

# LAZARUS LETTER

December 2022

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

This edition details the activities of the Commanderies of the Jurisdiction throughout 2022 and particularly in the second half of the year.

This edition also features recognition of exceptional and unusually long service to the Order. These are;

- The award of Knight Grand Cross within the Companionate of Merit of St Lazarus of Jerusalem (GCMLJ) to our Grand Prior Hon Gavin Fielding AM GCLJ GCMLJ
- The elevation of our former Secretary-General, Chev Peter Bennison OAM KCLJ CMLJ to fill the important international office of Vice Grand Chancellor (Administration). The office carries with it membership of the Grand Magistral Council.
- The article detailing the 50 years of service to the Order by one of our Knights, Séan Fox Slater KLJ, describes a very unusual length of service. My thanks to Peter Bennison for editing.

These achievements reflect sincere dedication to the Order.

May you all have a Holy Christmas and a joyous New Year.



**Ross Sweet AM KLJ OMLJ**  
Editor

### SILVER CROSS OF MERIT RECIPIENTS | AUSTRALIA



Peter Bennison, Margaret White, Ian Chesterman

## GRAND PRIOR'S LETTER



My attention was recently drawn to an article in the *Catholic Standard* regarding a charitable project recently undertaken by the Tasmanian Commandery.

At about the same time I received a message from Dame Patricia Pedrazas Freeman DLJ, the Chancellor for Ecumenism, who is the only lay member of the Order's Spiritual Advisory Council, drawing attention to, amongst other things, the importance of the religious nature of the Order.

You will be aware that I have frequently emphasised the fact that the Order is not simply a charity but is a religious body, significantly, a Christian charity. As the religious season of Christmas approaches it is worth reminding ourselves that in raising funds for charitable purposes and in doing good deeds we do so in the name of Christianity with the aim of not only performing charitable work but also of supporting the ideals of Christianity. That is an express aim of the Order and is something that stands us apart from many other modern versions of Chivalric Orders. The real significance of Christmas is seemingly being lost to an increasing secular world which questions the concept of faith and thus the real significance of Christmas. For many it indicates little more than an occasion for a happy holiday. More than ever there is a need for us through our Christian endeavours to advertise the virtues of Christianity and thus the full meaning of Christmas.

I have recently returned from Madrid where I attended a meeting of the Grand Magistral Council, the first in person meeting for almost three years. I took the opportunity to invite the Grand Master to our forthcoming National Chapter in Canberra. He is keen to attend although at this time is unable to give a commitment to do so.

I am also pleased to report that our former Secretary-General, Chev Peter Bennison OAM KCLJ CMLJ, has been elevated to fill the important international office of Vice Grand Chancellor (Administration). The office carries with it membership of the Grand Magistral

Council. I am sure you will join with me in extending our congratulations to him and wishing him well as he undertakes his new duties.

Whilst in Madrid I attended the Vigil Service for postulants joining the Spanish Grand Priory. It was held in an ancient and private Chapel owned by the Grand Prior of the Spanish Grand Priory. In addition to taking the traditional vows required of postulants each of the eight postulants recited one of the Beatitudes. It is traditional for the contents of the Beatitudes to be brought to the attention of postulants at the time of admission to the Order. Indeed, we are reminded in the liturgy for every Vigil Service that the Green Cross is "*eight-pointed to exhort us to the practice of the virtues termed the Beatitudes*".

By the time you read this I hope, after a break of three years, to have joined with a number of the Commanderies as they each celebrate our Patronal Festival. These celebrations form a very important part of our calendar; not only are they a reminder of the origins of the Order they are a reminder of its continuing Christian nature.

I do hope that each of you and your family are blessed with the true spirit of Christmas and that this Christmas will be a happy and joyous occasion. I hope too, that 2023 is for all of us a good year.



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



Grand Master, Sue Fielding, Grand Prior, Grand Master Emeritus

## CHANCELLOR'S LETTER



**D**ear Confreres and Consoeurs,

I am sure I repeat myself, but a combination of recent travel followed by an influx of overseas family have kept us extremely busy - and is only (happily) going to escalate over the coming weeks!

On the travel side, having been unable to do so for three years, I was fortunate to get to UK and Europe for most of August.

This enabled me to complete walking the Camino de Santiago, which I have managed in three tranches over seven years. There were also brief family related stints in England, Ireland and France.

In London, I visited for the first time a most beautiful Anglican church, All Saints, Margaret Street (just off Oxford Street in central London).

I have known of it since childhood, as my two English uncles had attended the Choir Primary school there.

Whilst in London terms (built in the mid 19th Century) it is not particularly old, it boasts the most extraordinary Byzantine revival interior decoration. Well worth seeing!

I trust all of you have been as physically well as possible? We know that Covid has not disappeared, but things seem to be improving slowly.

Thank you again to all who were able to attend this year's National Chapter meeting in Adelaide.

Notwithstanding that the trip proved to be Annie's and my source of Covid infection, the impact on us was short-lived.

Many, I believe, had a similar experience.

Our Secretary General, Bernadette Azizi, has continued to follow in Peter Bennison's exemplary footsteps, and has filled this demanding role most efficiently.

I had not known, until recently, that Peter played no small part in Bernadette's appointment.

He was a wise judge of expert competence.

Our Grand Prior, as you are aware, was recently invested as GCMLJ by the Grand Master in Madrid, Spain.

It is a pleasure knowing that all of you join me in congratulating Gavin on his receipt of this high honour.

Gavin will, no doubt, share details of his experiences in this regard.

Fundraising efforts have continued throughout the Grand Priory with considerable success, notwithstanding constantly changing travel restrictions.

In Queensland, a most enjoyable open air garden party/ luncheon was held in the grounds of the beautiful St. Augustine's Church, Hamilton.

Former Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon. John Anderson AC, was a wonderful drawcard guest speaker, and his presentation did not fail to impress.

