



ADDRESS BY THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND SOVEREIGN

Worthy Knights, seen from where I am standing, I behold a wonderful sight. So many of you here today at this Grand Imperial Conclave Annual Meeting tells me that “we” are doing something right and that the Order is happy, committed and enjoying our Christian and Masonic brotherhood.

You have seen the reappointment of my Deputy Grand Sovereign and my Grand Eusebius earlier in the meeting. Both continue to give me and our Order great support and if you have a great team, Worthy Knights, don't change it. That is not to say “we three always meet and agree” but there is always a way through any debate for the good of the Order.

I would also mention that it is my Deputy's birthday today and what better present could he receive than his reappointment.

I have appointed three knights today to the Honour and Dignity of Knight Commander of Constantine and I thank them for their service to the Order during their time in office and I am confident they will continue to support their successors and their Divisions.

I have been pleased to appoint and install five new Intendants General over the last year, and I would ask them to stand and be recognised as I call their names:

- R.III.Kt. Sylverio Ostrowski as I-G for Middlesex following the retirement of R.III.Kt. Denis Leigh.
- R.III.Kt. John Housden as I-G for Somerset and Bristol following the retirement of R.III.Kt. David Palmer.
- R.III.Kt. Willie Gray as I-G for North and East Yorkshire following the retirement of R.III.Kt. David Roach.
- R.III.Kt. Jim Mulligan as I-G for West Midlands following the retirement of R.III.Kt. John Tristram.
- R.III.Kt. Revd Martin Howse as I-G for Essex (just three weeks ago) following the retirement of R.III.Kt. John Simons.

In addition, and right up to date, we have R.III.Kt. Sterling Soares installed today as I-G for Jamaica following the retirement of R.III.Kt. Errol Wright.

This has been a new addition to our normal order of business, and I hope this has made today a very special occasion for him and all of us.

Following the trip with six multi-tasking Grand Masters to South Africa in July last year R.III.Kt. Marc Burton has been reappointed as I-G for South Africa.

We wish them all a happy and successful time in office.

I have been very fortunate to have been able to attend a number of special meetings over the last year.

In October 2024 to Benelux Division for the Consecration of Collegium Architectorum Conclave No. 535 in Brussels.

In January this year my first visit to the Grand Lodge of Iceland for their Annual Meeting in Reykjavik and again to the Grand Lodge of Denmark for their Special meeting to install a new Grand Master in Copenhagen.

Both of these meetings are conducted under the Swedish Rite where the Red Cross of Constantine, although not a separate Order, forms an important part of their Masonic structure.

To Serdika Conclave in Bulgaria for their tenth Anniversary. Not a normal occasion for a visit perhaps but as I was their Consecrating Grand Marshal and witnessed their first Appendant Orders ceremony, all in English, I made an "executive decision" to go!.

And to the Grand Imperial Council of Scotland in Edinburgh for their Annual Meeting in May where I was delighted to be made an Honorary member of their Grand Council, a rare privilege indeed and confirmation of our strong and special relationship over nearly 150 years.

On all of these visits we received a wonderful welcome and hospitality and I am looking forward to the coming year's events.

I have today appointed 135 Worthy Knights to Grand Rank. Worthy Knights this is your day, and I hope that in making these appointments you can feel proud of your contribution to our Order and will continue to enjoy your new ranks in your Conclaves and Divisions.

I thank my retiring team of officers who have supported me so well over the last year and I congratulate the new team of active officers and look forward to working with them in the coming year.

We have today, as always, a wonderful number of special visitors from Overseas, our own Constitution and Other Orders. I will welcome them all and would ask that you restrain your own welcome until I have completed my list.

The Grand Sovereign proceeded to welcome visitors from:

The Divisions of Benelux and Jamaica

The Grand Imperial Council of Scotland

The Grand Imperial Conclave for Greece

The Grand Imperial Conclave for Germany

The Grand Imperial Conclave for Queensland

The Grand Imperial Conclave for New South Wales & Australian Capital Territory

The Grand Imperial Conclave for France

The Grand Imperial Conclave for Italy

The Grand Imperial Conclave for Finland

The Grand Imperial Conclave for Cyprus

The Grand Imperial Conclave for Denmark

And the several Rulers of the other English Constitution Companion Orders

Worthy Knights the details of my Care for Children Fund are shown in the Order papers for today and I am delighted with the continuing from Individuals, Conclaves and Divisions.

I cannot leave out my special thanks to my Grand Sepulchre Guard whose fantastic attendance on my visits truly enhances the proceedings and shows all those who see them how things should be done. I must make special mention of my Captain V.III.Kt. Geraint Puw who is very frustrated in his hospital bed and cannot be with us today, the first Grand Conclave meeting he has missed since his appointment. We wish him well and thank the Deputy for having his first Grand meeting "in charge".

I give my thanks to my Grand Recorder and his team for today and during the year and offer him my congratulations on becoming the Master of the Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers in 2024 and fitting it all into his very busy schedule.

To my Grand Marshal and his ever-growing team of Deputies keeping me and you, Worthy Knights, in good order and ensuring nobody spots the unplanned or deliberate changes!

For those of you who are still with me I can announce that we hope to have our Order Cathedral Service on 18 April 2026 at Liverpool Cathedral and information will be circulated as soon as outline arrangements have been confirmed. It is some years since our last Service, and it should be a wonderful occasion.

Worthy Knights please continue to support your Craft lodges and Royal Arch Chapters, and I am delighted to tell you that the Heads of the Companion Orders are now welcomed individually at meetings of UGLE here at Great Queen Street, a sure indication of our strengthening relationship with the Craft. Worthy Knights it has been my honour and pleasure to serve you as your Grand Sovereign over the last year, and I find my enthusiasm and passion for our Order undiminished

God bless you all and keep those you care for safe and well with the watch words of our Oder, Faith Unity and Zeal.