

SAINT LAZARUS[©]

The Military & Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem

The International Newsletter

Looking to the future

We are now less than two months away from Christmas! So much has happened over recent months, as a gradual return to normality gets under way across the world.

If the pandemic gave us time to reassess our lives and that of the Order locally, nationally and internationally, now is the time for action - an opportunity to consolidate and reinvent, a chance to innovate and expand, to develop our Order for the 2020s based on the firm foundations of the past 900 years.

Looking forward, we need to catch the attention of younger members and potential members who are the future lifeblood of the Order, as the report of the Membership Committee highlighted. They will be less interested in uniforms and insignia than in doing good and in raising money for charitable purposes. This should be the *raison d'être* of the Order and the IPRCC has started to investigate ways in which our charitable and humanitarian objectives can be highlighted, and their profile raised.

Bike rides, marathons, abseiling, 'readathons' and sponsored walks are examples of the opportunities we could use to raise money for our charitable initiatives and to raise our profile. But, to do this we need volunteers to help us kick-start these initiatives. Please help me to realise our potential!

Norman Hunter Rose KCLJ

Chair, IPRCC

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We must not let the shocking Ukrainian conflict tunnel our vision to world events

The destruction on Tonga caused by the eruption is difficult to imagine The Order's contribution is greatly appreciated by the Tongan government

The Order's Tonga Relief Project

The conflict in Ukraine has rightly dominated the news. The world community, including our Order, has initiated an unprecedented exercise to provide philanthropic support for the massive wave of refugee Ukrainian migrants forced to leave their homes.

As a philanthropic organization, however, we must not let the shocking Ukrainian conflict tunnel our vision to world events – there are other needy communities throughout the world suffering from disease and deprivation worthy of our attention.

The Order had, before the Ukrainian crisis, initiated an exercise to support the Tongan population in its hour of need following the catastrophic volcanic eruption and following tsunami that hit the island on 15th January. To date, the Order as an international body



NZ Grand Prior and Grand Hospitaller Emeritus H.E. Chev. Brett Delahunt meets the Tongan Prime Minister Hon. Siaosi Sovaleni

and through its jurisdictions, has contributed the sum of NZD 55,000 (equivalent to about €31,700/US\$30,900) to help support the recovery of that island community. So far, the sum of NZD 15,000 has been disbursed to help re-establish the Royal Charity Office, which is in the centre of charitable activities in the kingdom.

The destruction on Tonga caused by the eruption is difficult to imagine – the eruption has changed the face of the island from one covered with lush green vegetation to a desolate black burnt environment. There has been widespread destruction of property and many are homeless.

The community is slowly recovering but the process is a slow costly one. Every little bit helps. Our jurisdiction in New Zealand has helped establish the Tonga Charities Office, under the aegis of the Queen

of Tonga, which serves as the centre of relief activities to bring a coordinated recovery programme in what is a logistical nightmare.

The Order's contribution is greatly appreciated by the Tongan government. The Order's liaison person in Tonga is Lady Cassandra Vaea DLJ. Anybody wishing to contribute further can transfer directly to the dedicated Tonga Relief Fund set up by the Grand Priory of New Zealand.

Name:	St Lazarus of Jerusalem Charitable Trust
Number:	06-0529-0762335-00
Bank:	ANZ Bank New Zealand Ltd
Branch:	Lower Hutt
SWIFT code:	ANZBNZ22



An unforgettable lunch in the City Of London

I was delighted to receive the invitation of the Grand Priory of England & Wales for lunch to be hosted by the Right Honorable the Lord Mayor of the City of London, Vincent Keaveny, in the Egyptian Hall at Mansion House on Friday 30 September 2022.

I got to know Vincent Keaveny during the final phases of the Reunification process of the Order of Saint Lazarus and the preparations for the historic Chapter General in Manchester in September 2008. That meeting ended the disputes and division between the Spanish and French branches of the Order. The exceptionally high professional and personal qualities of this young lawyer were easy to recognise. Chevalier Keaveny, a Dubliner in London, the 693rd Lord Mayor, is the first Irishman that has taken up this role as the economic ambassador of the financial and service sector of the City of London. It is a honour to our Order that Chev. Keaveny has been elected to such a position. The Grand Master H. E. Don Francisco de Borbon Graf von Hardenberg has awarded to him the Grand Collar, the highest award of merit and distinction of the Order of Saint Lazarus.



I arrived in London with nostalgic feelings as this was my first visit since BREXIT and the outbreak of Covid-19. My mood changed quickly as I was greeted with sunny weather and joyful people.

The high appreciation of the invitation from the Lord Mayor and the Grand Priory of England & Wales was reflected by the presence of the Grand Master and his wife. Among the 163 participants (of whom approximately 100 were from England and Wales), representatives of 11 other Jurisdictions covering three continents were present at the lunch. It was an unforgettable and joyful celebration of Lord Mayor Keaveny and the Order.

Vincent Keaveny may in the future also be remembered as the Lord Mayor serving during the rule of two Monarchs and (at least) two Prime Ministers.

Matti Vuoria GCLJ

Grand Referendary

Our Grand Officer of Arms, Rev. David Juliano, has been very busy in recent months with some unusual projects!

His new book on the Order's heraldry, "Lazarite Heraldry Cheerfully Illustrated" has now been completed and officially published and is available on Lulu.com for \$25.00 USD at the following link:

<https://www.lulu.com/shop/david-juliano-and-michael-ross-and-brian-abshier/lazarite-heraldry/hardcover/product-zdmej2.html?q=lazarite+heraldry&page=1&pageSize=4>

He has also masterminded a light-hearted video about a young boy who becomes a knight of St Lazarus. This is already proving to be one of the most viewed items on our Vimeo channel, and is meant primarily for the families of members of the Order. The Vimeo link is: <https://vimeo.com/749184035>



A message from the Grand Commander

We are living in extraordinary times.

