



Address By The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master

Reverend Knights all, once again I am privileged to stand before you, both to address you and to thank all those who have made today possible. We were very saddened, earlier this year, to have bid a fond farewell to our past Pro Grand Master, John Prizeman, who fought his illness with great fortitude. Many and moving have been the tributes expressed by the multitudes who knew him and we can but express our pleasure at having shared any time with him. However, as we know, even though it is a platitude, life does go on and today we do rejoice in the appointment of our new Pro Grand Master, one who, of course, really needs no introduction. He remains Grand Master of the Knights Templar, and I am privileged to have as Grand Prior & Deputy Grand Master, Paul Raymond Clement. Thank you, Paul, not only for your support, but also your wisdom.

As ever, I was given a very warm welcome, last November in Brussels, for the annual Grand Priory meeting of Belgium and, closer to home, the Prefecture of Avalon in Bristol. This year, I was also able to enjoy a very warm welcome at Brigantes Prefecture meeting in Gateshead. In March, I attended the Grand Priory of Switzerland in Lausanne. They have the most splendid museum of the Olympics there, in which I found I did not feature!! The highlight of the year, however, must have been the Consecration of Suthrige Lodge of Scottish Masters of St Andrew No. 23 (Prefecture of Anglo-Saxon) in May at the splendid Nutfield Masonic Centre in Surrey. My gratitude certainly goes to Patrick Crossan and his team for all the hard work that made the day so enjoyable. This morning, it was my privilege to create a new Knight Grand Cross in recognition of the long service (and good conduct) of our Treasurer, Graham Flight, and a new Knight Commander of the Holy City in the person of Adrian Jones, reflecting the excellent work in the Prefecture of Avalon.

Once again, my congratulations to those Squire Novices who have today achieved their sixth degree, and of course to those who have gained promotions or first appointments – simply a reflection not just of the work you have done, but also what will be expected of you in the years to come. Our Order continues to grow, but it will only thrive if we continue to encourage growth in our Craft Lodges. We must never lose sight of our roots, Brethren, from which springs all our wonderful and special Orders.

As ever, my thanks go to the Prefects of our four Prefectures, for all their support and encouragement, and my gratitude also for all the support afforded to myself and the Order from the members of my Council, especially to my Grand Visitor General, Graeme Hutchinson, who valiantly continues to cover the country. I cannot, of course, fail to mention our Grand Chancellor and his team at Mark Masons' Hall for all their constant support – thank you, Dan.

We are so pleased to have with us today our guests from our sister Grand Pories and from our own Constitution. We welcome from the Great Priory of Belgium, M.Revd. & Em.Kt. Francis M. F. Lacante, Great Prior of CBCS, accompanied by five other Reverend Knights, and from the Rectified Great Priory of France, M.Revd.Kt. Philippe Dubourget, Grand Prior.

From our Companion Orders, R.Revd.Kt. Paul Clement, Pro Grand Master of the Mark and Grand Master of the Knights Templar; R.Revd.Kt. Graham Flight, now G.C.H.C. and Treasurer, Grand Sovereign of Red Cross of Constantine; R.Revd.Kt. Kessick Jones, my President and Grand Master of Royal and Select Masters; V.Revd.Kt. Andrew Sweeney, Grand Supreme Ruler of the Order of Secret Monitor; R.Revd.Kt. Christopher Maiden, Grand High Priest of the Knight Templar Priests; and finally, Revd.Kt. Dr Paul Mycock, First Grand Master Mason of the Operatives.

Thank you all for your presence here today. May you have a safe journey home and may the Great Captain of our Salvation have you in His safe keeping until we meet again on this or some distant shore.