

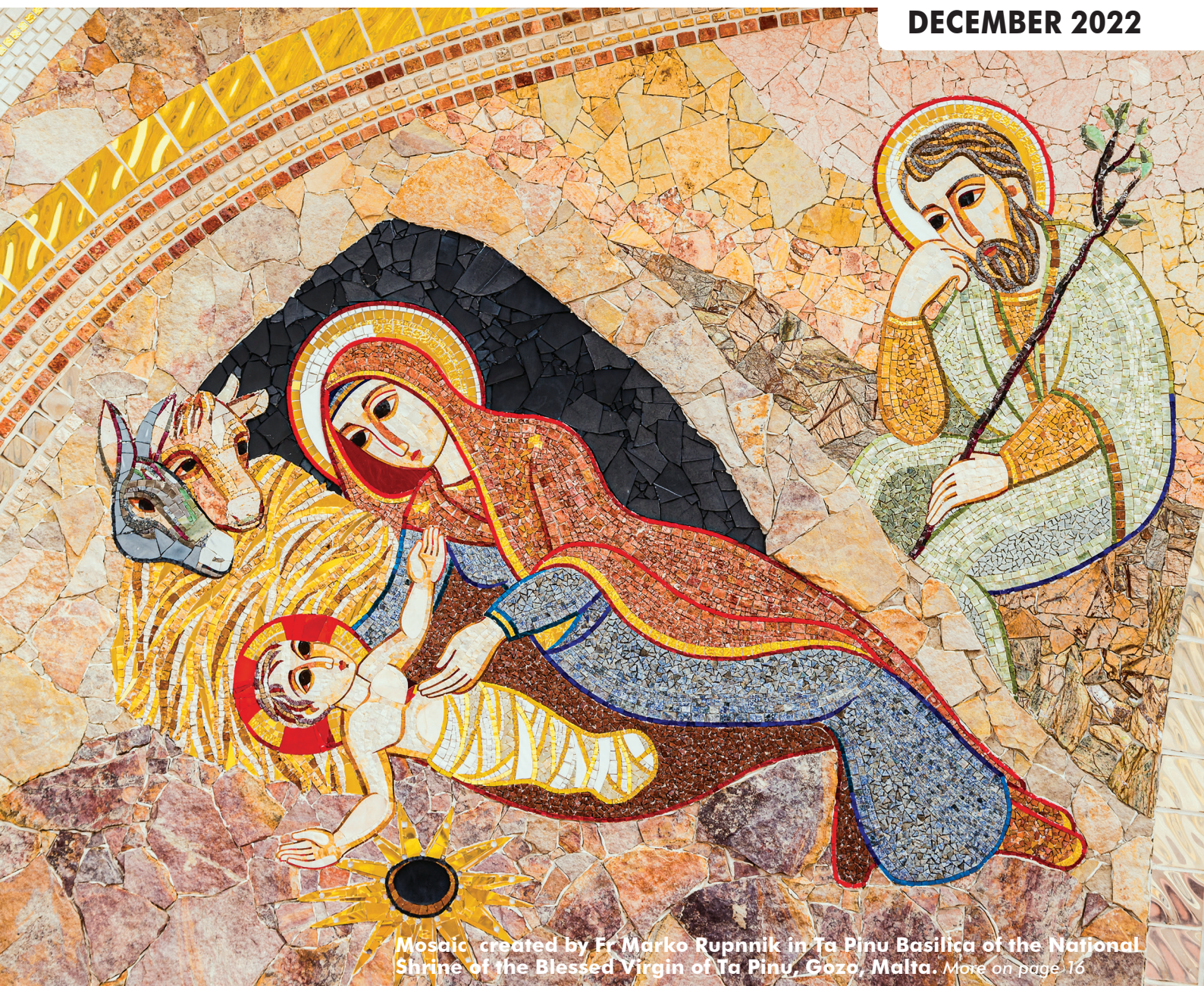
The BULLETIN

The Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller

THE GRAND PRIORY OF AUSTRALASIA

Under the Royal Charter of HM King Peter II of Yugoslavia

DECEMBER 2022



Mosaic created by Fr Marko Rupnik in Ta Pinu Basilica of the National Shrine of the Blessed Virgin of Ta Pinu, Gozo, Malta. More on page 16



**THE PRIORY OF QUEENSLAND AND
COMMANDERIES:**

BRISBANE, GOLD COAST

THE PRIORY OF THE SUNSHINE COAST

THE PRIORY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

THE PRIORY OF THE DARLING DOWNS

THE PRIORY OF VICTORIA

DECEMBER 2022

Investiture in Victoria **3-5** | Church Parade at St Paul's Cathedral **6** | Darling Downs Project
Fruition **8** | New Prior for Queensland **9** | George Kearney Memorial **12-13** | Christmas
Celebrations in Queensland **14-15** | Vale Stephen Golding **16**



CHEVALIER CHARLES CLARK OAM CSJ MMSJ

From the Editor's desk

Christmas is upon us once again, and again we enjoy the Christmas story. But there is a challenge in the Christmas story. It challenges our faith, and as faith can be defined as "believing what we cannot prove", it challenges our belief. Some of this is brought about by the myth of many of our Christmas carols – "I saw three ships", "the holly and the ivy", "Good king Wenceslas" – the list goes on.

So we need to look at the four Gospels of the New Testament to bring us back to the reality of Christmas. As the preface of a denim covered Testament aimed at young people states: "The New Testament does not merely inform, it does not just tell stories. It demands decision and calls for

commitment".

