of its inauguration in October 2018.

In the history books the Circle came to fame because of two Brothers who were both founder members. Their names were John R.R. Tolkien and Frank Pakenham. There were others who excelled in the art world and a few famous cricketers. John's commitment to the Catenians led him to become the first vice president of the Circle and

later on president.

Tolkien, born in South Africa in 1892, was a convert to Catholicism. He was an academic and he was also a linguist and philologist. He was a prolific writer but he became world famous when he published *The Hobbit* in 1937. His work took fantasy literature to a new level and earned for it the title of 'the father of modern fantasy literature'. In 1953 Tolkien published the trilogy called *The Lord of the Rings*, an epic novel set in fictitious Middle Earth about man as a journeying being always on a quest.

One of Tolkien's friends, C.S. Lewis, a self-described atheist, turned to Christianity thanks to his conversations with Tolkien, who was rather disappointed that Lewis chose the Church of England as his spiritual home. A man of faith, Tolkien referred to his relationship with the Eucharist as a romantic affair.

He remained in the Catenian Association until 1956 at a time when he expressed disquiet about the movement in Rome for the introduction of vernacular languages in the liturgy. This may be just an assumption on my part as no reason had ever been given for his resignation. Tolkien was awarded the CBE in 1972 and died in 1973 aged 81, after which his parish in Oxford prayed for his canonisation.

The other founder member, a figure of great prominence in the history of the Catholic Church in the UK, was Frank Pakenham, later known as Lord Longford. For many decades he was considered to be the leading Catholic layman in the Church.

Born in Ireland to an aristocratic family in 1905, he was educated at Eton. The family title went back to 1677. Considering that Baron Pakenham only became a Catholic in 1940, his entry into the Oxford Circle in 1943 may have been strategic for

him. Soon he would be called to serve in the first Labour Government by Clement Attlee as a Peer in the House of Lords, having failed to be elected to Parliament. He also served later in different administrations under Labour Prime Minister Harold Wilson.

On the death of his brother in 1961, Baron Pakenham became Lord Longford. He adopted causes that made him unpopular with a large section of the British population. A great pursuer of penal reform, he challenged the concept of life sentencing even for the worst offenders, believing that forgiveness and rehabilitation should also be a part of any reform. Earning the title of 'Lord Porn' by the tabloid press, Longford led an investigation into the effects of pornography on society and fought hard for the decriminalization of homosexuality.

Lord Longford died in 2001 aged 95. Prime Minister Tony Blair described him as "a great man of passionate integrity and humanity and a great reformer committed to modernizing the law, while always caring for the individual."



Lord Longford



J R R Tolkien





Vincent Lungaro Mifsud
President, MCC

Malta Cine Circle's double Anniversary

This year the Malta Cine Circle (MCC) is celebrating its 70th anniversary, while its Golden Knight festival marks its 60th anniversary -- two remarkable achievements for an NGO.

Formerly known as the Malta Amateur Cine Circle (MACC), the Malta Cine Circle was founded in 1952 by a small group of cine enthusiasts who wanted to share their pastime with other fellow film-makers.

In the 1950s Hollywood movies were the rage and home movie cameras were becoming affordable to several enthusiasts. The era of the 8mm cine camera had reached Malta. Through its innovative activities, the Circle soon became quite popular and, as a result, its membership increased year on year.

The first activities organised by the MACC were monthly guest nights where productions by both Maltese and British amateur film makers were screened to packed audiences at the Hotel Phoenicia ballroom in Floriana.

The club's first film competition was held in 1955,

with just three participants, but soon, as more members bought their first cine camera, this competition became more popular. Within a few years an average of 20 productions participated annually.

Thanks to these competitions and other workshops, which the Circle ran from time to time, Maltese amateur film-makers became very proficient and soon started participating in competitions overseas, achieving some excellent results. The National Film Competition is still being organized annually.

Sixty years ago, in 1962, the Golden Knight Malta International Film Festival was launched. This festival, which is among the longest established worldwide, firmly put the MACC on the world film-making scene, mostly in the semi-professional (such as leading film schools) and amateur film-making sector.

The Golden Knight Festival originated in the late 1950s when the Circle used to organise 'Film Holidays' in Malta for amateur cine enthusiasts from the UK.

At the end of their holiday, the visitors competed among themselves for the best holiday film on Malta. The success of this venture encouraged the MACC committee to take the bold decision to launch an international festival – it was definitely a first for Malta.

The first edition of the Golden Knight Festival was held in 1962 with a handful of participants, mainly from the UK, but in time, it gained in both stature and prestige, and within ten years it was attracting worldwide participation.

In the late 1980s, the festival's format was restructured into three classes to attract more entries: Class A for non-commercial productions, Class B for film school students and Class C for

short commercial productions. The present format of awarding a Golden Knight to the best five entries was launched in 2012.

The Golden Knight Trophy is an original design by Raymond Grech, together with Albert Briffa. It was sculpted by Maltese artist Vincent Apap and its copyright is held by the Circle.

The festival now attracts participants from the UK, Italy, France, Spain, the Scandinavian countries, Eastern Europe, the USA, Australia, South America, the Far East and, recently, from emerging countries in this field such as Greece, Cyprus, Israel, Turkey and Iran.

Indeed, the Golden Knight is one of the top seven longest-running festivals of its kind worldwide. Every year, the festival attracts over 300 productions from around the world. Over the years, six Maltese productions have won the Golden Knight.

In the absence of a film school, for a number of decades, the Cine Circle played an important role in promoting film-making in Malta.

