



THE HOSPITALLER

The official newsletter of the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller
 — HM King Peter II Constitution
 — Grand Master HRH Prince Karl Vladimir Karadjordjevic of Yugoslavia GCSJ

Dearest Brothers and Sisters in Saint John,

It is truly the elephant in the room, and a most dangerous elephant at that! It is, of course, the coronavirus. Once more in our history of existence on this most beautiful planet the future of mankind is being shaped by the intrusion of an enemy whose size is so small that we must struggle with the concept of 'pictograms' whilst painfully bearing witness to the very real destructive power of this not so new virus!

Now that the world is faced with another Pandemic it almost seems unimportant as to how we got to this point, but what is not unimportant are the extremely devastating effects this new outbreak has brought with it and will sadly continue to do so for the coming months, and maybe even years! Within our own glorious Order we have seen the virus rob us of at least one member in the reported case of our departed brother Prelate, Don Giuseppe Scarpetti of the Priory of Italy, who has joined the many other souls lost to this latest microscopic killer.

It is at times like these, through the absolute darkness of such a pandemic, that we are witness to some amazing acts of charity and bravery. It also shows us that many of these acts are performed by those who have chosen to not let Christ into their lives and at times I feel, as a Christian, extremely humbled by these acts of kindness, charity or bravery and I would like to thank all those who have put themselves on the "Front Lines", for whatever reason, in order to help others, especially at times like these!

My heart also goes out to all those whose livelihoods are threatened, and will be threatened, by the immensely adverse effects that the latest pandemic is having on financial stability around the world.

It is now, during the disturbingly rapid spread of this COVID-19, that we are again blessed with the celebration of Easter. For the absolute majority of Christians around the globe, as



indeed for those who choose to celebrate Easter without Christ in their lives, this year's celebrations will be very different to what so many of us are comfortably used to as the typically traditional events surrounding Easter week.

For us Christians, the majority will not be able to physically attend those events that all go to mark our remembrance of the Passion of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, including the crucial church service on Easter Sunday. Instead, we will have to remain at home and, for those who have the luxury to do so, share these moments through

modern appliances such as television and radio.

On Good Friday we remember in particular the immense suffering of our Lord, at the hands of the Romans and His other enemies. Whilst the physical suffering of Christ is beyond comprehension to many of us this was indeed only a part of the entire suffering that He had to endure.

Throughout human history suffering, in one way or another, has been a part of every single life, from Adam and Eve to present day mankind. It was indeed God, through his living son, Jesus Christ, who suffered as flesh for all our sins and ultimately, through this sacrifice, gave us the gift of participating in the true 'glory of God' in our freedom to embrace our Lord and Saviour through our Baptism and entrance into Christianity.

As Christians we are more often than not put to the test, mostly by the circumstances of so-called modern day living. Many of these tests inevitably include varying degrees of suffering and it is our appraisal of, and reaction to, these tests as Christians that separates us from those who choose not to follow Christ.

Once again, this latest virus pandemic has shown us that the topic of death is all too often such a test for many of us. As Christians we balance the extreme loss of others, mainly loved



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A LATE ANNOUNCEMENT

Your Excellencies and Dear Brothers and Sisters in St John,

It is my sad duty to inform you that HE Conv. Bailiff Harald Løvheim GCSJ CMSJ MSSJ passed away during the early hours of Friday 11 April.

HE Conv. Bailiff Løvheim, or 'H' as he was affectionately known to me, was a key person in the development of the Order. I first met him at the Grosvenor Hotel, Victoria, London with HE Conv. Bailiff Eddie Power GCSJ CMSJ MSSJ, who then was the Prior of England. This meeting, and the discussions that followed, led to many new members joining us from Denmark and Norway, and the creation of the Grand Priory of Scandinavia, of which H was the first Grand Prior.

There have been many changes since those early days but H's commitment to the Order was unwavering, as was his determination to advance the process of integration, the most touching part of which was his reconciliation with his friend and Brother HE Bailiff Emeritus Dag von Schantz GCSJ CMSJ MSSJ.

I shall miss H enormously; he was a great friend, sage adviser and tactician, brilliant lawyer, sometimes temperamental and often mischievous, but always loyal.

My thoughts and prayers are with H's son, Chev. Rune Løvheim KCSJ and his wife Debbie, and Rune's brother and sisters and their families.

H is now reunited with his beloved wife Inger, and may they both rest in peace.

Alastair

[Ed: A full obituary will be published in the next edition of The Hospitaller]



ones, against the glory of knowing that the soul, lost to that mortal body, is eternally alive in the Kingdom of Heaven. Many of us will face the same test with our own death too. All this is a true part of the suffering we must endure, but as an Orthodox Christian, I am blessed, as I believe are all Christians, with a true purpose and reward for it!

Perhaps the fact that Easter this year is shrouded in the poignancy of the current global coronavirus pandemic is also an opportunity for us Christians to show others the full effects of God's love through our continued acts of charity and, in particular, prayer! All too often many of us forget the immense power of prayer, and this is a reason why I was delighted by the invitation to prayer from our very own Dame Jacqueline Marschner von Helmreich DSJ MMSJ.

As the majority of us will be prevented from physically engaging in many of our acts of charity due to various levels of governmental restrictions on movement, let us then spend those precious moments, for example on Good Friday in remembrance of the suffering of our Lord, to take the extra time to pray just a little bit longer for the souls of all those who have died, and also for the protection of all those who are living, even if it means us using the coronavirus pandemic as a platform for this.

As I mentioned last year too, Easter Sunday is the true end of the winter of despair. It is the moment of truth, the moment of hope and the moment of belief. It is the resurrection of Christ! Tears of pain should hopefully become tears of joy as we are once more invited to rejoice in the cries of "Christ is risen"! May our beloved Lord then hear our rejoicing and also hear our prayers too; and may we, mankind, use this new opportunity to shape a world in which we all have a better understanding of how to take care of each other a little more than we have done, as well as how to better take care of our world!

Princess Brigitta and I wish you all a most blessed and wonderful Easter 2020! May God bless you all and keep you safe!