On a personal note, he and his wife, Julia, together with our mutual friends, Rob and Fiona Hoddle (all are from the Gunnedah District in NSW) travelled together.

All have survived their recent extensive floods, as well as as could be hoped.

Their district has been badly impacted in recent months with a series of floods.

I know the ACT Commandery has planning well under way for 2023's National Chapter meeting.

I am sure you are looking forward to it as much as we are, and trust that as many of you as possible will be able to attend.

Warm confraternal regards,



**Chev David Slater AM KCLJ OMLJ**  
Chancellor

## GRAND PRIOR AWARDED THE GCMLJ



On 29 July, the Feast of Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus, news was received that the Grand Master (His Excellency Don Francisco de Borbon von Hardenburg) has been pleased to award our Grand Prior, the Honourable Gavin Fielding AM the very high honour of being made a Knight Grand Cross within the Companionate of Merit of St Lazarus of Jerusalem (GCMLJ). This award can only be made by the Grand Master and it is accorded to very few. It reflects the esteem in which our Grand Prior is held both here and internationally.

A Grand Magistral Decree (18 of 2022) announced the award. Gavin was invested on 12 November 2022, when he attended the Grand Magistral Council meeting in Madrid, Spain.

For the entire time since he was admitted to the Order in 2005, Gavin has held office at Commandery, Grand Priory and international levels. He has been a Commandery Secretary, Referendary, Chancellor and now Grand Prior as well as being a Grand Magistral Council Member.

Warm congratulations to our Grand Prior on this recognition of his outstanding leadership of the Australian Grand Priory during his term of office, the latter period of which has been particularly challenging to all of us in so many ways.

The Companionate of Merit of the Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem was established in 1929. Originally the Companionate was restricted to non-Members and "...non-Catholic nobles" and was "esteemed as the reward of merit and of notable scientific work especially in connection with the cure of lepers." Since 1979 Order members have been able to receive the accolade as a reward for exceptional service on a continuous basis and a number of Australian Members have received it at various levels.

The Companionate ranks directly after the main grade of rank within the Order.

There are five grades within the Companionate: - Member (MMLJ), Officer (OMLJ), Commander (CMLJ), Dame (DMLJ)/Knight (KMLJ) and Grand Cross (GCMLJ). The DMLJ and KMLJ replaced the Paris Obedience grade of GOMLJ after re-unification. Chevaliers John Bishop and John Herbig continue to hold the title of GOMLJ. The first admissions to the Companionate were granted to Members within the Australian jurisdiction in the early 1990s. Dame Primrose Lady Potter, Bishop Peter Hollingworth, Cardinal George Pell and now Hon Chevalier Gavin Fielding are the Australians who currently hold the GCMLJ.

Previous GCMLJ recipients have been:- the late Chevaliers Mervyn Smith, Tony Sallmann, Barry O'Keefe, Will Bailey and the late Bishop Patrick Murphy.



**CHEV PETER BENNISON OAM KCLJ CMLJ | APPOINTED VICE-GRAND CHANCELLOR (ADMINISTRATION)**

At the annual meeting of the Grand Magistral Council of the Order, held in Madrid on 13 November, former Secretary General Chevalier Peter Bennison was appointed as Vice-Grand Chancellor (Administration) for the international Order. He has also been appointed as a Member of the Grand Magistral Council. At the same meeting the term of office as a Grand Magistral Council Member of the Grand Prior, Hon Chev Gavin Fielding was extended for a further three years. The Grand Magistral Council is the governing body of the Order world-wide.

The position of Vice-Grand Chancellor (Administration) is responsible for the day-to-day work of the Grand Chancery and the role is broadly similar to the role of Secretary General but on an international level. The Vice-Grand Chancellor (Administration) reports to the Grand Chancellor, the Grand Commander and the Grand Magistral Council.

**A LONG PILGRIMAGE | SÉAN FOX SLATER KLJ | GOLDEN JUBILEE**

One of our knights, Séan Fox Slater KLJ of the Western Australia Commandery achieved a very significant milestone this year when he celebrated his golden jubilee with the Order of St Lazarus. Séan first became aware of Saint Lazarus back in 1960 when his father, Colonel John Fox Slater joined the Order following his retirement from the British Army.

When he was 16, Séan visited the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. This had a profound effect on him and showed in stark reality the impact of the appalling evil inflicted on Jews, Christians and trade unionists. Séan says that it was a momentous occasion where the true meaning of chivalry was brought home to him and this led to a desire to lead a chivalrous life.

While attending a Benedictine Monastery school in England Séan travelled to Rome and received holy communion at the hands of Pope Paul VI in St Peter's. In 1970, he undertook another school journey on a pilgrimage to Lourdes. He has since had two further pilgrimages to Lourdes and another to the Holy Land in 2019 as a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre. As a Knight of St Lazarus, Séan has attended six international reunions – Dublin 1972, Copenhagen 1974, Oxford 1986, Prague 1998, Melbourne 2000 and Dublin in 2002.

The Fox Slater family achieved the right to bear arms back in 1415 at the Battle of Agincourt and his admission as a Knight of St Lazarus in Dublin in 1972 by the Grand Master, Colonel the Duke de Brissac, was a highlight of his life. The Duke had been captured in 1940 while leading his regiment and was a POW for the duration of the Second World War.

The Order of St Lazarus was established as a Commandery in Western Australia in 1985. Séan had emigrated to Australia and was farming in country WA. He joined the Commandery in early 1986 and has been actively involved with fund raising and more recently as Commandery Secretary, despite not being a metropolitan resident. Looking back on the many years the Commandery has been working for those in need in Western Australia, Séan recalls founding Commandery Commander (President) Bernard Prindiville, Dr James Watson CBE (another founding member) and former MLC, the Honourable David Wordsworth as his guiding lights. Highlights include hosting the first National Chapter meeting in 1996 and lately the induction of the Honourable Gavin Fielding as Grand Prior of Australia by the Grand Master at St Georges Cathedral in Perth in 2018. This was a great honour for the Commandery.

