

Military Surgical Society - Welcome to Malta, April 2026



Malta GC - Painting at Malta Maritime Museum, Birgu

Our Military Surgical Society 2026 meeting in Malta is combined with the Association of Surgeons of Malta at Mater Dei Hospital for Saturday 18 April 2026. It is also timed for us to participate in major commemorative events related to the anniversary of the award of the George Cross to Malta on 15 April 1942, organised through the George Cross Island Association, and a dinner night organised through the British Residents Association.

There are a couple of extra events at Casino Maltese, Valletta, and an organised MSS visit to a former WW1 military hospital (now St Edward's College, Cottonera). There is coincidentally a Heritage Malta event in Birgu on Saturday evening 18 April.

While MSS members will have left by 25 April, commemorative events this week formally end with the ANZAC Day service at Pieta CWGC Cemetery (organised by the Australian and New Zealand High Commissions together with the Royal British Legion Malta branch), and the GLARAC commemoration on 26 April (remembering 1,519 RN personnel who died on HMS *Glorious*, HMS *Ardent*, and HMS *Acasta* on 8 June 1940).

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MSS Meet and Greet at Hotel Excelsior Bar area, Friday 17 April, 1900hrs onwards

See itinerary, below. Hot sunny weather expected, dress appropriately; bring water!

Military Surgical Society meeting in Malta, April 2026 - Itinerary

Thursday 16 April, 1830hrs: Talk ‘The Great Siege of Malta, 1565’ by David Vassallo at Casino Maltese, Valletta. Bar open until 2100hrs. (20 minute walk from Excelsior)

Related book: <https://heritagemalta.mt/store/the-great-siege-of-malta-1565-an-epic-poem/>.

Presentation to President of Malta: <https://heritagemalta.mt/news/heritage-malta-presents-two-new-publications-on-the-great-siege-to-the-president-of-malta>

Friday 17 April:

1700hrs – GCIA Welcome, Meet and Greet informal get together in Sliema (Apartment 5, White Mansions, Għar id-Dud, courtesy of Mrs Pat Scott, GCIA National Secretary).

Own transport, e.g. Bolt. MSS members are encouraged to attend.

See full GCIA programme for this week’s events [HERE](#)

(MSS members who are also members of Friends of Millbank can see photos from previous GCIA annual visits [2022 and 2023] at <https://www.friendsofmillbank.org/malta/>.)

1900hrs onwards – MSS Meet and Greet, Hotel Excelsior Bar area (or John Bennett’s room, tbc)

Saturday 18 April:

i. Daytime. Joint Surgical conference with Association of Surgeons of Malta at Mater Dei Hospital, 0930-1600hrs. Entrance via side entrance, near Administration and Medical School on South Side of Mater Dei Hospital.

Organised transport from Excelsior. See programme [HERE](#).

This conference coincides in the morning with the following official commemorative event:

ii. George Cross Award Commemoration at Saluting Battery, Upper Barrakka Gardens, Valletta, commencing 1030hrs, finishing by 1300hrs. Smart dress code, medals.

Guest of honour: Her Excellency Miriam Spiteri Debono, President of Malta.

MSS spouses and partners are encouraged to attend this ceremony (seating available at Saluting Battery for GCIA members; be seated by 1030hrs; 30 minutes walk from Excelsior).

iii. Evening. Museums by Candlelight, Birgu, 1900-2400hrs, Heritage Malta event.

Highly recommended. Own transport. 3 euro entry fee on arrival in Birgu. See [HERE](#)

Sunday 19 April:

i. 1100hrs Church Service with GCIA at St Paul's Anglican Pro-Cathedral, Valletta. See [HERE](#)
(MSS members are encouraged to attend this Service, officiated by Canon David Wright)

Roman Catholic Masses, e.g. St John’s Co-Cathedral, Valletta (English, 1745hs). See [HERE](#)

ii. Free afternoon. Recommended: Visit to Lascaris War Rooms, or Fort St Elmo

Monday 20 April:

i. Wreath-laying at Royal Naval Memorial (Pieta), Malta Memorial (opposite Hotel Phoenicia, Floriana), and the National War Memorial (Floriana).

MSS members should assemble at the Malta Memorial by 0945hrs; 10 minute walk from Excelsior, see [HERE](#)

ii. MSS Lunch at Casino Maltese, Valletta, 1300hrs, (20 minute walk from National War Memorial, under direction of David Vassallo, host). See [HERE](#)

iii. Guided tour of Grand Master’s Palace, Valletta, 1500hrs (with Christian Mifsud, Curator). See [HERE](#)

iv. Supper at Ukrainian Restaurant, Valletta. For details, see John Bennett

Tuesday 21 April:

i. AM. MSS Visit to former Cottonera Hospital (WW1 military hospital, now St Edward's College), Guided tour at 0900hrs with John Portelli. Short talks by MSS members.

Transport leaves Excelsior at 0830hrs.

ii. PM (suggested): Visit to Birgu and Fort St Angelo, own transport. See [HERE](#)

Wednesday 22 April:

Visit to AFM Luqa Barracks for AFM Band Display (1100hrs) and Lunch at Officers Mess, courtesy of Brigadier Clinton O'Neill, Commander Armed Forces of Malta. See [HERE](#)

MSS transport leaves Excelsior at **tbc**

Thursday 23 April (St George's Day)

i. 1100hrs: Visit to Ta' Qali Aviation Museum, Chapel Service

(MSS transport leaves Excelsior at **tbc**) (Guided tour of Museum by Dr Peter Micallef Eynaud)

ii. **Black-tie dinner** (Victoria Hotel, Sliema; organised by British Residents Association; MSS & GCIA invited; wear miniature medals if entitled) (own transport, e.g. Bolt)

Friday 24 April:

Free day.

Saturday 25 April:

ANZAC Day Service, Pieta CWGC Cemetery, 0900hrs. See [HERE](#)

Sunday 26 April:

GLARAC Commemoration, Santa Lucia

Detail provided 15 April 2026 by Col (retd) David Vassallo FRCSEd MA L/RAMC
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