

Issue 9 Jan 2025
 De La Salle College
 Senior School



LibraryLink



KICKOFF WITH A PRO
Q&A SESSION
JOSEPH FARRUGIA
 FORMER FOOTBALL PLAYER | UEFA A COACH
30 JANUARY 2025 | 12.40PM
 SENIOR SCHOOL LIBRARY

Career challenges & dedication.
 Coaching, teamwork, leadership.
 Questions, techniques, inspiration.

Writing Chinese Characters
 写汉字

talk and demonstration
 by **Stephen Cachia**

Session 1: Tuesday 21st January at 12:45pm
 Session 2: Thursday 23rd January at 12:45pm

- How and when did Chinese characters originate?
- What do they mean and how do you read them?
- How do you write Chinese characters?
- How do you write your name in Chinese?
- What about writing in Chinese on mobile phones and computers?

BOOK LAUNCH Road Show

Story & Discovery: Explore the fascinating story behind a legend like origin (the Maritime Spirit)

Career Talk: Hear from a professional in the maritime industry

Blue Economy: Understand the importance of preserving our oceans

Maritime Insights: Learn an exciting career path and the history of the sea

Fun Activities: Quiz & fun activities spread the spirit and interactive session

14th January 2025
 Midday Break
 Senior School Library

The Senior Library Team
 Editor: Mr C Saliba

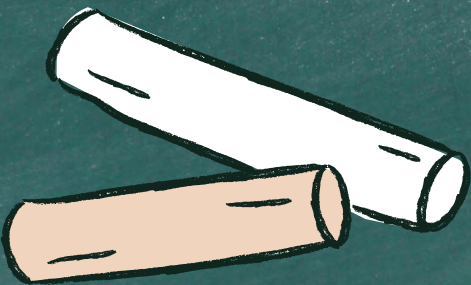
LibraryLink



Discover LibraryLink!

Your Bridge to Knowledge!

LibraryLink serves as more than just a newsletter—it's the connection between the library and its readers. Acting as a bridge, it links students, teachers, and the wider school community to the library's vast resources, exciting activities, and the latest updates.



Stay Connected, Stay Inspired

LibraryLink is designed to keep you informed, engaged, and inspired, fostering a vibrant sense of community and shared learning. The name itself embodies inclusivity, accessibility, and the library's evolving role as a hub for education, creativity, and intellectual growth. Stay connected, stay curious. LibraryLink is your gateway to a world of knowledge!

Upcoming events

- 14th Jan - Q&A Maritime
- 21st & 23rd Chinese Characters
- 30th Jan - Kickoff with a PRO

★ Welcome to January, Everyone! ★

A new year brings fresh beginnings and exciting opportunities! January is a special month, it's a time for setting goals, embracing challenges, and diving into new adventures. Here in Malta, it's the heart of winter, with cooler days reminding us to bundle up and enjoy the cosy season. ❄️🌨️

This is also a time to reflect on the past year, celebrate your progress, and start fresh with renewed focus. Whether it's tackling your studies, exploring new books, or trying out creative ideas, January sets the tone for a bright and successful year ahead. 📅★

Let's make this month count! Remember, every day is a chance to grow and achieve something amazing. Keep an open mind, stay curious, and make the most of this new chapter. 💡★



The Feast of the Holy Family: A Celebration of Unity and Love in January

In Malta, January brings a sense of warmth and community spirit despite the cool winter days. One of the special events celebrated during this month is the Feast of the Holy Family, which takes place in the quaint village of Iklin.



This feast is a heartfelt celebration of family values, unity, and love, deeply rooted in Maltese culture and faith.

The Holy Family, Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, is revered as the model of an ideal family, showcasing virtues like love, humility, and faithfulness. The feast is marked by solemn church services, prayers, and a procession through the village streets, where the statue of the Holy Family is carried by devotees. The event is a beautiful reminder of the importance of family in both spiritual and everyday life.