Matthew's Gospel gives a genealogy attempting to show that Jesus belongs to the royal household of King David, and five times in the first three chapters appeals to the facts of Old Testament prophecies. Mark's Gospel, the earliest of the Gospels, starts with John the Baptist, with no reference to the Birth. The first reference to Jesus is at 30 years old.

Luke gives us all the well loved stories of Annunciation with the Angel Gabriel, and the angels and shepherds. Also the wonderful Canticles (songs) of Benedictus, Magnificat, and Nunc Dimittis, used in all the daily Offices of the Church from monastic times to the present day. We have to combine Luke with

Matthew to include the stories of the Three Wise Men, the flight into Egypt, and the slaughter of boys under two years old.

John's Gospel, the latest of the Gospels with three different authors, written about 90 years after Jesus' life, contains no birth stories. The only reference to Jesus' birth is: "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us" then moves on to St John the Baptist, our St John.

When we think about the well-loved stories and carols at Christmas time, even the distortions played in the super-markets, what would we do without St Luke and the touch of St Matthew? Many have no trouble accepting the stories of Christ's birth, they have been our Christian diet right from childhood. Some with a scientific leaning have problems. According to the latest census more than 50% of Australians reject them – though they love their Christmas holiday, oh yes!

Whether or not we have difficulty with the reality of some of these stories, we can move on and structure our faith on the works of Jesus on earth, the way in which he gave life to the sick and the poor. This is where our faith takes hold in the work of the Order of Saint John. Right from the time of John the Almsgiver (7th Century), to the Amalfi merchants and Blessed Gerard, the early Knights Hospitaller, and to our own time, it has been the primary mission to minister to "our lords the sick and our lords the poor" based on the example of Jesus' work on earth.

Christmas is a time of giving – so we are told by the retailers thinking of the profits they make at this time – but we can cut through the fairy lights, the tinsel, and the shopping, we can enjoy the Christmas stories, and in the Order of Saint John we know how to give – all year round.

Happy and Holy Christmas to all our readers.



The Order of Saint John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller

THE GRAND PRIORY OF AUSTRALASIA

The modern Order of Saint John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller is a Christian, chivalric, ecumenical, and international community directly descended from the Hospitaller activities at the Hospice founded before the turn of the 11th century by Amalfi merchants, for pilgrims in Jerusalem.

Jerusalem 1048-1291; Cyprus 1292-1310;
Rhodes 1311-1523; Malta 1530-1798;
Australia 1969.

Australasia: osj.org.au

Sovereign Order: sosjinternational.org

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Allocution 21st October 2022

Delivered by the (then) Prior of Queensland
Chevalier Charles Clark OAM CCSJ MMSJ

Pro Fide – for the Faith.

It is the first part of the motto of the Order of St John world wide. The second part, Pro Utilitate Hominum, for service to humankind, is what we think of most in our charitable acts. So much do we concentrate on this aspect of our work that there is a feeling that Pro Fide takes a second place. The 2020 Sovereign Council Meeting of the Sovereign Order with whom we have very recently signed a Charter of Alliance, produced a special report on Pro Fide for that very reason. The report concluded that our regard for The Faith was diminishing and recommended some remedial steps to be taken.

The 2021 Census showed that for the first time, those people who subscribe to the Religious Faith had fallen below 50%. A recent Insight program on SBS TV asked the question: “If the number of people claiming a religious affiliation is declining, who is looking after our Faith?” The program gathered in all the major Faith religions of the world. For us of the Christian Faith, it is a serious question.

So what is this Faith which we are FOR?

A simple, easy to understand definition is that “Faith is believing in something that you cannot prove”. In everyday life, we have faith in many things that we cannot prove or understand – you

go to your GP, you have faith in his knowledge and ability, and in generations of practitioners and researchers who can deliver your necessary treatment. You fly from Melbourne to Sydney, to anywhere, you have faith in the designers and builders of the aircraft, those who service and maintain it, and those who pilot it.

The big one for us, of course, is to have the Christian Faith. In the Order of St John it is the fundamental and essential ingredient that sets us apart from all other charitable organizations. Our acts of charity are inspired by our faith. So what effect does our faith really have on our work?

I say that depends on the measure of our faith, collectively and individually. This is where the problems start for some, this is where, to those who think about it, the stumbling blocks can be found. Dame Elizabeth Murdoch was asked, as she approached the end of her long life, if she believed in life after death. She answered, No, and added: I wish I could but I think too much.

The Christian faith is based on the writings of the New Testament, which in turn surround the life of Jesus on this earth. Especially for those with scientific and philosophical bent belief can be difficult. How can the virgin birth, angels, shepherds, wise men, dreams, actually happen? These events were recorded in only one of the four Gospels, but if you want a Christmas you have to have them.

Then Easter. Why would the Jewish authorities want the most severe punishment to be inflicted on Jesus by the Romans? Would

not locking him for a few years shut him up? They persuade the Romans to inflict the cruelest and most degrading punishment possible, but it backfired on them, for the Crucifixion coupled with the Resurrection are the basis of the Christian Faith. It takes personal faith to believe in them. Fortunate are those who can believe without question. Amongst our greatest scientific philosophers some have faith to believe, some do not. Stephen Hawking wavered for some time; Richard Dawkins is happy and self confident in his evolutionary theories; But cosmologists like John Polkinghorne who in his book written in the 1980s and still regarded as current, asserts that evolution could not have been self-starting, there is something behind the Big Bang. Polkinghorne died last year, Fellow of Queen’s College, Cambridge, Fellow of the Royal Society, Professor of Mathematical Physics and an ordained Anglican Priest. His work brings about a reconciliation of science and religion. It needs a lot of faith to believe that the beginning of our universe, the so-called Big Bang, was caused by something, or should that be by someone, a higher Being.

