

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

**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**

AUGUST 2020

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Although faced with the difficulties Covid-19 presents, the need and our work, continues.

Funding continues to a welfare Pantry.
See page 9



Completion of a hospice project.
See page 6

Enabling work in "Our Backyard" to continue.
See page 7





CHEVALIER CHARLES CLARK GCSJ MMSJ

From the Editor's desk

In the midst of a pandemic, readers will be waiting for what commentators, editors amongst them, are likely to say. So what can I say? Most of what can be said about the Covid-19 pandemic has already been said and through the regular media we can keep ourselves constantly acquainted with the numbers of infections, deaths, and recoveries, and note the ebb and flow of restrictions, especially the ones that involve us personally. And we can take an interest in the history of earlier pandemics which, as with most history, can teach valuable lessons for the present.

The earliest recorded pandemic happened as the Spartans laid siege to the walls of Athens in

430BC. As much as two-thirds of the population died. The disease, suspected to have been typhoid fever, weakened the Athenians sufficiently to be a factor in their defeat by the Spartans.

Many pandemics have followed: leprosy in the 11th Century, Bubonic Plague which rose in the 14th Century, continued to rise regularly, wiping out much of London in the 17th Century and still claims victims in less developed areas today, cholera in the early 19th Century, and close to and within the life-times of many of us, Spanish Flu, Asian Flu, HIV/AIDS, SARS, and now Covid-19.

It must be recognised that each pandemic has contributed some benefit to humankind. Quarantine,

DEATH TOLL FROM SOME PLAGUES OVER THE CENTURIES

200m Bubonic plague, 1331-1353
56m Smallpox, 1520
40-50m Spanish Flu, 1918-1920
30-50m Plague, 541-542
36m HIV/Aids, 1981 to present
1.1m Asian Flu, 1957-1958
1m Russian Flu, 1989-1990
1m Hong Kong Flu, 1968-1970
11.3k Ebola, 2013-2016
770 Sars, 2002-2003
794,000+ Covid-19, (confirmed cases 22.7m+)

from the Italian "Quarantino" meaning 40 days, was practised during the Bubonic Plague; distancing for delivery of food and drink was practised in Italy in the 17th Century; when disease was thought to be spread by foul air, masks packed with strong herbs were worn; serious hand washing followed the work of Pasteur, Lister, and Koch. All of these practices are in use today.

What unique benefits can we expect from Covid-19? The use of advanced technology for communication with social distancing is an obvious one, not available to earlier plagues. A serious shortfall has been the rise of selfishness, "rights", deceit, in surprisingly large numbers, fortunately countered by acts of mercy, consideration, selflessness and sheer bravery. In the near future there will be more sick and many poor. The Order of Saint John can look for its continued work in these areas. ✠



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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CORRESPONDENCE

Chevalier Charles Clark GCSJ MMSJ
email: cqc1@optusnet.com.au

EDITORIAL GROUP

Chevaliers Charles Clark, Reverend Dr David Pitman, the Reverend Canon Emeritus Bruce Maughan (Prelate), Robin Kleinschmidt, Garry Page, Dames Dawn Goodall, and Donna Fraser, and Serving Sister Leith Robinson.

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Web signing-on

The Sign-Up page comes up at the beginning of the Members' Domain. Enter your email address as given in the Roll of Honour and create a password which you will use from then on to log in. ✠

Sovereign Council Meeting

from International Newsletter, June 2020



Grand Master Grand Commander

As many Members already know, the 2020 Sovereign Council meetings and events formerly announced will now not take place in Vancouver as planned

The current COVID pandemic has forced Le Petit Conseil to consider both the current and foreseeable situations relating to gatherings of people, and physical distancing requirements and other situations.

As there is Sovereign Council business that must be discussed, Le Petit Conseil is now calling for a 'virtual' meeting of the Sovereign Council to be held on Thursday and Friday 17 and 18 September 2020. The meeting will continue into Saturday, 19 September if necessary. The likely start time for these meetings will be 8.00 am Vancouver, Canada Pacific Daylight Savings Time.

The meetings will be held electronically through ZOOM or some other communications technology still to be arranged. It is intended that the virtual meeting will be made available to non-members of the Sovereign Council as has been the practice in past meetings. Le Petit Conseil also decided the next full Sovereign

Council meeting and related social events will likely take place in Vancouver in September 2022.

Hopefully by this time an anti-COVID vaccine will be available to everyone and government travel and meeting restrictions will have been removed. Naturally, we regret these changed arrangements, but the pandemic has impacted just about everyone and all institutions such as our Sovereign Order.

We are aware that many Commanderies are already actively involved in 'virtual' events to both keep members united and to continue whatever support we can give to the needy sick and poor in our communities.

