



# LAZARUS LETTER

December 2021

THE JOURNAL OF THE MILITARY AND HOSPITALLER ORDER OF SAINT LAZARUS OF JERUSALEM



Grand Priory of Australia

Browse and surf the website at [www.stlazarus.org.au](http://www.stlazarus.org.au)

## FOREWORD

We come to the end of yet another difficult six months. Australia has been variously divided for varying amounts of time and many family members have been prevented from seeing their relatives. Some have been forced to live in caravans, tents and in other temporary accommodation far from home. Fortunately, despite the presence of a new variation of the virus, State borders are now open except for WA.

Commandery meetings and fund-raising activities have been significantly restricted, but the reader must be impressed by what has been achieved over the last six months. The Order in Australia, as a whole, is to be congratulated.

May 2022 bring a new “post-Covid” time for all with little, if any, border restrictions.



### JESUS STRETCHED OUT HIS HAND

*A leper came up to Jesus  
And kneeling said to him  
“If you will, make me whole”  
Moved with pity  
Jesus stretched out his hand*

*“My little daughter is near death”  
Jairus begged him come and see  
People wept and wailed in anguish  
Moved with pity  
Jesus stretched out his hand*

*One Friday the sky turned black  
People gazed with awe and tears  
“Father forgive” they heard him say  
Moved with pity  
Jesus stretched out his hands*

*A great storm arose upon the sea  
The boat swamped by the waves  
The disciples cried out in fear  
Moved with pity  
Jesus stretched out his hand*

*He saw a beggar blind from birth  
His spit and dirt made mud  
God’s work would be revealed that day  
Moved with pity  
Jesus stretched out his hand*

*In this dark hour of fire and drought  
We cannot comprehend the loss  
But across our wide scarred land - still  
Moved with pity  
Jesus stretches out his hands*

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Picture Source: Christ.org

## GRAND PRIOR'S LETTER



**A**s I write this there are strong indications that the nation is in the process of substantially returning to normal and that our lives and those of the communities in which we live will largely return to the manner to which we were previously accustomed. I am sure that many of you, like myself, have been separated from family and friends for long enough. With the help of vaccines and the consequent relaxing of border controls hopefully that this will end.

Just as our individual lives have been adversely affected so too has the life of the Grand Priory. Perhaps the most notable example of that was the need to cancel the long-planned celebration of the formation of the Order in Australia 40 years ago. Although in many cases Commandery meetings have been few and far between or have been confined to virtual gatherings, the reports I have received lead me to believe that we are doing well despite the problems caused by the pandemic. Our charitable works have continued unabated. I continue to be impressed by the philanthropy of our members and the charitable deeds in each of our Commanderies. We can and should be proud of our achievements.

Normally at this time I am preparing to visit the constituent Commanderies which make up our Grand Priory. Those visits are important in that they provide an opportunity for me to mix socially as well as worship with members of each Commandery in a local environment. Often at National Chapter meetings the Grand Prior is so occupied by matters pertaining to the Chapter that it is not always possible to spend as much time with individual members as I would like. Unfortunately, the prolonged isolation brought about by the current Covid-19 pandemic is to continue for me and my Western Australian colleagues for at least the remainder of the year. Nonetheless, to the extent practicable, I intend this year to resume the traditional Patronal Festival visits. I hope at least to visit the South Australian and the Tasmanian Commanderies on the occasion of their celebration of our Patronal Festival. Regrettably the restrictions have resulted in me having to cancel twice my planned visits to the ACT Commandery for its celebrations.

As with any organisation effective communication between those who constitute the Grand Priory is important, if not vital for its wellbeing. That is why our annual national gathering in the form of the National Chapter is so important. It is trite to say that unless the

approximately 200 members of the Order in Australia can meet and interact with each other the Grand Priory, which is the constituent of the international family which makes up this noble and ancient Order, is likely to fall apart. Accordingly, I take this opportunity to exhort you all to make a very determined effort to attend the forthcoming National Chapter in Adelaide. Hopefully, by then the various current travel restrictions will have been lifted and with the benefit of vaccination we will have a large attendance and thereby reinforce the community that is the Grand Priory.

Communication between the international constituents of the Order has been confined to newsletters and electronic means. The Pilgrimage planned for the European spring this year could not proceed and is now not likely to proceed until 2023. There has not been a meeting of the Grand Magistral Council for almost two years, because of the pandemic. On a happier note I can report that the Grand Master was married in October to his fiancée. I sent him best wishes on behalf of the Grand Priory.

Following her appointment in May, Bernadette Azizi CLJ has now assumed the office of Secretary-General. I take this opportunity to publicly welcome her and to wish her well in the execution of the duties associated with the office. The duties of the office are demanding and the proper execution of those duties vital to the wellbeing of the Grand Priory. For the last 9 years we have been fortunate to have had the benefit of sterling service from her predecessor Chev Peter Bennison OAM KCLJ CMLJ. I am confident that Bernadette will continue in that vein. Further, I also welcome Monsignor Peter Williams VG ChLJ whom I have been pleased to appoint as a Deputy National Chaplain following his election by a meeting of the Commandery Chaplains in July last.

It remains only for me to wish each of you and your family a very happy and Holy Christmas and may the New Year see the end of the trials and tribulations of the recent past.



**Chev Hon. Gavin Fielding AM GCLJ KMLJ**  
Grand Prior

## CHANCELLOR'S LETTER



**D**ear Confreres and Consoeurs,

I write this to you from Point Lookout on Stradbroke Island, a little piece of Covid free (?) paradise to the east of Brisbane, across Moreton Bay. It has been a great refuge for us over the last two years, and we are blessed to have had access to such a lovely bolt hole! Having said that, we all look forward to a much brighter 2022 - substantially Covid reduced - if not free!