Séan says that it has been an honour and privilege to work with so many outstanding and generous people over many years helping those in need and furthering the work of St Lazarus. Congratulations Séan on your 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with St Lazarus and best wishes for the future.

## LORD MAYOR OF LONDON LUNCHEON



In July of this year, an invitation was extended by **The Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor, Vincent Keaveny GClrLJ, GCLJ-J** on behalf of the Grand Priory of England and Wales, to all Jurisdictions to attend a Mayoral luncheon on the 30th of September 2022 at Mansion House in London, UK.

163 people were in attendance, representing 12 jurisdictions across 3 continents.

Dame Primrose Lady Potter, Mr Arthur Hallett-West from the Victorian Commandery along with myself accompanied by my husband Patrick from the NSW Commandery attended the gathering.

On arrival we were warmly greeted by the host Priory whilst enjoying our pre-drinks. On entering the Egyptian Hall at Mansion House, we were pleasantly surprised to see that we were seated with the members from the

Netherlands, which proved to be a perfect grouping. Pleasant conversations were had, and friendships quickly formed. The Lord Mayor welcomed us all and expressed his thanks for our attendance, making a special mention of Australian members due to the long distance travelled. The **Grand Master, His Excellency Don Francisco de Borbón, Graf von Hardenburg**, was also in attendance, expressing words of thanks to the Lord Mayor on our behalf for hosting the event and how fortunate we are all to be able to travel and attend this special gathering, after so many recent global challenges.

 **Bernadette Azizi CLJ**  
Secretary-General



## 2023 NATIONAL CHAPTER | CANBERRA, ACT

ANNUAL NATIONAL CHAPTER MEETING 21 - 23 APRIL 2023



**The ACT Commandery welcomes you to Canberra, the capital city of Australia, for the Annual Chapter Meeting.**

**Save the Date: 21 - 23 April 2023**

*As the seat of the Government of Australia, Canberra is home to many important institutions of the federal government, national monuments and museums. This includes Parliament House, Government House, the High Court and the headquarters of numerous government agencies. It is the location of many social and cultural institutions of national significance such as the Australian War Memorial, the Australian National University, the Royal Australian Mint, the Australian Institute of Sport, the National Gallery, the National Museum and the National Library. The city is home to many important institutions of the Australian Defence Force including the Royal Military College Duntroon and the Australian Defence Force Academy. It hosts all foreign embassies in Australia as well as regional headquarters of many international organisations, not-for-profit groups, lobbying groups and professional associations.*

*Canberra, with its sweeping nature reserves and surrounding mountain ranges, has been ranked among the world's best cities to live and visit.*



# REPORTS FROM THE COMMANDERIES

## AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Chev Dr John Donovan ED KLJ OMLJ | President



Last May six ACT Commandery members and partners braved airline chaos and attended the National Chapter in Adelaide. All six contracted COVID-19.

As we prepare for the 2023 National Chapter next April, we are aiming for minimal transmission of disease. Please expect to be asked to wear a mask at times of higher risk and not to come if you are ill. That said, we look forward to hosting you. For those arriving on Thursday for meetings early on Friday there will be a dinner cruise on Lake Burley Griffin to start the proceedings.

And if it is not COVID, it is rain. As I write, we had been hoping to hold our Annual Barbecue and Cricket Match for the L'Arche Community of intellectually disabled adults and their carers. We had intended to hold it in October but were rained out. Now in November, we have the same problem. This is not a fundraising event to benefit L'Arche – we did that earlier in the year. Instead for many years the ACT Commandery has entertained the Community in Telopea Park near Lake Burley Griffin. We have provided a barbecue lunch followed by a cricket match between our members and the Community. Strangely, or perhaps not, the Community has always won, and many of their houses contain a trophy showing that.

Many readers will have known our Anglican Chaplain Rev Dr John Cohen OAM ChLJ, a historian as well as a clergyman. Sadly he died on 13 November, some weeks after cardiac surgery from which he had appeared to be recovering.

Age is not always kind to us. Our Commandery is probably not alone in having several members who have been prevented by illness from travelling to National Chapters to be Advanced in the Order, or to receive Awards. We are most grateful to the Grand Prior, not only for visiting us about the time you read this note, but also for holding a special Investiture for three members as part of our Patronal Festival.

See you here, in April next year!



Anglican Chaplain Rev Dr John Cohen OAM ChLJ



# REPORTS FROM THE COMMANDERIES

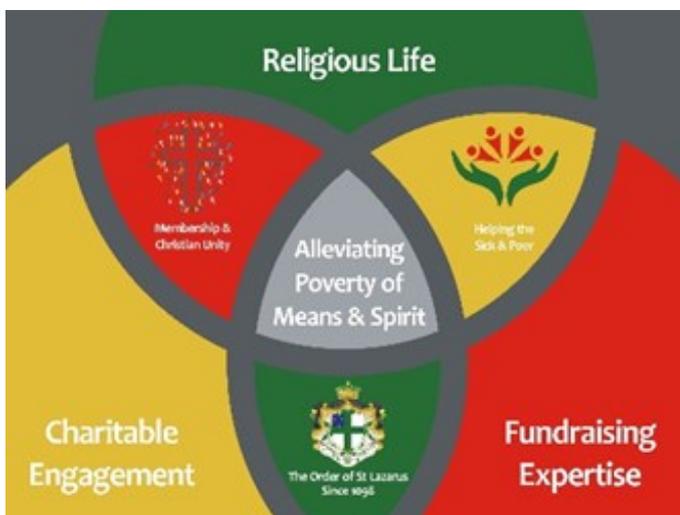
## NEW SOUTH WALES



Chev Martin Dowling KLJ | President

### President's Report – NSW Commandery

The NSW Commandery continues to focus on the building of our Commandery around the three core principles outlined in our strategic vision laid out in our 5-year plan from 2019. Despite the challenges faced during the period since the plan was developed, we continue to focus on our key goals of Religious Life, Charitable Engagement and Fundraising Expertise.