In the meantime, we hope all members and your families will stay well.

William D. Stein, GCSJ, MMSJ
Grand Master, President of the Sovereign Council

Ian Reid, GCSJ, MMSJ & Bar Grand Commander

Order of Australia Honours

Congratulations to two Members

Chevalier David Muir AM KSJ (Queensland Priory) was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours List, announced on 8th June 2020. He received the award "For significant service to the community through welfare, social justice and charitable organisations".

He is Chair of the Clem Jones Trust and director of the Clem Jones Group of Companies. His long history with the not-for-profit sector includes roles as Founding Director and subsequent Chair of Crime Stoppers Queensland Limited, Founding Director of Foodbank

Queensland Limited, Former President of Amnesty International Queensland and Australian Vice President of Amnesty International. **Congratulations, Chevalier David.**

Dame Sheena Liley OAM DSJ (Darling Downs Priory) was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2020, for service to the community of Toowoomba. Dame Sheena has spent most of the past 25 years supporting volunteer causes, two of which are particularly close to her heart.

She was heavily associated with fundraising for Save the Children Australia which then established an

Access Centre, one of the first in the country, to support children when moving between parents on contact visits.

She was a founding trustee of the Empire Theatres Foundation and served as Chair of the Foundation Trustees for 9 years until she stepped down in 2019, assisting to facilitate more than 400 young people to develop their skills in the arts with the Youth Arts Bursary program as well as giving developing and established performers a boost in their disciplines via the Brian Boak Bursary.

Dame Sheena has also served as a Director on the Empire Theatres Board for more than 20 years, acting as Deputy Chair of the Board for the past 12 years, a role she holds to this day.

Congratulations, Dame Sheena.

CHEVALIER LTCOL PETER DAVIDSON KSJ RFD

In Memory of Emeritus Professor COL George E Kearney AM KCSJ RFD

George England Kearney

On 14 July 2020, it was my sad duty to advise all Members of the Order, of the passing, after a protracted respiratory illness, on 11 July 2020, of Chevalier Professor Emeritus George England Kearney (born 9 April 1939) AM GCSJ RFD ED, Chancellor, Grand Priory of Australasia, Order of Saint John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller, Prior Emeritus, Priory of Queensland.

A private funeral service was held at St. John's Anglican Cathedral. A Memorial Service, to be notified, is to be held, at which the Order, among many friends and associates, will be afforded the honour to celebrate George's life.

George's contribution to the Order's continuing well-being, over many years, was exemplary, noteworthy to a fault, his passion for the Order, his commitment to humanity, reflective of his very being. George will be sorely missed. His worth to his friends in the Order immeasurable.

We express our sincere condolences to Jacqui, Kate, Marina and their loved ones, and to George's brother Frank at this time of their great loss.

Resting in Peace, Risen in Glory.

*The Grand Prior HE Bailiff
Adjunct Professor Victor Feros
OAM GCSJ CMSJ*



CHEVALIER GEORGE AND JACQUI KEARNEY

Most of us in the Order will remember George in the various roles he had in the Order and the impact of his presence in any event or meeting at which he was present. His knowledge, wisdom, and drive made a significant contribution to all the organisations in which he participated.

I am fortunate in that George has been part of my life since 1964 when Captain G E Kearney advertised among second year psychology students for recruits. I heard about it by chance and shortly after he enlisted me in the Army Reserve in Brisbane as a recruit. His military career was distinguished with his retiring as the Colonel Commandant of the Australian Army Psychology Corps after making significant contributions to military psychology and, more importantly, to the careers of soldiers and officers who served with him.

George was a man of learning as his various roles in the universities of Queensland attest to. Graduating from the University of Queensland he went on to become the Professor of Psychology and Anthropology at James Cook University in North Queensland and the inaugural Deputy Vice Chancellor at Griffiths University in Brisbane. His life was devoted to learning and sharing that learning with his colleagues.

During the 1960s George spent time working for the Government and the Army in Papua New Guinea. Here he had the chance to explore his interest in the use of 'culture-fair cognitive ability tests for preliterate peoples in PNG and Australia'.

He used the Pacific Island Regiment (PIR) assessment developed by the Australian Army Psychology Corps to assess recruits for the Pacific Island Regiment.

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The test was developed after the army experienced a 20% failure rate (which upset the Tribal Chiefs) when recruiting from the 840 tribes who all spoke their own distinctive languages. The use of the test reduced the failure rate to 2%.

George recognised the potential for this assessment in helping the education of the indigenous peoples of Australia. On his return to Australia he completed a Doctorate with Professor McElwain that resulted in the development of The Queensland Test. It was the first fully-researched language free and culturally fair assessment of trainability/cognitive ability in the world.