Yours in St. John



A MESSAGE FROM HE CONVENTUAL BAILIFF ALASTAIR REDPATH STEVENS GCSJ CMSJ

Et Pestilentia Venit (And the Pestilence Came)

Your Excellencies and Dear Brothers and Sisters in St John,

I am writing this on Palm Sunday (in the Gregorian Calendar), that day when, Matthew tells us, Jesus rode into Jerusalem from Bethphage, mounted on a donkey, thus fulfilling the words of the prophet Zechariah.

We are told there was a crowd of people, some of whom spread their cloaks on the road, whilst others spread branches from trees, which John tells us were palm trees. The crowd shouted "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

How excited must that crowd have been: all shouting and cheering, witnessing the coming of the King, such that when Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole City was in turmoil. It must have been a day that remained long in the memory of those who were there.

But now the streets are all but deserted: the World in the grip of the COVID-19 pandemic. There are no crowds, but people who are isolated, many fearful, others sick or around those who are sick, many knowing those who have died or dying themselves.

What a contrast with that joyous day in Jerusalem, but a contrast that heightens the message of Holy Week, which saw Jesus tortured, rejected, disclaimed, His Passion and death on Good Friday and then glorious resurrection on Easter Sunday.

We will all miss being with our communities and sharing in the rituals during this Holy Week, but we remain members of our great Order. The Order is not great because of what it does, but because of who we are as its Christian Knights and Dames and what we do as a direct result of that conviction.

Much as the donkey bears the mark of the cross, we too, as Christians, bear that mark. It is not visible, but is manifest by our character because the mark of the Crucified Christ is one of Charity, which is a gift from God.

The Old Order witnessed many plagues in Malta, and many Knights died in service to the people. We should not be reckless with our lives, but where we are able we should help those in need, cheerfully and boldly, but with prudence.

As St. Vincent de Paul observed on many occasions: totum opus nostrum in operatione consistit (all our work ends in action).

The Petit Conseil continues to meet using CROVV and you should all be receiving the Minutes from your Priors and Commanders.

CROVV is available to all units of the Order having been donated to the Order for our use by Chev Ton van de Ven KCSJ. It is secure, being end-to-end encrypted, free, and an excellent tool particularly in these times when Priory Council and Chapter members cannot meet together in person. I do

recommend that units use it as a valuable way of keeping in touch, along with WhatsApp, Twitter and other social media platforms.

As you will have seen from my last letter to all members, the current situation is such that the Priory of Italy Investiture in Corridonia has had to be postponed to a date to be determined.

The Petit Conseil will meet by CROVV on 23 May to consider the position as regards the other approved Investitures in Tampere, London and Edinburgh, ahead of its scheduled meeting on 1 July.

Although I would have thought it unnecessary to deal with this matter, it seems that some officers in the O.S.J. are confusing the fact that some members of the Order are Freemasons, with the Order itself being Masonic, or indeed associated with Freemasonry.

Please let me make it clear that the O.S.J. is not a Masonic Order, but a great Order of Chivalry; nor is the Order associated with Freemasonry, save as regards the matter of individual memberships.

I fully appreciate that there are doctrinal issues for some members, but the Order is an ecumenical Order and what is more the Order's Charter specifically requires it to operate in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which includes the freedom of association.

It was this same strict adherence to the Declaration that led to the admission of Dames as full members of the O.S.J. despite opposition from some less-enlightened former members.

Whatever anyone's views of Freemasonry, the rights of Freemasons have been upheld by the courts. Furthermore, the charitable work done by Freemasons is well-known across the world. As we are taught, "Ye shall know them by their fruits... every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit... Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them."

Our Order is an ecumenical Christian Order, and draws its strength from that community of spirit and the deep beliefs of its members, committed as they all are to the Order's objects as set out in the Charter and ever mindful of the motto Pro Fide, Pro Utilitate Hominum.

My thoughts and prayers are with you all, particularly during these troubled times, as we pray continually, for God shall give us comfort and gladness instead of sorrow.

Yours in St John,

Alastair
HE Conv. Bailiff Alastair Redpath-Stevens GCSJ CMSJ
Grand Commander



PRIORY OF DACIA



Chev. Per Østergaard

Because of the serious coronavirus situation in Denmark, with borders closed and everyone advised against congregating with others, all meetings including all OSJ events have been cancelled and are currently on hold. We had originally planned to hold a large open convention in Fensmark, Zealand on 16th March with invited guests from the municipality of Vordingborg and from the Marine Association. We had arranged for a guest speaker, a specialist external university lecturer, to give a very informative historical presentation on how the Order found its way from Malta to Yugoslavia. We had also organised a dinner and musical entertainment. However, we have had to postpone this event, although we will reschedule it as soon as possible.

Several of our Knights and Dames have been very active in helping many elderly, frail and vulnerable individuals at this most difficult time, including delivering food and essentials direct to their homes. The bag of goods is placed just outside the door of the recipient who then collects and picks it up once we have walked to a suitable safe distance away. A number of our members are also involved in a shared kitchen scheme where food is prepared for the vulnerable and homeless. However, they have discovered that it is difficult to persuade users of the hostels to maintain a distance of one and a half meters from each other in order to prevent the spread of the virus, both in the cafeteria and in the sleeping quarters.

Our project of assistance in Uganda, where Kirsten Andersen is working with Youth Arise Uganda Network, is continuing well and we are also moving forward with new projects involving White Cross International, which we will share more information about in the near future.