For obvious reasons, all our personal and Order related activities have been greatly curtailed over the past two years. Hopefully, with the imminent reopening of State borders, we trust that many things in Australia will return to a much greater level of normality next year. Under the difficult circumstances we have all experienced, the activities of all Commanderies have been as successful as could have been hoped.

The St Lazarus Foundation's directors met via Zoom recently, and Chevaliers Ron Banks and David Seaton have tendered their resignations as Chairman and Treasurer, respectively. Anthony Kennedy has kindly accepted the role of incoming Chairman, and Joe Thorp and Kathryn Watt have accepted Board positions. Joe and Kathryn both have extensive commercial experience, as does Anthony in the area of Charitable Foundations.

Our Foundation has now reached its initial capital target of \$500,000, and will be in a position to make distributions to worthy recipients on an ongoing basis. However, all Commanderies and individual members are asked to consider the possibility of future contributions.

Notwithstanding the considerable organisational efforts of the NSW Commandery, for obvious reasons, it did not prove possible to proceed with the 40th Anniversary Service and celebrations planned for Sydney in October. Martin Dowling and the NSW Commandery are to be thanked for their considerable organising efforts which, sadly, had to be cancelled in the light of the then prevailing circumstances.

As I write, it is our firm hope that constantly increasing vaccination levels in Australia will enable 2022's National Chapter to proceed in Adelaide.

I know the South Australian Organising Committee has been hard at work, and a wonderful program is planned. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at that time.

With kind confraternal regards, and very best wishes to you and yours for Christmas and 2022.

May the New Year prove to be all that we wish for!

 **Chev David Slater AM KCLJ OMLJ**  
Chancellor



Mr Anthony Kennedy OAM KHS KLJ  
Board Member - Incoming Chairman



Mr Joe Thorp CLJ  
Board Member



The Rev Kathryn Watt ChLJ  
Board Member



## SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE GRAND PRIORY OF AUSTRALIA



Bernadette Azizi was born and raised in Sydney NSW and is happily married to Patrick and parents to Cocab 23, Raymond 21 and Lamia 19.

Currently employed by Kelly Colleges International, as their National Business Manager to oversee and deliver, Mental Health education for staff working in Aged Care, NDIS and Home Community Care sector.

In 2012 Bernadette ran at the NSW Local Government Elections, winning a seat on Hornsby Shire Council. Thrilled at the opportunity to serve her community to make positive improvements to her local area. She represented her community as a Councillor for a 5-year term correspondingly elected as a voting member to the Heritage, PCYC and National Library Association Committee.

An Author of Teen fiction novels, Bernadette continues to speak and participate with the local schools in efforts to encourage reading and writing among children in Primary and High school.

A local member of the Rotary Club of Beecroft and the Australian Society of Authors.

2017 Bernadette had the privilege of joining the Order of Saint Lazarus. Overwhelmed and impressed by the deep religious history and the astounding efforts that each Commandery brings. The past couple of years Bernadette has held the NSW Commandery Secretary position and now looks forward with great honour to serve as the Secretary General of the Grand Priory of Australia.



*Investiture Promotions Melbourne 2021  
Bernadette Azizi CLJ*

2022 NATIONAL CHAPTER | ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

ANNUAL NATIONAL CHAPTER MEETING 12-15 MAY 2022



**The Adelaide Commandery welcomes you to the City of Churches  
for the Annual National Chapter Meeting**

**Save the Date: 12-15 May 2022**

*South Australia's capital city of Adelaide is also known for its festivals, incredible food  
and premium wine regions and some of the country's best restaurants.*



# REPORTS FROM THE COMMANDERIES

## AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Ms Elizabeth Scrivener OAM CLJ | President



Our Winter Service and Dinner, planned for August this year and which was intended to include the promotion of Dr Roger Beale AO OJ to CLJ, was sadly cancelled due to Covid restrictions in both the ACT and WA.

However, we are grateful that during this past six months we were able to distribute funds to our two charities:

\$18, 634.89 to L'Arche Geneseret and

\$5,703 to The Farm at Galong.

Our annual Retreat, planned for the Carmelite Monastery and led by the Coordinator of The Farm at Galong, Kate Cleary, was postponed until 2022 because of the continuing COVID lockdown in the ACT.

Similarly we deferred our fundraising Cocktail Party in aid of The Farm until March 2022. It was originally planned to be held at the home of Bryan and Rosemary Cutter in October, enabling us to enjoy the Cutter's beautiful spring garden, however autumn leaves and blooms should provide a wonderful alternative.

Some members have continued to be involved with The Farm over this lockdown period by purchasing and setting up bee hives and have also assisted with a number of other tasks at Galong.

Jim and Heather Leedman graciously offered to host an informal luncheon at their home in October. Members were looking forward to meeting up and enjoying fellowship with one another while accepting the

wonderful hospitality of Jim and Heather, but sadly we had to decline their generous offer as the ACT government restrictions on the number of people that could be accommodated in a home was not lifted in time.

We, and members of the L'Arche Community, were as always looking forward to our annual BBQ and Cricket Match in November, but we have postponed this activity until autumn due to concerns about the vulnerability of members of the L'Arche Community to COVID. Some members however have kept in contact with L'Arche by joining in their activities and assisting with volunteer tasks .

We are delighted we can gather to celebrate our Patronal Service and together enjoy Dinner at the Commonwealth Club on 15 December as we hear from our Grand Prior via a written greeting on this occasion.