Beyond the religious observances, the Feast of the Holy Family is also a time for the local community to come together. Iklin becomes a hub of activity, with locals preparing traditional food, decorating their homes, and participating in festivities. It's a time to reflect on the blessings of family life and strengthen bonds with loved ones.

For visitors, this feast offers an opportunity to experience Malta's rich cultural and spiritual traditions. The peaceful village atmosphere combined with the heartfelt celebrations makes the Feast of the Holy Family a unique and touching experience.



Għal min ma tantx iħobb jaqra:

Agħmel riżoluzzjoni li matul l-2025 tibda taqra nitfa.

Jekk wara ftit paġni, tħoss li l-ktieb qed idejtek, tkomplihx. Imma fittex ktieb ieħor ... l-istess kif nagħmlu fl-ikel. Jekk ikun hemm ikel li ma jogħgobniex ... ma nikluhx. Imma ma nibqgħux għomorna kollu bil-ġuħ. Infittxu ikel ieħor.

Aqra mqar paragrafu kuljum.
Imma pprova aqra dak il-ftit ... KULJUM.
Erga' ftakar fl-ikel.
Jgħidulna li l-aħjar ikun jekk nieklu ftit u ta' spiss.

Aqra b'liema lingwa trid:
Malti, Inġliż, Gappuniż ... l-aqwa li taqra.

Staqsij lil nies li għandek fiduċja fihom,
u li jafu l-gosti tiegħek,
biex jissuggerulek ktieb tajjeb.
Tahlix ħin taqra l-imbarazz.

Ara int xħin tħoss li jkun l-aħjar ħin biex taqra.
Forsi qabel torqod jew inti u tistenna xi appuntament.