Chev. Per Østergaard KSJ
Grand Herald

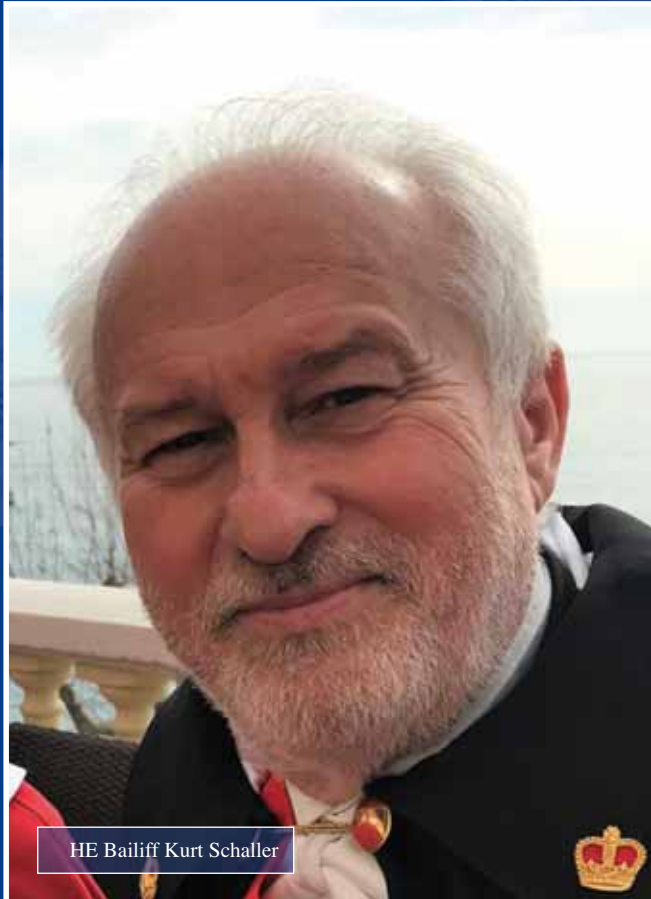


The text on the sign reads "Only access for homeless"





PRIORY OF CENTRAL EUROPE



HE Bailiff Kurt Schaller

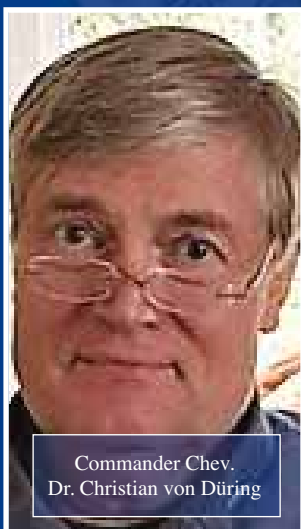
The Priory of Central Europe continues to be involved with various charities including a number of charities in Munich where we get involved in distributing food to people in need. We ensure that individuals, who are poor and cannot afford to feed themselves, nevertheless receive a warm nutritious meal each day.

The members of the Priory pray for the speedy and full recovery of our dear Brother, Commander of the Commandery of South Germany, Chev. Dr. Christian von Düring, who is convalescing following recent health problems. Christian has worked tirelessly with dedication and commitment to achieve the aims of the Order of Pro Fide, Pro Utilitate Hominum, in his elected role as Commander of the Commandery of South Germany. We ask that you pray with us for his return to full health and strength.

The Priory of Central Europe is planning to hold a Chapter meeting in the very near future, to discuss submitting a request to Le Petit Conseil to enable the Priory to establish a Commandery in Austria and Commanderies in Formation in both The Netherlands and Switzerland.

Members of the Priory send sincere and grateful thanks to our Brother Chev. Ton van de Ven for his extremely generous donation of the CROVV platform to the Order, which enables us to communicate and “meet” even although we are based in various locations. This magnificent communication tool, created by Ton, facilitates the organisation of meetings and enables us to have conferences with a large number of members although based in different countries and locations, in addition to many more highly valued benefits. We very much appreciate our Brother Ton’s communication tool as it provides very significant benefits for our Priory, and indeed for our valued Order. The functionality of this tool allows all of us to communicate and function even although the Order is widespread over many countries, which is especially relevant in the current situation we face these days with the coronavirus pandemic.

HE Bailiff Kurt Schaller GCSJ
Prior of Central Europe



Commander Chev.
Dr. Christian von Düring



Chev. Ton van de Ven



PRIORY OF THE BALTIC



Prior HE Bailiff Vesa V Viitaniemi GCSJ FWR K CMFS, and Vice Prior Chev. Ralf Sundgren KSJ present a donation to representatives of Saint Mikael's Church.

The Priory of the Baltic held a very successful Investiture in Turku, Finland on Saturday 1st June last year, attended by 70 guests from seven different countries. We are pleased to report that the event realised a financial surplus of some 1500 euros, which we donated, partly to the Mother and Child Relief Fund, partly to the Hope organisation in the Lohja area and partly to assist the social work undertaken by Saint Mikael's Church in Turku (our Investiture was held in Saint Mikael's Church in Turku city centre).

“OPERATION OLD CLOTHES” – NOVEMBER 2019

In November of 2019 all members of the Priory of the Baltic had a great excuse to tidy out their wardrobes and donate all their good quality old clothes to the Salvation Army and the Finnish Red Cross in aid of those in need. We can, of course, donate our old and unwanted clothes at any time but we decided to turn our charitable giving into a lighthearted competition between Commanderies to find out which Commandery would rise to the challenge and donate most.

Over 200 pieces of good quality old clothes were donated (in addition to some donations of cash) to various charitable organisations in Turku, and over 300 pieces of old clothes were donated to the Hope organisation, which helps support poorer families in Lohja. Our lighthearted competition was won by the Commandery of Uusimaa in Lohja.

SAINT HENRIK'S DAY – JANUARY 2020

A number of Christian chivalric orders operating in Finland held a joint traditional Saint Henrik's Day meeting in January 2020. Members from OSJ, HOSJ, SOSJ and the Orders of Constantini Magni, Lazarus, Johanniter, Order of the Holy Sepulchre and SMO of Temple were invited. More than 100 Knights and Dames participated in Vespers, led by Archbishop Emeritus Jukka Paarma. After Vespers we held a dinner, during which there was a short presentation from each Order in attendance. The OSJ Priory of Finland's speech was presented by Vice Chancellor Esko Vainio and the OSJ Priory of the Baltic's presentation was given by Vice Prior Ralf Sundgren.



As many of you will be aware, Saint Henrik is the Patron Saint of Finland and, in the 12th century, as Bishop Henrik of Uppsala, he brought Christianity to Finland when he arrived with King Erik of Sweden following a successful crusade. Sadly, however, he was brutally murdered in the year 1156 AD.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION IN AFRICA

The Priory of the Baltic donated seed money to the University of Iringa for its BAME entrepreneurship education programme in March 2020. The donation was primarily as a result of a targeted gift from a member of the Priory. The seed money acts as a source of a start up loan for University students enabling them to set up in business. Two members of the OSJ Baltic Priory personally covered the cost which enabled the Tanzanian Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy's (MNMA) High Management Team 2018 and the Tanzanian University of Iringa's High Management Team 2019, to come to Finland in 2019. They visited Turku University of Applied Sciences and several other Universities to learn about our Finnish entrepreneurship education, to enable them to develop an entrepreneurship education programme in Tanzania, with the aim of reducing youth unemployment in a country which is fast growing, not only in terms of population, but also in GDP.