Due to continuing health issues I will be retiring as President at our AGM in February. There will also be other vacancies and changes in roles within our Executive Committee, however I am pleased to report that we have extremely good members who have offered to stand to fill those vacancies for next year. I am confident we will have a strong, experienced and supportive Executive in 2022, who will continue to plan well for the National Chapter in Canberra in 2023

With every blessing for a blessed Christmas celebration and a peaceful and fulfilling New Year.



Picture Source:  
[www.catholicvoice.org.au](http://www.catholicvoice.org.au)

L-R: Patricia Bullock (Resident), Fr Richard Thompson (ACT Order of St Lazarus Chaplain), Elizabeth Archer (Resident), Elizabeth Scrivener (ACT Order of St Lazarus President), Brendan Price (L'Arche Community Leader), Rod King (ACT Order of St Lazarus Treasurer)

# REPORTS FROM THE COMMANDERIES

## NEW SOUTH WALES

Chev Martin Dowling KLJ | President



The NSW Commandery is still working our way through our key goals from our 5-year plan “Deeper Engagement” from 2019.

- Religious Engagement
- Charitable Engagement
- Membership
- Fundraising

### Anonymous Corporate Donation.

After years of work, including securing two previous smaller donations, the NSW Commandery has secured a Corporate Donation of \$408,267 for the Bush Children’s Education Foundation. The donation was paid directly to BCEF as part of the negotiations to secure the funding. This donation was able to be secured because of the work of the Executive to deeply engage with our Partner Charities as outline in our Purpose and Mission Statement.

Because of our close association with BCEF, we were able to position BCEF as a worthy charity deserving of such a significant donation. Almost a full year of due diligence was required to finally secure the funds.

Two of the clear goals from the 5-year plan was to develop corporate connections to solicit corporate donations and engage deeply with our Partner Charities. We managed to maximise our ability to achieve corporate donations by also ensuring that our Partner Charities had appeal to corporations. With this new anonymous donation, we have exhausted the funds available from this corporate donor. We are now working to secure a new sponsor to enable us to again be of maximum benefit to our Partner Charities.

The funds will be distributed by BCEF over a four-year period and will allow for full scholarships, for multiple students from remote and disadvantaged communities in New South Wales, as well as bursaries. There will be, as an example, 2 full four-year medical degree scholarships.

Congratulations to all involved.

### Score card for 2021

- **Membership** score 85% - against our Target of 2 new Members this year we have succeeded in attracting 3 new Members to be inducted at the National Chapter Meeting in South Australia.
  - Dr Matthew Glozier OSTJ OLI
  - Mr John Smolders AM OLI
  - Mr Calvin (CJ) Manjarres- Wahlberg OLI

We have a further 2 membership prospects for the 2022 calendar year against our target of 4 postulants.

- **Charities** score 95% - because of our increased engagement with our Partner Charities, particularly Bush Children's Education Foundation and our growth in overall giving. With the receipt of a Corporate Donation of \$408,267 for the Bush Children’s Education Foundation, our charitable giving has exceeded all expectations. Fundraising Targets, excluding Corporate Donations, need to be managed into the future to provide continuous increases in underlying giving. Overall Membership numbers will become a limiting factor. However, with our increased ability in recent years to provide financial support to our various Charities, membership acquisition is greatly enhanced.
- **Fundraising** score 70% - good increase in overall funds raised because of our work raising corporate donations but additional work required to achieve our long-term charitable giving goals. More reliability and diversity are required in fundraising events. With the cancellation of our 40th Anniversary Celebration and the associated Gala Fundraising Dinner, our fundraising this year was severely impacted. The enormous effort of the sub-committee planning the 40th Anniversary Events will be used this year in the planning for our Gala Fundraising Dinner. The target for funds to be raised will again be \$40,000, including the proceeds of a major raffle.
- **Religious Engagement** score 70% - excellently supported by our hard-working Chaplains. More membership engagement is needed at our two key religious events being the Quiet Day and Patronal Feast Service. The Quiet Day was cancelled this year due to Covid. Gratifyingly, we have 27 Members and guest attending the Patronal Feast this year.

# REPORTS FROM THE COMMANDERIES

## NEW SOUTH WALES continued...

### Canon Colin

Canon Colin is still suffering from the effects of previous surgery. He is still in pain and has yet to have additional required surgery scheduled. Patricia has also required surgery on a facial skin cancer during the past weeks, but her prognosis is very good.

### Hospitaller Report

#### Charitable Distributions for 2020

Distributed during 2021

- Bush Children’s Education Foundation     \$425,638
- Company of the Good Shepherd             \$    5,000
- Total \$430,638

#### Proposed for 2022

Due to the lack of our ability to raise funds during 2021 because our Gala Fundraising Dinner was cancelled due to Covid, and to allow a consolidation of cash reserves as per the attached Management Accounts, our Charitable Distributions will reduce. This is a reduction over last year’s distribution when adjusted for corporate donations:

- Bush Children’s Education Foundation     \$20,000
- Missionaries of Charity                         \$    5,000
- Company of the Good Shepherd             \$    5,000
- Total \$30,000

### Chaplain's Report

The Patronal Feast will be held on Friday 26th November 2021 at St Patrick’s Cathedral Parramatta. There will be a celebration dinner following the liturgy of the Word on site. The cancelation of the Quiet Day was a severe blow to the religious calendar for the year.

### Bernadette Azizi

Bernadette Azizi, the NSW Commandery Secretary, is standing down. Bernadette remains in service to the Order as the newly appointed Secretary General of the Order in Australia. Bernadette has been invaluable to the Executive, the Members and me during her term as Commandery Secretary. We wish her all the best in her challenging new role.