Fl-aħħar nett, jekk inti missier jew omm
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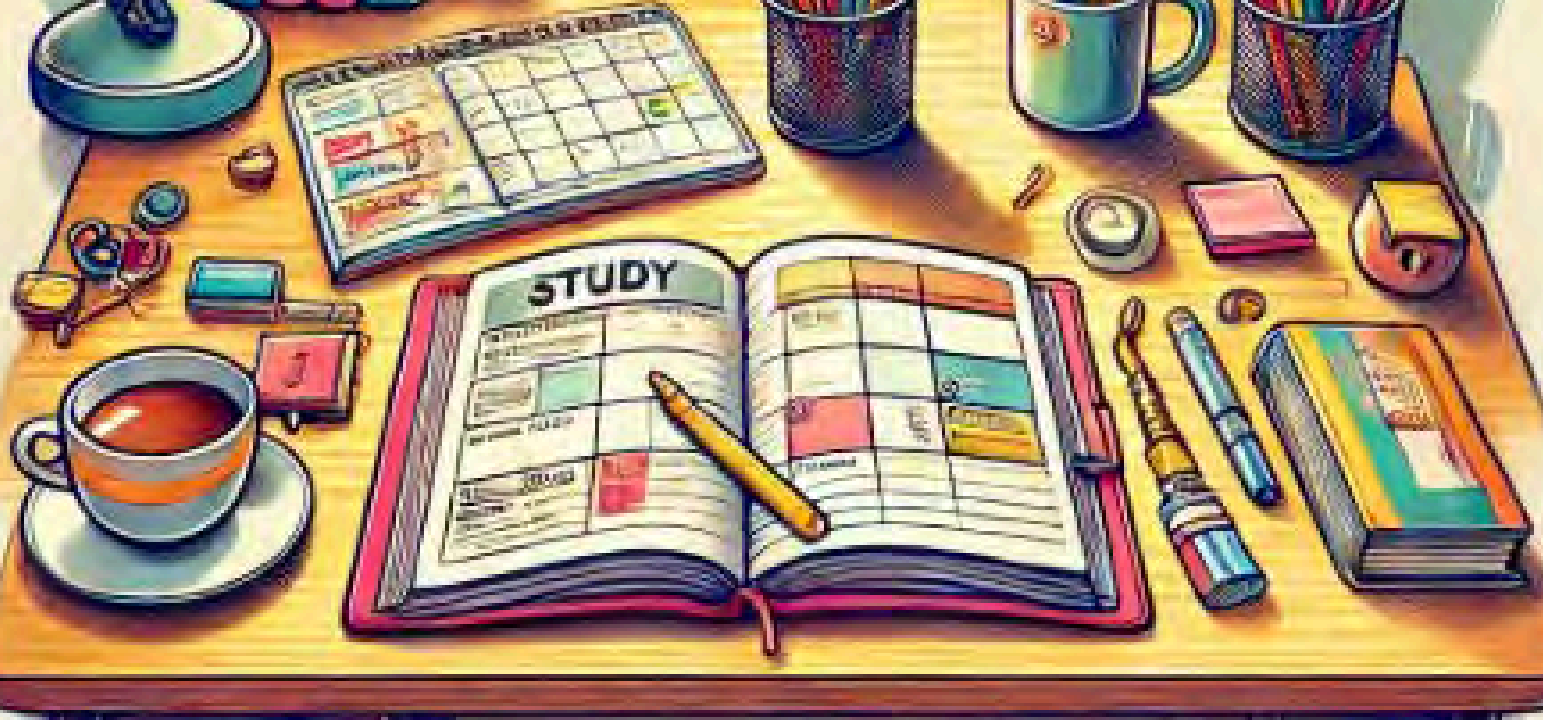
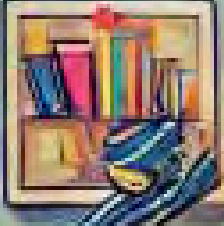
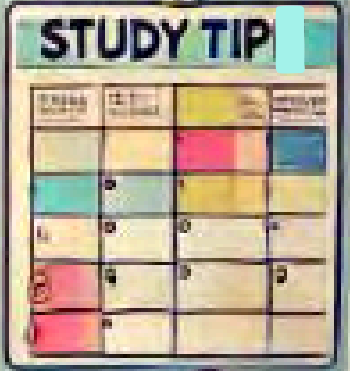
**Nawguralkom
mumentu maġiċi
ta' qari mill-isbaħ.**

Trevor Żahra

Read More On

Teams Library





Study Tips for a Successful Start to the New Term

A new term is a fresh start, and January is the perfect time to refocus and set yourself up for success. Here are some practical tips to help you stay organised, motivated, and on top of your studies as you begin the term:



1. Set Clear Goals

Take a moment to reflect on what you want to achieve this term. Whether it's improving a specific subject, completing assignments on time, or reading more books, having clear goals will help you stay focused and motivated. Write them down and keep track of your progress.



2. Organise Your Workspace

A tidy and well-organized study space can boost your productivity. Make sure your desk is clutter-free and stocked with the supplies you need, like notebooks, pens, and a planner. Having a dedicated area for studying helps signal to your brain that it's time to focus.



3. Create a Study Schedule

Planning your time is key to avoiding last-minute stress. Use a weekly planner to allocate specific time slots for studying, completing homework, and revising. Balance your schedule with breaks and leisure time to stay refreshed and avoid burnout.



4. Use Library Resources

Your school library is a treasure trove of resources waiting to be explored. From textbooks and research materials to quiet study areas, the library is here to support you. Don't hesitate to ask the librarian for help finding books or using online resources.



5. Stay Curious and Ask Questions

Don't be afraid to ask your teachers or classmates for clarification if you don't understand something. Questions show that you're engaged and eager to learn. Curiosity leads to deeper understanding and better retention of information.

STUDY

6. Take Care of Your Well-Being

Studying is important, but so is taking care of yourself. Eat nutritious meals, get enough sleep, and make time for exercise or relaxation. A healthy body supports a sharp mind, ensuring you perform your best.