The University of Iringa delegation and members of OSJ Baltic Priory met up with staff of the Finnish Businessmen Mission Union in Turku.



The University of Iringa Management Team 2019 visit Turku University in the company of Prior HE Bailiff Vesa V Viitaniemi and Chamberlain Chev. Jaakko Heinenen.

Prior HE Bailiff Vesa V. Viitaniemi, GCSJ FWR K CMFS and Chamberlain, Chev. Jaakko K SJ were privileged, once again, to be invited to take part in the University of Iringa's Graduation Day celebrations on 7th December 2019. The Graduation Day was a day to remember with more than 2000 people present and some 20 reporters in attendance. Prior Vesa and Chamberlain Jaakko were seated next to Tanzania's third President, The Honorable Mr Benjamin Mkapa and Mama Anna Mkapa, for over four hours, under the hot African sun, in the Southern Highlands of Tanzania. During the ceremony the University awarded two Honorary Doctorates, one of which was presented to Prior Vesa in recognition of his ten years collaborating with the University of Iringa and for his services to the people of Tanzania – Bailiff Viitaniemi is the first European to receive such a prestigious award from the University. The only other Honorary Doctorate awarded was to the former Chief Lawyer of the East African Community.

**HE Bailiff Vesa Viitaniemi GCSJ FWR K CMFS
Prior of the Baltic Priory**



Representatives of the Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy's (MNMA) High Management Team 2018 at Turku University.



COMMANDERY OF MONACO-ITALY



A group of refugees and Commandery members on the trip to Île Saint-Honorat

Easter is the time of year that should particularly remind us that Christ offered Himself freely for our redemption and He sent the Holy Spirit to be with us continually for over 2000 years. Our Order has also been working continually for more than 900 years protecting our faith and providing charity to our fellow man.

It is within these principles and ideals that the Independent Commandery of Monaco-Italy continues to operate, particularly with regard to our Christian Brothers and Sisters who, as refugees from the Middle East, have fled their country of origin due to persecution because of their faith.

In addition to the ongoing work with refugees, members of the Commandery are also involved in various other charitable activities, some of which are one-off and some of which take place on a regular basis. However, our actions with the refugees tend to be recurring such as the weekly French classes, sometimes even several times a week, and the administrative assistance given to help them obtain employment.

Some earlier activities Brothers and Sisters in the Commandery of Monaco-Italy undertook included raising funds to support a pilgrimage to Lourdes for a group of the refugees and organising an excursion to Île Saint-Honorat in the Bay of Cannes in France for a group, accompanied by a few of our members. The Commandery was also involved in providing a vehicle to the Priest in charge of the Parish of Bargemon, which hosts refugees, and our members also organised an enormous picnic for the refugees welcomed into the Principality and into the Parish



The General Meeting of members

of Bargemon (Var – France). The Commandery organised donations of clothes and foodstuffs for those in need and, in collaboration with our Brothers in the Priory of France, donations of machine tools for a carpentry workshop run by the refugees in Bargemon.

In order to comply with the requirements of the Government of the Principality of Monaco, and in accordance with the Rules of our Order, the Annual Meeting of the Monaco Italy Association of Saint John of Jerusalem, and a Chapter Meeting of the Independent Commandery of Monaco-Italy was held on 16th December 2019. The meeting reviewed the Commandery's activities which had taken place during 2019 and noted that there had been sixteen additional activities in addition to the weekly involvement with the refugees. The members discussed and considered a number of possible future projects for the Commandery and received and reviewed the Financial Statements for the period.

Each year, at Christmas time, members from the Commandery join with their Brothers and Sisters in the Priory of France distributing toys to handicapped and severely disabled children in the hospital



The Commandery provided a car for the Priest at Bargemon



Members of the Priory arranged a very large picnic for the refugees



A dinner follows the Annual Meeting



A class of refugees at French Lessons



Our 10 Knights and Dames at the hospital of San Salvador

of San Salvador in Hyères (Var - France). So it was, on Sunday 15th December, that no less than 10 Knights and Dames of the Independent Commandery of Monaco-Italy joined with their Brothers and Sisters from the Priory of France, to distribute more than 500 toys, sweets and candies to the sick children. Last Christmas was our 10th year of ingathering toys and distributing them to these sick children. The members of our Commandery were not only heavily involved in collecting a large number of toys, but were also particularly generous in acquiring new toys for the hospitalised children.

Faith, hope and charity (or love) have led us, as humble Knights and Dames in the Order of Saint John, to remain faithful to our oath - Pro Fide, Pro Utilitate Hominum!

I am pleased to announce that Ilias, one of our refugee friends and Brothers who resides in Monaco and who regularly helps us with our various activities, has now been confirmed as an Aspirant and will soon be invested into our beloved Order as a Knight of Honour.

