

SAINT LAZARUS[©]

The Military & Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem

The International Newsletter

“The trouble with facts is that there are too many of them”

It is certainly true that the persistence and evolution of the Covid19 pandemic continues to challenge scientists, politicians and health specialists alike. It is essential that our organization demonstrate the necessary resilience to adapt over these changed circumstances. There is in fact clear evidence that our Saint Lazarus Jurisdictions are adapting as best they can to the multiple variations of this virus.

In the modern welfare state, it is easy to assume governments, private insurance and public health will erase any need for charitable activities throughout this period. Nothing could be less true. Our newsletters and videos affirm the positive Saint Lazarus good works in education, training, palliative care, and emergency food bank response. All our Jurisdictions now actively partner volunteer assistance to hospitals, leprosy clinics and religious charitable organizations.

These are valuable contributions and our activities are not taken for granted. It is appropriate to congratulate Knights and Dames, members, supporters and donors on their activities around the world.

It is regrettable that some investitures and scheduled Chapters General have been deferred in 2021 and held over to better times. These problems certainly will diminish and social physical events will soon recommence. Good judgement and local regulations govern our schedule. Our Chancery is keeping all Jurisdictions up to date on our calendar.

It is a pleasure to report on the above and I thank you all for the splendid work done in the name of Saint Lazarus.

Edward (Ted) White, Grand Commander

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Public Relations and Communications Committee

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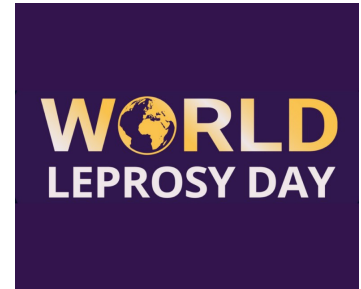
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World Leprosy Day

To increase awareness of the physically and socially destructive chronic infectious disease caused by *Mycobacterium leprae*, commonly known as Leprosy or Hansen's disease, the French philanthropist and writer Raoul Follereau, in 1954, proposed that the last Sunday of January should be internationally set aside and designated as World Leprosy Day. Leprosy has long been considered a dreaded disease and victims became social outcasts. Fortunately for the victims, a sense of Christian obligation saw philanthropic-minded individuals taking action to support these social outcasts. The first known leprosaria were founded in the fourth century in Rome and in the Holy Land [Caesarea and Jerusalem]. The Jerusalem establishment, with the ups and downs brought about by the political turmoil experienced by that city, eventually saw the establishment of a brethren community of St Lazarus of Bethany serving the victims.



“During the outgoing year, only 2.7% of the total philanthropic donations made by the Order targeted victims of leprosy. We should, as a Lazarite community, make a special effort to support these unfortunates “

The traditional links of the Order of St. Lazarus with victims of Hansen’s disease have come down the millennia. Fortunately, in the 1970s a formal curative antibiotic regimen was described leading to the eradication of the disease from the developed world. However, leprosy is still rife in under-developed countries where victims are still victimized and socially isolated. More than 200,000 cases are diagnosed annually. Because of the disappearance of the disease from developed world communities, the modern Order has slowly distanced itself from supporting victims of this infection to support more pressing needs in their communities, particularly the chronic sick and elderly. During the outgoing year, only 2.7% of the total philanthropic donations made by the Order targeted victims of leprosy. We should, as a Lazarite community, make a special effort to support these unfortunates in line with the WHO recommendations aiming to completely eradicate the disease.

This should not be done to the detriment of other deserving projects. As Grand Hospitaller, I propose that every jurisdiction undertakes to organize a fund-raising activity during the last weekend of January with the primary aim of gathering funds to support an International Leprosy Fund that will be used to support a joint common international project benefiting the victims of this disease.

H.E. Chev. Prof. Charles Savona-Ventura GCLJ

International Grand Hospitaller

World Leprosy Day 2022 will be celebrated on Sunday 30 January



Communication is key!