7. Start Small and Build Momentum

If the thought of starting feels overwhelming, begin with small tasks. Completing even one task can create momentum and motivate you to tackle bigger challenges.

8. Stay Positive

Believe in yourself and your ability to succeed. Challenges are part of learning, and every step you take is progress. Celebrate your small wins and use them as stepping stones to achieve your bigger goals.

This term, let's embrace the opportunity to grow, learn, and succeed together. Remember, the library is always here to support your journey, just step in and explore!





JANUARY

MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN
					28	
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				

Recommended Reading List: Books to Inspire You This January

January is the perfect month to dive into a good book. The start of a new year brings the promise of fresh beginnings and personal growth, and what better way to fuel your mind and imagination than by reading? Here's a curated list of books to inspire, challenge, and entertain you this January:

1. Stories to Expand Your Imagination

- “The Midnight Library” by Matt Haig

A magical tale about the infinite possibilities of life and how our choices shape our paths.

- “A Wrinkle in Time” by Madeleine L’Engle

This classic sci-fi adventure will transport you across dimensions while exploring themes of courage and love.

2. Books Rooted in Maltese Culture

- “In the Name of the Father (and of the Son)” by Immanuel Mifsud

A poignant exploration of family and Maltese heritage through the lens of personal letters and reflections.

- “Merhba: Celebrating Malta’s Heritage” by various authors

This beautifully illustrated book offers insights into Malta’s rich history, art, and culture.



3. Classics to Warm Your Winter Evenings

- “Jane Eyre” by Charlotte Brontë

A story of resilience, love, and independence, this classic is perfect for long, cozy evenings.

- “Pride and Prejudice” by Jane Austen

An enduring favourite that offers wit, romance, and social commentary.

4. For Young Readers

- “Wonder” by R.J. Palacio

A heartwarming story that teaches the importance of kindness and acceptance.

- “Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone” by J.K. Rowling

Rediscover the magic of Hogwarts or introduce it to a young reader for the first time.

Explore More at the Library!!

Whether you’re looking to improve yourself, learn something new, or simply escape into another world, there’s a book for everyone.

Remember, every great journey begins with a single page.



Stay Positive: Embrace Growth and Believe in Yourself

As we step into a new term, it's natural to encounter challenges along the way. But remember, each obstacle is an opportunity to learn and grow. Staying positive is key to unlocking your potential and achieving your goals.

Believe in Yourself

Trust in your abilities and remind yourself that every small effort contributes to your success. Whether it's solving a tricky problem, completing an assignment, or simply showing up ready to learn, each step forward is progress. Believe that you are capable of overcoming challenges and turning them into stepping stones for greater achievements.

Celebrate Small Wins

It's easy to focus on the big picture and forget to appreciate the little victories along the way. Did you finish your homework early? Did you finally understand a challenging topic? Celebrate those moments! They are proof of your hard work and determination. Recognizing these small wins builds confidence and keeps you motivated.



STUDY SMART



Turn Challenges into Opportunities

Challenges are not roadblocks—they're part of the learning process. When you face difficulties, approach them with curiosity and determination. Ask for help when needed, and remember that mistakes are not failures but opportunities to improve.

Embrace Growth Together

This term, let's create an environment where everyone can grow, learn, and succeed. Support your classmates, share ideas, and inspire each other. Together, we can achieve great things and make this term a rewarding experience for everyone.

Your Library: A Partner in Your Journey

Don't forget, the library is always here to support you. Whether you need a quiet space to focus, resources to deepen your understanding, or just a moment to immerse yourself in a good book, the library is your partner in learning. Let's make this term one of growth, positivity, and success. Step forward with confidence, embrace the opportunities ahead, and remember—you've got this!

BOOK LAUNCH Road Show



Story & Discovery:

Explore the fascinating story behind il-Misteru tas-Sinjali (The Mysterious Signs).



Maritime Insights:

Learn intriguing maritime facts and the secrets of the sea.