Several of today's Maltese professionals, either at TV stations, audio/visual companies or even in Malta's emerging film industry, owe the beginning of their careers to the MACC competitions.

For more information on the Malta Cine Circle anniversary events, send an email to macc@goldenknightmalta.org or call Vincent Lungaro Mifsud on 9946 0866.

Maltese winners of the Golden Knight Malta International Film Festival		
Year	Title	Producer/s
1971	The Nazarene	Wilfrid Sultana, Frank Debono, John Scerri
1986	Ġeħenna Le (No to Hell) *	Carmel Bonello
2004	The Legionnaire's Spear	David Serge
2015	The Maltese Fighter	Joshua Cassar Gaspar
2015	Sheila	Vicki Kisner, Guy Horlock, Matthew Muscat Drago
2016	Head	Joe and Winston Azzopardi

() First winner of Video category introduced in 1986*

1



The audience at the first annual competition show, held in 1955

2:



Founder member Victor Lungaro Mifsud and Wilfrid Sultana (originator of the Golden Knight Festival) receiving their award at the 1959 annual competition show

5:



The famous English actor Sir John Mills with the Golden Knight trophy on the festival's stage in 1986

3:



MCC Chairman Wilfrid Sultana and Secretary Victor Lungaro Mifsud greeting British actors Sir Kenneth More and Sylvia Sims on their arrival in Malta for the 1976 Golden Knight Festival

6:



Award winners at the 2021 annual film competition

4:



The Golden Knight Festival stage set-up in 1983

7:



The 2021 Golden Knight show



VIPS AT THE GOLDEN
KNIGHT FESTIVAL OVER
THE YEARS

Vittorio de Sica

Sir Kenneth More and

Sylvia Sims

Trevor Howard

Rossano Brazzi

Sir John Mills

Alberto Lattuada



Lawrence Zammit
San Pawl Circle

Looking after your life's savings

A question that is often posed is where one could invest one's savings to make sure they are enough for one's retirement. Answering that question is impossible for one very simple reason. Any financial investment is about the future, and no one knows the future. Therefore, one needs to look at the past performance of various investment instruments and make a judgment on that basis.

The situation has been further exacerbated in recent years with interest rates being close to or even at 0%. As such, placing money in a savings account meant that no return was being earned on that money. Moreover, the state pension is very often a small percentage of one's income prior to retirement.

In such circumstances one needs to ask some questions to arrive at a decision. The first is the objective that one has when investing. Is the objective to earn an income, possibly supplementing one's pension? Or is to grow the capital invested? Or is it a mix of both? For example, buying government bonds or bonds of a private company provide a yearly income. Investing in a collective investment scheme provides mainly the opportunity to accumulate growth of one's holdings.

The next question is about one's risk appetite. This has to do with one's personality and it is a

very personal decision. Some of us are very risk-averse and others have no qualms about pure speculation. The former are likely to favour a more conservative approach while the latter will go for a more aggressive approach. Or should one go for a balanced approach?

One needs to keep in mind that the less risky the investment, the lower the return. This is why Malta Government bonds provide a low return, while bonds of a private company provide a higher return. In this regard one can also mention equities. There are some companies that distribute dividends on a regular basis and may be considered less risky investments than others.

Another point to consider is whether to invest locally or abroad. A foreign investment, unless one is investing in sovereign bonds of an economy that is considered to be stable and performing well, is likely to be riskier, if for nothing else, because one has little visibility of that investment. It is much more complex to keep track of one's foreign investments than to keep track of local investments.

There is an additional risk that needs to be considered regarding foreign investments outside the eurozone, and this is the currency risk. An investment may not give a return because the value of the currency in which the investment is denominated would have decreased when compared to the euro.

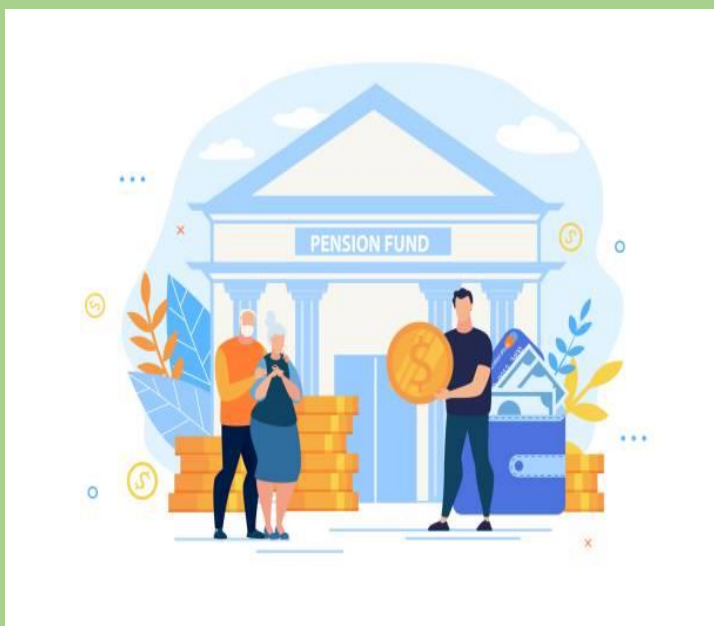
The final point to make is how easy it is to liquidate the investment. One may require the funds invested very urgently. As such it is always more advisable to move into investments that are easily liquidated. In this regard collective investment schemes have an advantage, even though there are charges to be paid when liquidating one's investment.