Psychiatrist Carl Jung, who died in 1961, asserted that as faith diminishes, so does the meaning of life, leading to a search for happiness in other ways. Happiness is not an end in itself, though we now see it being sought in the sporting arenas, the TV programs, and pursuit of wealth. If these indeed bring happiness, why in our increasingly affluent society are mental breakdowns and suicides

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CHEVALIER EDWARD LEWELLIN KCSJ

Victorian Priory Investiture



Following the investiture: Victorian Priory Members and guests in the Church of St John the Evangelist, East Malvern, Melbourne.



Image, above: New Investee Chevalier William Hogg with the Grand Prior (left) and Prior of Victoria Chevalier Edward Lewellin KCSJ.

The Investiture

Chevalier William Thomas Wallace Hogg KSJ was invested into the Order in the Victorian Priory at a splendid ceremony in the Anglican Church of St John the Evangelist, East Malvern, on Friday, 21st October, at 6 pm.

The service followed the usual pattern with all due combination of pomp and solemnity.

The Accolade was bestowed by the Grand Prior of Australasia, H E Bailiff Adjunct Professor Victor Feros OAM GCSJ CMSJ, the first lesson was read by Chevalier Peter Davidson RFD KCSJ, the second by the Grand Priory Chancellor, Chevalier David Rees GCSJ, and the Allocation was delivered by the Past Prior of Queensland, Chevalier Charles Clark OAM GCSJ MMSJ.

The Victorian Pastor, Chevalier John Brownbill RFD KCSJ was to have read the Gospel, but had suffered a fall and could not attend, in his absence, the Gospel was read by Chevalier the

Reverend John Baldock KSJ.

After the ceremony the Banquet was held in Gables on Finch, a reception venue conveniently a few steps from the church. During the dinner Chevalier William Hogg was presented with his Diploma of rank and other Members received promotions. ✠



New Investee Chevalier William Hogg receives his Diploma from the Grand Prior.



Images, above: Receiving certificates from Grand Prior Victor Feros, are, Top: Dame Camilla van Megen DSJ, Lower: Chevalier William McAuley KCSJ.

continued from page 3

a bigger problem than ever? The short answer is because of lack of purpose and of meaning. Perhaps we need more than just the material to find meaning, which means we need a faith to believe in that which is beyond ourselves. Tim Costello wrote in his book published in 2018 that "we all need something more than just the material in order to find meaning. Spirituality is the exploration of that hunger. It inevitably involves faith".

Many people can talk about experiences of faith. Many of you here may be able to. I certainly can and will tell you of one that deeply impressed me. As some of you know, though I was an engineer by profession, I also had a well developed hobby as an organist and choir director. This led me to some rarely travelled places. One night I was practicing on a large organ in a large building and while I should have been excited by the sound of the instrument and the acoustics of the large space, I suddenly was quite overcome by the sense of something beyond me, something that conceived the architecture of the building, the will to erect it, the inspiration it can be to many people,

for that building was St Paul's Cathedral, London. And there I was, all alone in the vast place, tourists gone, doors locked, feeling rather insignificant, and contemplating the faith of the many people to create such an edifice for Christianity, and feeling a sense of being wrapped around by that faith.

So what of our faith in the Order of St John? I have already said that happy are those who have no problem with a faith that can accept all the accounts of the Gospels concerning the life and work of Jesus. But we are not all like that. We have different degrees of faith. In the Second Lesson tonight, St Paul talks of "according to the measure of your faith". We take the inspiration for our work, the Pro Utilitate Hominum, from our faith, the Pro Fide.

Note, however, that our motto is Pro Fide, for the Faith, whereas we speak about doing good works by Faith, Per Fidem. We are to work to preserve the Pro Fide, in ourselves, in the community, so that we may continue to work by faith. That really does take some work and study. We have a wide range of understanding of our commitment to this. *continued on page 9*



The Investiture was followed by the Banquet at Gables on Finch

Victorian Priory Annual Church Parade

Priory Members process down the magnificent nave of St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne, at the start of the 10:30 am Sunday service.

The Victorian Priory annual Church Parade was held on Sunday, November 6th, in St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne, as part of the 10:00 am service.

Robed Priory Members joined the liturgical processions of clergy and choir and sat in the front seats of the nave.

The sermon was delivered by The Reverend Canon Emeritus Christopher Carolane, who spoke about Zacchaeus, Jerico's tax collector who gave up his wealth for the poor. After the service, lunch was a successful social occasion at the RACV Club.

Passing on

The Council was saddened to hear of the passing last month of **Chevalier Max Boyce KSJ** and **Chevalier Peter Lewis KCSJ** who both joined the Order in 2006. Our condolences and sympathy to their families for their loss. ☩

Christmas Lunch

The Christmas Lunch was held in the Norman Banks Room, Royal South Yarra Lawn Tennis Club on Saturday, 26th November. Details have been covered by the Vice-Chancellor in his report.

Priory of Victoria news

The Priory of Victoria, affected adversely a few years ago when a number of members left, and by the deaths of two Priors and another significant active member, is regaining ground with a very

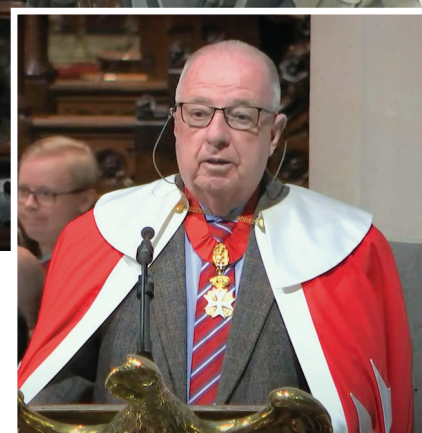


Image above: Chevalier Peter Davidson RFD KCSJ reading the first lesson.

enthusiastic membership. This is reflected in the extracts below from the end of year report.