### John Hitchen

We in the NSW Commandery are very proud of John Hitchen and his continued contribution as our Almoner. We congratulate him on his new appointment as National Herald.

### Mon Peter Williams

Our NSW Chaplain, Mon Peter, has been elected by the National Chaplains as our incoming National Chaplain. We in the NSW Commandery remain ever thankful to Mon Peter for his contribution to the religious life of our Commandery and know that his contribution national will be of significance.



# REPORTS FROM THE COMMANDERIES



## QUEENSLAND

Captain Dave Ellis OAM MNSC CLJ | President

The Queensland Commandery currently has 17 Active, 4 Emeritus and 7 Inactive members.

The 2021 AGM was held in March and the following office bearers were elected or appointed:

- President - Capt. David Ellis OAM MNSC CLJ
- Secretary - Elisabeth Roberts CLJ
- Treasurer - Chev Michael White OAM QC KCLJ CMLJ
- Hospitaller - Dame Diane Andrews DLJ OMLJ
- Almoner - Dame Pamela Casagrande DLJ OMLJ
- Herald - Ian Harvey OLJ
- Archivist - Antony Maruca CLJ
- New Members - Dame Regina McGuire DLJ CMLJ
- Commandery Chaplains are Rev Fr Harry Reuss OSTJ ChLJ and the Very Revd Dr Anthony Mellor ChLJ

### Charity And Welfare Support

We have maintained our charity and welfare support this year for the following charities and welfare support organizations:

- Trinity Pantry – supporting the homeless with food parcels,
- Communitify – supporting mental health and multi-cultural programs,
- Second Chance - supporting homeless women and their children,
- Wedgetail Retreat Community Hospice - regional palliative care: and
- Assist community programs for Refugee education, including student bursaries, and Prisoner release support.

Prisoner support is specifically for prisoners released immediately prior to Christmas where we provide Christmas presents and goodies to prisoners and their families who would otherwise go without due to the normal prisoner support agencies having closed for the Christmas period. This helps prisoners integrate in a positive way back into their families and improve their self esteem and confidence as they make their first steps back into society.

### Timor Leste Schools Initiative

The Commandery became involved in assisting the charity Innocents Relief in its work in education in Timor-Leste which is one of the poorest countries in the world. From this small start the Commandery has taken on Timor Leste child education as its offshore project and become involved in four separate activities to support Primary and Secondary education in Timor-Leste. They are:

- Assisting the Catholic Parishes of Grovely-Samford and Mitchelton in packing a 6 metre shipping Container with school resources for one Secondary and three Primary schools in Maubara province to the east of the capital city of Dili. Nearly a thousand exercise books and many large boxes of pens, pencils, artist supplies and other school needs were donated by Commandery members. St Thomas Anglican church Toowong also contributed school items for the container.
- Working with the Associated Schools sports program, especially Canon Hill and West Moreton Anglican Colleges, to donate sporting goods and sports clothing, footwear, hats and backpacks for inclusion in the above container.
- Some of the funds raised this year went towards the purchase of 56 desktop computers complete with power and ethernet cabling and switch boxes for the above mentioned schools. In total 59 desktop pc's were donated through the Commandery
- Some of our members are making a special donation which will total \$90,000 towards a school building project of a four classroom and teacher office complex at the school of the Salesian Community of Don Bosco Fuloro in Lospalos in the North of Timor-Leste. Stage One of construction is currently underway with land clearing and other works ahead of the foundations going in. Building completion is set for mid 2022.

The Timor Leste shipping container was fully packed with 32 cubic metres of school resources weighing around 12 tonnes. The Commandery contribution amounted to more than 6 cubic metres of the total. Our Commandery believes that assisting child education is the best means available to us to provide the Timor-Leste children with an opportunity to rise above poverty.

# REPORTS FROM THE COMMANDERIES

## QUEENSLAND continued...

### Fundraising

Queensland Covid restrictions has limited fundraising to a Raffle of a painting “Lord Kronos” donated by Australian artist and poet Silvana Gardner. However donations towards our ongoing charity commitments and Timor Leste have exceeded expectations. As I write over \$20,000 has been raised and distributed between our charity support commitment and the Timor Leste Schools Initiative. As mentioned above, a further \$90,000 has been raised by donation specifically to build the school wing in Lospalos in Northern Timor-Leste.

During the year we welcomed Major Rory Cain as a member of the Commandery. Rory is already fully involved within the Commandery being a member of the Timor-Leste Schools Initiative sub-committee where the benefit of his Military and UN Peacekeeping tours in Timor-Leste have been of value.

I extend my grateful thanks to fellow Queensland Commandery members for their dedication to and support of the Commandery and the Order over the past 12 months. Their combined efforts have enabled our small Commandery to punch above its weight in supporting those in need in our community and Timor Leste.



# REPORTS FROM THE COMMANDERIES



## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Mr Joe Thorp CLJ | President

Whilst SA residents have not suffered the same lengthy lockdowns suffered by our friends in Victoria, NSW and ACT, life here has been significantly affected, making the planning and conduct of events highly problematic.

Despite this, members of the Order were able to meet for our regular gatherings for business and spiritual reflections led most ably by our Chaplains the Ven David Thornton-Wakeford ChLJ MMLJ and assistant Chaplain The Hon Rev'd Dr Lynn Arnold AO AChLJ in February, March, May, September and November.

