



The Grand Imperial Conclave for England and Wales and its Divisions and Conclaves Overseas

of the Masonic and Military Order of the Red Cross of Constantine and the
Orders of the Holy Sepulchre and of St. John the Evangelist

ADDRESS BY THE GRAND SOVEREIGN TO GRAND IMPERIAL CONCLAVE **TUESDAY 7th JULY 2020**

Worthy Knights good afternoon. As you will be only too aware, we are not able to meet in person due to the Coronavirus situation and so I welcome you to my virtual address to Grand Imperial Conclave for 2020.

My first duty is a sad one which is to record the passing of one of our previous Grand Sovereigns, Most Illustrious Knight Ronald Albert Champion GCC who died in February this year. Ron was Grand Sovereign from 1996 to 2007 and I was privileged to get to know him well as his Grand Marshal from 2006.

The formal proceedings of Grand Conclave will be dealt with by my Grand Council and I thank you for allowing my re-election to take place in this way.

I have been pleased to re-appoint both my Deputy, Right Illustrious and Eminent Knight Peter Hawken and my Grand Eusebius, Right Illustrious and Venerable Knight the Reverend Timothy L'Estrange. Both have continued to give me their full support and advice during the year.

With effectively only six months in active office, the Grand Team have had a quiet year so far. We have however concentrated much into that short period. Our Caribbean trip in October involved the Consecration of three Conclaves:

Cornwall Conclave No 529 in Jamaica

Dennis Artemas Nottage Conclave No 530 in the Bahamas

Friendship Conclave No 531 in Barbados

and the Installation of Right Illustrious Knight Errol Lloyd Wright as Intendant General for the Division of Jamaica following the retirement of Right Illustrious Knight Errol Alberga who I was pleased to appoint as a Knight Commander of Constantine in recognition of his service to the Order whilst we were there.

We were also pleased to assist the Grand Master of the Royal and Select Masters in a ceremony of Excellent Master whilst in Barbados for Companions of his Order in the Caribbean. A hard working and successful trip supported by active Grand Officers and members of the Sepulchre Guard.

Closer to home the Consecration of The Seven Hills Conclave No 532 for Metropolitan Division in July and now temporarily deferred, The Metropolitan Conclave No 533 which I look forward to in due course.

I have also visited private Conclaves for the Sesquicentenary Warrant of St Andrews Conclave, Wythenshawe Conclave for their Centenary, Joseph of Arimathea Conclave for their Jubilee meeting and St. Eanswythe Conclave to present a 50-year certificate to Right Illustrious Knight John Bonomy, K.C.C.

I was not able to visit as many of our sister Grand Conclaves overseas as I would have liked but I did travel to Scotland for the enthronement of their new Grand Sovereign Most Illustrious Knight Henry Gordon Petrie, G.C.C., to Sofia for the first Appendant Orders ceremony by Serdika Conclave since their Consecration and to Florence for my visit to the Grand Conclave of Italy.

Here I would normally be welcoming and introducing our guests and visitors from our own and other constitutions. This is of course not possible but I send fraternal greetings from England to all our sister Grand Conclaves around the world in the hope that they are all safe and well and that we may meet again when we are allowed to do so to renew our fraternal friendships and support.

I am delighted to announce that I have appointed to the Honour and Dignity of a Knight Commander of Constantine the following three knights:

Right Illustrious Knight Graham Spencer Gubb, my Intendant-General for South Wales and Monmouthshire.

Very Illustrious Knight Paul Raymond Clement, Grand Senior General better known to you I am sure as the Grand Master of the Knights Templar and

Very Illustrious Knight Alan John Englefield, P.G.H.Chancellor, again better known to you as the Sovereign Grand Commander of the Ancient and Accepted Rite.

All have given great service to the Order over many years and to me personally. Their appointment takes effect from today and I look forward to a future occasion when I can congratulate them personally.

I have appointed as Intendant-General for Nottinghamshire, Illustrious Knight Ralph Everitt Hitchin with effect from 12 July following the retirement of Right Illustrious Knight Terry Ward and Graham Edwin Williams as Intendant-General for West Lancashire, with effect from 5th September following the retirement of Right Illustrious Knight Michael Walker.

Both appointments are by Patent and I hope to be able to visit their Divisions when they are able to meet.

To the Grand Officers I have appointed and promoted your new ranks take effect today and I offer you my congratulations on your preferment and my thanks for your contribution to our Order thus far and for the future. Please continue to enjoy your new role in your Divisions and Conclaves when possible.

My thanks must go the Grand Recorder and his team and the Grand Marshal and his team for their hard work and support and to the Grand Recorder in particular for his continuing work for the Order during these very difficult times. Also to the Grand Sepulchre Guard who continue to be concerned as to my well-being even though we cannot meet in person. I am pleased to re-appoint Illustrious Knight Geraint Pew as my Captain and to appoint Eminent Knight Mark Stevens as my Deputy Captain with four new members who I am sure look forward to receiving their Guard collarettes in due course.

I am delighted to report that my Care for Children Fund continues to receive your support and it has made donations to Childrens' Charities in the year to 30 April of almost £40,000 and perhaps even more importantly since then further grants specifically related to support Childrens' Charities dealing with the effects of Covid 19.

Before closing I must thank my Grand Eusebius for arranging and producing a wonderful "virtual" service to celebrate the Discovery of the True Cross on 3 May this year assisted by many of our Divisional and Conclave Prelates around the county. I have asked him to add a short prayer and blessing which will follow my address.

Worthy Knights I greet you all in Faith Unity and Zeal and wish and pray that you and you families and friends stay safe from this terrible Coronavirus so that we can meet again in Christian and Masonic fellowship as soon as possible.

God bless you all.

Most Illustrious Knight Graham Leslie Flight, G.C.C.

7th July 2020