Career Talk:

Discover Exciting career paths in the maritime industry.



Fun Activities:

Join a fun maritime signal flag game and interactive session.



Blue Economy:

Understand the importance of preserving our oceans.



14th January 2025



Midday Break



Senior School Library



MaritimeMTTM
EXCELLENCE IN SEAFARER EDUCATION



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写汉字

talk and demonstration
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Timeless Crimes and Historical Times ...

by Mr Mario Ellul
Assistant Head

CRUEL CHOLERA

It is the year 1837. Malta has been a British possession for 37 years. There have been some ups and many downs ... and the worse is yet to come...



We are represented in Malta by the Governor, Sir Henry Bouverie



God Save the Queen!

Queen Victoria had just become Queen of Great Britain. The Maltese were greatly disappointed because they were not involved in the government of their country. The British preferred to rule with an iron fist without any interference of any elected representatives of the Maltese. Many complaints and petitions were sent to London.

These people expect a lot from us!

Now that's what I call a warm welcome!



Finally the British government sent over a team of people made up of two gentlemen - John Austin and George Cornwall Lewis to analyse the situation in Malta and report back to London to suggest improvements.

John Austin's wife - Sarah accompanied him to Malta. She took a keen interest in her husband's work and left some very important notes which described life in Malta in the middle of the 19th century.

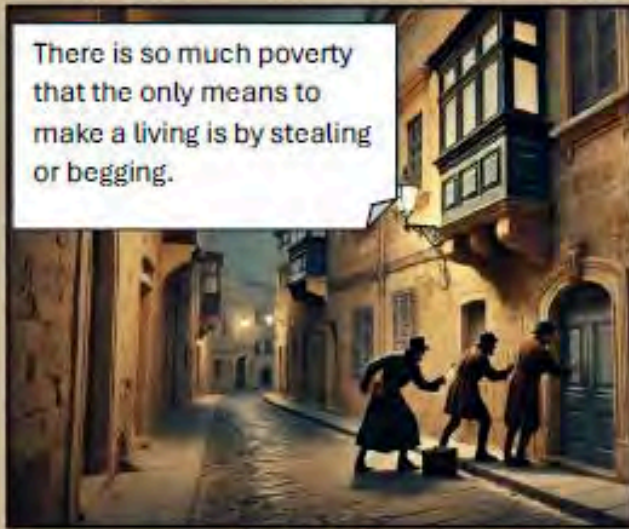


I have seen great misery and poverty!



There are 3 government schools in the whole island!

When the Commissioners sent their report back to London, it made for some very depressing reading. Life, especially in the countryside was very harsh. The average annual wage was £5. Many people lived from a day to day basis and the great poverty led to a lot of theft. People lived in small crowded dwellings. Beggars filled the streets of the main towns asking for small change or food. Hygiene standards were low, and diets were highly deficient in nutrients.



There is so much poverty that the only means to make a living is by stealing or begging.



Eat up children, I'm out of work again and I don't know where our next meal is coming from!



Nix mangiare signor, karita, have mercy on me!!!

In these conditions, the health of the people was very poor and the health services were abysmal, so when disaster struck it struck really hard!

Diarrhoea, vomiting, muscle cramps, rapid heartbeat....I don't like the look of this. I hope I am mistaken, but it could be Cholera! We must do something quickly before it gets out of hand!



On the 9th of June 1837, Dr S. Axisa, the doctor on duty at the Ospizio, or the home for the elderly and the sick in Floriana was called to visit two patients who were not feeling well at all.

Dr Axisa recognised the symptoms of Cholera and reported the case to the health authorities. Another doctor was called for and he agreed with his colleague's diagnosis.

Dr Axisa, I hope you are mistaken!

From what I have read, the disease originated in India and is rapidly spreading all over the world. I think that it has been carried here by the British soldiers and ships. We could have a serious issue on our hands soon.