From Vice-Chancellor Chevalier Rod Smith KSJ:

What a busy October and November, with our Investiture



CHEVALIER RODNEY SMITH KSJ



Robed Priory Members outside St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne

and Gala Dinner, Church Parade and RACV lunch in October and now our Christmas lunch this month!

A big thankyou to all our Knights and Dames, our Christmas effort collectively raised \$1050 which is our best effort this year. Also, a big thankyou to Bill McAuley for hosting us at the Royal South Yarra Club and Will Hogg and Camilla Van Megen for door prizes. Nothing better than

a door prize to set the tone of the occasion! A very happy occasion was enjoyed by all.

We also had a special guest former Prior Charles Clark OAM, from Queensland who has visited us a few times this year. We thank him for his support.

Donations to charity

The council has approved the following donations totalling \$10,000 drawing down on our cash reserves that had been held during

these past Covid-uncertain times.

- Church of the Holy Sepulchre Jerusalem \$1000
- Berry St \$3000
- Mirabel Foundation \$3000
- Good Samaritan Inn \$3000

Following a submission by Chevalier Bill McAuley KCSJ, the Council has approved a \$1000 donation to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem. Gail Smith put forward the need that is being experienced in women's shelters, providing a first refuge point for women escaping violence and other abuse.

Berry St helps Victoria's most disadvantaged children, young people and families. Mirabel assists children who have been orphaned or abandoned due to parental illicit drug use and are now in the care of extended family.

The challenge now is to see how we can raise the same again (or more) next year. We are very conscious to ensure that what we raise is relevant to the needs of our community. Plans for next year include a Church Service on 9th July, and Investiture and Gala Dinner Mid October. ✠



Members of the Priory of Victoria gather for a Christmas Lunch. The new Prior, Chevalier Edward Lewellin KCSJ, is at the head of the table, far end.

CHEVALIER DR JEFFREY PREBBLE OAM KCSJ

Generosity and efficiency fulfilled Darling Downs' ambitious 2022 project

The refurbishment of the relative's accommodation at Toowoomba Hospital has been the Darling Downs Priory's project for the past twelve months.

History

The six rooms were originally constructed in 1999 for the Red Cross after a successful fund-raising project chaired by Chevalier John Dornbusch.

The unit was named the Clive Berghofer Toowoomba Hospital Accommodation in recognition of the major donor, Chevalier Clive Berghofer AM. Now run by the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation, it was their wish to refurbish the rooms.

A Priory Fund Raising Committee was established in 2022, chaired by Chevalier LtCol Julian Turner. The other members were Prior Sue Fox, Dames Amanda Boyce and Pat Gillespie, Chevaliers Wayne Anderson, Bill Barrett, Peter Brodie, Noel Cass, Ross Douglas, Mark Osborne, and Jeff Prebble.

Images, at right.

Top: L to R: Mrs. Alison Kennedy (CEO Toowoomba Hospital Foundation), Mr. Sean Lees (Hutchinson Builders), Prior Sue Fox, Chevalier Julian Turner.

Top right: A refurbished unit.

Lower: Pre-dinner drinks and canapes.

Far right: Dinner on the stage of the Empire Theatre

The committee considered charitable options and decided to work with the Hospital Foundation on what was called "The Hospitaller's Home Away from Home Project". The cost of refurbishing each room was assessed at \$55,000. So clearly, this was an ambitious undertaking.

Donations

Thanks to the efforts of Chevalier Joe Wagner, twenty companies provided in-kind donations. The major contributor was Hutchinson Builders who have undertaken the construction work for all six rooms as a donation.

This has been generously supported by subcontractors

including Weston Kitchens & Bathrooms, Livewired Electrical and Demco Constructions. Cash donations and sponsorship from many others including Clive Berghofer Group, pbAgrifood, Wagners and Heritage Bank raised \$47,500 and all of the printing was donated by Chevalier Mark Osborne from Greenridge Press.

At the function 2,840 raffle tickets, raising \$6,140, were sold to generous guests by an efficient team led by Dame Pat Gillespie while \$7,600 was raised from an auction.

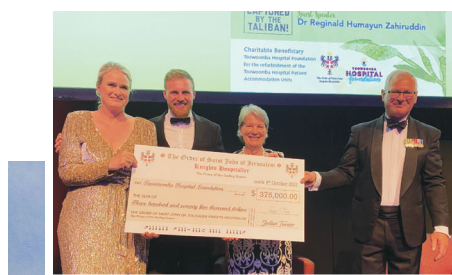
The final result was a total of \$396,430 in kind and cash.

Construction

Work commenced in August of this year and is now almost completed. Each unit has been completely renovated and refurbished.

Black-tie Dinner

The culmination of the project was a black-tie dinner at the Empire Theatre on Saturday 8th October.



Attended by 250 guests, pre-dinner drinks and canapes were served on the lawn before moving inside to be seated on the stage of the theatre for dinner.

The guest speaker was Dr. Reginald Humayun Zahiruddin. Aged 69 years, this general surgeon was born in Pakistan and worked in government hospitals and Christian Mission Hospitals.

He established the social welfare organisation, Mercy Home and a Christian Health Centre in Pakistan. In 2007 he was kidnapped by the Taliban, sentenced to death, but miraculously was released after 25 days. He came to Australia for protection in 2009 and works with Jobfit Health Group in occupational medicine.

