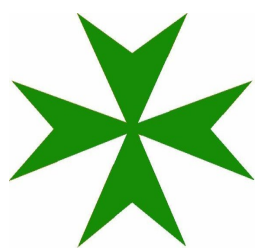


February 2025



SAINT LAZARUS[©]

The Military & Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem

The International Newsletter

From the Editor

The beginning of a new year provides us with the opportunity to focus on our behaviour and attitudes and how they affect our interaction with others; to be friendly to strangers, to prioritise others' needs where possible and to exercise sympathy.

This is fundamental to our membership of the Order. It is too easy to become limited in our vision and localised in our priorities. It is true that charity begins at home but then that must expand to encompass those for whom our Order cares across the world, especially those suffering from or affected by Hansen's Disease. The new proposed international project highlighted by our Grand Hospitaller later in this issue is a perfect opportunity to implement this worldwide vision. I commend it to all members and jurisdictions.

Across the world, poverty and economic pressures are becoming more prevalent. Here, too, our Order is and needs to be actively engaged to ameliorate the unfortunate consequences of these realities. There is no blueprint for how this can be achieved; it is our duty to identify where we can help in the name of our Order and to avoid crossing to the other side of the street. We are called on to love our neighbour as we love ourselves and, as Shakespeare says "Aye, there's the rub". So often we are so taken up with our own concerns that we fail to relate to the problems faced by others.

The season of Lent, which we are now approaching, gives us the opportunity to reassess our priorities and values in the light of the sacrifice of our Lord and his glorious rising on Easter Day. It is a time not only for reflection but for commitment to action: to follow His steps in our caring and concern for others.

Atavis et Armis!

Norman Hunter Rose KCLJ, GCMLJ
Chair IPRCC & Deputy Grand Information Officer

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November 2024 Grand Magistral Council Meeting – Summary of Actions

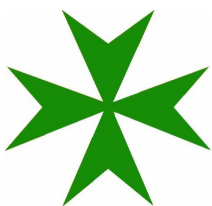
The Grand Magistral Council (GMC) held a very productive meeting in Madrid on Friday, 8 November 2024.

The MHOSLJ Financial Accounts for 2023 were discussed, and it was noted that a net surplus of over €30,000 had been realized, caused by incidental income of € 10.000 at the creation of a new Hereditary Commandery and some € 10.000 income from jurisdictions having paid overdue amounts from previous years. The 2023 financial accounts were received and approved, and the Grand Chancery and the Vice Grand Chancellor (Finance) were discharged from any liability for the financial accounts for the year 2023. The latest estimate of the MHOSLJ Financial Accounts 2024 was discussed. The first nine months of 2024 show a deficit due in large part to the pilgrimage to Malta and the November GMC and GWC meetings in Madrid. It was noted the GMC has urged jurisdictions experiencing difficulty in paying oblations, for whatever reason, to communicate with the Vice-Grand Chancellor (Finance) fully and in a timely manner. The MHOSLJ Financial Budget 2025 was discussed and approved. A new Regulation No. 8 regarding jurisdictions delinquent in oblations and/or submission of reports was approved, and has been circulated. Jurisdictions are encouraged to comply with the requirements for submission of oblations and reports.

An additional membership status was considered for Retired/Sustaining Members. This membership status is for cases in which the member still has an obligation to pay the international portion of the annual oblation. The membership status of Retired/Sustaining Members was approved with the qualifications for this status to be presented to the jurisdictions as guidelines rather than as rigid criteria. It will form a sub-paragraph of 4.16 of the MHOSLJ Bylaws and has also been circulated to jurisdictions.

All jurisdictions were encouraged to support World Leprosy Day in their charitable activities. They were also asked to emphasize the “*Light a Light for Leprosy*” initiative.

It was agreed that all Order chaplains should actively promote the Order and its works to their parishioners. The chaplaincy is central to the mission of the Order and is an integral part of the structure and ethos of the Order within each jurisdiction. Chaplains are encouraged to wear the cross of the Order and advertise its work not only on World Leprosy Day and the Feast of Saint Lazarus but every Sunday.



A discussion was held on recommendations made by the Insignia Committee. As a result, a video will be made showing the correct wearing of the Order's insignia. This video will be circulated to jurisdictions.

A comprehensive list of all members of the Order is being prepared. Jurisdictions are asked to provide all appropriate membership information to the Chancery Office.

A discussion was held on the International Academy in Malta and its mission of promoting historical knowledge related to the Order and other Crusader orders of chivalry. Jurisdictions are encouraged to inform members that they can become more closely involved in the work of the Academy.