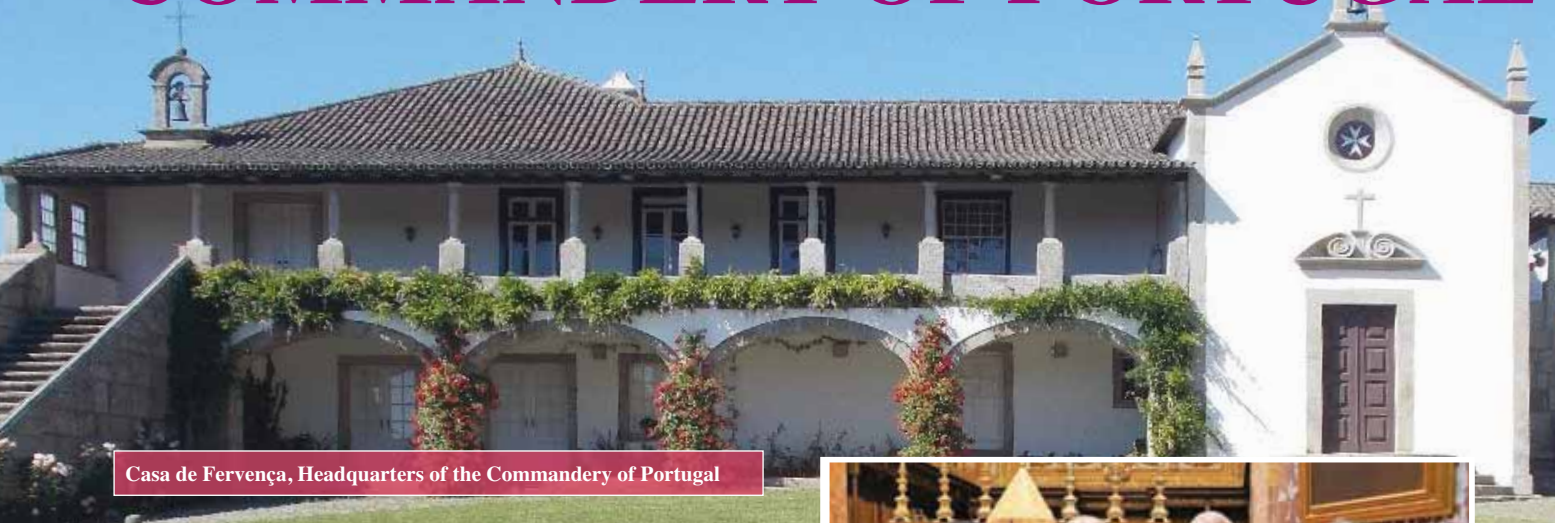
Dame Jacqueline Marschner von Helmreich DSJ
Commander of the Commandery of Monaco-Italy



Christmas toys and sweets for the sick Children



COMMANDERY OF PORTUGAL



Casa de Fervença, Headquarters of the Commandery of Portugal

The Commandery of Portugal has 11 Members made up of 7 Knights, including one member of the Clergy, and 4 Dames. The Commandery has its Headquarters at Casa de Fervença, Gilmonde Parish, Barcelos in the Archdiocese of Braga, situated 5 km from the historic city of Barcelos, in the north of Portugal.

Our story begins on 22nd June 2015 when, under the patronage of H.E. Bailiff Roberto Volpe, 4 Knights and a Dame who were to become members of the newly created Commandery of Portugal, were invested into OSJ-Malta in La Valleta, Malta.

However, as soon as the installation of the Commandery of Portugal became public knowledge, the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (SMOM) issued a communiqué expressing their disapproval and accusing the Commandery of usurping the rights of SMOM on the basis that they believed they were the sole authority on such matters. The Commandery consulted with our Headquarters in Malta and sent a considered response to SMOM but received no reply. Although we heard nothing further, this intervention by SMOM caused the Commandery of Portugal to go through a period of stagnation. Members of the Commandery continued to meet and we continued to prepare the Commandery's Headquarters at Casa de Fervença, a Manor House, built at the end of the 16th century, which housed a chapel in memory of Our Lady of Ajuda. Despite all that had transpired, the Commandery organised and hosted an Investiture on 8th December 2017 at Casa de Fervença, when a member of the Clergy, three Knights and three Dames were invested. However, as a result of the ongoing situation, the Commandery did very little else apart from having a few meetings, Easter visits and attending some religious ceremonies.

HE Bailiff Roberto Volpe was well aware of our situation and when the Priory of Italy decided to embrace the OSJ, he



At the Investiture in Malta



Commandery Members with HE Bailiff Roberto Volpe in Italy

advised us of their intentions. We immediately made contact with HE Bailiff Martin Marschner von Helmreich and, following a meeting and discussions in Nice, our members agreed that we would follow the Priory of Italy and request permission to become members of OSJ. We are pleased that we have been accepted into the Order and that we are now accompanying all of you on our new and positive path. We very much look forward to meeting up with as many of you as possible once this coronavirus pandemic is resolved.

Chev. Eduardo Gayo KSJ
Commander of Portugal



Some Interesting Information about the City of Barcelos

Barcelos is part of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network as a Crafts and Folk Art City and is famous for its textile and adobe industries, its horseback riding events and the “figurado” style of pottery, which includes comical figurines with accentuated features of farmers, folk musicians, and nativity scene characters. The city's famous symbol is a rooster, in Portuguese called “o Galo de Barcelos” (the Rooster of Barcelos). One of the many versions of the legend concerning the Rooster (and there are a few) is the story of a rich man who threw a big party and invited many guests. When the party was over, the rich man noticed that a guest had stolen his beautiful sterling silver cutlery. He accused a poor pilgrim of the theft and had him arrested, thrown into prison and taken to court. At his trial, the poor pilgrim protested his innocence, but the judge did not believe him and sentenced him to hang. However, the pilgrim noticed that the judge was about to eat a roasted rooster and he shouted out “If I am innocent, this rooster will crow three times”. According to this version of the legend, just as the pilgrim was about



A model of the Rooster of Barcelos

to be hanged, the rooster stood up on the table and crowed three times and the judge rushed to release the pilgrim. The story ends some years later when the pilgrim returned to Barcelos to sculpt the “Cruzeiro do Senhor do Galo” (the Crucifix to the Lord of the Rooster). The monument is now located in the archaeological museum of Barcelos.



PRIORY OF NSW & THE ACT CO

How the world can change! As I reviewed the Priory's Report that was included in the edition of the Hospitaller issued in January, I had cause to remember that at the time of its preparation we were just closing off what had been a very busy year that culminated with the holding of Sovereign Council in October 2019. Whilst we did not have as many attendees as we had hoped, we were however very thankful for our Brothers and Sisters who attended and had made the trip from faraway lands. The intention was to close off 2019 formally, and then ease into 2020; well, that was the theory anyway!

Later in 2019, we held our Annual Meeting in order to comply with the necessary local statutory requirements, and during this meeting we regrettably accepted Chev. Bernie McKinnon's resignation as Treasurer, as a result of him passing the Order's age threshold. He was given much acclaim for his excellent work since originally joining the Order and taking on the Treasurer's role; a position that is rarely fought for! However, it was extremely fortunate for the Priory that his son, Chev. Maurice McKinnon, who had been understudying his father as Vice Treasurer, was prepared to take on the role and he was unanimously elected as our new Treasurer. In honour and respect for both his service and his abilities, Bernie was elected to the unofficial role and title of "Assistant to the Treasurer"!

