

PROVINCIAL PRIORY OF MALTA – 7 MARCH 2025

ADDRESS BY THE RIGHT EMINENT PROVINCIAL PRIOR

Good evening Brother Knights.

Firstly, I extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone for attending. Your presence reflects a commitment that goes beyond mere duty; it signifies a collective dedication to our Order.

I thank the Provincial Sub-Prior for acting as Prior of Malta. I also express my sincere appreciation to all the Knights who have assisted him in such a diligent manner. Your combined efforts have ensured that the candidate was able to witness, and I hope enjoy what was a meaningful ceremony. I extend my warmest congratulations to our newly Installed Knight of Malta, the ceremony this evening adds another dimension to your Masonic journey. I trust it has further stimulated your interest in this wonderful Order. Welcome, and may your path within the Order continue to be filled with enlightenment and fulfilment.

This evening I have conferred the equivalent rank in the Order of Malta on those Knights I appointed and promoted in Provincial Priory last October, with the exception of those who have no ceremonial duties in the Order of Malta. I thank you all for your continued support and may I remind you that I expect to see you around the Province supporting Preceptories and Pories during your year in office.

Brother Knights it isn't often that I get the opportunity at this meeting to refer to those members of the Province who have received preferment in Great Priory as they are usually announced the day after the meeting, That is not the case this year and I am sure you would wish to join with me in congratulating the five Knights who have received this worthy recognition (applause).

The Province continues its work in promoting the Order, but as I said in my address at the Provincial meeting in October we need to look to the future. Whilst it is important we attract new members it is equally important that we foster a sense of engagement amongst the current membership. With this in mind I have agreed proposals to restructure the development work of the Province. A new team will be formed under the leadership of the Provincial Marshal as Development Officer for the Province. The team will consist of a cross section of the membership. Whilst they will still focus on promoting the Order to attract new members, they will also be tasked with increasing participation, renewing motivation, and enhancing opportunities for development amongst the current membership to ensure the continued growth and vitality of the Order. I will be writing to Preceptories next week giving more details of the work of the new Development team.

I wish to place on record my sincere thanks and those of the Province to our retiring Development Officer who has occupied that office since 2021.

Whilst on the subject of development I am pleased to announce that two more KT Information evenings have been arranged. These will take place at Thornhill Lees, Dewsbury on 14 April, and at Southwood, Halifax on 17 April.

There are a number of other significant dates for your diary in the coming months. Firstly the Provincial Church Service on Low Sunday, 27 April to be held once again at St Thomas'

Church, Batley followed by refreshments at Blenheim House. I look forward once again to welcoming Knights and their wives, partners and family to the service. On 21 May, Great Priory meet in London and I hope Knights will support those members of the Province who will be receiving appointment or promotion in Great Priory. The Emmaus Society will meet on 23 June at Pudsey and further information will be circulated in due course. To conclude the first half of the year we will be holding the ever popular Annual Dinner at Drighlington on 18 July.

It would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the efforts of those who have worked diligently behind the scenes to ensure the success of this meeting - the Provincial Mareschal and Provincial Vice-Chancellor together with their teams. Your hard work, dedication, and planning have not gone unnoticed, and for that, I extend my deepest gratitude.

As we enter this period of Lent and anticipate the joyous celebration of Easter, it is important to reflect on the spiritual significance of these times. Lent gives us the opportunity to deepen our faith and strengthen our resolve to live according to our values.

Easter, on the other hand, is a celebration of resurrection and renewal. It is a time of joy and hope, it also serves as a reminder of the core tenets of our faith and the importance of living a life of compassion, humility, and love. Therefore let us support one another and work together to build an Order that reflects the values and teachings of our faith.

In conclusion Brother Knights, I thank you all once again for your presence and contributions this evening. Let us move forward with a renewed sense of purpose and dedication. May we continue to work together in harmony, building a brighter future not only for yourselves but for this wonderful Order.