Members of the Order and friends were delighted to join with Chaplain The Ven David Thornton-Wakeford ChLJ MMLJ in early October for the launch of his book of poetry with photographs by Italo Vardaro: "Wine, Waiting and Wonder...An Anthology" launched by great friend and Adelaide hospitality identity Rosa Matto. Proceeds from the sale of books and an auction of framed poems and photographs, with a matching amount from the South Australian Commandery was donated to Cure4CF which the Commandery has supported in recent years.

where we were welcomed by The Rector The Rev'd Sam Goodes to process, read, preach and worship along with the 9.30am congregation.

Members were pleased to contribute to St Andrew's collection of food for the annual Anglicare Christmas hamper appeal. After the service a most convivial luncheon was held in glorious sunshine in the courtyard of the Sussex Hotel. Many thanks to both Chaplain David and to Herald Dr Angela Evans AM CLJ for organising our part in the service and the luncheon.



Members of the South Australian Commandery along with Grand Prior The Hon. Chev Gavin Fielding AM GCLJ KMLJ at St Andrew's Church, Walkerville.

Whilst with us at St Andrew's the Grand Prior took the opportunity to present the Silver Cross to Chev Dr Ian Chesterman AM KLJ CMLJ SCLJ, a presentation gesture greatly appreciated by Ian and members, and an award richly deserved by Ian for his distinguished service to the Order.



Grand Prior Hon Chev Gavin Fielding AM GCLJ KMLJ presenting the Silver Cross to Chev Dr Ian Chesterman AM KLJ CMLJ SCLJ



Ven David Thornton-Wakeford ChLJ MMLJ, Rosa Matto, Italo Vardaro

We were able to hold a quiet day again this year. A dozen members and guests gathered at St Andrew's Church Walkerville on a sunny morning in October for a deeply moving morning of prayers, homilies, readings, reflections on images, hymns and quiet reflection and solitude superbly led by our Chaplain The Ven David Thornton-Wakeford.

We were delighted and most grateful indeed that Grand Prior The Hon Chev Gavin Fielding and his wife Sue were able to be in Adelaide and join us for the annual St Lazarus Day service. The service was held on Christ The King Sunday, again at St Andrew's Church Walkerville,

# REPORTS FROM THE COMMANDERIES

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA continued...

This year under the guidance of Hospitaller the Hon Trish White AM CLJ the South Australian Commandery will support the work of Puddle Jumpers Inc which is a non-profit, non-government organisation committed to responding to the social development needs of society's most vulnerable children and young people. In these COVID times the need for support for vulnerable children has increased dramatically. We look forward to assisting Puddle Jumpers both financially and hands on with volunteer labour to support their programs.

The South Australian Commandery has also spent considerable time planning the 2022 National Chapter to be held in Adelaide 12th - 15th May and we will look forward to announcing details in the new year and to being together with members and partners next year.



### EVERY TIME WE DRAW A LINE

*Every time we draw a line  
the good guys and bad guys we define  
we distinguish friends from enemies  
invent us-and-them categories*

*We erect a fence, make our defence  
show disregard and give offence  
discriminate, castigate and alienate  
exclude, dismiss and denigrate*

*We state what's wrong and what's right  
all simply a case of black and white  
You're in or out, no shadow of doubt*

*one size fits all; just figure it out  
Or condescend to tolerate but  
the body language says: eliminate  
go back to where you came from mate  
or at least get legal then migrate*

*We marginalise and sanitise  
protest our case and ostracise  
while God waits on the other side  
every time we draw a line*

Copyright. David Thornton-Wakeford



Picture Source: Shutterstock.com

# REPORTS FROM THE COMMANDERIES



## TASMANIA

The Right Rev Dr Chris Jones ChLJ OMLJ | President

- Membership and National Roles
- Fundraising in another COVID-19 year
- Support to Hobart Women's Shelter
- Patronal Feast Day 2021
- Office Bearers 2021

### Membership and National Roles

The Tasmanian Commandery has 17 Active members, 2 Emeritus members and 2 Inactive members.

In 2019, the Tasmanian Commandery commenced a new membership initiative. Two new members have been admitted together with a completed proposal to be submitted as a petition shortly. In addition, there are a number of prospects that are being actively pursued.

Tasmanian Commandery members continue in a number of national and international roles. Chev Rod Scurrah is presently National Treasurer. Chev Jim Grant retired as National Hospitaller at the 2021 National Chapter. Chev Ron Banks continues in the important role of Chairman of the St Lazarus Foundation. Chev Richard Pringle-Jones replaced Chev Jim Grant as a Director of the Foundation.

The Rt Rev Dr Christopher Jones continues as Assistant to the National Chaplain.

Chev Peter Bennison has handed over the role of Secretary General of the Grand Priory of Australia, allowing him to concentrate on his new international role as Deputy Vice Grand Chancellor (Administration). We welcome Bernadette Azzizi to the role of Secretary General.

### Fundraising in a another COVID-19 Year

We are committed to safety for our members and the community so we considered wise to cancel the fundraising garden party that was scheduled for November. Instead, we sent a direct mail "invitation to donate" to our supporters, as we had undertaken last year. We are very appreciative of the generosity of our donors which means we will be able to meet our commitments over the coming year.

### Support to Hobart Women's Shelter

The Hobart Women's Shelter South Hobart requested DVDs to replenish their depleted DVD Library. The library is very popular with women and children associated with the Shelter. The Shelter is a refuge for women, and their children, who are victims of domestic violence and or homelessness. One of our newer members took up the request and over 5 days 420 second hand / new DVDs were donated. The \$ value of the donation is estimated at \$2,000. Therefore, the donation to the Shelter equates to \$2,000. Representatives of the Shelter were extremely pleased to receive them.