He worked with Aborigines from Central Australia and Queensland at Cherbourg, Palm Island, and Brisbane. But, as usual, George was ahead of his time and the Queensland Test remained a research instrument and was not fully utilised for the benefit of Australia's indigenous population.

George and I had maintained contact through our roles in Army Psychology and then, in 2004, I was faced with a problem in Papua and I knew there was only one person that could help. The tribal

landowners of the giant Freeport Gold mine were very angry that management wanted to use a language-based assessment to help select the indigenous Papuans for employment and training at the mine and the Tribal Chief of the Seven Suku Tribes demanded that I "go and get a good test for his people". I realised there was only one test and one man who could help these people, Professor George Kearney.

We worked together to prepare the Queensland test for commercial use in the mining industry and then George travelled to Papua, PNG, Laos and most states of Australia training test administrators in the use of the renamed Q Test.

He oversaw our research and developed more test items. We delivered papers to conferences and, as a result of his efforts, indigenous people from many countries benefited by being selected and trained for appropriate roles rather than being given the menial jobs of sweeping the floors of the concentrators and offices. In 2016 he led the development of the digitised version of the test.

Among the hundreds of people he trained and worked with, he

was revered not only for what he taught them but for how he treated them and worked with them. Before he became ill, George led a small research team into a remote part of PNG to do validation work on candidates that live as they have done for thousands of years. We had assessed them using the digital version of the assessment and George and the team went back to validate the results using the Q Test, a later version of the Queensland test he had developed in 1968. He was in his element conversing with candidates and staff in Pidgin English remembered from his days back in the 1960s.

His work has revolutionised the assessment of people for whom English is not their first language and he has enriched the lives of many of the people he has worked with.

Not many of us have the pleasure and privilege of working with a truly wise and caring person. When I need inspiration, I think "What would George do?"

George, your lasting legacy for me was to propose me for membership of the Order of St John in Queensland. Your care, kindness, and wisdom will be greatly missed. ✠

Appointment of Priory Deputy Chaplain

The Priory of the Darling Downs is delighted to announce the appointment of Chevalier Reverend Rob Callow KSJ as the Deputy Chaplain of the Priory.

This was authorised by the Prelate of the Grand Priory of Australasia, Chevalier the Reverend Canon Emeritus Bruce Maughan OAM GCSJ MMSJ RFD and endorsed by the Grand Prior, HE Bailiff Adjunct Professor Victor Feros OAM GCSJ CMSJ and the Priory Chaplain, Chevalier Reverend Father Kerry Costigan KCSJ. ✠



Chevalier Rev Fr Kerry Costigan and Chevalier Rev Rob Callow

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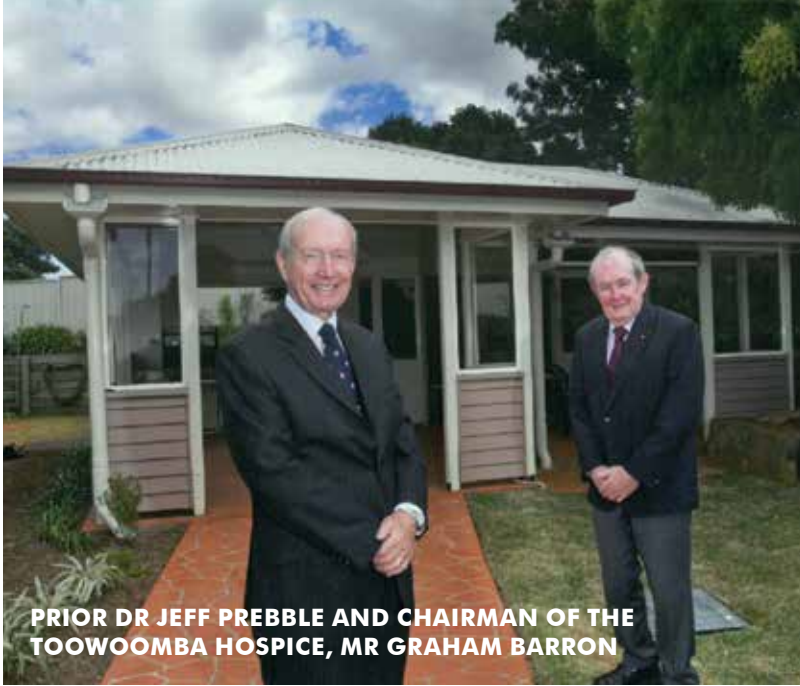
no precedent had been created" (Harrison Smith cites a number of names who were in fact given this dispensation).

Another historian, Sir Edwin King, in his book, *The Knights of St. John*, cites the Protestant Bailiwick of Brandenburg as being inside the Order since 1763, "after nearly 200 years of Schism."

