



## ADDRESS BY THE MOST WORTHY GRAND SUPREME RULER

The Most Worthy Grand Supreme Ruler addressed Grand Conclave as follows:

'Very Dear Brethren, it is a great honour for me to preside over this very large gathering of Secret Monitors here today, and I extend to each and every one of you a very warm welcome to this our one hundred and thirty-sixth Annual Convocation of Grand Conclave. I wish to express to the founders of the four Conclaves that we have consecrated over the last year our sincere congratulations and good wishes for their future success and my personal thanks for all the Brethren and Grand Conclave officers who worked diligently to achieve that aim. These were: The Dennis Slights Conclave No. 635 in January; in April, the Portuscale Fidelis Conclave No. 636 in Porto, which has led to the constitution of the Inspectorate of Portugal; Hibernia Conclave No. 637 at Mark Masons' Hall in June; and The Supper of King David Conclave No. 638, a fine dining Conclave at Nailsea in October.

'In May I was invited to assist in the celebrations of the centenary meeting of Fidelity Conclave No. 50 at Stockport. I also had the pleasure of presenting certificates and jewels for 50 years of loyal service to the Order to R.Wy.Bro. David Keith Rhodes of Fylde Conclave No. 125 at the Provincial Grand Conclave meeting of West Lancashire on 21 September; and to R.Wy.Bro. Revd William Desmond Payne-Jeremiah, 50 years to the day after he was inducted into the Order at Tawe Conclave No. 238 in South Wales & Monmouthshire.

'On 20 July, R.Wy.Bro. Robert Vaughan was superbly installed as the fourth Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for Worcestershire in succession to R.Wy.Bro. Joseph Marzouk, by M.Wy.Bro. Michael Guest, P.G.S.R. And on 12 October, I had the pleasure of installing R.Wy.Bro. Dr Scott Dunn as Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for Kent in succession to R.Wy.Bro. Kevin Johnson. Both of these meetings were memorable occasions and I record the thanks of Grand Conclave to the retiring Provincial Grand Supreme Rulers for all of the hard work they undertook and discharged during their periods of tenure and extend my best wishes to R.Wy.Bro's Bob and Scott for what they will be doing over the succeeding years.

'Indeed, I will take the opportunity here to make special reference to the collective support of all the Provincial Grand Supreme Rulers, the Deputy and Assistant Provincial Grand Supreme Rulers, and the Provincial Grand Recorders whose presence here has enriched this and many other special occasions and add my gratitude for the invaluable contributions you have, and are continuing to make to our Order.

'It is now my pleasure to introduce to you the Heads of our Companion Orders, all of whom extend great support to Order. We are pleased to welcome:

R.Wy.Bro. John Prizeman, P.G.Coun. – Most Worshipful Pro Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons and the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner; M.Wy.Bro. Paul Clement, our Immediate P.G.S.R. – Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master of the Knights Templar; R.Wy.Bro. Graham Flight, P.G.Coun. – Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign of the Masonic and Military Order of the Red Cross of Constantine; R.Wy.Bro. Kessick Jones, P.G.Coun. – Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Order of the Royal and Select Masters; R.Wy.Bro. Tom Jackson, P.G.Coun. – Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees; R.Wy.Bro. Ian Currans, G.Chan. – Most Distinguished Grand Summus of the Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord; R.Wy.Bro. Dr Paul Mycock, P.G.G. – Most Worshipful 1st Grand Master Mason of the Operatives – a recipient today; and R.Wy.Bro. Christopher Maiden, P.G.Coun. – Most Illustrious Grand High Priest of the Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests and Order of Holy Wisdom.

'Brethren, in July John Prizeman, Paul Clement, Graham Flight, Kessick Jones, Tom Jackson and I made a very enjoyable sojourn trip to South Africa, and as a team attended meetings of all the respective Orders. We cannot express too strongly our enjoyment of the ceremonies we attended and our appreciation of the fraternal welcome and hospitality so generously extended to us by all the Brethren that we met whilst we were in both Cape Town and Johannesburg and so, as you reap what you sow, may I now continue by formally welcoming our distinguished Brethren and guests from overseas, starting with those from our own Constitution:

From South Africa, R.Wy.Bro. Brian McDermott, Dist.G.S.R.; Wy.Bro. Charles Burn, P.G.Swd.B.; Wy.Bro. Levi Marx, P.G.St.B. – a recipient today; Wy.Bro. Rory Jones, P.G.Swd.B. – a recipient today; Wy.Bro. Jose Maciel Spinolla, A.G.Gdr. – a recipient today; Wy.Bro. Jose Maciel; and Wy.Bro. Vincenzo Cicione;

