



The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem  
Grand Priory of Australia

*Victorian Commandery*

*From the President*

32 Harold Street  
MIDDLE PARK VIC 3206

10 April 2021

Dear Confreres and Consoeurs

**Re: National Chapter Meeting Melbourne 2021**

It is with great delight that I now (once again) invite members of the Grand Priory of Australia to the Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem's National Chapter 2021 to be held from Friday, 14 May 2021 to Sunday, 16 May 2021.

The past 12 months have been unprecedented and a challenging time. This has been very much the case for the Victorian National Chapter Organising Sub-committee. This sub-committee has sought to organise this event on multiple occasions.

At the time of writing this letter, I am very mindful that parts of Australia are on high alert with CoVID-19 lockdowns. I hope and pray this will be last time our community faces this high distributive event.

I am very mindful that not everyone will be able to travel and so reflecting on the survey results last year, we have developed a livestreaming registration fee for those that wish to be part of the Vigil, National Chapter and the Investiture service, but cannot physically attend.

You will notice that the National Chapter has been reduced to the bare minimum. This reflects the risks associated with ensuring the Victorian Commandery can meet all the necessary CoVID-19 requirement and the financial risks of running any event in the current climate. This approach always reflects the wishes and wise words of counsel from the Grand Prior of Australia and Chancellor.

As we look forward to the vaccination program's deployment but accept that good things take time, and this will influence people's decisions to attend. As President, I understand and respect everyone's decision regarding attending the National Chapter and how it will reflect their own personal circumstances.

The Program and Registration forms are attached. The church services will be held at:

- Our Lady of Mount Carmel (210-218 Richardson St, Middle Park) – **Vigil Service;**
- St Peter's Eastern Hill (15 Gisborne St, East Melbourne) – **Investiture Service.**

As a scale down event, you will also notice that the costs too have been significantly reduced and designed to ensure greater affordability for those that wish to attend.

I would like to acknowledge the patience and understanding of the Grand Prior, the Chancellor, members of the National Council and all OLJ members.

Finally, as I mentioned to Victorian Commandery members last year that Christians have fared better in times of plague and pandemic because they responded differently. Their overriding concern for the welfare of others markedly reduced their succumbing to self-pity, panic and despair. It is on this basis I believe our National Chapter meeting will be the best it can possibly be.

Confraternally yours,



John Molnar OAM KLJ OMLJ  
President - Victorian Commandery