### Patronal Feast Day 2021

The Tasmanian Commandery will celebrate the Feast of St Lazarus of Jerusalem on Friday, 17 December 2020, with a service at All Saints Church, South Hobart, followed by dinner at the University Club, University of Tasmania. We plan to have as our guests, Grand Prior Chev Hon. Gavin Fielding and Mrs Susan Fielding. We trust that 2022 will bring welcome opportunities to bring our Commanderies and members together.

### Office Bearers 2021

President	The Rt Rev Dr Christopher Jones ChLJ OMLJ
Secretary	Don Macleod CLJ OMLJ
Treasurer	Chev Kerry Bowerman OAM KLJ CMLJ
Hospitaller	Chev Chris Jones OAM KLJ OMLJ
Almoner	Chev Chris Merridew KLJ
Herald	Chev Richard pringle Jones KLJ OMLJ
Archivist	Chev Barry Pickard KLJ.

The Rt Rev Dr Christopher Jones ChLJ OMLJ continues as a Chaplain to the Tasmanian Commandery while a replacement is being sought for Fr Brian Nichols ChLJ following his move as Vice Rector, Corpus Christi College, Melbourne.



# REPORTS FROM THE COMMANDERIES

## VICTORIA

Chev John Molnar OAM KLJ OMLJ | President



2021 has felt like a repeat of 2020, here in Victoria. With Covid outbreaks, long lockdowns, and the pressure of living a lockdown life. However, there were two obvious exceptions being the National Chapter meeting in May 2021 and Lady Potter's Birthday.

Some Commandery members have commented on how audacious it was to hold such events during the time of Covid, but I am glad we did. Members of the Victorian Commandery reflected very fondly on these events as we entered lockdowns in late May and again in early July.

Despite the adversity, the Victorian Commandery is happy to advise that it is well and truly out of the lockdown blocks and keen to make up lost time.

### Fund-raising

Our fund-raising team led by Mrs Robin Richards CLJ had planned a major fund-raising effort in the second half of 2021, but this has been deferred until next year. That said, the Victoria Commandery is very pleased to have received considerable support from the Freemason of Victoria (and their Foundation). At the National Chapter Investiture Dinner, I was presented with two cheques (\$10,000) from the Freemasons of Victoria. This money will be used to support the Lazarus Centre at St Peter's Eastern Hill.

Once again, the Christmas hampers are proving to be popular with an increase in the number of hampers being ordered. Robin and her team starting to make them up as I write this report and have been fortunate to be able to provide great value at \$130 per hamper.

### Support for the marginalised

Our fund-raising efforts this year have allowed us to increase the funds available to support our Hospitaller works. Our Hospitaller, Richard Lodder MStJ CLJ, has continued to engage with our projects, namely the Wellington Centre or St Peter's Eastern Hill's Lazarus Centre, Anglican Overseas Aid and St Mary's House of Welcome.

The Victorian Commandery has recently agreed to support a new project (as a pilot), the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre. This follows the disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan and the associated exodus of many from the country.

I am pleased to advise that Victorian Commandery can increase its support for its existing projects, by 20% as well as include an additional project. At our last Commandery meeting it was moved that the following amount be provided:

- Anglicare - \$19,200
- Spafford Centre (via Anglican Overseas Aid) - \$22,400
- Green Cross Project Inc - \$6,000
- The Wellington Centre - \$15,000
- St Mary's House of Welcome - \$6,000
- Asylum Seeker Resource Centre - \$3,000

These amounts total almost \$72,000, which is a major achievement for the Victorian Commandery.

Again, while Green Cross Project Inc (GCPI) is a separate legal entity, Victorian Commandery members have been very proud of its achievements. The reports the Commandery has received regarding how influential GCPI's buses have been heart-warming. In recent weeks GCPI has distributed over 300 pairs of high quality socks to those most in need.



# REPORTS FROM THE COMMANDERIES

## VICTORIA *continued*

The buses have been a key tool in vaccinating the homeless and other vulnerable members of Melbourne's countries. Mobile clinics have essential particularly during lockdowns. I am most pleased to see how one of the buses has been used to help vaccinate another vulnerable population, our Aboriginal community in rural and regional Victoria. For those wanting more information, please visit:

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12464138/>

<https://www.greencrossproject.org/>

### Welcome to the new members

While I acknowledged the new members invested in May 2021 in the last edition of the Lazarus Letter, I am pleased to see how our new members have started to make a real difference to Victorian Commandery life. I am encouraged to see that we are on track to invest at least three more members in Adelaide next year. These new members are:

- Mrs Camille Edwards
- Mrs Patricia Cameron; and
- Mr Peter Newman.

Our social convenor and the Victorian Commandery executive are busy working on prospective member events early in the new year.

### Vale Chev Barry Jamison KLJ OMLJ

Just as Victoria was entering its 7<sup>th</sup> lockdown, I was pleased that members of the Victorian Commandery were able to attend the funeral of Chev Barry Jamison KLJ OMLJ in early July 2021. It was very sad to lose such a valued member of the Victorian Commandery and Life member of GCPI.

Just as I finished this report, I was advised of another death within the Victorian Commandery. Our dear friend Chev Dr Walter Uhlenbruch AO KLJ OMLJ died at home after a 14-month illness surrounded by love and family. Many of us will

fondly remember Walter as a can-do member who for many years was the Chairman of GCPI. Much of success of GCPI can be directly attributed to Walter's significant efforts.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be extended to the Uhlenbruch and Jamison families. Please visit the website for further information on Barry's contribution to the Order: <https://stlazarus.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Eulogy-Barry-Jamison-GCPI-Website.pdf>

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Victorian Commandery executive and the Commandery members for their help, assistance, and support over the past two years. Covid has placed many pressures on us and without the goodwill of the Commandery, our experiences would have been all the harder.