During our Annual Meeting we also saw Chev. Derek Robson step down from his role as Commander of the Commandery of the ACT (Australian Capital Territory). The stabilisation and development of the ACT Commandery has been the prime focus of Derek's role since joining the Order and he has brought substance to the Commandery, both from improved numbers and also in the regularity of their gatherings. Derek's replacement is Chev. Graeme Moller, a former member of the Royal Australian Air Force, and a 50 year plus member of the Australian Medical Association; his election sees the Commandery well placed for further growth and opportunity. Derek was thanked and highly commended for his achievements by all members present, who wished him all the very best for his continuing efforts both within and outside of the Order.

Finally, we closed the year with our annual message of loyalty to our Grand Master HRH Prince Karl Vladimir

Karadjordjevic of Yugoslavia GCSJ, and the Princess, as we all looked forward to Christmas and the January holiday period, which is traditionally when most businesses in Australia close and take their leave as we celebrate the summer and welcome the arrival of a New Year.

Alas, events took a different turn and "welcome" was not the word for it! 2020 opened to the Country's worst bush fire season in over 80 years, events that were to receive worldwide news and notoriety. The fires devastated many areas and, regrettably, the publicity meant that many visitors, both local and international, did not travel, which resulted in further economic loss to the region. In addition, during this period we experienced many days when the temperature reached almost 50 degrees Celsius.

Seeing the need for action the Priory jumped into gear and set about raising funds for the Bushfire victims, an appeal that was led by Chev. Maurice McKinnon. We are pleased to report that our appeal raised a total of \$5,000 from members and friends of the Order in an exceptionally short space of time. At the same time as we were raising funds for the victims of the fires there were many other organisations also appealing for funding, so to raise this amount of money was significant, and our Members and friends are to be congratulated on their efforts. Regrettably there has subsequently been issues raised publicly about the efficacy of some of the other fundraisers efforts and their intents.

Given the adverse publicity concerning the use and timing of the funds raised by many of the charitable organisations, we wanted to ensure that our funds would be deployed to the 'front line' as quickly as possible. We therefore decided to pay the cash raised directly to the Eden Country Women's Association (CWA) Appeal Account. The funds were then, at our request, used to acquire vouchers from local shops and suppliers, and the vouchers were then passed to members of the local community who were in need as a result of the fires. This process ensured that all of the funds raised by the Priory remained within the local area. The Eden CWA was more than happy with our proposed course of action and have advised us that the task has now been completed in accordance with our wishes. For anyone who doesn't know, Eden is located on the south coast of NSW, south of Bega and





MMANDERY



not far from the Victorian border and it was one of the worst hit areas as a result of the fires. Sadly the area also suffered the same fate in the previous year.

No sooner had the fires departed than the heavy rains came and we were inundated with widespread flooding in a lot of areas. Whilst the flooding was regrettable, at least these rains have now eased, unfortunately though the rainfall has not rectified the effects of the severe drought that has been causing significant difficulties to the Australian outback for some years. Let us hope there will be more rain to come, but at a much more steady rate.

Continuing with our eventful year, we have now moved on from the fires and the floods only to arrive in the new world of the coronavirus (COVID-19)! Travel and gatherings have now had significant restrictions placed upon them and as such, business and other activity is slowing down at a steady pace.



However, we in Australia are not alone in facing the effects of this dreadful issue.

One thing that the start to this year has made very clear - there is a real and fundamental need for the Order of St John in today's society. Much is thrown against humanity that can only be dealt with by those of kind spirit and a strong and giving heart. We must all look forward to serving our communities locally, and to uniting with our Brothers and Sisters worldwide to continue to build the Order internationally.

I truly hope and pray that we can avoid further pestilence ... at least for now!

Chev. Schon G Condon GCSJ MMSJ RFD
Prior of NSW



The Knights and Dames of the Priory of Queensland enjoying the hospitality of St. John's Crisis Centre, Surfers Paradise

PRIORY OF QUEENSLAND

A new kitchen for the St John's Crisis Centre, Surfers Paradise

The Priory of Queensland provided funds for a total kitchen refurbishment at the St John's Centre, Surfers Paradise. The refurbishment included renewing all the kitchen units and equipment and, yes - even the kitchen sink!

Following the refurbishment, the Knights and Dames of the Priory of Queensland were delighted to be invited as Guests of Honour to an afternoon tea hosted by the St. John's Crisis Centre on Thursday, 27th February 2020. It was the Crisis Centre's way of giving a special thank you to Priory members for donating the costs of the new kitchen in the lead up to Christmas 2019. Our Knights and Dames all enjoyed a veritable smorgasbord of culinary delights prepared by the Centre staff using the new kitchen equipment.

A very grateful President of the Crisis Centre, Mr Clive Haddow, expressed his gratitude for the ongoing support and vital assistance the Priory has supplied to the Centre for well over 15 years.

Members of the Priory were able to tour the Centre's facilities, which not only include meal preparation for those in need, but also food packages, clothing, counselling, medical/dental and psychological referrals, pharmaceutical assistance, petrol vouchers and school lunches for children from poorer families. This multi-faceted approach by the Centre is at the coalface of assisting Our Lord's sick & poor and is a cause very dear to the hearts of our Priory's members.

Chev. The Rev. Jim Stonier KCSJ, Dame Suzie Douglas, DSJ and Dame Jenny Hobart DCSJ are all closely involved with the great work carried out by the Centre, and Dame Suzie has been a volunteer counsellor with the Centre for many years.