### Membership

To achieve our goals, we recognise that we need to continue to grow our Membership base, which has proven challenging. The targets set were ambitious, and we have worked to overcome the obstacles of the past 3-years. We have been able to identify a good group of potential postulants and are confident that our 5-year goal, commencing in 2019, of 10 new postulants will be achieved. It is essential for our growth as a Commandery and for us to be able to continue our charitable activities for us to accomplish this goal.

### Religious Life

Our two main religious events for the year were excellently prepared and delivered by our Commandery Chaplains, Monsignor Peter Williams and Canon Colin Aiken. We hold our Quiet Day in August, and this year our Patronal Feast was in November. These two events are the highlight of our Commandery calendar.

### Charitable Engagement

We are pleased to be able to announce that the three recipients of the Order of St Lazarus BCEF Scholarships for 2022 have been awarded to:

- Angus Barter: Bachelor of Agricultural Science
- Amelia Donnelly: Bachelor of Nursing
- George Hatty: Bachelor of Agricultural Business Management

Our ongoing commitment to BCEF has had a significant impact on the three students who completed their university courses last year, and we look forward to following the progress of the students we will be supporting for the coming three years.



# REPORTS FROM THE COMMANDERIES

## NEW SOUTH WALES continued...

### Fundraising Expertise

This year we again did not run our usual Gala Fundraising Dinner due to logistic issues. We were very well supported in our fundraising this year by the very generous donations received from our Members. These generous donations have allowed us to continue with our planned distribution to our supported charity partners.

### Charitable Donations for 2023

At our AGM in November, the Commandery approved our charitable donations for 2023. We are proud to announce that the recipients are:

Bush Children's Education Foundation	\$12,000
Mother Teresa Nuns	\$5,000
Company of the Good Shepard	\$4,000

### Election of Officeholders

At our AGM in November, the following Members were elected or appointed.

Martin Dowling KLJ	President
Allan Elliot JP CLJ	Secretary
Bill Killinger AM KLJ CMLJ	Treasurer
John Hitchen RFD KLJ OMLJ	Almoner
Hilda De Luca CLJ	Hospitaller
Alex Ladreit de Lacharriere CLJ	Membership Director

Canon Colin Aiken OAM RFD ChStJ	Chaplain
Fr Anthony Crook	Chaplain

The Executive and Members wish to thank Elizabeth George CLJ for her service as Hospitaller and offer our congratulations to Hilda on her election to the role of Hospitaller.



# REPORTS FROM THE COMMANDERIES



## QUEENSLAND

Captain Dave Ellis OAM MNSC CLJ | President

The Queensland Commandery has had a most successful year during 2022 in terms of funds raised and our support of those in need in our Australian community, our support for Ukrainian refugee families here in Brisbane as well as our ongoing Timor-Leste Child Education School Support Initiative.

The April Film Morning and October “Brunch on the Green” fundraisers were a great success and the Queensland Commandery members worked hard in organising and running these events. Having the Hon John Anderson AC as guest speaker at the Brunch contributed to attendance and funds raised.

During 2022 the Commandery has distributed funds totalling \$100,800. This includes the final \$40,000 of a total of \$90,000 over two years to complete building the four classrooms at the Don Bosco Secondary school in Fuliloro in the eastern area of Timor Leste, \$18,100 in support for the Ukrainian refugee families and \$36,000 to six domestic charitable organisations. We are rather proud of our effort for our small Commandery. The latest donation has been a further \$5,000 to assist a Ukrainian family with English classes and reskilling qualifications to gain employment here.

The six Australian domestic charitable organisations supported this year are:

- (a) Wedgetail Palliative Care - hospice for the sick and their families in palliative care;
- (b) Community - support for migrants and homeless;
- (c) Second Chance – support for women and children escaping violence;
- (d) McKillop School Fund – school expenses support for an underprivileged student who would otherwise be denied a quality secondary education;
- (e) Catholic Foundation Prisoner Release Support – for those released from prison who have no means to re-establish themselves in society; and
- (f) Trinity Pantry – a food distribution centre for homeless in Brisbane.

Our Anglican Chaplain Father Harry Reuss undertook a fact-finding trip to Timor Leste on our behalf to assess the progress of child education initiatives undertaken by the Commandery to date and identify primary and secondary schooling support needs for future projects. A key outcome was to ensure that the governance measures the Commandery had put in place to oversee the building works and goods and services provided through Commandery funds were being used in accordance with our and ACNC requirements. Father Harry was able to bless the new classrooms at Don Bosco amidst a sea of smiling student faces. A big thank you to Father Harry for undertaking the trip and enduring some tough 4WD journeys to the rural areas where our child education initiatives are focused.

The Timor Leste trip was undertaken together with representatives of the Brisbane based education charity Innocents Relief which supports schools in impoverished countries. Our Commandery is now working with Innocents Relief in Timor Leste to use our combined resources and experience to maximise child education project funding outcomes. A program of Timor-Leste child education assistance between our two organisations will be developed and commence in 2023.

Following Father Harry’s visit to the Sisters of the Children of Mary Orphanage in Liquica in Timor-Leste, our Commandery is currently fundraising to assist the orphanage to expand its live-in accommodation to accept an additional 13 young girls who are orphaned or from single parent families who do not have the resources to care for their children. We have already provided funds to refurbish the bathrooms and hope to raise \$5,000 for beds and bedding and other essentials to care for these extra children. These young girls may not get any education or any decent start in life were it not for these Sisters and this orphanage.

Our members are currently working on the National Chapter planning for Brisbane for 2024. The team, headed by Tony Maruca CLJ, is developing a program of events and venues to suit the established formula for our National Chapters, including a sparse dinner

## REPORTS FROM THE COMMANDERIES

### QUEENSLAND continued...

after the Vigil Service that the South Australian Commandery has pioneered.

