



## ADDRESS BY THE MOST EMINENT AND SUPREME GRAND MASTER

Brother Knights, I now have a very pleasurable duty to perform, and that is to congratulate E.Kt. Martin Sando on passing 'the test' and becoming a Preceptor in the King Edward VII Preceptory of Improvement. Great Marshal, please present E.Kt. Sando to me.

Brother Knights, standing here at this vantage point looking out at this panoramic view of Great Priory today is a very impressive sight, and I do welcome you all to this Chapter of Great Priory and thank you all for your on-going support at our meetings, it's very much appreciated.

The Honour and Dignity of Knight Commander of the United Orders was first conferred in 1873 and, as the Statutes remind us, forms part of the exclusive prerogative of the Grand Master. This afternoon, I have been pleased and delighted to create 3 new Knights Commander and I know you would all like to join me in congratulating Right Eminent Knight Dr. Paul Calderwood, R.E.Kt. Jonathan Spence and R.E.Kt. Daniel Heath on their preferment to one of the highest Grades within our Order. R.E.Kt. Paul Calderwood has been our Provincial Prior for Monmouth and South Wales since 2016 and has done, and is doing, so much to raise the profile of the Order and establish strong relationships, particularly with the Royal Arch which, as you know, is essential to our Order.

Similarly, with R.E.Kt. Jonathan Spence, we are very fortunate Brother Knights, are we not, to have a Pro Grand Master and Pro 1<sup>st</sup> Grand Principal who is so supportive of all the Companion Orders and that can only be a great advantage to us all. And you don't need me to tell you how well R.E.Kt. Dan Heath has done in his first year as our Great Vice-Chancellor and Grand Secretary of all our Mark Masons' Hall Orders, so I will ask you to join me in wishing these three Knights well in their new stations.

In our congratulations we include all the Brother Knights who received appointments and promotions in Great Priory today. This is your day, your special occasion and I trust you will enjoy your new roles to the full, ever remembering that with rank comes added responsibilities and even more so, as Great Priory Officers. We look to you to offer help, encouragement and support to your Preceptories and the Brother Knights therein and never to rest on your laurels. There is much to be done, Brother Knights, and we are all in this together.

Now, a challenge for you. In 2022 the Province of Somerset hosted an extremely successful Cathedral Service at Wells which was well supported by Brother Knights and their families from far and wide. I feel it's time we repeated the exercise and held a similar event, to publicly witness our faith and enjoy the splendour of such an occasion. I would be most keen to receive any suggestions as to where we might hold such a Service, and, hopefully volunteers to take on the mantle of arranging it.

As you are aware, for well over 100 years our Order has provided financial support to the St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital – a partnership we can all be proud of, as it enables the delivery of better front line eye care for adults and children from disadvantaged backgrounds in Jerusalem and further afield. This association was started when HRH The Duke of Connaught was our Grand Master and it seems that our members are as passionate now over their support of the Hospital Group, as ever they were. Very generous amounts are being raised by Provinces, Preceptories and individuals which, although coming through Great Priory, are now more often being donated with a specific purpose in mind already identified by the donor.

Not surprisingly, the operations of the Hospital remain severely impacted by the continuing war in Gaza which has gone into a new phase since the breakdown of the ceasefire.

They have now regained access to the Hospital in Gaza, and it is structurally sound but much damaged by shrapnel and the other collateral effects of the war.

The Board has authorised repairs to the ground floor, which can then be used as a base for the further provision of services. Although the blockade on aid convoys has severely disrupted the supply of the necessary medicines needed, only last week, for the first time since 2023, on one single day, more than 60 patients were treated there.

On a happier note the new hospital at Nablus has now been opened with assistance of a grant of £71,000 from the K.T. Benevolent Fund to help with specific equipment required for the Paediatric Outpatient Department. This will be the 2nd largest facility within the group and will provide services to the 1.2m people who live in and around Nablus without the need for them to go through Israeli checkpoints. So, thank you Brother Knights, on behalf of all the Doctors, Nurses and Staff, and most importantly, the patients they are able to treat.

I now turn to welcoming our distinguished guests from Sister Great Pories who have collectively made the proceedings of this afternoon that much more special for us all. It may be better on this occasion to withhold your applause until the end of the list.

#### GREAT PRIORY OF IRELAND

V.H & R.E.Kt. Dr. Michael Costello, G.C.T., Great Seneschal  
R.E.Kt. Gordon Allen, K.C.T., Great Vice-Chancellor

#### GREAT PRIORY OF SCOTLAND

M.E. & Revd Kt. Raymond King, G.C.T., Grand Master  
R.E. Frater Ronald Simpson, G.C.T., Great Seneschal  
V.E. Frater Alan Buntain, Grand Secretary

#### GREAT PRIORY OF GREECE

M.E. & Revd Kt. Andreas Spyropoulos, G.C.T. Grand Master  
R.E.Kt. Ioannis Benetatos, G.C.T. Grand Registrar

#### GREAT PRIORY OF GERMANY

M.E. & Revd Kt. Roderick Mackenzie, GCT, Grand Master  
R.Em.Br.Kt. John MacKinnon, G.C.T.  
V.Em.Br.Kt. Norbert Schoen, Grand Secretary

#### GREAT PRIORY OF SPAIN

V.H. & R.E.Kt. Keith Halliwell, G.C.T., Gt.Seneschal  
V.Em.Kt. Alejandro Garcia Hernandez, Grand Chancellor