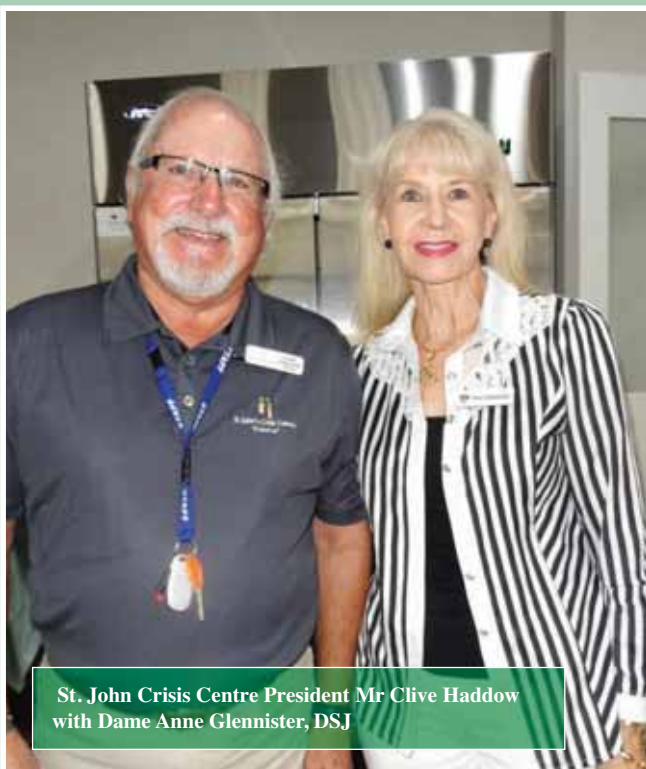
**HE Conv. Bailiff Shane Hough GCSJ CMSJ
Grand Hospitaller**



St. John Crisis Centre Manager, Ms Dianne Kozik reviews urgent food stocks at the Centre's food bank.



Chev. The Rev. Jim Stonier, KCSJ and Dame Suzie Douglas, DSJ catch up at the St. John Crisis Centre Afternoon Tea.



St. John Crisis Centre President Mr Clive Haddow with Dame Anne Glennister, DSJ



Prior of Queensland Chev. The Baron Andre von Zeppelin, GCSJ MSSJ, Ms Dianne Kozik and Dame Sallyanne Hough, GCSJ CMSJ hard at work in the kitchen with a potato masher, part of the refurbishments equipment donated by the Priory



PRIORY OF SCOTLAND



Chev. Stuart Watson KSJ prepares to deliver the Address to the Haggis



The Priory's Hospitaller Dame Evlyn Mill DSJ

Burns Supper

On Saturday 15th February, the Priory held its fourth Annual Burns Supper. Our members and guests enjoyed a great social evening while celebrating the life and works of the internationally renowned Scottish Bard, Rabbie Burns. This year our Burns Supper was made all the more enjoyable by the attendance of Grand Commander HE Conv. Bailiff Alastair Redpath-Stevens GCSJ CMSJ who came up from London, travelling through very stormy weather, to spend some time with the members of the Priory – I think the lure of the haggis and whisky proved too strong to resist!

Although we celebrate the life and works of Rabbie Burns, the primary purpose of our Burns Supper is to raise funds for the wonderful, small Scottish charities we support. These charities are totally committed to helping vulnerable and needy individuals and families, who so desperately need our help, all the more so in this current crisis. I am delighted to report that the event was a great financial and social success.

The evening commenced with a Champagne Reception, followed by a short welcome and a brief introduction to the Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller from HE Bailiff Glenn Wales GCSJ. Glenn thereafter led members and guests in a fundraising game of Heads & Tails before asking our Prelate, Chev. The Revd. David Mill GCSJ to deliver a very eloquent Selkirk Grace, following which, in accordance with tradition, the Haggis was ceremoniously piped in and presented to Chev. Stuart Watson KSJ who proceeded to give a rousing and very energetic “Address to the Haggis”

After a delicious meal, we had all eagerly anticipated listening to a recitation of “To a Mouse” delivered by our very own Chev. Len Murray KCSJ, one of the country’s top after-dinner speakers, winner of “Scottish Wit of the Year” in 2012, 2015, and again in 2017, and who is the only speaker ever to win that award three times. Sadly, however, Len was unwell and unable to attend the event, much to the disappointment of all concerned. We were however, entertained to wonderful singing performances by Karina Bligh and Seumas Begg, accompanied by Kristine Donnan on keyboard.

Our two guest speakers, Dr Peter Hughes OBE who delivered an extremely interesting and amusing Immortal Memory, and Professor Doug Pitt who gave a highly entertaining Toast to the Lassies, did not let us down. However, Dame Rose Mary Harley OBE DCSJ proved once again that she was more than a match for the men when delivering her Reply to the Toast to the Lassies.



Karina Bligh and Seumas Begg with
accompanist Kristine Donnan



Vice Prior Chev. Maurice Taylor
CBE KCSJ MMSJ



Karina Bligh and Seumas Begg
performing a duet



A number of OSJ members were involved in making the evening so successful, including Chev. Alan McCulloch KCSJ from the Commandery of Monaco-Italy, who presented the Loyal Toast, and Chev. Maurice Taylor CBE KCSJ MMSJ who presented the Toast to the Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller. As well as replying to the Toast to the Lassies, Dame Rose Mary Harley also acted as MC for the evening, and did so in her usual amusing and entertaining style. As the evening drew to a close, one of our guests, Malcolm Goldie, led everyone in community singing of some rousing Scottish songs and, after Prior Chev. Jim Wylie GCSJ MMSJ had bid everyone “A Fond Farewell” and safe journey home, we finished the evening with Malcolm leading us in the traditional Scottish ‘Auld Lang Syne’.

The event was highly successful, not only socially, but also financially, since our Burns Supper raised the magnificent total of £5,827, to augment the funds available for our charitable causes!

Christmas Concert

On Thursday 19th December 2019, thirty-seven members and friends of the Priory of Scotland kicked off their Christmas celebrations in earnest when we met at the Holiday Inn Theatreland to enjoy a champagne and canapés reception, before taking the short walk (across the road) to the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall. We all enjoyed a truly inspiring festive Christmas concert by the wonderful Springfield Cambridge Festival Chorus and Orchestra who, each year, put on a concert just before Christmas to raise funds for CHAS (the Children’s Hospice Association of Scotland) a charity that does so much great work with terminally ill children and their families. It was a very enjoyable evening, made even more satisfying because we raised the sum of £945 to add to our Charitable Trust Funds!

Patronal Feast Day – Sunday 28th June 2020

Because of the current restrictions imposed during the COVID-19 crisis, our Patronal Feast Day service and celebrations have been cancelled. However, at the suggestion of Chev. The Revd. Tom Pollock KSJ we intend to have a Service of Thanksgiving, once the current crisis is over and we return to some semblance of normality. Let us hope and pray that happens very soon!