Thus, we can see here quite clearly that the criticisms being forwarded had no basis as a concrete and legal objection.

I shall continue this article in another edition. ✠

Family Support Area for Toowoomba Hospice



PRIOR DR JEFF PREBBLE AND CHAIRMAN OF THE TOOWOOMBA HOSPICE, MR GRAHAM BARRON

With social distancing and limitation of contacts, on 15th May 2020, Mr Graham Barron OAM (Chairman of the Toowoomba Hospice) officially opened the Family Support Area.

The facility built in the gardens of the Hospice with funds raised by the Darling Downs Priory, includes a covered area with a barbecue, tables, and chairs. It will be used by clients, their families, staff, and volunteers.

The building is the result of the terrific work of the Priory sub-committee chaired by Chevalier LtCol Julian Turner, who was assisted by the other committee members: Dame Jane Tait, Chevaliers Joe Wagner, Bob Kretchmann, Bill Barrett, Peter Brodie, Noel Cass, Mark Osborne, Roger Grigg, and Jeff Prebble.

The construction is valued at over \$60,000 and was largely built by donations in kind from many building companies secured by Chevalier Joe Wagner.

In addition, the Priory donated \$60,000 to the Hospice. These funds were raised from the "Winning with Dignity Dinner" organised by the committee and held in September 2019. ✂

Planning and wise advice provided at Priory meeting

Despite COVID-19 restrictions, the Priory of the Darling Downs met in August.

The Priory Administrative Council met on 3rd August to provide planning and wise advice.

Our Priory meeting on Thursday 6th August was attended by 30 Knights and Dames. At the beginning of the meeting, tribute was paid to the late Chevalier Christian Lundgaard KSJ and the late Chevalier Emeritus Professor George Kearney AM RFD ED GCSJ. We acknowledged the 50th anniversary of the ordination to Catholic priesthood of our Chaplain Emeritus, Chevalier the Very Reverend Dr. Brian Sparksman KCSJ.

During the meeting, several donations to charitable funds were endorsed. The Priory has donated \$5,000 to the Eastern Downs Rural Fire Brigade to complement

the donation from our Canadian colleagues of the Sovereign Order of Saint John. This will be used to purchase a water tanker. The voluntary charity donation with the annual oblations raised \$2,590 which was presented to the Toowoomba office of "Hear and Say". Fund-raising functions are currently on hold, so we decided to donate from our modest credit account \$7,500 to each of two charitable funds. One is the MS Association which is constructing a residential care facility in Toowoomba for adults with a progressive neurodegenerative disorder. The other is the Clifton Community Hospital. This is a community hospital without government support, managed by voluntary board members in the

rural town between Toowoomba and Warwick, which has been severely affected by the drought. Water still must be trucked to Clifton.

Our Investiture has been postponed to Saturday 16th October 2021. We hope the pandemic will be over by then.

The Priory Chaplain, Chevalier Rev. Fr. Kerry Costigan's book "Smile with the Clergy" was purchased by many members. Proceeds will be donated to support retired and ill priests. Following the meeting, 42 members and spouses enjoyed fellowship and a three-course dinner.

Hopefully, we will be able to meet on 19th November for our Christmas meeting and dinner. ✂

CHEVALIER ROBIN KLEINSCHMIDT OAM KCSJ

True Blue Transformation

The annual True Blue Cocktail Party is not only a much anticipated highlight in the social calendar of the Sunshine Coast Priory. It is also an important avenue for fundraising for the Priory's projects. So it was a great disappointment when COVID-19 restrictions forced its cancellation

However, the Priory members were determined to continue their support for those in need, and so an appeal was launched under the leadership of Chevalier Garry Cant KSJ to raise funds to support Sunshine Butterflies.

Sunshine Butterflies is a charity at Cooroibah based on a five acre site and facility known as *Our Backyard*, founded in 2005 by Leanne Walsh and her husband Damien. After their son Curtis was born thirteen weeks premature with cerebral palsy, their subsequent experiences led her to recognise the need for a service which would reduce the stigma of disability in the community.

Her vision included not only support for disabled clients, but also education and support services for a wide community – parents and other family members, carers, other support providers, NGOs, medical personnel, schools and community groups. There was a strong desire to educate the younger generation about disability, acceptance, and inclusion.

Outstanding services and care are provided by carefully chosen, experienced, and qualified disability support staff who are passionate about their work. A team of more than 80 full-time, part-time



Chevalier Russell Stitz AM KSJ, Chevalier Alan Musgrave KSJ and Dame Airlie Bell OAM DCSJ, visit Sunshine Butterflies "Our Backyard".

and volunteer staff now work under the enthusiastic and dedicated leadership of the founder, Leanne Walsh.

