



Military and Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem

ACT Commandery

Colleagues

You are invited to the 2023 National Chapter of the Order, to be held in Canberra from the evening of Thursday April 20 to Sunday 23 April.

The Chapter will follow the established format. As we are expecting to meet many new members and because of COVID a large number who have attended only one National Chapter an outline program is enclosed as a separate document. We have also enclosed a map showing the key venues.

Registration

See separate documents enclosed with this mailing.

Venue and Accommodation

You will need to arrange your own accommodation. It also needs to be arranged and paid for before Easter.

All meetings and the Dinner on the Friday will be held at the Realm Hotel, 18 National Circuit in Barton. We are encouraging you to stay at the Hotel Realm or other Doma Group hotels in Barton as we have negotiated a 15% discount on usual rates there. The Doma Hotels have a common booking service. The Burbury Hotel is across a lane from the Realm and has lower room rates. The Little National Hotel and the Brassey Hotel are both about 200m away.

When booking use the code EVENT. Upper case and underlined.

Those who are driving to Canberra might wish to stay at the Commonwealth Club, which will be the venue for the Chapter Dinner on the Saturday evening. If you do not have reciprocal member entitlement to stay at the Commonwealth Club we would be pleased to arrange that for you. Please contact Rosemary Everett on 040830160 if you need an introduction.

Arrival

If you need to be at the Friday morning meetings which commence at 9 am with coffee, you will need to come to Canberra on Thursday 20 April. For those who arrive early enough on Thursday, we have arranged a cruise on Lake Burley Griffin. Buses for the cruise will leave the Hotel Realm at 6 pm. Dress code is smart casual. Tickets for this event are limited, so please book early to secure your spot. So if you can, please choose flights that will arrive in time.

If you are not taking part in the meetings on Friday morning, you should arrive in time for the Vigil Service which starts at 5.30 pm. This service will be at Wesley Uniting Church, 20 – 22 National Circuit, a two-minute walk from the Hotel Realm.

Departure

The Chapter will end with a Sunday morning Mass at Mary, Help of Christians in Pearce. Buses will depart from the Hotel Realm at 9 30 am and either return directly to the Realm by midday or take you to a farewell light lunch at the Royal Canberra Golf Club. The lunch will suit those whose flights leave Canberra after 3.30 pm. Of course, you are most welcome to extend your stay either before or after the Chapter.

Partner program

We are offering a walking tour of the memorials of Anzac Parade on Friday morning. The guided walk is intended for partners but any member who is not taking part in the meetings at that time is most welcome to attend. It is free, and transport will be provided, but we need to know numbers so we can provide transport and arrange guiding. If you wish to discuss this tour please contact Dr Rod King, **0411 093 887**. Dame Ann Sutton would be pleased to assist with queries on other possibilities. Parliament will not be sitting and there should be no crowds during the Chapter or on Monday 24 April. You may wish to see the commemorations of ANZAC Day on 25 April.

COVID-19

Nearer to the date we will take expert advice on how to minimise the risk of COVID-19. Until then you can minimise the risk to others by ensuring your immunisations are up to date. Please note that in the interests of your fellow members you should not attend the National Chapter if you have any relevant symptoms.

Special needs

If you have special dietary needs please advise us with your booking. If you need transport for short distances this will be provided by Commandery members. Again, please tell us if this is the case.

Name badges

As most Commanderies now use epoxy coated magnetic clip badges with the green cross, please wear one at all times. If you or your partner do not have a badge we would be pleased to make one for you, \$15 each. Magnetic badges can affect pacemakers. If this affects you, please let us know and we will provide a pin/clip badge.

Any questions?

Please contact Dame Ann Sutton DLJ 0424 253 806 or email a.jsutton@netspeed.com.au

John Donovan KLJ CMLJ
Commandery President
28 February 2023