When taking a decision on one's investments, it is

always more advisable to speak to a financial adviser. A financial adviser has the required knowledge to propose an investment strategy that is built around your requirements. However, one also needs to keep a watchful eye against scams and financial advisers who are only too eager to sell and less eager to listen to our concerns.



Should one go for a balanced approach?



Are there enough savings for our retirement?



Steve Fenech
Valletta Circle

Malta in the Middle Ages - 1

The period being considered stretches for about 1,000 years, from 500 AD to 1530, when the Maltese Islands were given as a fief to the Order of St John by the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V, who was also King Charles I of Spain.

During that period Malta had a chequered history starting with its conquest by the Byzantine Emperor Justinian the Great in 533, through to the Muslim conquest in 870, the Norman Count Roger's expedition in 1091, followed by a brief interlude of the Angevins in 1268. In 1283, following an epic sea battle in the Grand Harbour, Roger of Lauria secured Malta for the Aragonese, who in turn were succeeded by the Order of St John. In this first of a series of four articles we will look at Malta's Byzantine and Arab periods.

There is a lack of documentary evidence relating to the Byzantine period, but some archeological evidence is available. Hopefully future historians will uncover

further evidence. The Byzantine Empire, which lasted a thousand years, has been extensively researched. A first early mention of Malta is in 553, in a document referring to a bishop of Malta, Julian, who was in Constantinople and signed a document called *Constitutum ad Imperatorem*, which dealt with the nature of Christ.

The fact that in 553 Malta had its own bishop may indicate that a sizable number of Greek Christians lived on the Island. In another interesting document of 592 Pope Gregory I instructs Bishop John of Syracuse to investigate Bishop Lucillus of Malta for possible misappropriation of Church property. At that time the bishops of Malta resided in Sicily.

In 642 the Muslims overran Cyrenaica. The Patriarch of Constantinople persuaded the Muslim leader Ambr-ibn-asi to allow the Byzantine population to leave. Some of those Christians may have settled in Malta. They spoke a Syrian-Lebanese dialect which could have been an early version of Maltese (more about the language later, when we deal with the Arab period). In 731 the Church in Malta passed under the direct jurisdiction of Constantinople.

It is believed that a community of Greek-

rite monks lived among the classical and Early Christian ruins of Tas-Silġ. Another site, Wied ir-Rum, is considered to be both by its name (*Rum* being the Arabic word for Christians) and also by the nature of the sites themselves to be a place inhabited by Christians, possibly also during the Arab occupation.

G.F. Abela's *Descrittione di Malta* describes Wied ir-Rum as "the valley of Greek Christians". The area contains caves indicating they were used for religious purposes. A particular site with a cave refinement could have been the church dedicated to St James, which was included in the 1575 visitation report by Pietro Dusina. Surviving murals have a common iconography typical of the Siculo-Byzantine tradition.

Although documentary evidence is scarce, archeological remains indicate that a vibrant Byzantine Christian community was present during the sixth and seventh century, with further proof provided by the finding of pottery tableware and other ceramic products from the Eastern Mediterranean, Italy and North Africa.

After 830, with increasing Muslim attacks on Sicily and possibly Malta, some of the local population probably fled to more secure and safe Greek Christian territories. In 870, Mohammad II of Sicily sent his fleet under his admiral Ahmad bin Umar bin Abd to take Malta. They found a remnant of Greek Christians who spoke a language

similar to theirs and also whose rural cultures resembled their own. Probably, the Muslims, as was then the custom, did not force the Christians to convert as long as they paid a tax known as *giza*. However, they imprisoned the Bishop of Malta in Palermo.

It is also known from an Arab text (by al-Himyari) that after 870 Malta remained "an uninhibited ruin". However, the same author writes that "the island was visited by shipbuilders, because the wood in it is of the strongest kind, by fishermen, because of the abundance and tastiness of the fish around its shores and by those who collect honey, because it is the most abundant thing there". This could indicate that Malta was not left completely uninhabited by the Muslims after its conquest.

Either for strategic reasons or normal population movement or both, the fact is that by the eleventh century, there were enough people in Malta to repulse an attempted Byzantine invasion in 1054. The Byzantine fleet was defeated by a combined Muslim and Christian slave force, who had been promised their freedom if they fought the invader. It is unclear what the origin of the slaves or their religious affiliation was; was Malta their place of captivity or their place of origin?

Bibliography: Extensive use was made of *Storja ta' Malta* by Andrew P. Vella; *Malta -- The Medieval Millennium* by Charles Dalli as well as various articles in *Melita Historica*, published by the Malta Historical Society.

Byzantine Remains



A Byzantine coin found at Tas-Silġ

A Byzantine Archon Medal from Gozo

Archon named Theophylact, is fully provenanced. natural topography was possibly still affecting the evolution of the town and its suburb in the late medieval

BYZANTINE ARCHON MEDAL FROM GOZO

to T.S. Brown, that Gozo was under the authority of an archon or chief administrator. The office of archon is also recorded in another seal associated with Malta, apparently purchased in Tunis and published in 1900, referred to as the Niketas archon kai droungarios of Malta, but its provenance is unclear. The office of archon indicated a local magnate, chief official, or governor. The title of droungarios normally indicated a military commander. In the Byzantine military organization in the eight century, each region, or theme, was subdivided into turmae defended by battalions of 1,000 men, each commanded by an archon led a small garrison of 100 men. The Maltese islands formed part of the overall command of the strategos who governed the theme of Sicily. Together with the southern Italian territories, Sicily belonged to the exarchate of Italy.