God bless you all as we approach Advent and the Christmas Season.



# REPORTS FROM THE COMMANDERIES

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA



The Very Reverend Dr John Shepherd AM ChLJ OMLJ | President

Despite the challenges of Covid restrictions and the constant spectre of snap lockdowns threatening to addle the equilibrium of even the most sedate and gentle citizens, our Western Australian Commandery was able to host some significant occasions.

The year took off with our annual wine-tasting in the sumptuous setting of the Charlton residence, and with the support of Voyager Estate wines we were once again able to raise considerable funds. It is a benefit to the Order that since all our members and their guests reckon themselves to be astute connoisseurs of fine wines, purchases were plentiful and the work of the Order enhanced. Our thanks are due to Alexandra and Julian Burt CLJ for their donation of the wine.

A small but keen contingent crossed the Nullarbor to attend our National Chapter Meeting in Melbourne. The services at Our Lady of Mt Carmel in Middle Park and at St Peter's Eastern Hill were extremely well presented, the business of the meetings efficiently expedited and the dinner at the Lyceum Club provided a fitting conclusion to a welcoming and well-organised Chapter Meeting. We were very pleased to be able to attend.

During the winter months we responded with donations to Just Manna, a provider of food and shelter to the homeless and destitute in the Fremantle and Beaconsfield areas, and to Christ Church Claremont's Crisis Centre, which offers similar support closer to the city of Perth. Our support of L'Arche has continued and Fr Greg Burke ChLJ has been closely involved with their work and ministry on our behalf.

We are currently engaged in offering support to Wheelchairs for Kids and providing scholarship funds for the training of indigenous nurses to work in aboriginal communities in the outback Kimberley region of Western Australia.

In September a memorial service was held in St George's Cathedral for The Right Reverend Brian Kyme, Assistant Bishop of Perth and one of our earliest members of the Western Australian Commandery. The address was given by the former Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia and Archbishop of Perth, the Most Reverend Dr Peter Carnley.

Our annual St Lazarus Evensong was also held in St George's Cathedral. The preacher was Fr Greg Burke, a chaplain of the Order.

In November we hosted an evening at Christ Church Claremont with Dr Craig Challen, one of two Australian cave divers who assisted in rescuing the twelve Thai schoolboys and their coach from the flooded cave in Northern Thailand. His detailed account of the rescue, with its intricate and delicate evacuation plans, was extremely powerful. Clearly this was one of the most dangerous and demanding rescue operations ever accomplished, requiring long periods of underwater survival with zero visibility. Thanks to the generosity of Dr Challen we were able to raise a considerable amount for the funding of the Kimberley scholarship for training indigenous nurses.

Our annual St Lazarus Day celebration will be held at Christ Church Claremont in December, followed by a dinner at the Weld Club to celebrate and give thanks for the significant work we have accomplished during the course of the year.

We look forward to our next National Chapter Meeting scheduled for May next year in Adelaide.

Throughout the year we have once again benefitted from the advice and experience of our Grand Prior, Chevalier the Honourable Gavin Fielding AM GCLJ KMLJ, for which we record our sincere thanks.



## SHOFAR

## AN EVOCATION FROM THE NATIONAL CHAPLAIN



## THE CREED AT CHRITMAS

*'For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human' - the Nicene Creed.*

Credo hardly ever get people excited. Reciting them as part of Christian worship has been less and less popular, the temptation to miss them out strong in many churches, not, I think, because of a failure to believe, but because they can seem to speak more of dry and dusty doctrine than of living faith and discipleship. The Christian Church gives the Credo a key place in its understanding of its own faith and identity. We are reminded that the Church "professes the faith uniquely revealed in the holy Scriptures and set forth in the Catholic credo, which faith the Church is called upon to proclaim afresh in each generation".

The two Credo that we are encouraged to use regularly in our worship, both dating back to the fourth Christian century, give us a distillation of Christian belief that has served the Church through almost 1800 years of its history and we neglect them or tamper with them at our peril. The Nicene Creed, the one we are required to use on Sundays and Principal Feasts at the Eucharist, dates back to the fourth century councils of the Church, one of which was at Nicaea, which set out to establish Christian truth, especially about the nature of Jesus Christ as the unique Son of God, in the face of some fairly inadequate theologies. It is essentially a corporate act of faith, which is why it begins "We believe" in the plural. It is a statement of what the Church believes and has believed down the centuries. As we say it we identify ourselves with the great company of Christians through the ages. In a sense Credo are as much about belonging as believing.

The shorter Creed, the Apostles' Creed, as we call it, has a different sort of origin, not as a profession of common faith by the whole Church, but as the individual testimony of candidates for baptism. It begins "I believe", in the singular, because it belongs to that moment when we have to stand alone and declare a

faith that is deeply personal, as well as universal, and every time we say it we ought to be put in mind of our baptism and the personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ to which that commits us.

In this December Shofar I write about Credo as the season of Advent leads us on to Christmas, because I want to affirm that, in the end, Christmas is not supremely about ox and ass and stable, or even about peace, goodwill and presents, but about an amazing and world-changing truth that the Nicene Creed (which I hope we shall all say at Christmas) puts like this:

*'For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human'.*

The 'he', of course, is Jesus Christ, whom the Creed has already told us is the only Son of God, part of the being of God. The stupendous truth is that to save the world this Jesus Christ became a human being, one of us. It is a truth to bring us to our knees and to pause in thankfulness and wonder.