HE Bailiff Jim Wylie GCSJ MMSJ
Prior of Scotland





A DEEP CONVICTION



I have a deep conviction that I am eternal, that I have always been and always will be present in the beingness of being. Life is a stream filtering through my being whichever shape I wear, visible or invisible. There is no death; life alone rules our cosmos infinitely.

I have a deep conviction that I am born, as I die every fraction of a second, whether I breathe or not. I am transformation continuous, living movement and not still death, whether I walk this Earth or I walk the Milky Way.

I have a deep conviction that everything exists due to something and not as a product of nothing. So no-thing has no existence since the all is filled with some-thing. No-thing is as contradictory to itself as is the idea that it did ever produce some-thing. For being is and thus cannot not-be, as not being cannot be. So, the root of my being cannot be found in non-being, but in being, whether I voice my thought or am voiceless.

A curious tide sweeps the greatest minds of our day as they try to figure out where it all began and where it will all end. Cluttering mathematics and number jesting they count back to where something utterly small blew up and became something unimaginably great. Still they remain dumb-founded as to wherefrom that utterly small came and into what vast space it expanded into such greatness. Whether there are three, four, eight, ten or eleven dimensions matters little as relativity theory, quantum theory, string theory, M-theory and brain theory remain mathematical exercises of blindfolded physics that do not address the fundamental question of being.

Debates on beginnings and ends are absurd as I realize that no such events are true. Before a beginning, there must be a beginning to the beginning as there must be a continuation of every ending and some-thing behind the outer wall of any limited space. Infinity and eternity are the only realities and consciousness is limitlessly and of limitless dimensions the stuff and being of all. The matrix of cosmos is infinity itself. That is the final equation.

Being moves within itself while science counts the ripples of sub-atomic movement, unable to grasp the greatness of the smallness. The atoms making up my hand constitute a universe within a universe; still I control its every movement through my mind. Consciousness is the matter mind is made of and consciousness is the energy that builds every particle

of that which is called matter. The universe we see is in every aspect of its expression a condensation of living consciousness, so every pebble on the beach, each straw of grass in the field and every star that illuminate the sky is alive and a living expression of an aspect of divinity.

I realise that the consciousness of every man, of every living being is just a spark, much like one that flies off from a campfire. It is never the less a spark of fire, fire being its essence. It flies into the air separated from the main fire, but remains in essence united to all fire. Thus, my consciousness flies off into a short life without ever separating from all-consciousness and all-life. I am always in at-onement with All.

As I open my true eyes, time, space and matter disappears like morning mists and an overwhelming light takes its place, fills everything, fills me. Visions of a unity that wipes out even the faintest idea of separateness unites my mind with the mind in all and I see the stretch of time as a circle within eternity that only the limited mind perceive as a line and follow. Aeons of time drops into a fraction of a second within a second, and time and space converges to a point with no extension engulfed in limitless eternity.

I have a deep conviction that I am, and I am conscious of eternal being. The innermost reality in me is consciousness, limited only by limitations believed in. The less I am convinced of limits the less limited I am until I see that I am that I am, whether here, anywhere, everywhere. There is no here and there, no now and then.

I have a deep conviction that we are all one, that there is no distance except by illusion. So, what I do unto myself, I do unto every one, and what I do unto someone else I do unto myself. What one suffers, we all suffer and the guilt we all must carry. If fire was nourished by guilt the world would be a blazing inferno, but guilt nourishes regret and inspires adjustment, for the interlockedness of our individual lives inevitably brings our acts back upon ourselves. That teaching is profound.

I have a deep conviction that there is one Divine Consciousness in which we all have our being and our expression, a consciousness so all encompassing, so all penetrating that there is nothing that is not embraced by it and within it. And within this unlimited field of conscious might, I experience a love transcendent illuminating the reaches of inner and outer space, enlivening the world I know and worlds I do not know, and my thought expands beyond thought into Light.

HE Bailiff Emeritus Dag von Schantz
GCSJ, PUHO, CMSJ



AN EASTER MESSAGE



My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Saint John,

As you receive this newsletter, a few days ago we entered into the most holy season of the Christian year - a week filled with the most wonderful liturgies through which we participate sacramentally in the saving action of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Except this year we could not, we could not be present physically - the first time since these liturgies were established in their present form, that the faithful have been absent. Our Chaplains, priests up and down the land, and throughout the world, celebrated these liturgies alone, in their specially adapted form for this year - but taking you with them. It will be for them an unusual experience - please continue to hold them in your prayers. Now is the time for us to intensify our inner relationship with Christ.

It is my continued prayer that you are all well and coping with the constrictions placed upon our daily lives. Easter Day will be difficult enough without the celebrations of the Church, but made all the more difficult in that it will be for many without family and friends, and sadly those who have died as a result of this present pestilence.

I have included some prayers for Easter Day, with two Icons, which represent the two appearances of Christ; in one He is depicted with His Holy Mother, at His birth at Christmas, in the other He is depicted as the mighty judge at His second coming.

For me it has long been a tradition that my Godchildren come for Easter - 8 of them! But sadly not this year.

If we are allowed back into society, and our Churches, by Pentecost we will have another of the Church's great festivals to celebrate! Pentecost Day like Easter Day has a proper vigil, with

extended readings, the blessing of water and the renewal of baptismal vows - the completion of the Easter Season. Pray God we can join together in this celebration.

I am deeply grateful for the many messages I have received from members of the Order and the assurance of prayer they contained.

With every Blessing,

**Chev. The Revd. Canon
Andrew Stevens GCSJ
Chairman of the
Ecclesiastical Council**



Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

**Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered;
let those who hate Him flee before Him.**

**As smoke is driven away, so drive them away;
as wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked
perish at the presence of God.**



V. Regina caeli, laetare, alleluia.

R. Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia.

V. Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia.

R. Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.

V. Gaude et laetare, Virgo Maria, alleluia.

R. Quia surrexit Dominus vere, alleluia.

Oremus.

Deus, qui per resurrectionem Filii tui,

Domini nostri Iesu Christi,

mundum laetificare dignatus es

praesta, quaesumus;

ut per eius Genetricem Virginem Mariam,

perpetuae capiamus gaudia vitae.

Per eundem Christum Dominum nostrum.

Amen.