Byzantine lead Seal of the archon Theophylact, c.750-850, Gozo Archaeological Museum. The seal, discovered in Gozo in 1960, shows, according

*HOC OP: HOROLOGII: P: CRT: P: GR: ON: S: EX: T: A: C: H: G: S: R: E: X: P: E: G: N: S:
 AN: IN: G: R: A: T: I: O: N: I: S: D: N: I: C: G: O: C: X: I: I: C: O: S: I: R: E: T: O: C: V: A: N: V: R: C: C: A: N: T: A: L: I: O:
 C: O: A: V: I: A: K: A: N: K: O: N: K: R: A: T: A: C: C: O: N: T: R: I: P: O: C: P: Z: C: K: O: V: C: K: I: T: R: A: T: P: H: R: A: N: A: V: I: I: O:
 F: I: C: H: O: C: C: A: C: T: I: O: N: I: S: M: A: T: A: I: N: G: O: N: G: A: R: R: X: I: N: S: O: U: L: T: I: C: S: C: I: A: C: X: R: E: N: O: I: M: I: N: A: P: R: O: N: G: E: T: X: I:
 في سنة الف وستمائة الف واربعمائة الف واربعمائة الف واربعمائة الف واربعمائة الف واربعمائة الف واربعمائة الف
 بهيئة من اهل جزيرة مالطة سنة الف وستمائة الف واربعمائة الف واربعمائة الف واربعمائة الف واربعمائة الف واربعمائة الف

Kitba Latina, Griega u Ghorbija li tfakkar l-arluġġar Gharbi Malti

An inscription in Greek, Latin and Arab



Siculo-Byzantine painting at the Abbatija tad-Djar



A fresco from 13th century discovered at Abbatija tad-Djar

Note: This is the first of four parts that Bro Steve Fenech will treat in subsequent issues of this Newsletter. The Medieval period is the least known of our history and should therefore be of great interest to our readers. Each part will be accompanied by related photographs. The photographs are also of special interest given the scarcity of knowledge and remains from this unique period of our history, which left a permanent imprint on the Maltese character and culture especially in our language.



Carmel Bonello
San Lucjan Circle

Projects and assistance for persecuted Christians

The lives of Christians in the Middle East have been seriously disrupted. In Syria and Iraq, not so many years ago, Easter day began with Mass at the village church. The families would return home for a feast of rice and meat with sides of salad and hummus. Neighbours would stop by to extend greetings.

That was before the Islamic State and other extremists started kidnapping Christians, before the relentless violence, before the civil war tore their countries apart. Many were left with no choice but to flee for their lives to Lebanon. Today, thousands of Syrian and Iraqi Christian families endure the hardship and humiliation of displacement and, together with the large Christian Lebanese community, are now facing the serious consequences of political and economic crises.

In such tragic situations for Christians around the world, Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) steps in. ACN is a Pontifical (papal) charity dedicated to helping persecuted and oppressed Christians. Seven years ago, a Malta office was established in Attard. Through these years, ACN (Malta) continued to shine the light of Christ's love in the darkest corners of the world by supporting the Catholic Church in its mission to bring hope and solidarity to thousands of persecuted Catholics.

From supporting schools, orphanages and youth centres, training of seminarians to providing copies of its Child's Bible, ACN's projects nurture the faith of persecuted and suffering Christians.

ACN (Malta) has also been at the forefront of many pastoral aid projects to support Catholics facing particularly challenging situations. These include Maltese and Gozitan missionaries abroad.

Throughout these years, the Malta office has organised annual retreats and prayer campaigns during Lent and Christmas, as well as campaigns to provide milk, Christmas parcels and scholarships for needy Christian children and their families in various parts of the world. Every 18th October, ACN (Malta) encourages Maltese students to participate in its international campaign, "One Million Children Praying the Rosary for peace".

ACN also publishes and distributes two major biennial reports – "Persecuted and Forgotten" (<https://persecutedchristians.acninternational.org/>) and "Religious Freedom in the World" (<https://religious-freedom-report.org/>) – to create more awareness of religious persecution worldwide.

Year on year, the existence of Christians, particularly in the Middle East, Africa and the Far East, continues to be constantly threatened. In 2020 alone, among several hundreds of other initiatives, ACN financed the rebuilding of 2,086 houses on the Nineveh plains in Iraq, so that refugee Christians could return to Iraq and sustain the presence of Christianity in that country. These homes were among those destroyed by ISIS's regime of terror.

Annually, through its 23 national offices, including the one in Malta, ACN sponsors an average of 5,000 projects, providing humanitarian assistance for a wide range of needs to Christians in 139

countries, notably in the Middle East, Africa and the Far East.

ACN (Malta) is currently focusing on providing desperately needed help for Christians in Lebanon. Apart from Lebanese, there are also Syrian and Iraqi Christian refugees who, following the arrival of ISIS with their regime of terror, had to flee to Lebanon. To further complicate matters, on 4th August 2020, a tragic explosion at the port of Beirut devastated the nearby Christian quarter. ACN is committed to supporting this most vital Christian presence in the Middle East. These Syrian, Iraqi and Lebanese Christians lost members of their families, jobs, homes and now are completely dependent on the generosity of other Christians to provide food, medicines, clothing and sanitary items.

A positive thing in this very challenging scenario is that ACN's project partners have been on the ground assisting these thousands of Christian families for some years now and know them well/ ACN's project partners, therefore, can dispense the provisions judiciously and effectively where they are most needed.

In response to this profound crisis in Lebanon, ACN (Malta) launched an emergency appeal to provide these Christians with emergency food packages. At the same time, there is still a great deal to be done to help these Christians as the Apostolic Nuncio in Beirut, our compatriot Mgr Joseph Spiteri, can attest. A donation of €50 to ACN (Malta) will provide a food package for a small family for one week.