There are a number of members and potential members in various countries in Central and South America, but they do not have an organized way to participate in the work of the Order. A Pan America jurisdiction for Central and South America is being created to accommodate this need.

Jurisdictions are reminded that permission to hold an investiture must be requested at least ninety (90) days prior to holding it. This is needed to ensure multiple jurisdictions do not hold investitures on the same date/weekend and will accommodate the Grand Master's and Grand Master Emeritus's schedules to participate. Also, for the jurisdictions who submit recommendations for admissions, promotions and awards to the Chancery Office, please allow plenty of time before an investiture to process and send the members' official documents.



Upcoming meetings:

Spring 2025 – Governance Working Committee meeting in Madrid

November 2025 – Governance Working Committee and Grand Magistral Council meetings in Madrid



Unity, Charity and Humility—a reflection

Dear Brothers and Sisters

In our commitment within the Order, we are called to embody the values of unity, charity, and humility. The Word of God reminds us of this essential mission:

“Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. ⁹ Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing” (1 Peter 3:8-9)

These words resonate deeply within us, as they reflect the very essence of our vocation: to be servants of peace and mercy. In a world marked by adversity and injustice, our Order stands as a beacon of compassion, bringing aid to the sick, the destitute, and those who suffer.

Like Saint Lazarus, a figure of resurrection and hope, we are called to lift up those who have fallen, to restore strength and dignity to those who have been deprived of them. Every action, every commitment must be imbued with this divine blessing that we are called to share with those around us.

Our unity is our strength. To live in harmony means to work together in trust and mutual respect, never yielding to discord or indifference. As Dames and Knights of St Lazarus, we bear a legacy of service and faith, a torch that lights the way for those seeking comfort and justice.

May the Lord bless and keep us!
May the Lord strengthen and guide us in our mission!

In faithfulness to our commitment, let us move forward together, strong in our faith, and be the artisans of a more just and humane world.

Reverend Philippe de Bernard de Seigneurens ECLJ
Chaplain General, Grand Priory of France



The St Lazarus Collection

For some months, the Grand Master, with the assistance of Chev. Christiano Arnhold-Simoes and other colleagues, has been working to develop a dedicated online retail store for the Order. The St Lazarus Collection website is now live and trade is already brisk.

The store offers a range of casual clothing for adults and children, along with other branded items. These items will supplement our more formal dress items, raising the public profile and visibility of the Order, and all profits go the Grand Hospitaller's International Project.

New lines are being added regularly. Future plans include the addition of the GMC approved lapel badge of the Order which can be worn on informal occasions and which was commissioned by the GP England & Wales, and an international tie of the Order which is currently in the design phase.

You can access the store at <https://saintlazaruscollection.myshopify.com/password> or via the international website at [The St Lazarus Collection is live! | The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem](#)

Happy shopping!



Grand Bailiwick Chaplain takes up new appointment

In early February, the chaplain for the Grand Bailiwick of South Africa, the Venerable. Fr. Terry Lester ChLJ was officially installed as the 16th Dean of Cape Town and Rector of the Cathedral of St George the Martyr. The installation ceremony - officiated by The Most Reverend Dr. Archbishop Thabo Makgoba, Archbishop of Cape Town - was a truly special occasion.



As a child, Dean Lester's family was one of those expelled from Strawberry Lane, Constantia, to a marginalised area of the city, under apartheid's forced removals policy. He has long since returned 'home', to serve for 13 years as Rector of Christ Church, Constantia, a prominent landmark in the area. Until his most recent appointment, he also served as an archdeacon in Cape Town and as sub-Dean of the Cathedral.

"I have been deeply inspired by liberation theologians and the radical message of Jesus, which called me to a path and commitment to justice, equality and the pursuit of a better world for all oppressed peoples," he said. "Now, my responsibility is to impart a greater level of

leadership to those in one's care, those entrusted to us by the Bishop whose licence gives one the authority to minister".

The new Dean attended the Service with his wife Nicolette and their adult children and was supported by a large contingent from the Western Cape Commandery, processing into the Cathedral with the choir.