We have our Commandery Patronal Day Service coming up with the service to be held this year at St Augustine's Anglican church Hamilton on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2022. As in previous years representatives of companion Orders will be invited to join us at the service and the following morning tea and we expect representatives from the Order of St

John, Order of Malta, the Equestrian Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre. The several Orders in Queensland get on well and we send representatives to each other's special occasions.

The Commandery currently has only 15 active members but they are all very energetic and focused on achieving outcomes across the community for those in most need. We hope to expand with new members in the coming year.



**Father Harry Children of Mary Orphanage 2022**

Father Harry [third from Left] with Sisters Leanara [L] and Baudua [R] from the Sisters of the Children of Mary orphanage with the children in their care and members of Innocents Relief.



**Father Harry at Don Bosco Secondary School blessing the OJ Queensland funded new classrooms**

# REPORTS FROM THE COMMANDERIES

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Mr Joe Thorp CLJ | President



Members of the SA Commandery at St Andrew's Church Walkerville

### Support for Ukraine

The SA Commandery was pleased to be able to send support to the Grand Bailiwick of the Czech Republic to assist in the Order's direct relief efforts in Ukraine. We are grateful to National Treasurer Chev Rod Scurrah KLJ for providing the channel.

With the worst of COVID-19 behind us we were confident to once again hold our annual film and supper evening at the Capri Cinema on 29<sup>th</sup> August. Over 200 people attended and thoroughly enjoyed the movie "Phantom of The Open" and a chicken and champagne supper. Thanks to Almoner James Wells OLI and his committee for organising a terrific fund raising and friend raising event.

The Hospitaller Hon Trish White AM OLI organised for the Association for Ukrainians in South Australia to be the charity to benefit from the event. The Association co-ordinates the housing and support for Ukrainians displaced by the war and making their respite home in Adelaide. A significant amount of work and money is required to resettle them having arrived with only a suitcase.

After drawing the raffles generously donated by Commandery Members I was pleased to introduce the President of the Association, Frank Fursenko who spoke with such passion about his homeland, the impact of the war and what his association was doing in Adelaide that we quickly raised a further \$1,000 in a whip around.

A couple of weeks later Trish and I, along with National Almoner Margaret Heathcote CLJ and her husband Richard attended a Friday evening gathering of the Association where we formally presented a cheque, talked about the work of the Order, and presented a beautiful quilt made by Margaret in Ukrainian colours with the cross of St Lazarus, which they plan to raffle to raise further funds.

### Quiet Day

On Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October members of the Order gathered at St Andrew's Church Walkerville for our annual quiet day. Much thanks to our Chaplain Ven David Thornton-Wakeford ChLI MMLJ for his preparation and conduct of the day. It is a spiritual highlight of our calendar complementing the regular spiritual reflections at the ordinary meetings of our Commandery.

### St Lazarus Day Service

On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November members gathered for the annual St Lazarus Day service on Christ the King Sunday at St Andrew's Church Walkerville. We are very grateful to the Rector, Ven Sam Goodes and the Parish of Walkerville for allowing us to participate in this service with them. Following morning tea with the congregation member of the Order, partners and friends gathered at the Sussex Hotel for lunch. Thanks to Herald Dr Angela Evans AM CLJ for organising the event alongside Chaplain David.

## REPORTS FROM THE COMMANDERIES

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA continued...

To finish the year members will be attending a working bee at Puddle Jumpers to prepare Christmas Hampers for Puddle Jumpers clients and to present a donation to assist their work amongst underprivileged and at risk children in our city.

As the season of Advent is upon us, we look eagerly to celebrating the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ and we look with anticipation to a new year where we hope to be investing three postulants into our ranks and joining with you all again at the National Chapter in Canberra.



From left: Joe Thorp CLJ, Frank Fursenko President Association for Ukrainians in SA, Margaret Heathcote CLJ



# REPORTS FROM THE COMMANDERIES

## TASMANIA



The Right Rev Dr Chris Jones ChLJ OMLJ | President

- Membership and National Roles
- Fundraising 2022
- Small Projects 2022
- Patronal Feast Day 2022
- Office Bearers 2022

### Membership and National Roles

The Tasmanian Commandery has 19 Active members, 2 Emeritus members and 1 Inactive member.

In 2019, the Tasmanian Commandery commenced a new membership initiative. Four new members have been admitted to the Order. Early in the new year prospective members will be invited to join Commandery members for an informal information evening with a view to proposal for membership.

Tasmanian Commandery members serve in a number of national and international roles, Chev Rod Scurrah continues as National Treasurer for a further year, whilst Chev Jim Grant retired as National Hospitaller at the 2022 National Chapter. Chev Ron Banks retired as Chairman of the St Lazarus Foundation, with Chev Anthony Kennedy taking his place. Chev Richard Pringle-Jones continues as a Director of the Foundation.

Bishop Chris Jones was appointed as Deputy National Chaplain at the 2022 National Chapter, relinquishing his present role of Assistant to the National Chaplain.

Chev Peter Bennison has stepped up to become Vice Grand Chancellor (Administration), an international role.

### Fundraising 2022

Tasmanian Commandery members were delighted to host guests at a fund-raising cocktail function at the former Hobart Savings Bank. This was the first occasion the Commandery was able to hold such a function since 2019. In the intervening two years, supporters were invited to make donations in lieu of our annual function. We were most grateful for the continuing high level of support that enabled the Commandery to continue with its programs. This year both numbers in attendance and donations received matched those of

2019.

The Order was privileged to have access to the former bank now a private home, a four-story heritage listed sandstone building, including the pre-existing blackwood and cedar panelled banking chamber. The original plasterwork and a large leadlight skylight above the chamber are a magnificent reminder of its past history.

