



ADDRESS BY THE MOST WORTHY GRAND SUPREME RULER

Very Dear Brethren.

I formally welcome you to the Grand Conclave investiture meeting and thank you all for making the journey to be here today to share, with the recipients of Grand Rank, the unique friendship for this beautiful order. To those who have attended before I hope you have enjoyed meeting up with many old friends as well as making new ones and to those who are attending for the first time I hope you have also made new friends and taken the opportunity to look round and admire this wonderful building.

Brethren, shortly after the last Grand Conclave meeting I was pleased to visit Liverpool Conclave No. 67 which combined their day with meetings of the Allied Masonic Degrees and Royal Ark Mariner at Garstan. This was followed in early, January by a surprise visit to Malta Conclave No. 30 in Valetta to support the induction of the Grand Master for Malta into our order.

In August I visited Wudcestre Conclave No. 390 in Ashington for the Installation of Wy.Bro. Andrew Jennings as S.R. and I also went to Halifax, Canada for the installation of the G.S.R., In support of the retiring G.S.R. M.Wy.Bro. Prince Selvaraj who has been a keen supporter of the OSM and Scarlet Cord in this country and around the world. My last visit to a Conclave was two weeks ago when I visited Ted Meredith Conclave in Worcestershire to see R.Wy.Bro. Dennis Freshwater expertly install R.Wy.Bro. Bob Vaughan as S.R.

Since our last meeting I have been pleased to appoint and invest four Provincial Grand Supreme Rulers and my Deputy, one: (ask them to stand)

In April I had the pleasure of installing R.Wy.Bro. Tan Rusby P.G.S.R. for Sussex, in succession to R.Wy.Bro. Dries Van der Burgh

In May R.Wy.Bro. Ian Smith P.G.S.R. for Surrey, in succession to R.Wy.Bro. Colin Beering.

In August I appointed Bob Sagoo as G.D.C. and then installed R.Wy.Bro. Ray Ellis as P.G.S.R. for the East Midlands in succession to R.Wy.Bro. Uri Patel. I extend my grateful thanks to Ray for the expert, loyal and enjoyable way in which he supported the Order, and me, during his tenure as Grand Director of Ceremonies.

In September R.Wy.Bro. Ian Bennett, in succession to R.Wy.Bro. John Stevens, who has retired after 15 years of loyal service to the Province of Staffordshire and Shropshire.

In October R.Wy.Bro. Keith Furgeson, on my behalf, Installed R.Wy.Bro. Trevor Conroy as P.G.S.R. for Cornwall in succession to R.Wy.Bro. Michael Barnard.

To the retiring P.G.S.R.'s I record my thanks and the thanks of Grand Conclave for all the hard work they have done in ruling their Provinces for many years. and extend my best wishes to the new P.G.S.R.'s for all the work they will undertake in their new roles.

I also thank and 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 who make invaluable contributions to the Order in their respective Provinces, Districts and Conclaves, again over many years.

Indeed the main reason we are here today, at Grand Conclave, is to recognise and reward the hard work and dedication of a great many Secret Monitors, and to encourage them to do more for the Order, by investing them, in the presence of their friends and colleagues, with the Grand Ranks they have richly deserved.

In particular I wish to extend my thanks to R.Wy.Bro.Paul Crudge who has with great dedication conscientiously served the order as Grand Guide for the last eight years and has retired today. I also thank R.Wy.Bro. Charles Aspoinal who served as Dep.G.S.R. for both Paul and myself from 2015 to 2018 and then became President of Executive Committee until today. I'm sure you will join with me in wishing him every success in his new role as Grand Master of the Order of Athelstan.

I am most grateful to the active officers of the past year for their support and assistance at the installations and other events and also to the Arch of Steel who have given tremendous support on many occasions during the year.

It is now my pleasure to introduce to you the Heads of our Companion Orders, all of whom extend great support to Order,

R.Wy.Bro. John Prizeman, P.G.Couns.; Most Worshipful Pro Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons and the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners (is unfortunately not here today- as you know he is undergoing treatment for asbestosis and I am sure you will all join with me in wishing him well over the next few months)

R.Wy.Bro. Paul Clement, P.G.S.R.; Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master of the Knights Templar. – and our Immediate Past Grand Supreme Ruler.

R.W.Bro. Kessick Jones, P.G.Couns.; Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Order of the Royal and Select Masters.