Catholics in Malta can be part of this great stream of practical generosity for thousands of Christian families in Lebanon. Donations can be sent via ACN's website: www.acnmalta.org/donate or bank transfer: APS Bank, Attard Branch. Account: Aid to the Church in Need Malta Foundation. IBAN MT72APSB77057008577220001771733

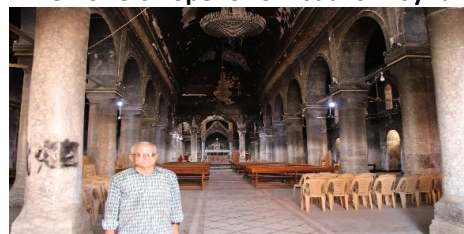
To find out more about ACN's commitment and projects and how one can be part of its mission, visit www.acnmalta.org, call 2148 7818, or send an email to info@acnmalta.org

ACN (Malta) assists Maltese/Gozitan missionaries abroad

- Support for the refurbishment of a youth centre run by the Daughters of the Sacred Heart (founded in Malta in 1903) Sisters in Diwa, Bataan, Philippines.
- Support for the formation of 40 seminarians in San Pedro, Ecuador, most of whom came from poor families who lost everything in a major earthquake that devastated the city of Portoviejo.
- Provision of furniture for St Peter Primary School and Orphanage run by the Dominican Sisters of Malta in Pakistan.
- Construction of a utility area for the Conversion of St. Paul Parish of the Missionary Society of St. Paul, MSSP, Lahore, Pakistan.
- Support for the training of 48 seminarians of the diocese of Dumka, India.



ACN offers hope for Christians in Syria



Al-Tahira Cathedral – Iraq's largest Christian Church destroyed by ISIS and partially restored and re-opened thanks to ACN funding.



Circles Roundup

THREE CIRCLE CHRISTMAS EVENT

In December three Circles, Mensija Circle, San Lucjan Circle and San Pawl Circle, decided to organise a Christmas event together. Held at the Urban Valley Resort, Kappara, it took the form of a Mass, which was celebrated by former Mensija Chaplain, Fr Laurence Essery SDB, and a visiting Dominican priest, Fr Mark Baron OP (brother of Sam Baron, President of San Lucjan Circle), followed by a buffet lunch.

In many respects this social occasion was a successful first for the Catenian Association In Malta & Gozo. There were 86 participants. San Pawl Circle took the opportunity to hold their monthly Circle meeting before the Mass. A donation of €550 was collected and given to the Malta Community Chest Fund.



The congregation at Mass



Waiting for food



Fr Laurence Essery and Fr Mark Baron concelebrated the Mass



MENSIJA CIRCLE (294)

First joint-meeting between Lytham St Annes Circle and Mensija Circle under the Twinning Agreement signed on 26th May 2021



Lytham St Annes Circle No. 89

Mensija Circle Malta No. 294

JOINT MEETING – Wednesday 5th JANUARY 2022 at 7.30 0m
followed by lecture:

**ART
AND
MEDICINE**

By Prof Carmel Mallia, Mensija Circle

ZOOM LINK:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81433943007?pwd=MUMyYHJZwaEdWYTRSMnBTb3BEZUVsUT09>
Meeting ID: 814 3394 3007
Passcode: 563813

P.S. Please have a drink available so that we can toast the New Year at the end of the talk

A highly successful joint-meeting between the two Circles was held virtually on Zoom on 5th January 2022 at 7.30pm. The number of participants, including visitors, was about 40. The highlight of the evening was the talk by Bro Carmel Mallia on the subject of 'Art and Medicine'. Everyone agreed that Carmel gave one of his best talks that kept everyone riveted. Well done Brother Carmel!

VALLETTA CIRCLE (316)

During the last few months Valletta Circle continued with its activities and meetings online, physically and hybrid. Circle, Council and Social Committee meetings were held on the due dates and most Brothers also stayed for the after meetings meals. A good number of activities were also organised. The February 2022 Circle meeting was held online and in order to limit physical contact, the after-meeting dinner was held the next day. This idea may be adopted by other Circles.

These are some of the activities held by Valletta Circle since last November:

On November 9, the President's Mass was celebrated by the Circle's chaplain, Fr Stefan Attard, followed by dinner, at the Marsa Sports Club, during which €2,500 were raised from donations by Brothers. Of this amount, Millennium Chapel and St Julian's parish church were given €500 each for charity.

On December 1, Valletta Circle donated €1,000 to Hospice Malta and another €1,000 to the soup kitchen run by the Franciscan Friars Minor in Valletta.

Valletta Circle held a well-attended Charter Night dinner at The Palace hotel in Sliema.

On December 20 the Circle made a donation of €1,000 to the Little Sisters of the Poor.

On February 10, hundreds of used stamps collected by Bro Michael Borg Cardona were donated to the Capuchin friars in Floriana. Stamps were also donated by Brothers John Paterson, Joe Caruana, Ray Mercieca, David Pace, Peter Paul Portelli and a few others.