He still continues activity in Pakistan to set free Christian bonded labourers and is helping to build a school, a vocational training centre, a health centre and homes for the homeless.

At the conclusion of the function, a cheque for \$375,000 was presented by Prior Sue Fox to the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation. Prior Sue sincerely thanked the organizing committee, all the sponsors and donors. ✠



New Prior for Queensland Priory

Chevalier Michael Halliday KCSJ was elected by members of the Priory of Queensland as the new Prior for the next three years, to replace outgoing Prior, Chevalier Charles Clark OAM GCSJ MMSJ.

In a short ceremony at the beginning of the Priory Administration Council meeting on Wednesday, 7th December, Prior Michael received a blessing from the Prelate and Chaplain of Queensland Priory, Chevalier the Reverend Dr David Pitman AM GCHSJ, and an affirmation of support from all Members of the Council. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the Grand Prior led Chevalier Michael to the Chair from which he proceeded to conduct the Council meeting. ✠



continued from page 5

At one end of the scale is the recommendation in the Sovereign Order's report on Pro Fide of the 2020 Sovereign Council meeting, that a member should attend worship in church at least at Christmas, Easter and the Birth of St John the Baptist, our Patron Saint and financially support the church they attend.

They should recognize the Nicene Creed as showing the specifically Christian nature of the Order and understand the teachings of the Beatitudes.

At the other end of the scale we find the Priory of Bretagne practicing their Faith to the extent of holding whole weekend retreats for study and worship. In our

Order in Australia, all members are required to feel comfortable with the Christian Faith as expressed particularly in the Nicene Creed, that is, a Trinitarian belief.

To the question posed at the beginning of this Allocution: "If the number of people claiming a religious affiliation is declining, who is looking after our Faith?" The answer is – ***we are and we must.***

A prayer from the time of Elizabeth I:

O Lord, increase my faith
strengthen me
and confirm me in thy true faith,
endue me with wisdom,
charity, and patience
in all my adversity. AMEN.

Charles Clark OAM GCSJ MMSJ ✠

Errata

In the **August 2022** issue pages 6 and 7, the images of Chevaliers Noel Grummet and Ross Molloy were reversed.

In the **October 2022** issue page 12 Dame Heather Rogers was named Heather Munro.

Apologies for any confusion caused. *Editor.*

CHEVALIER ANTHONY HOWES KCSJ

A Farmer's Wife assists WA Priory with Christmas fundraising for "Give a Feed"

This is the 10th year running that the Western Australian Priory has staged a very special Christmas production to raise funds to give the homeless of our city a reason to celebrate the Christmas season.

This year the funds will go to "Give A Feed" which provides something in the vicinity of 3,000 hampers for those going without at what should be a time of joy – Christmas. Of course, the Order is joined to present "A Farmer's Wife At Christmas" by St George's Cathedral, and Western Australia's innovative theatrical company, Theatre 180. Every ticket bought provides for the homeless, be they literally without shelter or like so many mothers,

existing in cars with their children. The production is set as if in a recording session for a costumed radio play – with the Cathedral lending its spacious beauty to the scene!

It's 1796, and a farmer's wife in rural England is preparing for Christmas and looking back over an eventful year, full of details of village life and peopled with wonderful characters. Based on a real 18th century journal, "A Farmer's Wife at Christmas" is freely adapted and re-imagined by Jenny Davis from Anne Hughes' 1796 journal, collated by Jeanne Preston for "The Farmers' Weekly" of the 1930s. The cast features



leading West Australian actress, Rebecca Davis (pictured). The Perth Undergraduate Choral Society provides the seasonal music. The performance, which was seen on Friday December 16 at 7.30 pm in St George's Cathedral, will be broadcast on Perth's Capital Radio on Christmas Eve, which allows The WA Priory of the Order to wish all of Western Australia, **a Happy Christmas.**

The Priory continues its work at Jarrahdale

The August 2022 Bulletin contained an article about the rehabilitation work sponsored by the Priory of Western Australia at Jarrahdale. The following provides an update on the work.

Around a year ago in mid-2021, the Western Australian Priory agreed to a proposition that it should support the R&R Veterans Transition Centre in Jarrahdale.

It was established as a retreat for defence force veterans, especially those that are having difficulty in transitioning back into civilian life. Ex-service people have an enormous amount to offer but adjusting from a long military career to living and working in civilian life can be extremely challenging for the individual and their families.

The Centre aims to offer a full suite of services such as counselling, training, development and vocational



guidance as well as providing a 'Safe House' for any ex-service person who needs support at any time.

Prior Jamie Edwards together with Deputy Priors Tony Howes and Bill Munro visited the Centre and saw there was an immediate need to refurbish a derelict swimming pool. The WA Priory Chapter agreed to support the Centre

Commemorating Malta

Dames and Knights of the WA Priory were again involved at both the State War Memorial and St George's Cathedral to commemorate the Siege of Malta – in the morning at the Memorial in King's Park for the procession and wreath-laying; and at the Cathedral for a Service in our Conventual Church in the evening.

At the Cathedral, again with the members of the Order participating in the formalities of a solemn procession and wreath-laying, there was an extra poignancy and deep emotion present, as the death of our Sovereign was uppermost in the thoughts of all.

The links between Her Late Majesty and the Island of Malta, together with the Siege commemoration, from both early history and the Second World War, were given significant emphasis in the sermon preached by the

Cathedral Precentor, the Reverend Steve Hilton, a former member of the Royal Household.

Just a portion I quote here.