Communication has three aspects – the process or act of communicating; the exchanging or imparting of ideas; social contact. Each of these is important to our Order as we find ourselves increasingly getting ‘back to normal’.

In our Order communication is our lifeblood. Whether at local, national or international levels the Order survives and thrives on keeping people in touch with what is happening and what events and activities we are undertaking. In this way communication leads to involvement and support.

Our Order grows in strength by the interchange of ideas between individuals, local Commanderies and at Executive level within jurisdictions. This, in turn, translates to the centre of the Order - the GMC, GWC and Heads of Jurisdictions - and finds its practical fulfilment in the work of the Public Relations and Communications Committee.



For nearly two years our communication with each other has been almost exclusively by virtual means – telephone or a social media platform – which has enabled us to hear and see each other but not really to ‘meet’.

Our task over the coming months is to revitalise our communication with each other. We need to restart talking and communicating about what is happening and what we are doing; to recommence sharing ideas about how the Order can develop and reinvent itself to address the issues of the twenty-first century; and to get back to meeting in person and socialising so that the interpersonal bonds of our fellowship are strengthened once again.

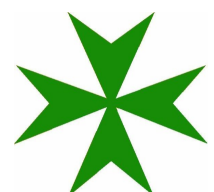
The commands of our Lord are to go and tell; to love one another as He loves us; and to love our neighbour as much as we love ourselves. None of this can be achieved without communication. But the strength of communication is backed by the sincerity of the communicator and their actions. And here we draw on our promises made when we joined the Order and which must remain the foundation of our interaction with each other and those for whom we are duty-bound to care – those suffering from disease and those on the fringes of society, the social outcasts. It is in so doing that we act as the mouth, hands and feet of our Saviour.

A child standing in a country church on a sunny day commented on how the stained-glass depictions of saints transformed the refraction of light in the church. Put simply, a saint is someone through whom God’s light shines. May that truism define each of us as our lives ‘communicate’ the love of Christ to others.

Atavis et Armis!

Norman Hunter Rose KCLJ

“Our task over the coming months is to revitalise our communication with each other”



Public Relations and Communications

During the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly during lockdowns, not being able meet with colleagues, family and friends has been a challenge. We're social beings and most of us like to be together, share information and communicate.

As Secretary to the Public Relations and Communications Committee (PRCC) and Regional Communications Officer for Western Europe, my responsibility is to provide a link between the PRCC and Jurisdictional Communication Officers.

Under the direction of Chevalier Norman Hunter Rose KCLJ, Chair of the Committee and Dame Val Hiscock DCLJ, Vice Chair and Editor, the four Regional Communications Officers (Ed Yaz for the Americas, Will Carter for the Southern Hemisphere, Tunde Lengyel for Central Europe and myself) regularly meet together on Zoom. This gathering, an interactive video meeting crossing time zones and distances with comparative ease, would certainly be a logistical challenge were it not for modern technology. I look forward to these meetings when I can see and speak to the members of the Committee from around the world.

The quarterly International Newsletter is now well established and has been well received around the world. It is a valued tool for inter-jurisdictional communication and during the Covid-19 pandemic has brought together news of the activities being undertaken in each jurisdiction across the world and helped members to realise what a major impact the Order has in caring for those affected and their families.

Recently, the newsletter has been supplemented by an excellent series of quarterly videos, featuring a different Grand Officer in each. Thanks to Conf. Wil White for their production.

The Order's Facebook page now has around 500 members signed up. If you've not seen it yet, search for Order of St. Lazarus on Facebook and request to join the group. It's identified with a photograph of Castello Lazun in Malta. There are regular posts from around the world. It really is worth looking at, so do consider joining if you're not already a member.

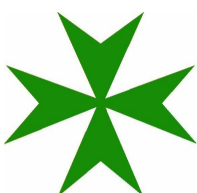


A new Communication Strategy 2021 – 2025 has recently been approved by the Governance Working Committee (GWC) which sets out an ambitious programme of work for the PRCC for the next few years.

