



THE GRAND SOVEREIGN'S ADDRESS TO GRAND IMPERIAL CONCLAVE

Worthy Knights, my first duty is to welcome you all to this meeting of Grand Imperial Conclave with the attendance of the highest number of knights for many years. I hope this is a testament to your commitment to our Order and your enjoyment of our Grand Imperial Conclave proceedings here today.

I have again reappointed both my Deputy Grand Sovereign and Grand Eusebius, both of whom have and continue to give me and the Order their full support for which I am most grateful.

I have appointed three knights today to the honour and dignity of Knight Commander of Constantine although only two of them were aware of their appointment before today. I am well aware that the Grand Recorder does not like surprises, but I hope he will happily accept this one. These honours are well deserved and our congratulations go to them all.

I have been pleased to appoint and Install three 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. Geoff Cheshire as Intendant-General for Hertfordshire following the retirement of R.III.Kt. Terry Deakin;

R.III.Kt. Simon Langton as Intendant-General for Sussex, my home Division, following the retirement of R.III.Kt. Paul Rose;

R.III.Kt. Paul Gausden as Intendant-General for Thames following the retirement of R.III.Kt. Alan Baverstock;

And to come right up to date later this week, Puissant Knight Perry Balls as Intendant-General for East Anglia following the retirement of R.III.Kt. Dr John Elmore.

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

During the year I have presented two personal 50 year jewels to long serving members. I have also attended special Conclave meetings including not only a 150th Celebration for Yorkshire Division but to be privileged to visit Maine in the United States to join in the celebration of the 150th year of the Grand Imperial Council of Maine, constituted in 1875, the second oldest Grand Council after, of course, England.

Later this year I am looking forward to visiting our nearest neighbours in Scotland for their 150th celebrations of the Grand Imperial Council of Scotland.

Overseas visits have been to Helsinki for the Grand Imperial Conclave of Finland and to Reykjavik for the Installation of their new Grand Master under the Swedish Rite, Grand Conclave of Iceland.

On home ground in March this year the Consecration of Beneficentia Conclave number 536 in Manchester.

But the highlight event of the year must be the Cathedral Service for the Order at Liverpool Cathedral in April with dining at Anfield football ground. A magnificent affair supported by over three hundred knights and their families in one of the most spectacular cathedrals in the country with all Intendants-General processing with their Divisional banners and supported by the Grand Sepulchre Guard ensuring that we "out blinged" even the senior clergy present.

I have today appointed 131 Worthy Knights to Grand Rank. These appointments are to recognise your past service to the Order and to encourage you to continue your support in the future. I hope that you have enjoyed your participation in our Grand meeting, and I know many of you will join in the festive board to follow.

I thank my outgoing Officers for their support over the last year and welcome the new team of active officers many of whom will be on their first duty this coming Saturday in Great Yarmouth.

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.

From the Grand Imperial Council of Scotland, M.III.Kt. Henry Gordon Petrie, Grand Sovereign, accompanied by M.Em.Kt. Garry Hugh Caldwell, Grand Viceroy.

From the Grand Imperial Conclave of Greece, M.III.Kt. Aristides Samios, Grand Sovereign accompanied by four distinguished Knights.

From the Grand Imperial Concave of Germany, M.III.Kt. John Mackinnon, Grand Sovereign, also accompanied by four distinguished Knights.

From the Grand Imperial Conclave of France, R.III.Kt. Thierry Seillier, Deputy Grand Sovereign.

From the Grand Imperial Conclave of Finland, M.III.Kt. Veli-Matti Lummepuro, Grand Sovereign, and V.III.Kt. Hannu Pellikka, Grand Recorder.

From our own Divisions overseas we have from Benelux a delegation of thirteen Knights, led by their Intendant-General, R.III.Kt. Georgios Kritikos; From Jamaica the Intendant-General, R.III.Kt. Sterling Bryan Soares, and from Friendship Conclave No. 531 of Barbados, III.Kt. G. Llewellyn Gill, SLMM, P.G.Pref.

And also with us are Heads of other Orders:

R.III.Kt. P. R. Clement, K.C.C. – Pro Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons and Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master of the Knights Templar;

R.III.Kt. K. J. Jones, K.C.C. – Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters;

R.III.Kt. T. F. Jackson, K.C.C. – Grand Master of the Grand Council of Allied Masonic Degrees;

V.III.Kt. A. C. Sweeney, P.G.S.Gen. – Grand Supreme Ruler of the Grand Conclave of the Order of the Secret Monitor;

V.III.Kt. Dr P. Mycock, P.G.J.Gen. – Grand Master of the Operatives;

V.III.Kt. Christopher Gavin Maiden, P.G.S.Gen. – Grand High Priest of the Knight Templar Priests and Order of Holy Wisdom;

R.III.Kt. A. W. Llewellyn, K.C.C. – Supreme Magus of the Societas Rosicruciana in Anglia.

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 contributions from individuals, Conclaves and Divisions which enable us to make grants to carry out such worthwhile and meaningful work for those who need it most.

As always, I must thank my Grand Sepulchre Guard for their tremendous support today, and wherever I go. And in thanking the retiring captain for ten years of service I also welcome the new Captain and Deputy to continue this very important role.

I have shown my appreciation to the Grand Recorder for his support with his appointment as a Knight Commander of Constantine, and to his team, and no doubt he will again remind me after the meeting that he does not like surprises. Particular thanks to Linda Read who retires from the team this week after twenty-two years.

However, the Grand Recorder was party to the “other” surprise appointment for my Grand Marshal as a Knight Grand Cross of Constantine and my thanks to him and his team for all the planning and working of the ceremonial today and over the last year and for making sure we “almost” followed the Agenda.

Worthy Knights, I make no excuse for again reminding you to support your Craft Lodges and Royal Arch Chapters to continue the stream of potential new members for our Order and to ensure our future.

Worthy Knights, I was appointed as your Grand Sovereign in July 2014 and sometimes it seems like only yesterday. It has been and continues to be for me a privilege an honour and a pleasure to lead you, and I look forward to the coming year with anticipation and commitment.

God bless you all and those you care for, and I leave you with the watch words of our Order, Faith, Unity and Zeal.