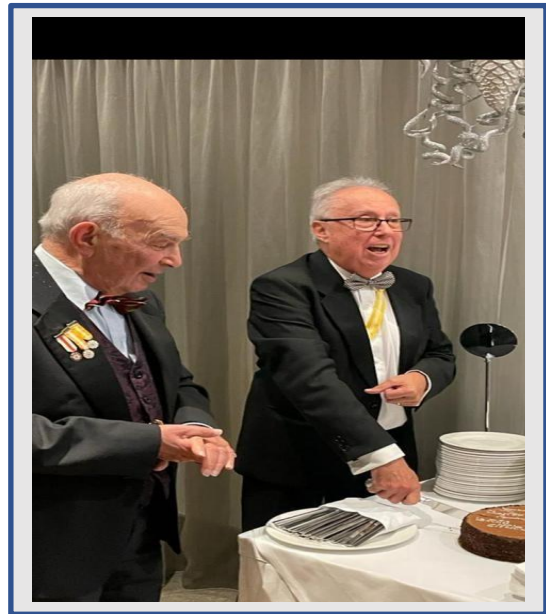
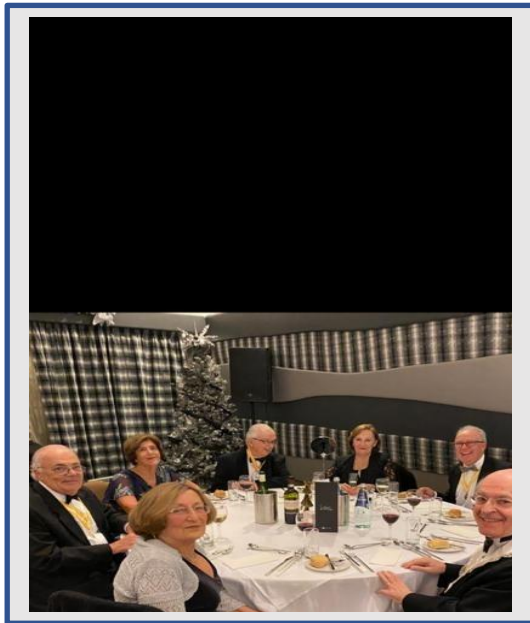
These stamps are cleaned and sold to collectors, with the proceeds going to the Maltese Capuchins' mission in Kenya. On February 15 Valletta Circle held a Super Bingo on Zoom. All proceeds are being donated to *Id-Dar tal-Providenza*.



9 Nov 2021: President's Mass at Marsa Sports Club



9 Nov 2021: President's Mass at Marsa Sports Club



9 December 2021: Charter Night at The Palace, Sliema



Donations to Caritas, Sisters of Mother Teresa, Hospice and Little Sisters of the Poor

SAN PAWL CIRCLE (386)

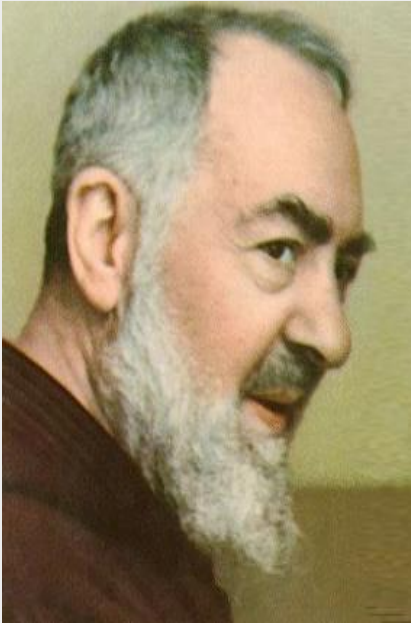
At the December 13 meeting at the Urban Valley Resort & Spa in Kappara Christmas greetings were exchanged and Bro Philip Pisani was enrolled, after which San Pawl Circle joined Mensija Circle and San Lucjan Circle for Mass and lunch. At the meeting Bro Saviour Agius collected our donation for the MCCF.

During the January Circle meeting, held on Zoom, another new member, Bro Stephen Muscat, was enrolled. After the meeting, Michael Grech, Past President of Victoria Gozo Circle, made a presentation on his voluntary work in Kenya with Fr Ġorġ as part of Ġesù fil-Proxxmu's missionary work. The photos he showed coupled with his interesting explanation brought out the essence of voluntary work and the need for help needed by people in underdeveloped countries.

In February, following the Circle meeting, also held on Zoom, Bro Carmel Mallia, Secretary of the Mensija Circle, gave a most captivating presentation on "Art and Medicine". Bro Carmel gave an excellent well-researched exposé of how artists brought out certain medical conditions in their works, reflecting the situation of their time.

To note in your diaries

2022	EVENT
	Mensija Circle 294
April 11	AGM and Circle meeting
April 15	Seven Churches Visit
May 26	Charter Night celebration
June 13	Circle Meeting (possibly joint with Valletta)
	Valletta Circle 316
April 5	AGM and Circle meeting
April 14	Maundy Thursday Visits to Seven Churches with a light dinner or Seven Visits online
May 3	Circle Meeting
June 6	Circle Meeting
June 29	Feast of Saints Peter and Paul Vocations Mass followed by a reception
	Victoria-Gozo Circle 325
April 29	AGM and Circle meeting
May 13	Circle meeting followed by the recitation of the rosary
June 10	Circle meeting
	St Julians Circle 346
April 22	Circle meeting
May 20	Circle meeting
June 17	Circle meeting
	San Lucjan Circle 361
April 14	Seven Churches visit
April 20	Circle meeting
May 18	Circle meeting
May 22	Visit to Comino or St Paul's Bay Islands or agricultural or aquaculture tour
June 15	Circle meeting
June 29	Visit to Gozo and Mnarja feast at Nadur
	San Pawl Circle 386
April 28	AGM and Circle meeting
May 26	Circle meeting
June 26	Mass at St Dominic's Church, Rabat, followed by meeting, country walk in Buskett and lunch at Chateau Buskett



PADRE PIO'S WORDS

Even if we don't experience it personally, we always are surprised and disconcerted in front of the evil of the world, especially if it comes from the abuse of a man's freedom. We look back a little naively to the past which seems better than present times.