With the support of members of the Order and the network of local Communications Officers, the work of the Order can be publicised to increase public awareness and appreciation of membership of the Order of St Lazarus and its valuable work today.

John Bullock KLJ

Secretary PRCC and Regional Communications Officer Western Europe



News from 'Down Under'

New Zealand Day Celebrated

On February 6, New Zealand Day was celebrated and to mark the event 400 prominent New Zealanders were invited to a formal reception, held at Government House, the residence of the Governor General, who is the Queen's representative and the Head of State for New Zealand. The role of the Order of St Lazarus in New Zealand society was recognized through the invitation to the Grand Prior, Professor Brett Delahunt ONZM KStJ GCLJ GCMLJ FRSNZ to participate in the event.

During the event the Grand Prior was able to meet with the Governor General, the Right Honourable Dame Patsy Reddy GNZM DStJ QSO, in her capacity as Patron of the Order of St Lazarus in New Zealand and gave a full report on the local and international activities of the Order. Her Excellency warmly congratulated the Order on its progress and its contribution to society, both in New Zealand and overseas.



Also in attendance at the event was the immediate past Governor General, His Excellency the Right Honourable Lieutenant General Sir Jerry Mateparae GNZM, QSO, KStJ, GCLJ. Prior to his appointment as Head of State, Sir Jerry was Chief of Defence Staff and Deputy Grand Prior of the Order of St Lazarus in New Zealand. On his appointment to the office of Governor General he assumed the role of Patron of the Order from his predecessor and continued to support the Order during his five year term of office.

Grand Priory of Australia, Victoria Commandery Green Cross Project Inc

Since Covid-19 hit Australian shores there have been many challenges facing the homeless, marginalised and disadvantaged members of our community. The Green Cross Project Inc (GCPI), an independent charity established by the Victorian Commandery, has several refurbished buses that have made a significant difference to the delivery of medical services during these troubled times.



The buses have played a role in the deployment of Covid-19 vaccine rollouts, and they have also been important in the provision of other health services and pre-prepared meals to those in emergency accommodation, since generally hotels do not have kitchen facilities.

In September 2020, there was a significant spike in the number of Covid-19 cases in the south-east regions of Melbourne. In response, Monash Health was quickly able to deploy GCPI's bus to undertake Covid-19 testing, helping to contain the Covid-19 cluster in this region and prevent the continuation of Melbourne's second wave hard-lockdowns.

In February 2021 the Street Doctor programme recommenced. To 30 June 2021, the programme conducted 14 clinics held at four hotels providing emergency accommodation to over 150 people experiencing homelessness. Of these 150 homeless people, 33 patients received nurse-led medical support (22 males, 10 females, one child). Of those, 10 received priority referral to co-health GPs, two patients required immediate hospital referrals and a further eight patients were supported to re-engage with their existing GP.



Diary 2021

1-3 October	Grand Bailiwick of the Czech Republic, National Investiture,
2 October	Grand Bailiwick of Austria, Investiture, Vienna
15-16 October	Grand Priory of Spain, National Investiture, Madrid
16 October	Grand Priory of England & Wales, National Investiture, London
31 October	Grand Priory of Italy, National Investiture, Varese
5-6 November	Grand Bailiwick of the Netherlands, Vigil & Investiture, Deurne
6-7 November	Grand Priory of Finland, National Investiture, Helsinki
1-4 December	Grand Priory of America, Grand Prioral Council, New Orleans

Full details of all these and other forthcoming 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



In memoriam



We were saddened to learn of the sudden and unexpected death of Klaus-Dieter Herbst, GCLJ, KMLJ, SMLJ, who passed away on 29 July 2021 at the age of 70, after a short illness.

Klaus-Dieter had served with distinction as an officer of the Grand Bailiwick for over 20 years, most recently as Chancellor. With his great organisational skills, he played a decisive role in shaping the public image of our Order.

Et cum Lazaro, quondam paupere, aeternam habeas requiem.