I have seen the patients too. Some of them are already very poorly. We must make a formal report to the Governor and demand the adoption of emergency measures. This could be worse than the plague!

The Governor sent Dr Clarke - the Assistant Inspector General of military hospitals to check on the situation. Dr Clarke disagreed with the two Maltese doctors and declared that the sickness was not Cholera but some other disease which he did not name. The doctors were aware that Cholera was raging in Europe and most probably they wanted to calm down the population.



These Maltese doctors are incompetent! Do they think that they know better than us?

Help me doctor!

Dr G. Portelli, another Maltese doctor was sent for to examine the patients. He declared that it was Cholera. In the meantime the first patients started dying. Dr Lawson, another English physician was called in. He was convinced that it was not Cholera.



By the 13th of June, just four days after the first symptoms of the disease were detected, 17 people had died!

When more patients were infected, the English doctors had to admit that the disease was Cholera. They claimed however that it was very mild, even though a lot of people had already died!

The effects of cholera are nearly instantaneous,



The disease is carried in the bad air. The patients must be moved!

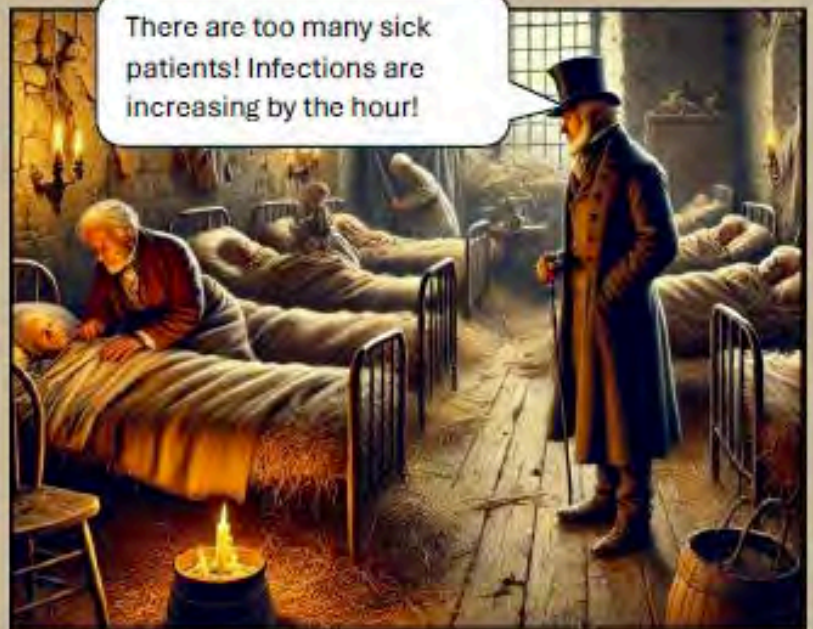
A change of air will help grandpa!



It was believed that the disease was carried in the air, so it was decided to carry all the people who were in the Ospizio to an airy place where the fresh sea breezes would blow away the 'miasma' or what they believed was the bad air which spread the disease.

About 600 patients were shipped by boats across the Grand Harbour from Floriana to Fort Ricasoli. At Fort Ricasoli the old people were attended by just two doctors! Far from stopping, the disease continued to spread among the patients held at the fort! The situation was becoming desperate. The doctors could not deal with the ever increasing number of sick patients. By the 16th of June, just one week into the emergency, the number of infections had gone up to 133, 80 of whom had already died.

Governor Sir Henry Bouverie visited Fort Ricasoli on the 16th of June and thanks to the visit, stricter measures were adopted.



There are too many sick patients! Infections are increasing by the hour!

A committee was formed to deal with the emergency.



We need more doctors – let's issue a call for volunteers.

If need be, we can get more doctors from other parts of the British empire – doctors from Gibraltar might help.

New infections must be reported immediately and the sick isolated.

You good for nothing scum might be useful for a change!