The owners of the former Bank are keen collectors of art glasswork and ceramics displayed throughout the premises. The Commandery was grateful to Dr John Freeman, a former leading medical specialist and art gallery owner, who identified a number pieces on display in the banking chamber, explaining their origins and the processes by which they were created.

### Small Projects 2022

In addition to its regular support to patients in critical or palliative care and their families, through support to a Cancer Care Coordinator role and therapeutic massage, the Commandery has also provided support to other community needs; Hobart Winter Appeal (2019), Covid Appeal (2020) and Hobart Women's Shelter (2021). Over the past year or so, the Commandery has also been engaged in small niche projects that enable a "hands on" approach, involving a wider range of members. The most notable project in 2022 has been the Novel Crate Project, where books are donated and placed in boxes which are located in a couple of Loui's Vans, a mobile food service, run by the St Vincent de Paul Society, in southern Tasmania. Books are borrowed or taken by Loui's clients and the boxes are replenished as required from a stock of books donated to the Commandery. According to the Loui's Van support officers the books have been readily welcomed by clients. The project was recently reported upon in the Tasmanian Catholic Standard and more recently included in National electronic CathNews newsletter. The report also included background to the Order and the Tasmanian Commandery, thus providing valuable publicity to the Order and its works.

# REPORTS FROM THE COMMANDERIES



## TASMANIA continued...

The Right Rev Dr Chris Jones ChLJ OMLJ | President

### Patronal Feast Day 2022

The Tasmanian Commandery will celebrate the Feast of St Lazarus of Jerusalem on Friday, 16 December 2022, with a service at All Saints Church, South Hobart, followed by dinner at the University Club, University of Tasmania. We will have as our guests, Grand Prior Chev Hon. Gavin Fielding and Mrs Susan Fielding and also, visiting from New Zealand, Vice Grand Chancellor (Administration) Chev Peter Bension.

### Office Bearers 2022

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



Chris Merridew, Jane Wilson, Wendy Bowerman, Alison Parsons and Jill Kay



Antonia and Paul Dunne, Claire Brown and Kathy Norton



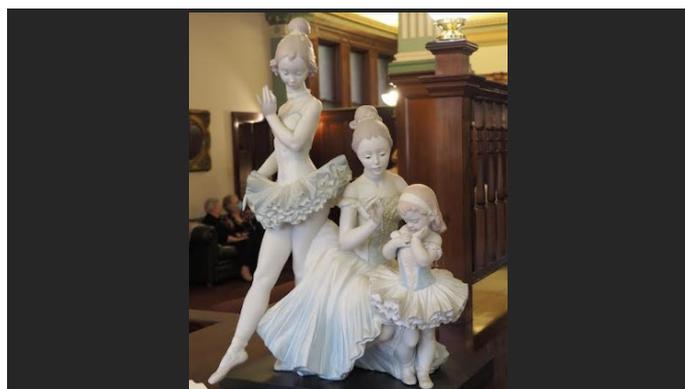
President Chris Jones welcoming guests to the Cocktail Function



Dierdre Pearson, Judy and Wayne Wallace, Sandra Pitt and Ivan Pearson



Eileen & Ian Smith, Helen & Dallas Williams, Sue Jones & Carmel Fader



From the collection – a French ceramic after Degas

# REPORTS FROM THE COMMANDERIES

## VICTORIA

Chev John Molnar OAM KLJ OMLJ | President



Finally, we have had a year without lockdowns. This has enabled the Commandery to commence 'getting back to normal'. However, there is a considerable amount of additional work required to get us back into the pre-Covid swing.

While it is wonderful to start normalizing our lives, at the time of writing many regions in Victoria, like much of the eastern states of Australia, over the past 12 months, are experiencing major flooding that has impacted many thousands of people. Clearly, for these people, their lives are anything but normal.

### Support for the marginalised

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.

Like other Commanderies, Victorian supported the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal with its donation of \$3,000. In addition, and in recognition of the devastating floods, the Victorian Commandery has recently agreed to provide funds to St Vinnie's and Anglicare to assist with the northern Victorian floods.

I am pleased to advise that Victorian Commandery has supported eight projects this calendar year. At our last Commandery meeting it was moved that the following amounts be provided:

- Anglicare \$16,000
- Spafford Centre (via Anglican Overseas Aid) \$17,000
- Green Cross Project Inc \$5,000
- The Wellington \$12,500
- St Mary's House of Welcome \$5,000
- Ukraine humanities Appeal - \$3,000
- Flood appeal northern Victoria (St Vinnies) - \$3,000
- Flood appeal northern Victoria (Anglicare) - \$3,000

These amounts total almost \$65,000 which is a major achievement for the Victorian Commandery.

### Fund-raising

Our fund-raising team led by Mrs Robin Richards CLJ held two key events this year. The first fundraising event we have had the opportunity to hold for two and a half years was a theatre night at the Malvern Theatre

Company presenting "Nobody's Perfect". The event held on 23 June 2022, was a comedy involving an English crime writer - who despite writing and rewriting scripts – is repeatedly rejected due to the current trend of public demand for female writers. It was an enjoyable event and once again, we reiterate our appreciation of Malvern Theatre Company's support of the Victorian Commandery.

The second was the Antique and Collectables Afternoon Tea at the Gables on Finch. This lovely and beautiful early Edwardian mansion owned by The Commonwealth Society really set the scene well for this event. Members and their guests were encouraged to attend with special items of historic interest or personal value. With about 20 items presented, they were carefully and expertly reviewed by internationally renowned antique valuers Mary Armstrong CLJ and Ian Armstrong OAM JP CLJ.

Items presented by members and guests ranged from pewter and silverware from the 1600s, north American mantle clocks, and portal writing desks to rare glassware. Also at the event there was a silent auction of 14 very special and interesting items. The bidding was strong for all items, including accommodation for five nights in New York, which resulted in a healthy profit.

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 \$150 per hamper.