As a result of the efforts of Chevalier Garry Cant KSJ and the generosity of Priory members, the Priory was able to support the work by the presentation of a cheque for \$10,000 for the purchase of essential equipment to Mrs Walsh on a visit to *Our Backyard* on Thursday 18th June. The Priory was represented by the Vice Prior Dame Airlie Bell OAM DCSJ, Chevalier Russell Stitz AM KSJ, Priory Charities Selection Committee Chairman, and Chevalier Alan Musgrave KSJ, Priory Treasurer. Chevalier Garry Cant KSJ was unable to attend.

After the presentation they were given a guided tour of the facility by Lucy Mills, during which they met staff members and volunteers and heard the vision for the future. They were impressed with the



professionalism and dedication of the staff and the high standard of management of the animals used in therapy – birds, ducks and other poultry, horses, ponies, cows, sheep, a donkey, and a goat.

They were fascinated to hear how interacting with the animals and carrying out simple tasks such as collecting eggs have brought joy and animation to clients who were previously withdrawn and uncommunicative.

There are plans for an opportunity later in the year for all Priory members to attend a morning function at *Our Backyard* to see and experience the wonderful work done there. In the meantime the members of the Priory can take pride in providing a model of how our care for the needy, our lords the sick and our lords the poor, can be maintained even in times of severe social restrictions. ✘

DAME DONNA FRASER DCSJ

Non, je ne regrette rien: A fiftieth anniversary

OSJ Darling Downs Priory will mark the 50th anniversary this year of the Ordination to Catholic priesthood of Chaplain Emeritus Chevalier the Very Reverend Dr Brian Sparksman KCSJ.

While the anniversary falls on August 6, the form and date of observance have not been finalised due to Coronavirus restrictions and Fr Brian's state of health which resulted in a move to full-time care in Toowoomba two years ago.

The distinguished and widely respected cleric remains Chaplain Emeritus of the Darling Downs Priory of the Order of St John of Jerusalem to which he was invested in 1993.

His significant work within the Church dates from entry to Banyo Seminary in 1964, his Ordination in 1970, subsequent Parish appointments at Holy Name and St Theresa's in Toowoomba, and Diocesan offices including Chancellor, Archivist, Ecumenical Officer and Vicar for Ecumenism. Fr Brian was Chaplain of Lourdes Home, where he is now resident, from 1994 to 2003 and lived, in retirement, within the Lourdes precinct.

An ardent supporter and tireless worker for ecumenism, both in Australia and overseas, Fr Brian Sparksman obtained His Doctorate in Canon Law from the Catholic University of America in Washington, a high

point in a lifetime devoted to his Church and the congregations he served. He travelled widely in Australia and overseas in the cause of ecumenism, his work being recognised in 2001 by the Commonwealth Centenary Medal awarded for distinguished service, both within the Church and wider community. Fr Brian's civic interests and involvement included serving on the Boards of St Vincent's Hospital, the University of Southern Queensland, and University College of Southern Queensland.

The older of two sons of East Glengallan farmers Jacob (Dick) and Ellen Mary Sparksman, Brian received his early education at Mt Marshall State School and Christian Brothers College in Warwick before going on to Downlands College, Toowoomba, in 1951.

His boarding school experience was cut short when he contracted Poliomyelitis, leading to isolation and an extended period of treatment before he was able to return to CBC and, eventually, Downlands, in 1955.

In his autobiographical "Ballinclay Lane" Patterns of Polio and Priesthood, Brian relates in great detail the beginnings of this illness, the effect that paralysis had on mobility, the long period of recovery and his ability to lead a long and fulfilled life regardless of disability. With the experience shaping his life in so many ways, Fr Brian campaigned, throughout his long career, for greater awareness and understanding of the disease and the lesser-known Post Polio



Chevalier the Very Reverend Dr Brian Sparksman KCSJ

Syndrome which affected his senior years.

A student of the Queensland Conservatorium of Music during his time as a seminarian, Fr Brian rejoiced in the gift of music, claiming as one of his favourites Edith Piaf's "Non, je ne regrette rien". While acknowledging that no life is free from regrets, Brian often wondered what his life might have been like, without polio, and warned of the danger of parents opposing immunisation: "It is my belief that I have a role to say that it is necessary to protect all children against the disease that so altered my life", he writes in "Ballinclay Lane".

The title of his book, inspired by the Irish origins of his paternal family, followed a nostalgic return to the place his forebears left in search of a better life in colonial Australia where great-grandfather Edward Sparksman is enshrined in folklore surrounding Glengallan on the Darling Downs.

