

Bro Knights and Fratres,

Congratulations to the Malta candidates here today. This completes your formal entry into the Order, so avail yourselves of the privilege to attend Great Priory. Your attention to the Ceremony provides an insight to your potential as Great Priory Officers. To the GPM and his Officers of the day, (there were many stand-ins) well done. You created a good ceremony for the four candidates who can only be impressed at the standard of work. Your dedication was on show and you did the Order proud.

When I was installed as Grand Master in June this year, I was excited yet apprehensive of the job and duties in front of me. I have not stopped to draw breath but the vacation from today on will recharge the batteries for next year. This past 6 months has passed so quickly, yet I have travelled to visit Preceptories over the length and breadth of this State and attended the sister Great Priories in Australia. The very warm and cordial reception I have received in all my travels has stimulated me to continue in the same vein; that is the positive nature I have attempted to engender in all members of this Great Priory.

We are far flung which increases the travel and time required to fulfil any office to which we are appointed, thus the Officers in Priory and Malta teams have a responsibility to attend and perform the duties of their respective Office. Promotion in the order can only be achieved by performance and diligence in your duties. If you cannot do this, DO NOT accept the Office or position.

You will notice, if your Registrar or Secretary is diligent, that you are receiving Notes on the decisions of Grand Master's Council. This has been done to ensure that all members in Queensland are aware that GMC is working for the good of the Order. It is hoped that this will engender better communication at all levels and ensures the positive attitudes continue. The sub-committees are, in most cases, working well, and their outcomes will, I am sure, be met with the same enthusiasm that the committees have in progressing this Order into the future.

I have just returned from visiting the Great Priory of Belgium, for whom I am the local representative. Very warm and cordial discussions were had with many of the Grand Masters present from Brazil, Portugal, Spain, Italy, Germany and Scotland. I intend to pursue this further next year in Milan at the triennial conference in September 2018.

THANK YOU all for your support of the Statute changes made today. They are mostly administrative but very necessary for the good functioning of our Order. I must thank the members of GMC, especially the GVC, G Chancellor, G Marshal, Great Seneschal and the Gt Prior of Malta for their outstanding efforts and support. The GS and GPM have a visitation schedule, and their presence is being warmly received by the Preceptories. I especially thank the G Prelate for also assuming the duties of DGVC. We now have a secretariat in operation and this also encompasses the duties of Great Registrar following the resignation due to ill health of V E Kt Ted Macaulay. Thank you for your efforts.

Please continue to address ALL communication through the GVC for dissemination to the right people. I also ask that if you want Great Priory assistance for your meeting, please ask 3 months in advance. Emergencies do happen and none of us like to have to read the ritual to do the job. The candidate is the most important person in the room and deserves our best efforts on all occasions. If you have any questions, please ask and your queries or doubts will be answered. Use the Milford Macarthur Eyres Memorial Library which is available to all Knights of the Order. The GVC is the contact for this service.

To the GM and his Gt Seneschal from NSW and ACT, thank you for your commitment to our Gt Priory. We regard Wally as one of ours now that he lives North of the Border. I will see you in February at Bathurst for your Malta Festival. Please have a safe journey home.

Thank you all for your support and dedication.

BANQUET

M E Kts Langusch, Pickering, Charlwood, Distinguished Knights, Affiliati, Ladies, Bro Kts and Fratres.

I warmly welcome you to this our last formal meeting of Great Priory and to have it in these surrounds makes it very pleasant. I have enjoyed a happy and restful weekend of doing things Templar and trust that each and every one of you has the same feelings. It is good to finish on a positive note and I think we can all say it was just that. Positive.

Thank you, R E Great Prior for your toast and to you Bro Kts for the way in which you honoured it. R E Gt Prior, you and your Officers have excelled in the way you and the last-minute stand in Officers have conducted the ceremony this afternoon. There are some stalwarts in our midst and I do not want to swell their heads by mentioning their name individually. They know who they are.

To the Candidates who attained the Degree of Kt of Malta this afternoon, congratulations. As I said in the Chapter room, your attention and dedication were on show and it proves that the Capricorn Preceptory made wise choices for its members. To the members of Capricorn Number 5, especially the Registrar and Ven Preceptor, keep up the good work and thank you for hosting this meeting of Great Priory.

To all present today, thank you for your dedication and support for KT Masonry. My wife and I extend to each one of you a Happy and Holy Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2018. I look forward to your company where ever we may meet in the New Year with all its opportunities and possibilities.