As always, the guiding principles of the Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem are faith and hope. We will shape our future by demonstrating both resilience and adaptability to this challenging environment. We are maintaining our proud tradition of support for those in need, especially through the specific efforts our organization has made towards the extreme human suffering experienced in Ukraine.

Our recently published International Hospitaller report for 2021 noted that community support is an important component of our charitable efforts. Significant social challenge and unrest is a consequence of the Covid pandemic and includes unemployment risk and economic uncertainty. It is vital that our support for foodbanks, hospice care, and family support continues. With private donations in decline our support and engagement is vital.

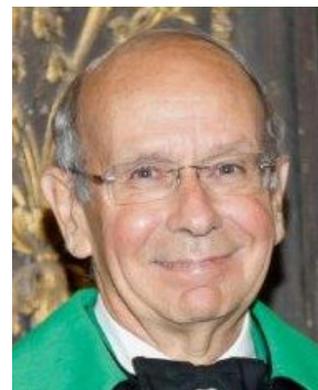
Our expectation is that digital communications will grow as a touchpoint within the Order of Saint Lazarus. This will include the continuation of video conference meetings, financial transactions, and engagement of all Jurisdictions for local members and between other neighbouring Jurisdictions. To attract new support and drive our growth it is planned that we will invest further in new technology.

Looking ahead over the next year, it is good to report that our world-wide membership is growing. Similar chivalric organizations express interest in consolidating their operations into our Order. Our finances remain satisfactory. We very much plan to arrange an overdue in-person meeting for members of Order of Saint Lazarus within the next 18 months.

I am very proud of the work we have done and thank all members for their support and encouragement. We are well positioned for better days ahead.

Edward (Ted) White GCLJ

Grand Commander



"I am very proud of the work we have done We are well positioned for better days ahead."



Eating comes first!!

“Eating comes first” is the name of the food bank campaign run by the Grand Priory of Spain.

Not long after the Covid 19 pandemic began, the Governing Committee of the Spanish Grand Priory of the Order responded to an urgent call from the Avila Hospital Oncology Center, which needed protective equipment for doctors, health workers and patients who attended chemotherapy sessions, to avoid infections. The Order made several purchases for a total of 25,000 euros for various items (gel, gloves, masks, etc.)

After several meetings held through Skype, and not without some reluctance, it was decided by the Governance Committee to start a food aid project, called “Comer es lo Primero” (“Eating comes first”) This was the idea of Carmen Garcia, responsible for Communications, recognizing that the pandemic had resulted in the loss of many jobs and the vulnerability of many families who depended on those lost wages.

It began by looking to identify a specific area for action, in collaboration with Caritas, and starting in the town of Alcorcón near Madrid, with the unusual feature that the San Lazaro Volunteers personally delivered the food parcels to the homes of vulnerable people and families with mobility problems, work schedule needs, number of children, etc. At the beginning there were only 17 beneficiaries. The San Lazaro Foundation paid for all the batches of food and personal hygiene items distributed, gradually increasing that number to include those who, without mobility problems, began to go to the food distributions at the headquarters of the Foundation and the Chancellery of the Order.

Economic and food donations were sought and obtained from members of the Order, individuals and companies, as well as some large food outlets. Likewise, for 11 months, negotiations were carried out with the Food Bank Foundation, to eventually achieve (not without difficulties finally overcome) the status of beneficiaries of this Foundation. With this support we had the means to increase the number of beneficiaries up to 90 families, consolidating in addition, the San Lazaro Volunteer Corps, which organises everything related to the activity: collection, distribution, storage, paperwork, transportation, etc.

As of today, the monthly aid ranges between 75 and 90 families, with an average batch of between 26 and 34 kilos of food and hygiene items. The amount distributed annually moves around 100,000 euros, with no less than 90,000 hours of volunteering.

And we trust and strive to continue with this hospital project.



Diary 2022-23

14-15 October	Grand Bailiwick of the Netherlands & Priory of Belgium, Vigil & Investiture, Den Haag
22 October	Grand Priory of England & Wales, National Investiture, Lancaster
19-20 November	Grand Priory of Finland, Investiture and autumn meeting, Tampere
2-4 December	Hellenic Grand Priory, Investiture, Athens
20-23 April 2023	Grand Priory of America, pilgrimage to the Holy Land
28-29 July 2023	Grand Bailiwick of Germany, 800th anniversary celebrations, Gotha

Full details of all these and other forthcoming and recent events can be found on the international website

You can also find information about events and activities around the world on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/st.lazarus



New ambulance donated to Women in Need (India)

The Commander and Hospitaller of the Grand Commandery of the Castello, Chev Paul Warren, travelled to India recently to visit our selected charity Women In Need, which has been working there for more than 20 years. He was welcomed at W.I.N.'s office and presented with an award by Mr Krushnaji Khopade, a Member of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly.

While there, he viewed the latest ambulance donated to W.I.N. in March 2020, funds for which were raised by officers, members and friends during the previous Council term led by Commander Chev Carmel Bonello. The purchase of this ambulance was delayed due to Covid bureaucracy and restrictions. The good news is that now it has been on the road for over two months displaying the Grand Commandery logo while serving those in great need.



He also presented saris, sponsored by H.E. Fr. Colin Westmarland, to underprivileged Indian women at one of the poorest slums in Nagpur.

A visit to W.I.N.'s clinic confirmed that the resident doctor and staff are still putting to good use the breast cancer device to assist female patients in the area covered by W.I.N. This equipment was donated to W.I.N. by the Grand Commandery some years ago.