



The Herald



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALASIAN PRECEPTORY



INVESTITURE 2015

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Service of Investiture, Preceptory of Australasia, 14 March 2015

“distance is no object when bonds of fellowship, community and charity are so strong”



Facebook Presence active

It was an honour for me as Grand Prior to attend the Service of Investiture of two new knights of our Order in Australia in March. As with all of our investitures, these take place in church, reminding us that we are bearers of both Cross and Sword. Although I have been in electronic communication with the members of the Preceptory for many years (starting with my time as Chapter Clerk), this was my first face-to-face meeting with some of our enthusiastic members.

The Preceptory is close to the hearts of the Grand Priory of Knights Templar in England and Wales, being our first mentored entity. We hold the record at OSMTH of mentoring the furthest flung group of members, but distance is no object when bonds of fellowship, community and charity are so strong. Bringing two novices to the accolade of knight is a wonderful occasion,



Grand Prior George MacLean GOTJ

and we were joined by not only members of the Preceptory, but also friends and family to witness this joyful occasion. Our two new knights Dave Kelly (Vic) and Andrew Campbell (WA) had travelled long distances for this occasion, earning credit I

am sure. The enthusiasm of the Preceptory is clearly evident, and I was able to report back to the Annual General Assembly of KTEW in late March that the Preceptory is going from strength to strength, and I am sure it will not be too long before I have to petition the Grand Commander to elevate you all to a Priory and then Grand Priory, taking your seat at the table with our international brothers and sisters.

Rev Andrew Katay of Christ Church Inner West - St John's Ashfield, welcomed us to this lovely church, and participated fully in our service. Our thanks and prayers are sent to him for his kindness. Although we were a small group, we did our very best with joyful singing throughout the service, praising God and adding to the solemnity of the occasion. Our two novices were thus

promoted to the rank of knight in an atmosphere of prayerfulness and joy. Our photographic memories of the occasion may fail to show just how windy it was outside the church, despite this being a lovely sunny NSW day.

At dinner later in the evening, there was plenty of time for discussion on the Grand Priory and our international role as part of OSMTH. It was a pleasure to answer these questions and to see just how committed you all are to our Order, and I left the evening content that you are doing a wonderful job. I look forward to future visits, as I am a frequent visitor to your country.

nnDnn,
George MacLean GOTJ
Grand Prior



Preceptory Promotions



In the Grand Priory Annual General Assembly, in late March, one of our long standing, and hard working members, Ken Allen was promoted to the rank of Knight Commander. This promotion is in recognition of Ken's years of service to the Preceptory, most recently as Chancellor. Congratulations, Chev Allen KCTJ.



Website and Social Media presence Operational

The Preceptory has seen a huge increase in public visibility with the development and activation of the new

Website, and a Facebook Presence. The Website has all of the resources that you need to find out what is going on within the Order; Locally, at a Grand Priory level and at the International level. Also available are copies of the current Constitution, brochures and details on the events that the Preceptory have run, and are upcoming. This is part of the commitment to openness and transparency in the Work that we do in the community; not for self aggrandizement, but so that we can shine a light of Christian Charity where it is needed.

The Site is located jointly at www.osmth.com.au and www.osmth.co.nz so please take a look at what we are doing, as it is a great resource.

To get access to the Facebook Page, simply do a search for 'OSMTH—Australasia' This will echo some of the information presented on the main website.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The following is a press release from the Grand Master and Grand Commander of the International Order, OSMTH. Issued on the 20th April 2015 (and available on the website).

DEATH OF ETHIOPIAN CHRISTIANS

We witness once again a brutal act of ISIS against Christian people. Such barbaric acts call for our public denunciation, which is the policy of our Templar members (OSMTH). ISIS released a video in the last few days, which portrayed some thirty Ethiopian Orthodox Christians either shot or beheaded on a Libyan beach. The world was shocked and the Ethiopian government immediately condemned the act in the strongest terms. We sent our statement to HIH Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie, Chair of the Ethiopian Crown Council,

who is a friend of our Order and a well-known figure among international governments, as well as Christian and Muslim religious leaders. Many Templar members met His Highness at the fall Conference of "In Defense of Christians" in Washington D. C., who joined us at the conference. We know he will extend our concerns to his government and, if possible, to the families of these martyrs. All international Grand Priorities or Pories will send their own messages to Prince Ermias through the Ethiopian Ambassador of their Nation. We extend our grief and prayers, on behalf of our Order, for all victims from every nation resulting from these kind of terrible and barbaric acts. We call on every government, all leaders and individuals to join forces by putting aside their differences to fight these brutal acts.



Non nobis, Domine, non nobis, sed nomini Tuo da gloriam

Psalm 115:1

The Grand Priory of Knights Templar in England and Wales, Preceptory of Australasia.

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