To the Countess Telfener, who complained one day about how much evil she saw around her, Padre Pio said: "Don't be surprised at anything, there has been, there are and there always will be troubles in this world."

A spiritual daughter affirms: "The Father didn't want us to be scandalised facing a person's sins. He encouraged us to make this reflection: "If we do not sin it is only because the Lord keeps us from falling by his grace. Then he added: "The Lord often lets one who is amazed at the sins of others fall into sin themselves."

(From the book: "THE 'PADRE' - Saint Pio of Pietrelcina")

POPE JOHN PAUL II ON PADRE PIO

Pope John Paul II in the homily of the Mass which celebrated Padre Pio's canonisation said about him: "He was a generous dispenser of divine mercy, making it available to all through his welcome, spiritual guidance and especially by his administration of the Sacrament of Penance." He then indicated the new saint as a model for priests to imitate: "May his example encourage priests to carry out their ministry which is so important, with joy and diligence."

Time to relax



*George Cassola
Valletta Circle*

Crossword puzzle – solution on page 37

	1		2		3		4		5		6		7	
8											9			
					10									
11											12			
			13					14						
15							16				17			18
					19									
20											21			
					22				23					
24	25										26		27	
			28					29						
30							31				32			
					33									
34											35			
			36											

ACROSS

- 2 French physicist could have been a class guy (3-6)
- 8 Brief report by physician from the Middle East (4)
- 9 We have to carry the weight of responsibility (4)
- 10 Partial plea very often used to get away (5)
- 11 Correct description of junction by a French road (4)
- 12 Draw an ox with a different head (4)
- 13 Once every day (4)
- 14 A piece of Purcell, lightly coloured on the reverse (4)
- 15 Untie, pointlessly and disorderly, a case of pins and needles (4)
- 17 Tea ritual is a crafty way of doing things... (4)
- 19 ...but he's in a riskier position as he slips on snow (5)
- 20 It's in the tenth contribution (5)
- 21 He went to heights to paint the Cathedral (5)
- 22 Letter in hand, written by David (5)

DOWN

- 1 Rummage about for the rabbit-chaser (6)
- 2 Blown away, like the pages of Scarlett's story (4,4,3,4)
- 3 Yellows! As said by those Americans who shout most (7)
- 4 Poisonous tree in Pennsylvania, in the States (4)
- 5 He has a monumental memory, close to that of Buttigieg (7)
- 6 Number it as 1, about time, above the Ministry of Commerce, leading up to automation programme (15)
- 7 Left in sensitive area, open to all (6)
- 15 Actor who gets paid a little more (5)
- 16 It has a purpose of determining the

- 24 Erection that isn't straight, you can go through it (4) winner (5)
 26 Fire in the bag! (4) 18 Card sequence formed by magic (5)
 28 Queen's direction to king of the sky (4) 22 Sean, a hard worker, gets the prize for
 29 Side by side? (4) winning the tournament (7)
 30 Throws water back onto the hot dish (4) 23 It could be dry painting found in a
 32 Surely not the permanent secretary! (4) small car (7)
 33 Arab is nearby, it is said, but he claims to be 25 Last May, Peter messed up and had to
 somewhere else (5) restart work on his machine (6)
 34 Go round and round, but maybe inspire no anger (4) 27 At home in Como or somewhere near
 35 Has most of the gowns (4) Gozo (6)
 36 Shelter with ten more in hiding-place, owing to 31 It is said one of the members can
 arrest (9) paint in water-colours (4)

DUDU

1 →					2	Ġ
	5					
				B	6	
F	Ċ		← A		E	
	7			8		
			D			3
	4				Ġ	

Id-definizzjonijiet bin-numri jduru minn barra 'l ġewwa. Dawk bl-ittri jduru minn ġewwa 'l barra. Ftakar li l-ġħ u l-ie huma ittra waħda. Il-kliem komuni kollu jinsab fid-Dizzjunarju ta' Aquilina.

DEFINIZZJONIJIET

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Folla ta' nies jagħfsu fuq xulxin (5) | A Għandhom toġhma bħal tal-lumi (6) |
| 2 Gruppi maqtuġhin flimkien, pereżempju ta' għasafar (6) | B Dritt legali (4) |
| 3 Kulur ta' xagħar kannella ċar (6)
Id-dawl li jixgħel għal fuq il-palk (7) | Ċ Uljed l-istess ġenituri (4) |
| 4 (7) | D Ftit li jiġi esportat minn Malta (4) |
| 5 Aħna ngibulek quddiem għajnejk biex tara (5) | E Mogħti ufficjalment il-kariga ta' re (9) |
| 6 Nagħmlu osservazzjoni (8) | F Magħruf dak li ħaffer Minos (8) |
| 7 Fil-wiċċ għandna par (7) | Ġ Inkun fuqhom meta nkun wieqaf (7) |
| 8 Ftu xiħaġa li mhix tiegħek (5) | G Tagħżel it-triq li tieħu inqas fit-tul (7) |

(Soluzzjoni f'pagna 37)