"For most of us, being under siege is something we will not experience. Just as we are unlikely to experience the scrutiny and limelight that has marked these decades of service of Her Late Majesty the Queen and will doubtless mark the reign of His Majesty The King. But there is something that unites us to The Late Queen and King Charles III this evening here in Perth and, indeed, to the people of faith that were besieged in Malta in those years.

And that is that all of us are known and loved by the shepherd.

Whether our faith is a burning hot fire or has cooled over time, whether we have more wavering doubts

than firm beliefs, we are known by the shepherd. We are loved by the shepherd. And the shepherd longs for the sheep to recognise his voice.

The voice that says: I want you to have abundant life. You see, so many of us are determined to limit our own potential for abundant life.

Not the shepherd. The shepherd has never doubted the sheep. The shepherd never limits but is recklessly generous offering abundance of which we can never even dream.

That is at the heart of the faith that stands behind the symbol on the Maltese flag; that little George Cross awarded to the island of Malta.

It was the faith of our Late Queen.

It is the faith of our new Sovereign.

It is the foundation of this place and why we are here this evening.

To our Beloved Queen: May flights of angels sing thee to thy rest.

And may we, with one voice, proudly proclaim:

God save the King".

with a donation to restore the pool, which fitted in with their charitable objects. Much of the work was done by prisoners from the nearby low-security prison which contributed to them being able to adjust to a return to civilian life.

Knights and Dames of the WA Priory visited the Centre to inspect the work and committed an additional sum to renew the adjacent children's playground, with labour again being provided by the prisoners and materials being donated by Bunnings.

Prior Jamie Edwards accepted a commemorative plaque from the Chairman of the Centre and recently invested Knight, Chevalier Tony Wills. The pool has been named the OSJ Pool.



Christmas in the Priory of Western Australia

The Dames and Knights of the WA Priory gathered at the home of Dame Doctor Margaret Pride and her husband, Michael, to make an early celebration of Christmas. This was a balmy afternoon of Sunday 4th December at their home in the Perth suburb of Winthrop. It was to be an afternoon of pleasant chatter, good food and a drop or two of fine wine.

Prior Jamie welcomed us all and reflected on a good year for the Priory, despite the continuing ramifications of the pandemic. He thanked Margaret and Michael for the hospitality and also thanked Dame Doctor Heather Rogers and Chevalier Bill Monro for their representative roles in Vancouver at the meeting of the Sovereign Council, at which the Grand Prior played such a significant role. He commended Chevalier Bill for, yet again, donning the Chef's Hat for our repast! At the urging of others, I was able to formally thank the Prior for once again guiding us with kindness and practical support through a year where the Order in WA had been able to show sound development.

Chevalier Jamie, the Dames, Knights and Serving Brother of the Western Australian Priory send their fond wishes to all Order members throughout the nation for a happy and holy Christmas, and for great prosperity in 2023.

Chevalier Anthony Howes KCSJ, Co-Deputy Prior and Herald. ☩

Remembering a Life Well-Lived



George and Jacqui Kearney

Chevalier Emeritus Professor George Kearney AM RFD ED GCSJ passed away on 11th July 2020. His funeral, in St John's Cathedral, was attended by family only because of COVID restrictions that were then in place.

As noted in August 2022 Bulletin, George's life was remembered and honoured in a Memorial Service in St John's Cathedral on 8th July this year. It was well attended by the many friends and associates from the various facets of his life.

Five eulogies were presented by family members and colleagues: Maria Kearney, George's daughter spoke about his family life, Ross Carmichael gave his remembrance of George through the eyes of a grandson, Wal Hall, and Peter

Memorial Service in Celebration of The Life of Professor Emeritus George England Kearney, the Cathedral Church of St. John The Evangelist, Brisbane 8th July 2022

Murphy, former Directors of Army Psychology, gave a resumé of George's army experience, John O'Gorman, former Professor of Psychology, Griffith University, spoke of George's academic career, Victor Feros, Grand Prior, traced George's path through the Order of Saint John, especially as Prior and Chancellor.

These eulogies have been placed on the OSJ website. Also representing the Order, Charles Clark was honoured to be asked by the family to play the organ for the service, which is still available on YouTube.

The service was conducted by the Dean of the Cathedral, the Very Reverend Dr Peter Catt, a sermon was delivered by the Right Reverend Jonathan Holland, and the lesson was read by George's daughter, Kate.

A very large congregation attended to honour George in a way that could not be done in 2020 because of the COVID restrictions, and a reception was held in the United Service Club following the service. ✠

The eulogy from Victor Feros OAM GCSJ CMSJ Grand Prior

The notice advising the Memorial Service for Professor Emeritus George England Kearney AM RFD ED GCSJ, was captioned "Remembering a Life Well-Lived" – most-respectfully stated, however, may I suggest, somewhat modestly so. George's life, you see, was "an extraordinary life, extraordinarily well-lived".

In every sense, in the tradition, George was a polymath – and I leave it to others here today to speak of the many facets of George's experiences, his accomplishments – his exceptional contributions to his communities of interest – numerous and varied – to society.

Among George's commitments was his long-term service to the



Ross Carmichael



L to R: The Right Reverend Jonathan Holland and the Very Reverend Dr Peter Catt

Order of Saint John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller, the longest-surviving Order of Chivalry and of Charity and for a significant period a Military Order, having its beginnings in Jerusalem almost one thousand years ago, under the Blessed Gerard, Prince of Amalfi, providing sustenance to Pilgrims visiting the Holy Lands, and, at times of conflict, ministering to the wounded, regardless of faith. Early in the twelfth Century, by Papal Bull, the Order was bestowed sovereignty.