From Southern Caribbean, R.Wy.Bro. Ian C. G. Foster, Dist.G.S.R.; R.Wy.Bro. Gasper Llewellyn Gill, A.G.S.R.; V.Wy.Bro. Albert Daniels, P.G.V.; Wy.Bro. Malvin Drayton, P.A.G.D.C. – a recipient today; Wy.Bro. Marlon Munroe, P.G.St.B. – a recipient today; Bro. Kofi Hinds; Bro. Capt. Donovan Smith; and Bro. Danny Babb;

From Spain, Wy.Bro. Roy Mitchell, Dist.G.Rec., P.A.G.D.C.; Wy.Bro. Duncan Mitchell, P.G.Swd.B. – a recipient today;

From Portugal, Lusitania Fidelis Conclave No. 614, V.Wy.Bro. Amadeu Paiva, G.Insp. – it was a great pleasure to constitute the Province of Portugal and invest you as the first Grand Inspector – and Wy.Bro. Sir Jorge Fernandes Da Costa Henriques;

From the Netherlands, Fidelitas Conclave No. 494 – Wy.Bro. Pieter Jan Nagel. We are also honoured with the presence of Brethren from Grand Conclaves Overseas:

From the Grand Conclave of France, R.Wy.Bro. Claude Barthet, Dep.G.S.R., and R.Wy.Bro. Gerard Leconte, G.Chan.;

From the Grand Conclave of India, Bro. Arjun Paranthaman;

And from the Grand Conclave of South East Asia, R.Wy.Bro. Dr Ian Philip Ellston, P.G.G.

Brethren our distinguished guests from overseas. 'Again I will draw your attention to the Premier Conclave of Improvement which has continued to progress during the year, and is establishing more connections with Provinces, providing support and assistance with respect to our ceremonies and I hope that this will continue. You'll find details in the current edition of the OSM Yearbook.

'To the Brethren I have had the privilege to appoint, re-appoint or promote today, I thank you for all the hard work you have done in practising and promoting the principles and tenets of this wonderful Order. I am confident that you will return to your Provinces, Districts and Conclaves and continue to set an example to the Brethren of all that is so meaningful and worthy in our brotherhood of David and Jonathan.

'I wish to thank the Grand Director of Ceremonies for his support and the diligent way he has discharged his duties, and the team of Deputies for all the work they have done both during the year and for this meeting. I express my thanks to the Grand Recorder, R.Wy.Bro. Dan Heath P.G.G., for the way he has seamlessly fitted into his new role and for all his help and assistance during the year, also to the new team assisting him. Particular thanks go to all the administration team at Mark Masons' Hall for their diligent work in keeping the wheels turning, most of which goes unnoticed by the majority of our members.

'Brethren, I am very pleased to again report that over the last year the number of members and memberships have both increased, however we must still keep our focus on those who don't regularly attend and try to encourage them to do so. I do not apologise for repeating from last year my suggestion that when we have a candidate, the Muster Roll, which generally occurs straight after the minutes, be delayed until after the candidate has been inducted. He will then immediately witness the results of the Visiting Deacons work. Also, if time permits, perhaps consider giving him a short explanation of the structure of the Order and the regalia etc. – I know a few Provincial Grand Supreme Rulers do this very well and find it beneficial in welcoming candidates into the Order.

'Before finishing, may I again bring your attention to the OSM Benevolent Fund. We have operated a process of matching donations that Conclaves/Provinces make to local charities (within specific guidelines and up to £1,000 per Province). During the last year we donated £17,200 to local charities. This was a result of a request from only 21 of the 31 Provinces and Districts in the Order. Brethren, it is there to assist you in your charitable giving – please make use of it. I would also like to encourage Provinces, Districts and Conclaves to consider directing part of their charitable funds to the O.S.M. To put some focus on this, we are extending the structure of Vice-Patron, Patron, Grand Patron and Grand Patron Gold to both Conclaves and Provinces and Districts. The exact details and values for a Conclave or Province to achieve these levels of patronage will be communicated to all Provinces and Districts shortly.

On achieving each level, a collarette and jewel will be issued for the Supreme Ruler of the Conclave to wear during his year of office and then, of course, handed on to his successor. In due time we will then be able to increase the contributions we make to the local charities you support in your Provinces and Districts.

'Brethren I shall not detain you further other than to suggest that we look forward to the next year as being once again a happy and fruitful year for the Brotherhood of David and Jonathan.

'I wish you, your families and all Secret Monitors a healthy, prosperous and fulfilling 2025.'