

# SAINT LAZARUS<sup>©</sup>

The Military & Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem

## The International Newsletter

### In everything...with thanksgiving

Recently in London, we celebrated the election of one of our members as Lord Mayor of the City of London in the company of our Grand Master and Grand Master Emeritus. In Sweden the Order has celebrated the reunification of the Order there with a magnificent Investiture. In Spain, our Grand Master married Sophie Karoly at a fairy-tale wedding ceremony in Seville.

After 18 months where COVID and lockdown have reigned and dampened our spirits we need celebratory events to remind us of the things for which we should be thankful and which we should celebrate. Although the pandemic is not yet over, the Order has begun to come alive again and members have been able to meet and socialise, celebrating what the Order continues to do in working with others to eradicate Hansen's Disease and to combat loneliness and social exclusion.

We celebrate the ways in which our Order has succeeded, often against the odds, in its military and hospitaller endeavours for over 900 years. We celebrate the ways in which it has been able to react to societal changes and new priorities while remaining true to its original ideals.

Speaking at a Thanksgiving Service in London recently Canon Jeremy Haselock ECGLJ reminded us of the extravagant love of God. This is what we celebrate in our daily lives. This is what we continue to celebrate in the work of our Order. This is what we shall celebrate over the next few weeks as we remember his extravagant love in sending his Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to be our Saviour. With the angels we can sing "Glory to God in highest heaven!"

*Norman Hunter Rose KCLJ*

*Editor*

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## The Lord Mayor's Show



Each November, the City of London is host to a spectacular parade celebrating the election of the new Lord Mayor 'for the year ensuing'. The Lord Mayor's Show is the largest and oldest street pageant in the world and first took place in 1215. These days, the 3-mile long procession comprises some 150 floats, along with marching bands and ceremonial officers.



This year, for the first time in the history of the Show, the Order of St Lazarus was represented in the parade, which celebrated the election of HE Alderman Vincent Keaveny GCLJ GCrLJ as the 693<sup>rd</sup> Lord Mayor of the City of London. Vincent is a senior member of the Order, who has served as both a national and international officer and he is the first member of the Order to be elected to the high office of Lord Mayor of London.



In celebration of this great honour, the Grand Priory of England & Wales, supported by The Leprosy Mission, sponsored a float in the parade, in the form of a 1960s open top double decker bus, suitably liveried in green and cream. Video screens on the sides of the bus drew attention to the work of both organisations in the relief of leprosy (Hansen's disease) worldwide, and giant QR codes led interested onlookers to the websites of the 2 charities.





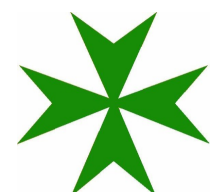
The Grand Master and Grand Master Emeritus, accompanied by the Grand Master's wife, Sophie Karoly, joined officers of the Grand Priory and representatives of the St Lazarus and TLM charities waving to the crowds from the bus as it moved through the City, preceded by the processional cross, and escorted by the flags and gonfalons of the Commanderies of the Jurisdiction. This was a spectacular occasion that will live in the memory for a long time.



It was fitting that we used a humble form of transport in such a high profile traditional pageant to highlight the plight of humble people who still suffer from disabling disease. As a result, many more people present and watching internationally on television were made aware of the vital work the Order of St Lazarus has undertaken continuously for over 900 years.



A short video of the day can be found on the Order's Vimeo channel at <https://vimeo.com/649053538>



## Who is St Lazarus?

*As the December date often celebrated as the Feast of St Lazarus approaches, our Grand Archivist reflects on the mysterious origins of our Patron Saint.*

Controversy has been created as to the true identity of the patron saint of the Order of Saint Lazarus. There are a number of potential contenders named Lazarus that appear in early Christian history. In the New Testament, two Lazarus personalities are mentioned – the first Lazarus of Bethany & Cyprus, friend of Jesus and brother to Maria and Martha; the second Lazarus of the Parable told by Jesus [Luke 16:19-31]. Further Saint Lazarus personalities appear in the early centuries of Christianity including St Lazarus, Bishop of Aix consecrated at Marseilles AD ~407; and St Lazarus, Archbishop of Milan AD ~439.