Momentous in the illustrious history of the Order was the lifting of the Siege of Malta, when in 1565, the Hospitaller Knights withstood the might of the Ottoman Empire, in large truth saving Christian Europe.

After more than 200 years in Rhodes and more than 250 years in Malta, the Order continued in Europe, extending to North America more than 100 years ago and to Australia some fifty years later. Our particular Order continues to serve our Lords the Sick and our Lords the Poor – those less fortunate – openly yet quietly, independently, with Christian, with Ecumenical, purpose, without discrimination of any kind and without the coveting of recognition or reward.

Our motto – “Pro Fide, Pro Utilitate Hominum” – For the Faith, for service to Humanity.

The enduring legacy of the Order is the very concept of “hospital”, the gift of our Knightly forebears, in Jerusalem, to service to humanity.

Chevalier Professor Emeritus George England Kearney served the Order most dutifully, diligently and with distinction.

Entering the Order as a Knight of Honour, Chevalier George Kearney was invested in 1998, in Brisbane and rose ultimately in 2011 to the highest rank of Knight Grand Cross of Justice, having been elected and appointed Prior of the Priory of Queensland in 2010 and

before that, in 2007, Chancellor of the then Grand Priory of Northern Australia, a role which he continued to perform, as Chief Executive of the emerged Grand Priory of Australasia, from 2011 until his passing.

As Chancellor, George administered the organisational affairs of more than 250 Knights and Dames in the Pories of Queensland, the Darling Downs, Sunshine Coast, Victoria and Western Australia, and the Commandery of the Gold Coast. His capacity, his capabilities, his abilities, honed through a lifetime of senior-ranked military service and academia at professorial and Pro-Vice Chancellor levels, were very evident throughout his service to the Order.

George, in his Priorship of Queensland and in his chancellorship, developed yet further admirable qualities of service, not merely dutiful but invaluable.

Permit me a personal insight – George was so well connected – his connectedness seemingly without limit. Often, in the course of conversation or in the business of dealing with matters of the Order, at times requiring tact, diplomacy, connection, George’s insight was truly remarkable – he knew everybody, and they, him. At one time I sought, with insufficient forethought, in hindsight, to test this revered connectedness of his. I had expressed a doubt about his familiarity with a particular person of high station in charitable affairs, of interest to the activities of the Order. He had this person telephone me the following day – “George Kearney suggested that I should speak with you.” I no longer doubted George – he really did know everyone.

I had, at about that time, been reading an account, apocryphal no doubt, of the telling of two old

friends, who met in London, very many years ago.

The first said

“I have only just met the Old Squire.”

“Which Old Squire?” asked the other.

“Why, George Osbaldeston, of course”

(I pause – the referred gentleman was, by all accounts, the most well-known and admired of Englishmen – accomplished in so many things.)

“What’s he the Squire of?”

“Why, he’s the Squire of England.”

Forgive me if I were to suggest, in all sincerity, George’s candidacy for the Squire of Queensland. I did, in fact, divulge this to George at the time – he was enormously pleased – chuffed, in fact. I did not divulge that I had only a little while earlier bestowed a similar sobriquet upon his Victorian Priory counterpart – also a Prior, also a Professor, also a military man – the Squire of Victoria, but little, if anything turns on this admission now – for George, you see – was truly – “*sui generis*”.

George’s resolve in helping to ensure that the Grand Priory of Australasia would prosper, and to continue to strive to do good for others, in the name of our Patron, John the Baptist, Forerunner, was a way-finder for us all in the Order.

We, the Order, extend our deepest sympathies to Jacqui, Kate and Maria and their families at their loss. George will long be remembered by his family of Knights and Dames, his Sisters and Brothers in Saint John.

We, the Order, are forever thankful for George’s service to Humanity. George’s life, without any doubt, was extraordinary, extraordinarily well-lived. Resting at Peace, risen in Glory.

Victor Feros OAM GCSJ CMSJ
Grand Prior
Grand Priory of Australasia ☩

Christmas celebrations

On the Sunshine Coast

On Sunday 11th December at 12:30 pm the Sunshine Coast Priory celebrated the end of the year and Christmas at The Avenue, 32 Baden Powell Street, Maroochydore. Ham, pork and turkey were enjoyed by a large number of the Priory Members, and a door prize and raffles helped to produce funds for charity.

Guests were welcomed by Prior Gary Cant KCSJ and Vice-Chancellor Dame Jenny Cant DCSJ. Dame Jean Ledwidge, who rejoices in being the oldest member of the Priory, drew the raffle prizes.

Dame Jean, you will recall, is the author of our book on the history of the Order in Australia, *Knights to Remember*.

A special feature of the Priory's celebration is that every year those attending are asked to bring a small soft toy. These toys are given to children who are obliged to appear in court, a nerve-racking experience for a young one. Children carry the toys as they face the judge to provide a measure of comfort and security.

The Priory sends its Christmas Greetings to all Members of the Order.



Above: Dame Jean specifies the specifics of soft toys



Top: Around the table from left, Jenny and Ian Stirton Smith, Robyn Ray, Michael and Sue Milwright, Bp. Bill Ray, Jean Ledwidge.

Lower: Prior Gary Cant, Vice-Chancellor Dame Jenny Cant, Dame Jean Ledwidge and Chevalier Charles Clark



Above: Grand Prior Victor Feros with Darling Downs' Prior Sue Fox

Beautiful dining on the Darling Downs

On the 10th November the Darling Downs Priory held its last meeting of the year followed by our Christmas Dinner.

Organized by Chevalier Joe Wagner and Mrs Helen Wagner, hosted by Prior Sue Fox and attended by Grand Prior Victor Feros, Dame Marion Feros, and 80 Members, spouses and partners, the night was a great success.