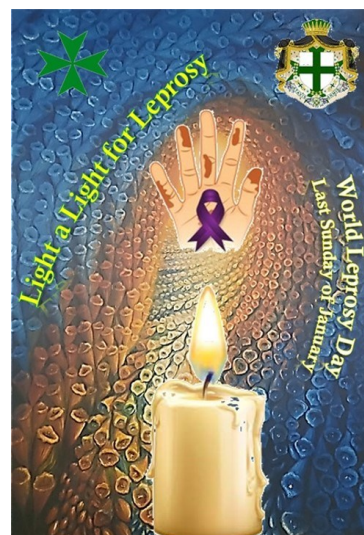
WLD 2025: 'Beat Leprosy, End Stigma, and Advocate for Mental Well-Being'

The World Leprosy Day theme message for 2025 addresses the main problem which contributes the persistence of this potentially eradicable infection – the continuing stigmatization towards those afflicted by the infection. Effective medication to eradicate the microbe is available but, because they fear being stigmatized by the community they live in, victims of the disease will not seek treatment early enough and thus chronic consequences are able to affect them. Being labelled a 'leper' in the communities where the infection is prevalent results in the victims being exorcized from the community. They become the 'living dead'.

Hansen's Disease is still with us with about 200,000 new cases being reported annually worldwide. While these reported cases are mainly from south-east Asia, Africa and the southern American region, about 5,000 cases are reported from the eastern Mediterranean and western Pacific regions. A few cases are also reported from Europe and the North American continent.

The Order of St Lazarus was originally set up to care for the victims of leprosy, offering solace and care to these individuals while putting aside all precepts of stigmatization. While addressing other philanthropic facets to help the sick and needy in our respective communities, we should provide a measure of support to fighting the battle aiming to eradicate this destructive disease and help ease the suffering of the victims as our long-past brethren did. World Leprosy Day should be an important item in our social and philanthropic calendar to help us focus on the Order's original *raison d'être*.

The Office of the Grand Hospitaller has promoted the idea that, at the very least, jurisdictions or individual members should organize an event whereby the sufferings of the unfortunate victims are remembered. The 'Light a Candle for Leprosy' initiative serves to bring the international Order together on this special day concentrating on one important medical and social problem in many communities in the developing world. It helps to sensitize its members to the Order's traditional role.



The Office of the Grand Hospitaller this year is proposing providing support to the leper community of Belfort in the north of Madagascar. This community has had its sufferings augmented by being devastated by a tropical cyclone in the spring of 2024. Most of the houses of the disabled lepers were simply washed away by the raging waters and the villagers are left without accommodation. The Grand Bailiwick of Germany, together with their partners German Dentists' Sponsorship for Leprosy and Distressed Areas (GDS), have undertaken an emergency aid program to help this poor community. Your support is welcome. Donations can be made directly to the following bank account.



Deutsche Lazarus Stiftung
 Deutsche Apotheker- u. Ärztebank, Düsseldorf
 IBAN: DE22 3006 0601 0007 3040 56
 BIC: DAAEDEDXXX

Keyword: Leprosy Village Belfort, Madagascar

Further details of the project can be obtained from the Grand Hospitaller at grandhospitaller.mhoslj@gmail.com.

Why not think of lighting a candle every Sunday to remember leprosy sufferers around the world?

O God, whose Son our Lord Jesus Christ went about doing good and healing all kinds of illness; continue that his gracious work among us today; inspire those around the world who care for those with leprosy, who seek to prevent its continued spread and all those whose skills and compassion is improving the lot of those who suffer; and through them advance the purpose of your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Diary 2025-26

2025			
4-5 April	HGP of Europe	Investiture	Munster, Germany
25-26 April	GP of Sweden	Investiture	Gothenburg, Sweden
26 April	GP of Finland	50th anniversary celebration	Turku, Finland
1-4 May	GP of Australia	Vigil, Investiture & National Chapter	Sydney, NSW, Australia
2-3 May	GP in Canada	Vigil & Investiture	Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
3 May	GP of Norway	Investiture	Oslo, Norway
10 May	GP of England & Wales	Investiture	Shrewsbury, England
15 May	GC of the Castello	Vigil	Malta
17 May	GC of the Castello	Investiture	Malta
17 May	GB of Austria / HC Saint Severin	Investiture	Vienna, Austria
25-27 July	GB of Germany	Vigil & Investiture	Gotha, Germany
10-11 October	GB of Netherlands & P of Belgium	Vigil & Investiture	The Hague, Netherlands
17-18 October	GP of England & Wales	Chapter General & Investiture	London, England
5-6 December	GP of Greece	Vigil, Investiture & Dinner	Athens, Greece
2026			
16-19 April	GP of England & Wales	Pilgrimage & Investiture	Walsingham, England
15-17 May	GB of Germany	Vigil & Investiture	Dusseldorf, Germany

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

Items for inclusion in the diary should be sent to the Vice-Grand Chancellor (Administration) at bennisonpm@gmail.com