The Order of Saint Lazarus has been particularly associated by various writers with Lazarus of the Parable. This association is based on the observation that Lazarus of the Parable is said to be covered with sores: *“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.”*

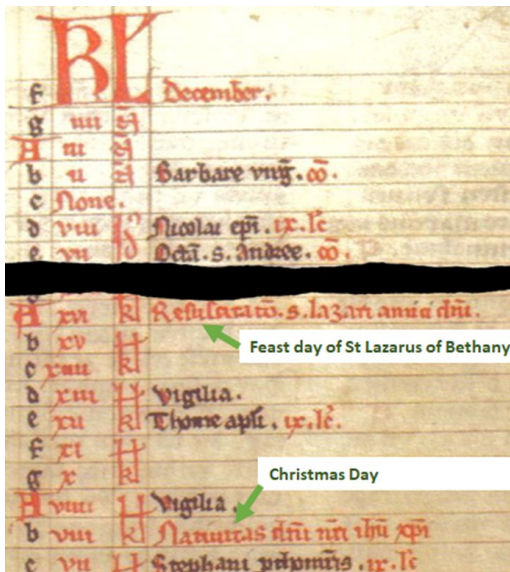
These authors assumes the sores to represent the lesions of leprosy, forgetting that in tradition lepers were supposed to be segregated from the community and hence would not have been allowed near the gates of the rich man’s house: *“Now the leper on whom the sore is, his clothes shall be torn and his head bare; and he shall cover his moustache, and cry, ‘Unclean! Unclean!’ He shall be unclean. All the days he has the sore he shall be unclean. He is unclean, and he shall dwell alone; his dwelling shall be outside the camp”* [Leviticus 13:44-45].

The identification of the true patron saint of the Order of Saint Lazarus must be based on irrefutable evidence and not conjecture. The first contemporary mention of the brethren of Saint Lazarus outside the walls of Jerusalem dates to 1073, the establishment being referred to as *Hospitali infirmorum Sancti Lazari*.

This is insufficient evidence to help identify the true identity of the Order’s patron saint. The first indication as to the identity comes from the medieval documents held at Seedorf. These documents include a necrologium of the House of Seedorf dated 1225-1235, and the early statute of the Order dated 1314/1321. Both documents include the dedicated religious calendar of the Order.



On review, the calendar lists two special feast days related to Saint Lazarus:



Extract for December from the Seedorf religious calendar

The feast day commemorating the birth of Lazarus of Bethany – 29<sup>th</sup> October; and The feast day dedicated to Lazarus of Bethany – 17<sup>th</sup> December, the latter being an important day for the Order and differently marked in red to denote its importance.

There is absolutely no mention whatsoever of the feast day dedicated to Lazarus of the Parable [21<sup>st</sup> June]. In addition, the early 14<sup>th</sup> century statutes clearly link the brethren to Lazarus of Bethany: “*And the same King Baldwin and his loyal followers appointed for this Order a courtly master .... Our Lord Saint Lazarus, God’s friend, whom Jesus Christ raised from the dead after he had been lying*

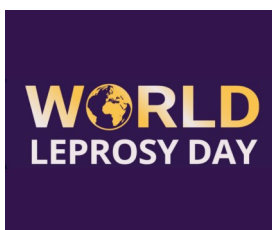
*in his grave until the fourth day.*” These early documents leave no doubt as to the identity of the patron saint of the Order.

Medieval artifacts in the form of seals of the Order from Jerusalem, Seedorf and England generally depict the patron saint as a bishop – in Orthodox tradition, Lazarus of Bethany is said to have escaped to Cyprus and served as a bishop there until his martyrdom. Seals from Sardinia (undated) and Vienna (1397) however are more specific depicting the miracle of the Raising of Saint Lazarus of Bethany.

**HE Chev. Prof. Charles Savona-Ventura GCLJ**

### Don’t forget!

World Leprosy Day 2022 will take place on Sunday 30 January 2022. All jurisdictions are encouraged to make this a special focus for prayer and for funding raising activities.



*Lord Jesus Christ, to whom the sick and suffering were brought that you might make them whole: may those who suffer from leprosy find wholeness in body, mind and spirit through the knowledge and skills of doctors and nurses, for the glory of your name. Amen*



## Pause for thought

*A short extract from the sermon preached by the Rev'd Canon Jeremy Haselock EGCLJ at the Thanksgiving service after the Lord Mayor's Show.*

“If the keynote, the fundamental attribute, of God’s love for us is the utter extravagance shown forth in the work of his Son, then surely in response we who claim to be followers of Jesus Christ must take a leaf out of Mary of Bethany’s book and match infinite generosity with all the generosity we poor mortals can muster. Just as faith is incomplete if it fails to issue in love, in charity, so thanksgiving is an empty activity unless it includes response – who wants to be, without love, just a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal? *“For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.”* Confrères, consoeurs in the Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem, friends and colleagues in the Leprosy Mission worldwide, let your response to the extravagant outpouring of God’s mercy and grace never fall short of the love which sustains us in being. *“L’amor che move il sole e l’altre stelle . . . The love that moves the sun and the other stars.”*

Amen.”



## Congratulations!

On behalf of the Order of St Lazarus, we extend our very best wishes to our Grand Master, Don Francisco de Borbon Graf von Hardenberg and his wife Sophie Karoly, who were married in Seville Cathedral in October.



*“May God bless, keep and guide you all the days of your life together”*