Right Worthy Brother Tom Jackson, P.G.Couns.; 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.

and R.Wy.Bro. Christopher Maiden, P.G.Couns.; Most Illustrious Grand High Priest of the Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests and Order of Holy Wisdom.

Brethren the Heads of our Complimentary Orders

may I now continue by formally welcoming our distinguished brethren and guests from Overseas and starting with; from our own Constitution.

South Africa :-

Wy.Bro. Wayne Krause P.Asst.G.Gdr. (Rec);

Wy.Bro. Lee Onsiong, P.G.B.B. (Rec),

Wy.Bro. Keith Ridley, P.G.Std.B. (Rec),

Southern Caribbean –

R.Wy.Bro. Gasper Llewellyn Gill A.G.S.R., R.Wy.Bro. Ian Foster, Dist.G.S.R.;

Wy.Bro. Albert Daniels, P.G.V.

Wy.Bro. John Lewis, P.A.G.D.C. (Rec)

Wy.Bro. Eldridge Dixon, P.G.Std.B.

Wy.Bro. Primus Suffren,

Bro. Kofi Hinds,

Inspectorate of Portugal –

V.Wy.Bro. Amadue Piava G.Insp.,

Wy.Bro. Jorge Fernandes Da Costa Henriques

Wy.Bro. Manuel Martins Da Costa P.G.Std.B. (Rec)

Wy.Bro. Antonio Da Silva Marques P.Dep.G.Std.B. (Rec)

Bro. Jose Luis Rebelo Afonso

Bro. Fernando Nelson Ferriera Pinto Coimbra Periera

and from Damon and Phintias Conclave NO 627 in Greece:

V.Wy.Bro. Andreas Spyropoulos, and

Bro. Ionnis Benetatos

We are also honoured with the presence of Brethren from Grand Conclaves Overseas:

From Australia

Our great friend M.Wy.Bro. Ray Saunders

The Grand Conclave of France – R.Wy.Bro Claude Barthet, G.S.R., may I say what a pleasure it was to see you installed as G.S.R. on the 1st March this year.; and

R.Wy.Bro. Alain Claude Pierree Herreng,

Grand Conclave of South East Asia – Wy.Bro. Victor Gerard Lim, O.G.R. (Rec)

Brethren our distinguished guests from overseas.

Many of you will know that The Pro Grand Master, M.W.Bro. John Prizeman, over the last few years, has been striving to bring the M.M.H. Orders more closely aligned with the Craft and Royal Arch. I am happy to say that this is proving successful with the Heads of the Companion Orders being recognised at Quarterly Communications of Grand Lodge and a more general acceptance, by the craft, that we in these companion orders, dynamically and strongly support the whole Masonic Structure. I therefore thank The Pro Grand Master for his endeavours on our behalf.

The Premier Conclave of Improvement, which has been in existence for over eighty years, has continued to provide valuable support and assistance for brethren across the country by a mix of in-person and on-line meetings where the ceremonies are rehearsed, discussed and explained. To build on this success the committee has suggested that we extend the program of work by inviting provinces to host one of the ten online meetings and providing provincial officers to deliver a short lecture on some aspect of the ritual. Secondly to create a network of Local preceptors by holding bi-annual meetings to enable eligibility for the office of Preceptor. I think this is a commendable idea and look forward to it being communicated to, and supported by, the Provinces. I will, of course be happy to attend the first occasion thereof.

I wish to thank again, the former Grand Director of Ceremonies, and the new Grand Director of Ceremonies for their support and the excellent way they have conducted the ceremonies along with their team of Deputies, particularly the working of today's Grand Conclave.

I express my thanks to the Grand Recorder, and the whole support team which enables the efficient administration of all Orders from M.M.H.

Last year, in my address, I mentioned that we were introducing Grand Patron Collarettes for both Conclaves and Provinces on achievement of various levels of donations to the O.S.M. Benevolent Fund. In order for the Province to attain each status, all Conclaves in the Province needs to have achieved that same status. I am pleased therefore to announce that the first Province to achieve the level of Grand Patron Gold is Kent, and so G.D.C. if you would present R.Wy.Bro. Scott Dunn to me I will be pleased to invest him with the said collarette.

Brethren I am sure we can all look forward to the next year as being as happy and enjoyable as I believe this last year has been for the Brotherhood of David and Jonathan and I wish you, your families and all Secret Monitors good health, happiness and success in the year to come.