Nobody wanted to visit the sick or bury the dead at Fort Ricasoli! The relatives of the old people held there were afraid of infection. Corpses lay about in the fort, waiting for attention. There were no volunteers to bury the dead and even the people who were paid to do the job were reluctant to do it. In the end, 18 convicts were released from prison to bury the dead at Fort Ricasoli.

Soon it became clear that bringing over convicts to the fort had not been such a great idea after all! The guards did not stay and it was very difficult to control the prisoners - who refused to bury the dead. The next day, the convicts were taken back to prison and replaced with another nine - however, the second group was as useless as the first, if not worse!



Soon, even the doctors became infected with Cholera and left Fort Ricasoli. The guards were withdrawn too. The sick and the dying were left to their own devices. Sarah Austin left us priceless evidence of the horrible events.



When the old and the sick were taken to Fort Ricasoli, they were not visited by any doctors for four days! The doctors just stood at the gate of the fort and ordered medicine or the last rites for the sick. Soon the two doctors were infected by Cholera themselves and left for home. The poor patients were left alone. I have seen great acts of heroism, but horrible acts of selfishness as well - I have seen mothers refuse to go near their children, husbands their wives. I have seen one of eight brothers - not one of them would approach their father's deathbed!



People were dying like flies! Statistics and records were kept for each town and village. The worst month was July 1837: There were 6,796 cases reported. 2,926 died during that month alone!

People from the health department would go round to collect the dead for burial.

Out of the 800 old people taken to Fort Ricasoli. 557 came to be infected with Cholera - of these 442 died and 95 recovered.



The situation at Fort Ricasoli was still precarious! The Governor decided that a strong hand was needed. Dr Antonio Speranza was appointed to bring order. He was given staff and equipment to deal with the situation. An administrator - Signor Lanfranco was given administration duties. The Capuchin fathers gave priceless help too and soon order was re-established at the fort.



Another team of convicts was brought in to bury the dead. This time the men were accompanied by guards and were suitably rewarded for their efforts. The corpses were carried to a field outside the fort where two mass graves had been dug by the prisoners. The graves were then covered over and left unmarked. No records were ever kept of who was buried there. We are not even sure about the numbers. Soon, strange rumours started going round that some patients had even been buried alive to avoid the spread of the disease!

By the end of June, the patients who had relatives outside the fort were allowed to leave and the site cleared of all Cholera patients.

Cholera continued to sweep through Malta all through the summer. It was only on the 11th of October 1837 that the health authorities issued a notice which declared Malta free of the terrible disease. In the end, Cholera had claimed the lives of 4,000 people.

In 1878, the mass graves were dug up again and what was left of the bodies was buried in the central part of the field at a location called Wied Ghammieq. A monument was built on the grave and a boundary wall and a little chapel were erected near the gate to give the site a dignified look.



The cemetery became a centre of devotion and pilgrimages were organized to the site attracting hundreds of worshipful devotees of the souls of Wied Ghammieq. People started praying to the poor souls of the victims of the Cholera epidemic to obtain graces with their intercession.

In the 1950s, a new chapel was built behind the monument and although the site is not as popular as it used to be, it still attracts some faithful who keep the memory of that terrible summer of 1837 alive!



The cemetery is quite close to Fort Rinella and it lies within the confines of Kalkara. There are many interesting attractions close by - such as Rinella Bay, Fort Ricasoli, Esplora, the Mediterranean Film Facilities and Smart City. There are some lovely routes for a walk close by and should you happen to visit, do not forget to have a quick look at this site which is so full of history.

"Protect our planet:
reduce, reuse, recycle,
and preserve nature for
future generations."





"Use AI responsibly—learn, create, and solve with honesty, fairness, and respect for others."



"To touch the hearts of your students and inspire them with the Christian spirit is the greatest miracle you can perform."

— St. John Baptist de La Salle



Thank you!

If you have any questions or would like to submit your own article, feel free to reach out to us via the email below.

seniorlibrary@delasalle.edu.mt