### Welcome to the new members

I must once again reiterate my congratulations to the South Australia Commandery for the wonderful (normal) National Chapter meeting earlier this year. It was here that we saw four new Commandery members invested. These new members were:

- Mrs Camille Edwards OLI
- Mrs Patricia Cameron OLI
- Mr Peter Newman OLI
- Mr Paul Simmons OLI

I was impressed to hear from our Herald Chev Michael Kirwan KLJ at our last Commandery meeting that

# REPORTS FROM THE COMMANDERIES

## VICTORIA continued

Victoria has a strong pipeline of potential members. At this stage, it is hoped that Victoria might have as many as five new members for the National Chapter meeting in Canberra next year.

Our social convenor and the Victorian Commandery executive are busy working on prospective member events early in the New Year with two events being held. The first was held at the West Brighton Club, and the second event was held at the Gables on Finch. It was pleasing to see the interest of prospective members at the events and already a number of applications have been received. Finally, Dame Dr Anne Tomlinson DLJ has been very busy preparing the St Lazarus Day event at St Peter's Eastern Hill and the dinner at the Lyceum Club on 25 November 2022.

### New initiatives

To help provide a greater level of connectedness the Victorian Commandery has been trialing a periodic newsletter to provide key insights into activities and developments across the Victorian Commandery. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of David Richards CLJ and Ian Armstrong OAM CLJ.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Victorian Commandery executive and the Commandery members for their help, and assistance, and for how we have sought to collaborate. In fact, I recall the words of Charles Darwin "It is the long history of humankind that those who learned to collaborate and improvise most effectively have prevailed."

Please have a safe and enjoyable summer break and may the joys of Christmas bring happiness and goodness which stay with you all year long.



Antique and Collectables Afternoon Tea

# REPORTS FROM THE COMMANDERIES

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA



The Very Reverend Dr John Shepherd AM ChLJ OMLJ | President



Our Grand Prior - The Honourable Gavin Fielding, and the WA President, The Very Reverend Dr John Shepherd, present Wheelchairs for Kids with a donation of \$3000

There was once a flamboyant yet creditable Roman historian called Cassius Dio. He lived from AD 155–235 and wrote a lot of history. All Roman. As you might expect. His work ran to 80 volumes. Which is a lot of history. But the thing is, he got it all together by having hundreds of bits of information scattered around and then picking them up in any old order and pasting them together. What he finished up with was a whole mess of facts, but with no insights into what lay beneath them. So read Cassius and you'll discover nothing of the underlying pulse of Rome or the dynamic of its life.

Similarly, a bundle of AGM reports can give us lots of details, but skate over what really matters and what really matters is the soul of the Order. How much the Order matters to us. Our passion, our heart-felt commitment to the Order and the extent to which we feel an integral and contributing part of this community.

So, first, the Cassius part.

During the course of the year our Grand Prior, the Honourable Gavin Fielding, was awarded the Grand Cross of Merit (GCMLJ). We applaud this well-deserved Award, which complements his previous distinction of GCLJ. We continue to benefit from his wisdom, knowledge and experience at our regular meetings.

We are similarly proud of Dame Ruth Phelps promotion to OMLJ which now stands alongside her DLJ. Our Anglican Chaplain has been made an Archdeacon by the Archbishop of Perth, and now rejoices in the title of the Venerable Peter Boyland ChLJ.

An intrepid group of members braved the Nullarbor to participate in the National Chapter Meeting in Adelaide. We were privileged to be part of an exceptionally well-organised and elegantly managed weekend. The services held at St Peter's College Chapel, St Peter's Cathedral and St Francis Xavier were sublime and the dinner at the Pacific Islands Gallery set a formidable standard for future Chapter Meetings. We offer our congratulations to all responsible for the arrangements.

Significant fund-raising efforts were mounted during the year. The first was a dinner at the home of our Grand Prior and Sue Fielding; the second was hosted by Dame Beverley Charlton DLJ CMLJ and Dame Ruth Phelps DLJ OMLJ at the residence of Beverley Charlton. Wines were provided by Chevalier Sean Fox-Slater KJLJ. Both events were notable successes.

Our support for Just Manna has continued. Just Manna provides food, clothing and shelter for the homeless of Fremantle, and this year we were able to contribute

**WESTERN AUSTRALIA continued...**

\$5000 in support of their work. We have also provided \$1000 for the mission of the Street Chaplains who patrol the inner city of Perth each night and offer counselling and practical assistance to those sleeping rough and overcome by substance abuse. This amount of \$1000 enables them to purchase 200 blankets to offer to those having to sleep out at night. \$3000 was allocated to the Christ Church Claremont Hardship Fund.

The Order also contributed \$2000 to the International Appeal for those devastated in the conflict in the Ukraine, and \$3000 to Wheelchairs for Kids.

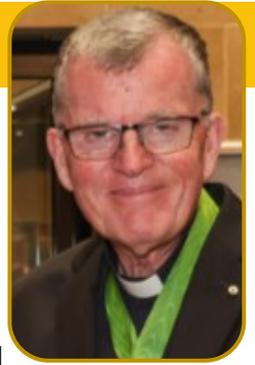
Our particular focus towards the end of this year has been the provision of scholarships to assist in the training of indigenous students as nurses to serve in the outback of the vast Kimberley region of Western Australia. The training occurs at Notre Dame University Fremantle, and then at Broome hospital. The Order is concerned to move beyond bland, formulaic statements of good intentions towards actually doing something to assist the plight of aboriginal people suffering from ill-health, family violence and abuse, lack of education and limited access to medical assistance. We have made available two scholarships of \$10,000 each.

Our annual Evensong was held at St George's Cathedral in October, and the preacher was Fr Greg Burke ChLJ. The celebration of the Feast of Saint Lazarus was held at Christ Church Claremont in December. The preacher was the Venerable Peter Boyland ChLJ. This service, followed by a dinner at the Weld Club, marked the final celebration of the year.

