

June 2021



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June 2021

# SAINT LAZARUS®

The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem

## The International Newsletter

### Musings from the Editor

The ancient Greeks had two words for time - Chronos (chronological time) and Kairos (the opportune time for action). As we begin to return to normal it is interesting to explore the difference between the two and their relevance to where we are today.

Over the past fifteen months we have observed Chronos ticking away — minute by minute, hour by hour, day by day — unable to do anything else because lockdowns have prevented it. But, during that time many have been laying the foundations for the future of our Order in our various jurisdictions. This has been beneficial for the Order as we realise that it is about more than ceremonial and social events; it is about a concern for those suffering from Hansen's disease and for those on the margins of Society. In our world of instant solutions and action it serves us well to have time to consider, review and plan.

Now we have returned to Kairos as we plan for national and local events within our Jurisdictions. It is pleasing to see how many events are being planned, bringing Jurisdictions and Commanderies to life again. We are taking up again the reins of organisation, socialisation and fundraising which are our traditional areas of activity. But, a word of warning; we must learn the lessons of the recent past and build on them.

What members have done during the recent pandemic has transformed the profile of the Order, both from an inward perspective and from the external perspective of our relevance to social exclusion in all its manifestations. That must be our focus for the future. A plaque on my office desk says "This day may you live so near to Jesus Christ that every life which touches you may touch Him". This, surely, is our *raison d'être* and our aim, for it is in so doing that we fulfil the vows we made on our admission to the Order.



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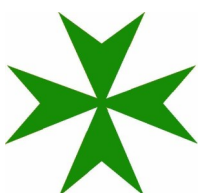
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*"I am thankful to The Leprosy Mission and St Lazarus who have given me this wonderful opportunity to learn. I've felt supported and I have grown as a person too."*



## The Leprosy Mission

*In the first of an occasional series of reports, we feature the work of The Leprosy Mission, one of a number of charitable organisations which partners with the Order of St Lazarus across the world.*

For over 140 years, The Leprosy Mission has worked to restore health, dignity, independence, and hope to people affected by leprosy and disability. Our work doesn't stop with medical care; curing leprosy is just the beginning. Everything we do aims to build life in its fullness.

One of the initiatives supported by the Order is the Vocational Training Centre at Bankura, West Bengal, India.

Young people from leprosy colonies are often unable to complete education because their parents cannot afford to pay school fees. To break out of poverty, young people affected by leprosy need to learn marketable skills so that they can get a job and become independent.

Finding work is hard if you are disabled, and the label of leprosy means young people are overlooked by employers. Today, stigma and discrimination still mean that young people affected by leprosy have fewer opportunities. The Vocational Training centre provides training and work placements in many trades, along with classes in life skills.

### Pahar's story

Pahar is 22 years old and is training to be a diesel mechanic at Bankura VTC. When he was diagnosed with leprosy, he was terrified. Thankfully, Pahar was diagnosed early. The only symptoms he had were pale patches on his left leg. His doctor reassured him



that he would be cured and that he didn't have to worry. For a year, he took Multidrug therapy, a simple mix of three antibiotics. And just as the doctor promised, Pahar no longer has leprosy.

The doctor told him about Bankura VTC during one of his appointments. Pahar has been fascinated with engines since he was a small boy. So, he was delighted to find a VTC course on diesel engines and signed up straight away.

While he is enrolled at the VTC, Pahar lives on campus and enjoys the friendships he has formed with the other students. His dream is to one day invent a new engine that uses less fuel but goes

faster and is more efficient than existing engines. He said: "Japan discovers new things; I want India to discover more."

Pahar says he has an incredibly good teacher and is learning a lot. "I am thankful to The Leprosy Mission and St Lazarus who have given me this wonderful opportunity to learn. I've felt supported and I have grown as a person too."