Brian's own fascinating journey through childhood and schooling to working as a young man at the

continued following page

Brisbane Commandery donates to Food Pantry

Covid 19 has made fundraising difficult this year for the Brisbane Commandery. Following the shut down in Brisbane, we had to cancel our arrangements for a cocktail party at St John's Cathedral to support our Charity, the Trinity Pantry. This service is provided through the Holy Trinity Church, Fortitude Valley.

Our members have generously donated the sum of ten thousand dollars this year. Dame Leanne O'Shea presented the cheque to the Parish Rector, Father Rodney Wolff, on 20th June this year, and it was greatly appreciated. The Pantry had to limit its work during the Covid Pandemic but has gradually brought back services to support the homeless people in the Fortitude Valley area.

The date of presentation was selected because it was the nearest Sunday to the celebration of the Feast of St John. We were able to have only 10 members attend and were privileged to have the Holy Trinity Choir enhance the televised streaming for their Parishioners. ✠



Rev Professor Rodney Wolff and Dame Leanne O'Shea, Commander, Brisbane Commandery.

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Warwick Court House and eventual entry to the priesthood, is equally fascinating.

With so many challenges and opportunities met and fulfilled and, despite disability, Brian Sparksman has been inspirational to all who crossed the many and various paths he has taken through life.

In later years Brian was able to return often to the place of his childhood, serving on the Board of Directors of Glengallan Homestead Trust and as Archivist of its Family History Centre where he spent countless hours collating photographs and documents chronicling the lives of families, including his own, who settled and farmed East Glengallan blocks when the great pastoral property was cut up for closer settlement.

Maintaining strong ties with that community, Fr Brian celebrated Mass in district churches and conducted ecumenical services in the Sacred Heart Church at Deuchar. It was on the drive home from Deuchar in January 2013 that he had an accident resulting in injuries that

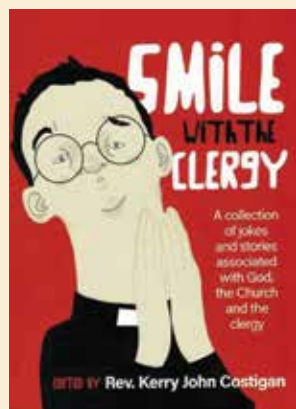
affected mobility even further but did not curtail his work in Toowoomba or at Glengallan where he continued to turn-up weekly in the Rav4 with wheelchair on-board.

As mobility slowed and travel became impossible, Fr Brian worked on various projects from his retirement unit adjacent to Lourdes where visitors were always welcome and callers were greeted by the cheery phone

message "You've reached Sparky..."

Fr Brian Sparksman was admitted to St Andrew's Hospital in Toowoomba on 15th May 2018. Just two weeks later he moved into full-time care in the Grantham Wing at St Vincent's Aged Care (Lourdes) where he is visited by former colleagues, family and friends who have shared his eventful journey and whose lives have not only been reached, but also enlightened by "Sparky". ✠

Smiling with the Clergy



The Conventual Chaplain of the Darling Downs Priory, Chevalier Rev Fr Kerry Costigan KCSJ has edited and just now published a 51 page book of jokes and stories that over the years he has used in his sermons. Proceeds from the sale will be used to offer support to sick and elderly priests. Copies may be purchased for \$20 each, by contacting Kerry directly and sending payment in cash, cheque or electronically.

Post: Chevalier Rev Fr Kerry Costigan
1/31 Winstanley Court, Newtown, Qld 4350
Telephone: 46 335597 or 46 341102

email: rodocostigan@bigpond.com

Banking details: K.Costigan Ministry A/c

BSB 084.961 **A/c** 653097284 **Ref.** 702S 10.1 Costigan

H.E. BAILIFF EMERITUS RENÉ TONNA-BARTHET GCSJ, GCMSJ, CMSJ & Bar, MMSJ

TSAR PAUL I

One of the basic criticisms of our Order has always been the unacceptability of Tsar Paul I as our validly elected 71st Grand Master.

There are four main reasons for these criticisms, but I shall be dealing only with two of these in this article. The remaining two will be discussed in a later edition.

In an anonymous and undated pamphlet (probable date 1965) published by Palazzo Malta, The Via Condotti, in Rome (the HQ of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta) shows a list of all the Grand Masters from Brother Venerable Gerard to Angelus de Mojana di Cologna (1962) and shown as the 72nd Grand Master, is Tsar Paul I, but with an annotation identifying him as "De Facto," i.e. as a fact of life, but not as "de Jure," in other words not legally elected.

As I said before, there are four reasons commonly put forward why Tsar Paul could never have been a Legal Grand Master of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, and the first two of these are:

1: All Langues and Priors should have been present at the election of Paul I, and therefore the election by one Priory is deemed not to have been enough to legalise the election. And

2: That a Schismatic person as Paul I was, could never have been the head of a religious and Catholic Order which would have been immediately subject to the Pope.

