



## Royal Ark Mariner Assembly 9 December 2024

Brethren I welcome you all here today and I am greatly heartened that so many of you have chosen to attend and to receive your Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank supported by so many of your fellow Royal Ark Mariners.

But first I have been instructed by the M.W.Bro. HRH Prince Michael of Kent, Grand Master, to convey his personal congratulations to all of today's recipients of Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank.

It is important to understand the Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank is not an automatic right, appointments are restricted by Provincial and District membership statistics, as set out in the Book of Constitutions and Regulations. It is always a difficult job to select brethren for preferment.

I now congratulate all one hundred and One of you who I today had the pleasure of appointing to Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank in our Antient and Honourable Fraternity

A distinction which recognises faithful and distinguished service. I know you have worked hard in your Lodges and for the advancement of the Fraternity. This appointment is a fitting reward for all your efforts. I have no doubt that your enthusiasm and devotion to the Fraternity will help you enjoy still further the greater responsibilities you are now required to undertake, and I wish you every success in your efforts.

To each of you, I send my warmest congratulations and trust that you will have many opportunities to enjoy your new status. The award of a Grand Honour is a positive reflection of, and reward for, the work that each of today's recipients has carried out and I have no doubt that their preferment will stimulate them to promote the Fraternity still further.

I feel sure that a spirit of optimism prevails amongst us, as we embark on the one hundred and fifty third year since our beautiful Order came under the administration of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons, and The Grand Masters Royal Ark Council, that our collective reaction to the storms and anxieties we face in the outside world at the present time, will positively influence the way in which our Order develops and that heritage will be the foundation on which we will build our future.

I always look on our individual progress in Freemasonry not as a career but a journey such as our circumstances permit. On every journey in life, it is good to enjoy the company of a companion and I urge you to look upon all the Orders of Freemasonry as Companion and Complimentary Orders. We are here today because first and foremost we are Mark Masons let us all ensure our Mark Lodges prosper and thrive because only then will our Royal Ark Mariner Fraternity prosper and thrive.

I am now delighted to welcome representatives from our own constitution from overseas,

I would ask you to refrain from welcoming applause until I have come to the end of the list.

Singapore

R.W.Bro Justice Mahideen Rubin DGM GMRAC HC

Together with W.Bro. John Graham Bones RAMGR

Belgium

R.W.Bro. Jean Verbist, Dist. G.M.

Together with five of his Brethren.

Germany

R.W.Bro. Michael Cooper, Dist.G.M.

Together with seven of his Brethren

Bolivia

W.Bro. Edmond Tondou Elio

Gibraltar

W.Bro. Selvan Soobiah Dep. DGM

ITALY

R.W.Bro. Andrea Bonechi DGM

Together with two of his Brethren

Nigeria

W.Bro. Adebowale Olsola Mogaji.

Together with Bro Kelechi Joseph-Lloyd Njoku

Romania

W.Bro. Florin Serban Dep D GM

Together with nine other brethren from the District

Spain

R.W. Bro Robert Leslie Munday Past DGM

Together with W.Bro Vicente Climente- Valero RAMGR

Madras

Bro Argun Paranthaman

The Netherlands

W.Bro. Peter Kirpensteijn, DGM R.A.M.G.R.

W.Bro. Ernst Frits Splunter Dep DGM

Pieter Willem Haans A.Dist GM

Together with eight other Brethren

South and East Caribbean  
W.Bro Trelford Alexander Earl Douglas RAMGR  
Together with W.Bro Errol Erad Clarke

Unattached EC – \_New Shores Lodge No. 1903 Vienna  
W.Bro. Silviu Dascal

From here at home Heads of our companion Orders

R.W.Bro. Paul Clement, Grand Master Knights Templar  
R.W.Bro Graham Flight, Grand Sovereign Red Cross of Constantine  
RW. Brother Ian Currans, Grand Summus of the Scarlet Cord  
R.W.Bro David Kenneth Williamson Lieutenant Grand Commander of The  
Antient And Accepted Rite 33°

Brethren, I leave you with this thought. In many ways our Fraternity is unique it is ruled by the Grand Masters Royal Ark Council, I as Pro Grand Master of the Mark I am by default Pro Grand Master of The Royal Ark Mariner.

Looking around this Grand Assembly there is little to distinguish us by the rank we hold which I believe only serves to illustrate one of the great attributes of the Fraternity, that we are all equal in the eyes of the Supreme Commander of the Universe and borrowing from our ritual "that the highest is he who performs his part the best not he who fills the most exalted position"

I am sure that you are all looking forward to the refreshment that follows, to those of you who are unable to stay and dine because of your concerns for onward travel I wish you a safe journey and speedy return home.

I will conclude my remarks by placing on record my thanks to the Grand Secretary R.W.Bro. Daniel Heath who is embracing the responsibilities of his new role with distinction , I extend my thanks to the Deputy Grand Secretary and all the staff at Mark Masons Hall for all their work in preparing for today , and the Grand Director of Ceremonies R.W.Bro Christopher Davies and his team for the excellence of the ceremonial we have witnessed.

I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year and may our Antient and Honourable Fraternity continue to flourish in the year to come as I am sure it will with your enthusiasm and the blessing of the Supreme Commander of the Universe.