The Covid monster is finally fading into the background and many organisations are coming out of a lockdown, constricted mentality. Increasingly we are returning to the realization that the strength of our life as an Order is a life in community. Cassius would have loved the opportunity to have zoom meetings. It would have helped him amass his sterile bin of isolated, unrelated facts and figures. Freed from this kind of archival paralysis we can once more relish our corporate life, from which evolves our zeal for outreach and mission and our enthusiasm to embrace further challenges.



## FROM THE NATIONAL CHAPLAIN



We are now beginning to understand the social and personal impact of the continuing COVID 19 pandemic. Studies are indicating that there has been a sharp decline in the number of people who are volunteering in the community, and in a particular way many people in their senior years are now reluctant to put themselves potentially at risk by engaging in charitable work outside of their own homes. Given the impact of the pandemic, and the loss of life which particularly devastated the elderly cohort none of these findings come as a surprise.

For us in the Order of St Lazarus our activities across the Commanderies have been impacted quite severely with many of the usual events that sustain our charitable works being curtailed or cancelled.

Our demographic is an ageing one and whilst many Commanderies are active in recruiting new members, we need to be attentive to the needs of those in the Order who remain impacted by the pandemic. The pastoral care of our members should be a paramount work of not only the chaplains, but also of each member of the Order – the care that brothers and sisters should extend to each other. That individual members have ‘stepped up’ from their own resources to maintain our outreach is a positive testament to the commitment of our members. But significant challenges remain as we look ahead to 2023.

Conscious of that, we once again prepare ourselves for the annual commemoration of the Birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Each Christmas we are invited to pause and reflect not simply on the events outlined in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, but more significantly, what that means as individuals seeking to live a Christian life with the ideals of our Order as a guide.

Some years ago, I was in London for Christmas, and I watched on television a broadcast on Christmas Eve of the Midnight Mass from Westminster Cathedral. In his homily Cardinal Vincent Nicholas began by drawing the congregation’s attention to the fact that when we look into the sky at night and are in a situation to clearly see the stars in the heavens, that some of the stars that twinkle so magically in the celestial realm are in fact dead stars. The light continues to penetrate through the galaxies, even though the source is now extinct. For many who observe the festivities around Christmas whilst the light might still have appeal – the source is gone. There is always the risk that we might be caught up in the Christmas paraphernalia and the

sentimentality associated with Christmas and forget the brutal fact that the child born in Bethlehem is the one destined to die as a convicted criminal in the most humiliating of circumstances. We cannot separate the birth of the Lord from his death – the two are inseparably linked. Many of the traditional Christmas Carols that are sung in our churches remind us of this fact. It is captured most succinctly in the words of G.K. Chesterton and the music of Herbert Howells in the carol: “Here is the Little Door”

*Here is the little door, lift up the latch, oh lift!*

*We need not wander more but enter with our gift;*

*Our gift of finest gold,*

*Gold that was never bought nor sold;*

*Myrrh to be strewn about his bed;*

*Incense in clouds about his head;*

*All for the Child who stirs not in his sleep.*

*But holy slumber holds with ass and sheep.*

*Bend low about his bed, for each he has a gift;*

*See how his eyes awake, lift up your hands, O lift!*

*For gold, he gives a keen-edged sword*

*(Defend with it Thy little Lord!),*

*For incense, smoke of battle red.*

*Myrrh for the honoured happy dead;*

*Gifts for his children terrible and sweet,*

*Touched by such tiny hands and*

*Oh such tiny feet.*

May all members of the Order enjoy all the blessings associated with the celebration of the Nativity, and may 2023 be a time of renewal and new found energy for the important outreach of our Order into the wider Australian community and let us also remember with gratitude to God those of our Order who have departed this life during 2022 that they will be welcomed into the fullness of the Divine Presence.



**The Very Rev Peter G. Williams AM VG EV ChLJ,  
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.**

Following the challenge laid down by Lady Potter AC CMRI at the National Chapter in Adelaide in May where she offered to donate \$10,000 to the Foundation provided others matched the donation, we were delighted to receive twenty donations and easily surpass the target. We are most grateful for all who contributed.

Being determined to protect and grow our corpus, during the year the Foundation introduced a membership fee of \$50 per annum to assist the administrative cost of running the Foundation. We were pleased to receive a good number of membership applications as a result.

This year the Foundation provided support to St Vincent DePaul for their direct efforts assisting victims of flooding in the Northern Rivers region and also supported the Anglican Overseas Aid Mission's work assisting the victims of the earthquake and tsunami in Tonga.

Members of the Order and their family and friends are encouraged to join the Foundation and to contribute to its long term objectives. Additionally State Commanderies are invited to consider an annual contribution to the Foundation in support of its work. Further details about the Foundation may be found on our website [www.oljfoundation.org](http://www.oljfoundation.org)

 **Joe Thorp CLJ**  
**Secretary**



# NATIONAL DIRECTORY

Grand Master (50th)

His Excellency Don Francisco de Borbón, Graf vonHardenberg GCLJ (J) GCIRLJ – Spain

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

Chancellor: Chev David Slater AM KCLJ OMLJ - QLD

National Council

Referendary: Mr Anthony Gissing CLJ - VIC

National Chaplain: The Very Rev Peter G. Williams AM VG EV ChLJ - NSW

National Treasurer: Chev Rod Scurrah KLJ - TAS

National Almoner: Mrs Margaret Heathcote CLJ - SA

National Hospitaller: Dame Rosalind Lawrence DLJ OMLJ - VIC

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

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

Presidents of Commanderies:

ACT: Chev Dr John Donovan ED KLJ OMLJ

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 CMLJ

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

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

Deputy National Chaplain:

The Right Reverend Dr Christopher Jones ChLJ CMLJ - TAS

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

National Archivist: Chev John Molnar OAM KLJ OMLJ - VIC