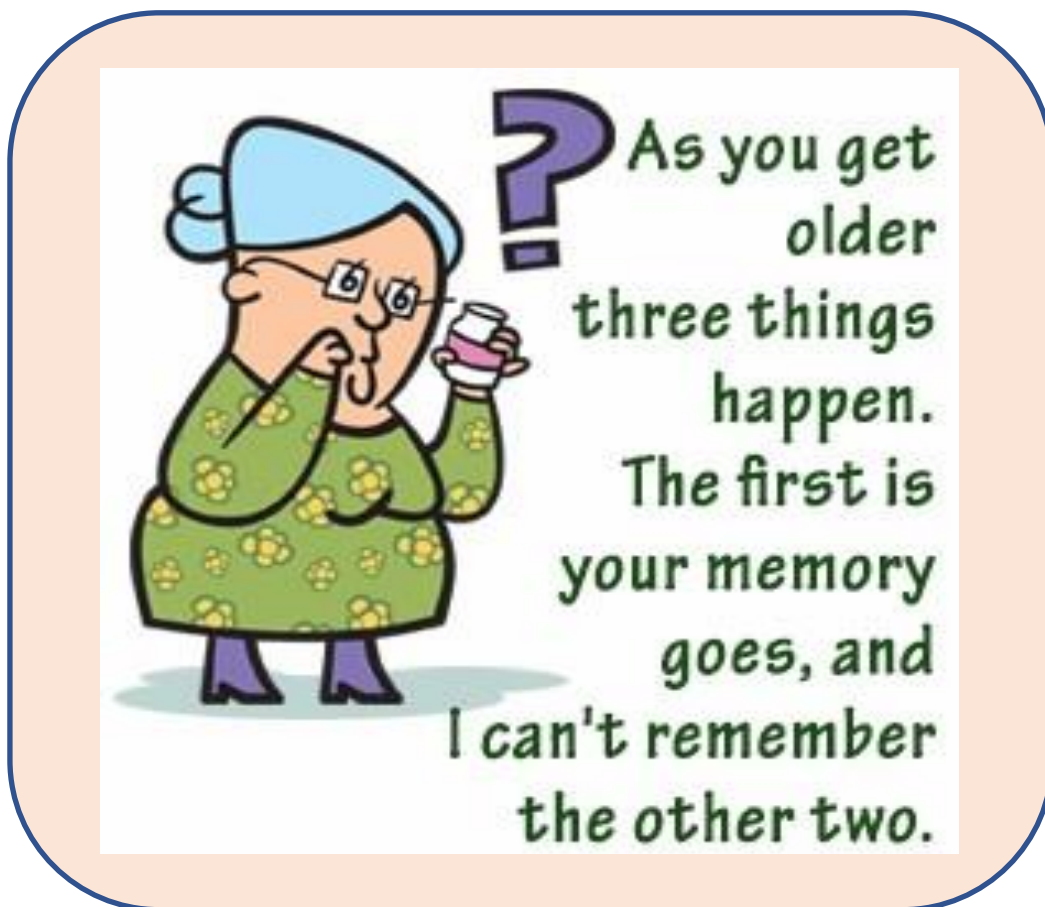
CROSSWORD SOLUTION

ACROSS: 2 Gay-Lussac 8 Memo 9 Onus 10 Leave 11 True 12 Pull
13 Week 14 Ecrú 15 Etui 17 Tact 19 Skier 20 Tithe 21 Preti 22 Psalm
24 Arch 26 Sack 28 Erne 29 Area 30 Stew 32 Temp 33 Alibi 34 Spin
35 Owns 36 Detention

DOWN: 1 Ferret 2 Gone With the Wind 3 Yellers 4 Upas 5 Spencer
6 Computerisation 7 Public 15 Extra 16 Final 18 Trick 22 Pennant
23 Martini 25 Retype 27 Comino 31 Limn

DUDU SOLUZZJONI

~1 RASSA 2 QTAJJA 3 QASTNI 4 RIBALTA 5 NURUK 6 NINNOTAW 7 HADDEJN 8 ISRAQ
~A QARSIN B JEDD Ċ AĦWA D TONN E INKURUNAT F LABIRINT Ġ SAQAJJA G TQASSAR



JOKING APART ...

"Some cause happiness wherever they go; others whenever they go." Oscar Wilde

Attorney: "Doctor, how many of your autopsies have you performed on dead people?"

Witness: "All of them. The live ones put up too much fight."

Attorney: "Do you recall the time when you examined the body?"

Witness: "The autopsy started around 8.30pm."

Attorney: "And Mr Denton was dead at the time?"

Witness: "If not, he was by the time I finished,"

"His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork ..." Mae West.

"Thank you for sending me a copy of your book; I'll waste no time reading it." Moses Hadas.

"I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it." Mark Twain.

Doctor: "Now look at me in the face."

Patient: "Doctor, I got my own problems."

"Hey!" cried Satan to the new arrival. "You act as if you own the place!"

New entrant: "I do. "My dear wife gave it to me before I died."

A purchasing agent became seriously ill and called in a specialist.

The specialist, as he stood by the bedside, said: "Yes, I can cure you."

"What will it cost?" asked the purchasing agent faintly.

"Five hundred dollars."

"You'll have to shave your price a little," replied the purchasing agent with a glint in his eyes. "I have a better offer from the undertaker."

Teacher: "George Washington not only chopped down his father's cherry tree, but he also admitted doing it. Now do you know why his father didn't punish him?"

Sheldon: "Because George still had the axe in his hand."

A member of Parliament to Disraeli: "Sir, you will either die on the gallows or of some unspeakable disease." Disraeli unimpressed: "That depends, Sir, whether I embrace your policies or your mistress."

"He has no enemies but is intensely disliked by his friends." Oscar Wilde.