I will treat the remaining two reasons in a later issue, as this time I will rebut only the first two. My main basis of this rebuttal is based on the thesis of Prof. Harrison Smith, and Bailiff Joseph Storace,

which was printed in their book about the Order in about 1971:

1) The first objection applies equally to the SOSJ as well as to the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. Following the Langues of England, Scotland and Ireland being suppressed by Henry VIII, the Langues of Auvergne, Provence and France, had been extinguished by the French Revolution of 1789 and finally the Langues of Castille and Aragon were in process of being re-organised by the Spanish Crown. Furthermore, the Bavarian Langue had become Protestant and had also re-organised itself under a new name.

All these traumatic changes within the Order only left those Knights who had escaped from Malta and who had gone to Russia together with the three Commanderies of the Priory of Poland. Thus, there must have been representatives of not only the three Commanderies of Poland, but also the Priors of those Knights who had gone to Russia after Malta's defeat by the Napoleonic forces.

Only some 13 Knights refused to go to Russia, and instead went to Sicily and it was from these very few Knights that Pope Pius VII managed to form a new group, under a Grand Master who had been nominated by Pope Pius VII for acceptance by Napoleon, and on this being ratified, "appointed by Pope Pius VII," who in doing this, had gone against the directives and Bulls of four previous Popes who had directed that Grand Masters were to be elected and NOT appointed.

These four Popes were: a) Pope Paschal II in 1113, b) Pope Anasthasius IV in 1153, c) Pope

Urban VIII in 1634 and lastly by Pope Gregory XIII probably about 1580. Indeed we see that in a note by Cardinal Consalvi (Cardinal Secretary of State of the Vatican) in his memoirs he wrote: "*The Pope took note of all that, he considered the circumstances: he went still further on the way of its presentation. Through his private authority he legalised what was NOT according to the Statute of the Order, a Statute impossible to observe since the position of Malta did not allow it. But the Holy Father was so embarrassed by the choice that it would have been better to have left it to the Priors of the Order themselves. They should have appointed the Grand Master in a regular way, and the Pope ought to have sanctioned their work.*" (This incidentally is cited by the noted historian Pierredon in his book, volume II page 17 issued in 1963).

I would also add that the Pope must have been under tremendous pressure by Napoleon, to try and correct a fatal error in the Napoleonic strategy of the time, i.e. the ousting of the Order from Malta. Consequently we see that one side, i.e. Russia, had as much right to elect a Grand Master, and who was elected legally, as the other had a right (debatable) to "appoint" one.

2) The Order had changed immensely by 1798 when it left Malta. The Order had moved with the times. It was no longer a force against the Ottoman Empire, although "vows were still being taken" but these were not observed since they had become a matter of form. Further the Order was no longer a religious Order, per se, and indeed the Order had never been an Order of Priests. "Any member who asked for dispensation was seldom refused." Furthermore "by accepting a Schismatic as a member,"

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PRIOR DR JEFFREY PREBBLE OAM KCSJ

“Winning with Dignity” Dinner for Toowoomba Hospice

The construction of the Family Support Area at the Toowoomba Hospice is now completed. We had planned a function at the Hospice to show our appreciation, but COVID-19 stopped that. The organising subcommittee should be so proud of their achievement. Most capably chaired by Chevalier LTCOL Julian Turner, the other members were Dame Jane Tait, Chevaliers Bill Barrett, Peter Brodie, Noel Cass, Roger Grigg, Bob Kretchmann, Mark Osborne, Joe Wagner, and myself.

The Family Support Area was largely designed, planned, constructed, and furnished by the generous in-kind donation of services by many companies. Coordinated by the Newlands Group they include: Action Pipe Cam, Alspec Aluminium, Blades Joinery, Bradnams Toowoomba, Brightview Glazing, Bunnings, Chris Hadfield Painting, Commplast, David Dow Landscaping, Eco Blue Prints, Ezail Hydro Excavation, Greenridge Group, Griffiths concrete and construction, Harvey Norman, Kelly Group, Lysaght Toowoomba, McClelland Concrete Pumping, Michael Hogan Family Builders, Newlands Group, Prestige Patios

and Outdoors, QPDB Toowoomba, Reece Plumbing, Reid Consulting Engineers, Toowoomba Regional Council, Toowoomba Plant Hire, Trueline Concrete Cutting and Coring, Wagners, Westside Timbers Toowoomba, Wiedman Electrical and WPM Sheet Metal Works.

This long list demonstrates the complexity of the building project and the skill of Chev Joe Wagner who was largely responsible for recruiting their involvement. The estimated value of the building is more than \$60,000.