Beautiful table decorations, a traditional Christmas dinner and entertainment from singer/keyboard player, Raquelle Pedler. The evening raised \$3,310 for Red Frogs.

Passing on

The Order was saddened to hear of the passing last month of Dame Ngaire Roberts DSJ, who joined the Order on the Sunshine Coast in 2016. Our condolences and sympathy to her family for their loss. ☠

Lunch with the Brisbane Commandery

Brisbane Commandery held its Christmas Lunch, as it has done for many years, in the Queensland Club, this year on Wednesday, 7th December. The Club provided the usual high standard of meal, complete with table decorations and bon-bons.

While the function is primarily a social occasion for the end of the year, envelopes were provided to

enable donations to be made for the Commandery charity, Zephyr Education. An amount of \$1,560 was collected on the day through the envelopes and direct deposit, and this will be added to the amount to be donated to Zephyr next year.

Two carols were sung by the sixty two Members and guests attending, the Australian "Christmas Day (North Wind)" and "Silent Night". The Commander for Brisbane, Dame Leanne O'Shea

DCSJ, welcomed all present with a special welcome to the newly appointed Prior of Queensland, Chevalier Michael Halliday KCSJ and a gift from the Commandery for the outgoing Prior, Chevalier Charles Clark OAM GCSJ MMSJ.

Thanks go to Dame Professor Emeritus Gwendolen Jull AO DSJ and Prior Michael Halliday KCSJ for organizing the successful function.

The Commandery wishes all readers a happy Christmas and peaceful New Year. ❄️



Above: Commander Dame Leanne O'Shea welcoming guests.



Above: They sang, they dined, they donated. Guests and Members in festive mode at the Queensland Club luncheon.

The Bulletin Editorial Group wishes all our readers a happy and holy Christmas ❄️



Chevalier MAJGEN Stephen
Golding AM RFD BE MEngSc
BEcon HonFIEAust FCILT
FITE(L) FAIM FAICD CPEng
RPEQ KCSJ

Vale



Chevalier Steve Golding passed away unexpectedly after a short illness on 1st November 2022. His funeral was held in the family church, St Andrew's Anglican Church, Indooroopilly on 8th November.

At the request of the family, it was a quiet celebration of Steve's life, not widely publicised and attended by a few representatives of the many facets of his life, in particular, the Army, the Masons, Queensland Government Departments and the Order of Saint John.

Chevalier Steve was invested into the OSJ 2013 but for some years was not able to take a great organisational part in the Order because of his tremendous commitments elsewhere in the army and the community.

In more recent times, as he relinquished some of these duties he became involved, rose to the rank of Knight Commander of Grace, with the Order's expectation he would continue to the Justice rank. He became a Vice-Prior for Queensland Priory.

The CV at right supplied by the ADF tells you something of Steve's life – much of which many would not know.

Chevalier Steve will be greatly missed by all in the Order who knew and worked with him. Resting at Peace, risen in Glory. ✠

MAJ GEN STEPHEN GOLDING AM, RFD (RTD)

Stephen Golding's military career commenced in the Army School Cadets in 1959 at the Banyo State High School. Having topped the 1 Cadet Brigade Cadet Under Officers' Course in 1961, he was appointed CUO in 1962, being also the Student of the Year.

He achieved his school ambition in 1963 by commencing a course in civil engineering at the University of Queensland and enlisting as a private soldier in the Queensland University Regiment. Having topped the promotion courses to the ranks of corporal and sergeant, he was commissioned into the Royal Australian Infantry on 22 February 1967. He was posted to the 42nd Bn The Royal Queensland Regiment in Rockhampton.

He corps transferred to Royal Australian Engineers in 1970 having returned to Brisbane for postgraduate studies in engineering. Regimental appointments in 28 Fd Pk Sqn and 11 Fd Sqn followed. During this time he was top student in the South Queensland Tac 3 course in 1977 and the national Tac 5 course (Blamey Award) in 1979. He was appointed CO of 5 FER in July 1980 and promoted to Lt Col.

Following command of 5 FER in July 1983 he was promoted Colonel and posted as Reserve

Chief of Staff, HQ 1 Div. In 1984 he was posted as Commander Reserve Command and Staff College, 1 Trg Gp.

Promoted to Brigadier in July 1986 he assumed command of 1 Trg Gp. In June 1990 he was appointed Commander 7 Bde, an appointment he held to August 1993. In March 1994 he was promoted to Maj Gen and appointed as Assistant Chief of Army (Reserves). He was posted to the Inactive Army Reserve in 1998.

He was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 1998 and has been awarded the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal, the Centenary Medal, Reserve Forces Decoration, National Medal and Australian Defence Medal. Over his career he was an honorary Aide-de-camp to three State Governors and the Governor General of Australia.

His civilian career was with the Main Roads and Transport Departments in Rockhampton, Emerald and Brisbane. His final appointment was Director General of Main Roads from 2000 to 2005.

Since finishing full time employment he has served on a variety of boards in the water and transport sectors. He is married to Christine and they have two adult children and six grandchildren.

CV supplied, unedited, courtesy the Australian Defence Force (ADF)

About our cover image

Mosaic of the nativity scene created by Fr Marko Ivan Rupnik in Ta Pinu Basilica of the National Shrine of the Blessed Virgin of Ta Pinu seen on the island of Gozo in April 2022 in Malta. Father Marko Rupnik, (born 28 November 1954) is a Slovenian Jesuit based in Rome, and is renowned for his stunning mosaics. His bold, colourful icons bridge Eastern and Western traditions in a jubilant mix of art that is both new and ancient. ✠