#### GREAT PRIORY OF FRANCE

M.E. & S.Kt. Michel Manueco, G.C.T., Grand Master  
V.H. & R.E.Kt. Jacques Techene, K.C.T., Great Seneschal  
R.E.Kt. Jean-Louis Nanot, K.C.T., Past Great Prior  
R.E.Kt. Jean-Paul Dupinay, K.C.T., Great Chancellor  
V.E.Kt. Ronald Barham, Past 2nd Great Constable

#### GREAT PRIORY OF THE NETHERLANDS

M.E & S.Kt. Frank Cornelis Poot, G.C.T. Grand Master  
M.E. & S.Kt. Loek Captijn, G.C.T. Past Grand Master  
V.H. & R.E.Kt. Herman Lioe-A-Tjam, G.C.T. Great Seneschal  
R.E.Kt. Hermen R Huiskamp, K.C.T., Great Vice-Chancellor  
V.E.Kt. Marco Van der Linden, 2nd Gt. Constable

#### GRAND PRIORY OF PERU

M.E.& S. Kt. Juan Lopez Machiavello, G.C.T., Grand Master  
E.Kt. Kuno Mayer, Grand Captain of Guards  
E.Kt. Joseph Izquierdo, GMBB

#### GREAT PRIORY OF BELGIUM AND ITS PREFECTURES IN AUSTRALIA

M.Revd Kt. Francis Michel Lacante, National Grand Master  
R.Revd Kt. David Hope, Assistant Great Prior  
R.Revd Kt. Thomas Leslie Duffin, Hon Great Dean

ORDER OF KNIGHTS FREEMASONS OF ROMANIA Bro. Grig Coica, Knight  
Commander

Let's show our distinguished guests the warmth of our welcome. We now turn to the Brother Knights from Overseas within our own Constitution and Heads of other Orders.

Province of South East Asia

E.Kt. John Bones

E.Kt. Karl Nadrianov

E.Kt. Edward Wey Kok Tay

E.Kt. Lt. Col. Russell Stuart

E.Kt. Christopher Moore

E.Kt. Louise Ruehlmann

Kt. John Wai Seng Ko

Kt. Neil Tottman

Kt. Gopi Nath Nair

Province of South America

E.Kt. Daniel Schutz Machado RECIPIENT P.Gt.A.de-C.

Calpe Preceptory No. 60 in Gibraltar

Kt. Selvan Soobiah

The Preceptory of St. John the Almoner No.626 in Malta

E.Kt. Lawrence Porter, P.Gt.A.-de-C.

E.Kt. David Foster

E.Kt. Ian McKenzie, P.Gt.A.-de-C.

Waller Rodwell Wright Preceptory No.640 in Malta

E.Kt. John Campbell, P.Gt.A.-de-C.

E.Kt. Robert Chilvers, Recipient Great Herald

E.Kt. David Broxup, P.Gt.Her.

Kt. Johnny Wolf

Iyanola Preceptory No. 588 St. Lucia

V.E.Kt. Llewellyn Gill, Recipient, Second Great Constable

Observance Preceptory No. 111 Chennai

E.Kt. Bharat Epur, Recipient Past Great Captain of Guards

We have long enjoyed excellent relationships with all Orders in Freemasonry, and this is exemplified again this afternoon.

United Grand Lodge and the Supreme Grand Chapter of England, Pro Grand Master and Pro 1<sup>st</sup> Grand Principal, R.E.Kt. Jonathan Spence, K.C.T., 1st Gt.Con.

GLMMM Pro Grand Master R.E.Kt. John Prizeman, K.C.T.

Ancient and Accepted Rite, Grand Prior, E.Kt. Revd Dr.Simon Thorn, Great Almoner.  
Grand Secretary General, E.Kt. Dr. Giles Shilson  
Received P.Gt.Her.

Masonic and Military Order of the Red Cross of Constantine, Grand Sovereign,  
R.E.Kt. Graham Flight, G.C.T.

Grand Council –Royal & Select Master, Grand Master, R.E.Kt. Kessick Jones, K.C.T.

Grand Conclave O.S.M., Grand Supreme Ruler,  
R.E.Kt. Andrew Sweeney, K.C.T.

Worshipful Society of Operative Freemasons, 1<sup>st</sup> Grand Master Mason, E.Kt. Dr.Paul Mycock, P.Gt.Her.

Grand College – Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests and Order of Holy Wisdom, Grand High Priest, R.E.Kt. Christopher Maiden, K.C.T.

Grand Priory of Knights Beneficent of the Holy City, Grand Master, R.E.Kt. Dr. Vivian Thomas, K.C.T.

Societas Rosicruciana in Anglia, Supreme Magus, E.Kt. Anthony Llewellyn, P.G.Her.

Let's express our appreciation for the attendance of all these Brother Knights. Before we close, I would like to express my personal gratitude to the Great Vice-Chancellor and the staff at the Chancery for all they do to ensure the smooth running of the Order and this meeting in particular. Similarly to the Great Marshal and his Deputies for the exemplary Ceremonial we have enjoyed today, and a special 'thank you' to the Grand Master's Body Guard, which, in my experience, has always set the standard for meetings of Great Priory.

I also wish to thank E.Kt. John Vasquez and those at Freemasons' Hall for all their support and for making these magnificent facilities available to us.

Today has seen a very important and significant meeting for us, and I feel more than ever that we are highly privileged in being members of this great Order, drawing its inspiration from the Christian Religion and the faithful practice of Christian virtues. It extends to us the privilege of sharing in its priceless heritage of the past, as defenders of the Faith.

Thank you Brother Knights, for your attendance today and I look forward to seeing you all again at our Malta Great Priory in November, which is now moving to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, so this year will be Monday 10<sup>th</sup>.

I wish you all well and thank you for your attention.