To learn more about leprosy today and the work of TLM, visit the international website at [www.leprosymission.org](http://www.leprosymission.org)

## Courage recognised - a very special Award presentation

At a National Investiture Service held recently in Cape Town, South Africa, a special Grand Bailiwick Award for Courage was given to a youngster who selflessly risked his life to save people from drowning. This is the first time that such recognition has been given by our Order in this country.

The citation for young Braedon Powell reads..... *'On Sunday 23 August 2020 at Fish Hoek, two men swimming in the surf with an inflatable mattress were gradually blown out to sea by an offshore breeze. Neither of them could swim, and their mattress was holed and beginning to sink. Braedon Powell, who was 11 years old at the time of the incident and a member of the Nippers division of the Fish Hoek Surf Lifesaving Club, noticed what was happening and recognised the danger the men were in. He promptly grabbed a knee-board and paddled out to the men, who were by now 150-200 metres offshore. He calmed them, persuaded them to lie down quietly on the mattress, and used his knee-board as a float to steer them safely back to shore.'*



*Braedon Powell is a credit to himself, his parents, his lifesaving club and his community. His actions displayed exemplary courage, determination and intelligence.*

*These are completely consistent with the aims of the Military and Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem to guard, assist, succour and help the poor, the sick and dying.'*

"No doubt there are many persons – especially in these troubled times – who put their lives on the line for others," said Grand Bailiff, Dame Tamra Capstick-Dale, "but we were drawn to Braedon's particularly courageous and selfless action at such a young age and thought this to be worthy of recognition."



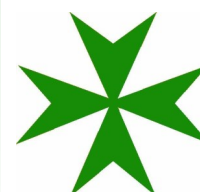
## Mea culpa!

Earlier this year quite a number of members of the Order requested to join our international Facebook page. While I was typing up the list to verify these requests I inadvertently pressed the wrong button and all these applications were deleted. Please accept my sincere apology for this.



So, if you applied to join but have not had your application confirmed, please try again and I promise that I shall be more careful this time.

NHR



## Heraldry and Orders of Chivalry

### with special reference to the Order of Saint Lazarus

The development of orders of chivalry occurred simultaneously with the rise of heraldry. A knight in full armour was unrecognizable, so the elements of heraldry were developed for identification. These were the shield, the “coat of arms” which was an over-garment over the armour (or on the horse) which had the bearer’s shield design on it, the crest which sat on the helmet to identify the knight in the heat of close battle, and the banner – the flag also carrying the design of the shield on it – as a rallying point. These designs were usually simple enough to identify the knight at a distance. The “200 paces” rule of heraldry was that if a shield couldn’t be recognized at 200 paces (the range of a longbow), he was liable to be shot!



Heraldry’s main rise and regulation was in the late 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries along with full body armour, and “heralds” (who were also major court officers of the monarchs and rulers) enforced the design rules, particularly to ensure that there was no overlap or

stealing of designs (which would constitute, then as now, “identity theft”). Everyone had to have a different coat of arms, as the shield was known, or “achievement of arms” as the shield, helmet with crest upon it, and, sometimes, banner were known. Even family members had to individually “difference” the arms of the head of the family: there is no such thing as “family” arms.

The coat of arms of the Order of St Lazarus, a silver shield with a green cross (blazoned as “argent, a cross vert”) first appeared in 1314 and has remained until the present, with a badge (to mark Order property) of a “Maltese cross vert” (green) added in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

There have been heralds of the Order since 1605, when it was amalgamated with the French Order of Mount Carmel under the Bourbon monarchy. They oversee the use of heraldry in the Order and keep records of the arms of the Order and of those members who are armigerous, and design and keep those of its various jurisdictions.

For a detailed description of the heraldry of the Order, see <https://www.st-lazarus.net/en/media-files/downloads/send/35-public/96-heraldry-order-st-lazarus>

**Professor Michael W. Ross KCLJ, Grand Officer of Arms**

*“Everyone had to have a different coat of arms ... or “achievement of arms” ... Even family members had to individually “difference” the arms of the head of the family.”*





## Diary

It is a pleasure to be able to resume our diary column, as the pandemic begins to ease across at least some parts of the world, and to see the Order returning to planning new events for the coming months.