The “Winning with Dignity Dinner” on the stage of the Empire Theatre last October raised \$60,000 in sponsorship and donations. The major sponsors were Marabella Pty Ltd (Chev Peter Brodie), Clive Berghofer Developments, Henry and Mary Wagner, and Wellcamp Airport Chev Joe and Mrs Helen Wagner with Wellcamp Airport arranged the guest speaker, Sam Bloom, and funded her costs and flights. Chev Noel and Mrs Regan Cass paid for Sam’s accommodation and provided a welcome basket for Sam and her husband Cam.

Greenridge Press (Chev Mark Osborne) provided all the printing.



Graham Barron, Chevalier Julian Turner and Mrs Sam Bloom

Other sponsors were Brown & Hurley, Burstow’s Funerals, McConachie Stedman Pty Ltd, Sullivan & Nicolaides Pathology and Wendy Allen Mobile Travel Associates. Donations were gratefully received from Sally and Peter Bligh, Carmel Caron, Noel and Regan Cass, Graham and Narelle Cooke, Sue and George Fox, Hellyn Goodman, Emerald Grain Pty Ltd, Nev and Anne O’Connor, and Trish and Mike Power. After completion of the building, the balance of funds was donated to the Hospice. So, in total, the project has raised in kind and in money \$120,000.

Of course, the function would not have succeeded without the attendance of so many of our Members with their family and friends. A big thank you and congratulations to all involved. ✠



Guests at the Newland’s Table



Chevalier LtCol Julian Turner and MC Geoff McDonald



Chevalier Joe and Mrs Helen Wagner with Sam and Cam Bloom

CHEVALIER MARK OSBORNE KCSJ

Vale, Christian Lungaard KSJ



I sadly joined other members as we provided a guard of honour and paid tribute to our esteemed brother, the late Chevalier Christian Lungaard KSJ, at his funeral. I thank Chevalier Mark Osborne who accepted my invitation to speak on behalf of the Darling Downs OSJ.

Jeff Prebble, Prior

Our Conventual Chaplain, Chevalier Rev Fr. Kerry Costigan, ably conducted the service. Christian was our Priory Judge-at-Arms and at Investitures carried our ceremonial sword with appropriate pomp, stature, and reverence. He was a big man and a popular gentle man who will be greatly missed.

Ivar Christian Lundgaard was born on 23rd December 1929 and died 1st July 2020 at the age of 90 years. Christian was the youngest of six. He was born in the western part of Denmark and grew up on a farm near the small town of Struer. Much of his schooling

was in occupied Denmark, often not knowing where the class would be held the next day. After finishing school, he worked on different farms in Denmark and for six months in England, near Newmarket. He served in the Royal Life Guards of the Danish army for one year. The following year he attended Agricultural College before returning home to manage his parent's farm. At the same time, he commenced work in the family company which exported cattle to many countries throughout Europe.

In 1957 Christian married Helle and they lived on a farm next to his parents for seven years. They were blessed with three children, a daughter and two sons. Tragically their daughter was killed at the age of fifteen, in a car accident on her way to school. Many years later, their younger son, Jens, died from breast cancer at the age of forty-four years. They followed their sons and migrated to Australia in 1983.

In 1984 Christian bought Darling Downs Brick Sales as a run-down business and built it up. Today it employs twenty-four people and has

a fleet of twelve trucks.

Christian was an active Rotarian since 1987 and was a Paul Harris Fellow. He was well known for his generosity toward the community, and countless clubs, projects, and charities were appreciative beneficiaries.

Chevalier Christian Lundgaard KSJ was invested into the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller in 2008. In 2014 he was promoted to the rank of Knight of Grace. Christian held the role of Priory Judge-at-Arms with the important task of carrying the Ceremonial Sword at all Investitures.

He was a regular and supportive member of the Order and was actively involved in many of our fundraising activities. He has been a source of practical advice and assistance. In 2015, Christian and Helle helped organise our Priory Christmas Dinner introducing members to a Danish Christmas, with Danish food, frivolity, and traditions.

Christian was a popular, active member of the Darling Downs Priory and was held in a high esteem by all members. Of tall and solid stature, he was a gentle, good, and just man.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, attendees at his funeral were limited. However, the Order was well represented and provided a guard of honour. The service was conducted by our Priory Chaplain, Chevalier Rev. Fr. Kerry Costigan KCSJ and Chevalier Mark Osborne KCSJ spoke on behalf of the Priory.

Christian will be sadly missed by his family and a multitude of friends and associates to whom he gave of his life and shared his many talents.

The sympathies of the Order of St John go to his wife Helle and all of his family. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. ✠