We need to know our faith and to proclaim it afresh in each generation and, as part of that, we need to know that the heart of Christmas is something very specific and quite overwhelming, that in Jesus Christ God became one of us. We may be thankful that most of the time the mysterious truth is wrapped up in a delightful story of angels and shepherds and kings. Just sometimes we need to go behind the story, ponder on the truth and look for ways to tell it.

Have a holy happy Christmas and don't forget the Creed!



**The Right Reverend Richard Hurford OAM KStJ  
ECLJ, National Chaplain**

# THE MILITARY AND HOSPITALLER ORDER OF SAINT LAZARUS OF JERUSALEM AUSTRALIA FOUNDATION

ABN 57 463 920 653

Trustee: OSL Australia Nominee Limited ACN 153 548 463 1 Dobbie Court Leabrook SA 5068

PH: 0417895885: E: josephethorp@gmail.com

## **The Trustee is pleased to report on recent activities of the Military and Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem Australia Foundation.**

In June 2021, in consequence of there being retirements from the Board, and there being a requirement to bring the number of Directors up to seven (7), the following members of the Order were appointed Directors of the Trustee company, OSL Australia Nominee Limited:

David G Slater AM (Queensland), Rev Kathryn Watt (Victoria), Joe Thorp (South Australia) and Richard Pringle-Jones (Tasmania). These new directors, together with Ron Banks AM Chairman (New South Wales), Anthony G Kennedy OAM Director (Victoria) and David G Seaton OAM Director/Secretary (South Australia) constituted the new Board from June 2021.

At the Board Meeting of the Company held on 19th November 2021, Chairman Ron Banks retired from the Board, citing a need for younger members of the Order to become involved in the Foundation, and was replaced as Chairman by Anthony Kennedy, and David Seaton retired as a Director and Secretary citing family ill health, and was replaced as Secretary by Joe Thorp.

Two vacancies now on the Board need to be filled and the search is on for suitable replacements. The new and younger Board together with two suitably qualified additional members is, and will be, a very strong Board eager to grow the Foundation as quickly as possible.

Below is a precis of the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2021:

Donations were \$6,625 compared with \$202,125 in 2020 (which included a \$200,000 donation from the late Will Bailey and his wife Dorothy); Investment Income \$14,888; and there was an improvement in the value of our Investment Portfolio of \$101,760.84.

The Foundation is required to distribute 4% of the market value of its assets at the commencement of each fiscal year, in that fiscal year. During 2021 we distributed \$16,500 to Anglicare Australia for the benefit of families affected by Covid-19. (in 2020 \$18,125 was donated to St Vincent de Paul for bushfire victims).

The market value of the Foundation at 30 June 2021 was \$511,734.50, 4% of which is \$20,469.36 which is the minimum distribution required during the 2022 financial year. The Board will determine the beneficiary of the distribution during the current financial year.

The sharp increase in the Value of the Foundation in 2021 over 2020 has given confidence to the Directors that they can grow the Foundation further and quickly, and confidence to seek from members of the Order their applications to become members of the Corporate Trustee, OSL Australia Nominee Limited, a company limited by Guarantee with members, not shareholders, who have the right to appoint the directors and auditors, and become a financial supporter of the Foundation.

Enquiries for Membership should be directed to the Secretary, Joe Thorp.



**David Seaton – outgoing Director/Secretary & Joe Thorp incoming Director/Secretary**

# NATIONAL DIRECTORY

## Grand Master (50th)

His Excellency Don Francisco de Borbón, Graf von Hardenberg GCLJ (J) GCrlJ - Spain

**Grand Prior:** The Hon Chev Gavin Fielding AM GCLJ KMLJ - WA

**Chancellor:** Chev David Slater AM KCLJ OMLJ - QLD

## National Council

**Referendary:** Mr Anthony Gissing CLJ - VIC

**National Chaplain:** The Right Reverend Richard Hurford OAM KStJ ECLJ - NSW

**National Treasurer:** Chev Rod Scurrah KLJ - TAS

**National Almoner:** Mrs Margaret Heathcote CLJ - SA

**National Hospitaller:** Chev James Grant KLJ - TAS

**Marshal:** Air Commodore Chev Peter McDermott AM CSC KLJ RAAF (Ret'd) - ACT

**Grand Prior Emerita:** Lady Primrose Potter AC CMRI DGCLJ DGCMLJ GCrlJ - VIC

## Presidents of Commanderies:

**ACT:** Ms Elizabeth Scrivener OAM CLJ

**NSW:** Chev Martin Dowling KLJ

**QLD:** Captain David Ellis OAM MNSC CLJ

**SA:** Mr Joseph Thorp CLJ

**TAS:** The Right Reverend Dr Christopher Jones ChLJ OMLJ

**VIC:** Chev John Molnar OAM KLJ OMLJ

**WA:** The Very Reverend Dr John Shepherd AM ChLJ OMLJ

## Special Appointments:

**Secretary-General:** Bernadette Azizi CLJ - NSW

**Deputy Chancellor:** Chev Dr Ross Sweet AM KLJ OMLJ - SA

**Herald:** Chev Major John Hitchen ED KLJ OMLJ - NSW

## Deputy National Chaplains:

The Very Rev Dr Michael Protopopov OAM ChLJ - VIC

The Most Reverend Dr Donald Sproxton ChLJ - WA

The Very Reverend Peter Williams VG EV ChLJ - NSW

**Custodian of Insignia:** Dame Davina Johnson OAM DLJ OMLJ - VIC

**National Archivist:** Chev John Molnar OAM KLJ OMLJ - VIC