Already, we have received news of 'real life' Investitures which have taken place in Canada, Australia, South Africa and Zimbabwe, to name but a few, in recent months. These are reported in full on the international website, and we look forward to bringing news of many more such events soon. Meanwhile, other jurisdictions have continued to use innovative means to reach out to their members – notable events include a virtual Awards ceremony held on Zoom for the United States and Mexico recently.

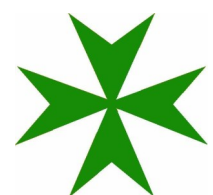
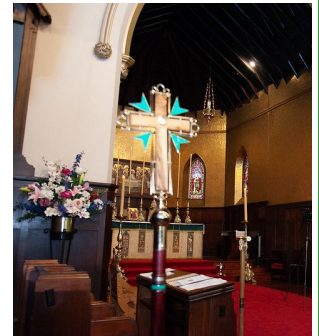
Forthcoming events include:

- 9-10 July            Grand Bailiwick of Sicily, Vigil and Investiture, Monreale
- 31 July             Grand Priory of Finland, Investiture and summer reunion, Aland
- 20-22 August      Grand Bailiwick of the Netherlands, National Investiture, Deurne
- 16-19 September Grand Priory of America, Grand Prioral Council, New Orleans
- 24-26 September Grand Bailiwick of Germany, Lazarus Days, Heilsbronn
- 1-3 October        Grand Bailiwick of the Czech Republic, with the Grand Priorities of Hungary and Slovakia, Investiture
- 16 October        Grand Priory of England & Wales, National Investiture, London
- 23 October        Hellenic Grand Priory, online conference (220 years after the Revolution), Athens
- 6-7 November    Grand Priory of Finland, Investiture and autumn reunion, Helsinki

Members will also be pleased to learn that planning is now resuming for the International Pilgrimage to Velehrad in the Czech Republic, which had to be postponed due to the pandemic. We hope to be able to notify you soon of the new date, which will be in 2022.

## STOP PRESS!

As we go to press, the International Hospitaller report for 2020-21 has just been published. It paints an encouraging picture of the international charitable work of the Order during the past year, and will be available soon to download from the website. A fuller report will be included in the next edition of this newsletter.



## In memoriam

**Commander HE The Chevalier Geoff Fosberry RN**, former Grand Chancellor of the Order, passed away at his home in Romania on 30 April 2021, after a short illness.

Geoff was born on 5 January 1929 and joined the Royal Navy in the late 1940s. A varied career took him to the Far East, to Malta and to the Old Admiralty Building in London, amongst other postings.

After taking early retirement from the RN, he settled in Yeovil where he successively set up two language schools. When he reached 60 he retired and with his second wife Alda, moved to Malta.

In 1994 he joined the Military and Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus and became a member of the Commandery (later the Grand Commandery) of the Castello, based at Castello Lanzun in Mensija.

He became Chancellor of the Commandery, and shortly afterwards, Commander.

He also took on the role of Grand Chancellor of the Order and had a great influence in shaping its future. Geoff was a Knight Grand Cross and held the Grand Collar, which is the highest decoration that can be bestowed on any member.



He served on both the Grand Executive Committee and Grand Magistral Council before taking a step back a few years ago.

We were also saddened to learn of the death of Grand Master Emeritus **HE Eugène-François de Cossé, Duc de Brissac**, who passed away on 6 April 2021 at the age of 92 years. The Duc de Brissac was the 48<sup>th</sup> Grand Master of the Order, and was appointed Grand Master Emeritus following his retirement in 2006.

*Et cum Lazaro, quondam paupere, aeternam habeant requiem.*

