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A BEAUCEANT!!

NO 39



A little Knight Templar news does you good

Dear Brother Knights

Staying in touch

The big event of the past month was, of course, Easter and naturally this edition of the newsletter includes part of the sermon that was delivered by the Great Prelate on Easter Sunday.

April also saw a meeting of the Grand Master's Preceptory No 678 in London, at which Most Eminent & Supreme Knight Paul Raymond Clement was Installed as the Eminent Preceptor. This was followed by a well-attended meeting of The Grand Master's Council.



Another of the highlights of the past month was a very happy meeting of Lord Swansea Preceptory at which the new Eminent Preceptor, Knight Andrew Brayley, was Installed by his predecessor, E Kt James Bevan. With another candidate waiting in the wings, it is expected that the new Eminent Preceptor's year will fully commence with an extra meeting shortly - at which another new knight will be welcomed into our Order.

Traditionally, April is one of the quieter months in the KT calendar, with fewer meetings scheduled in our Province, and so in this edition I want to focus my remarks on the future.

The month of May will include two major meetings – firstly that of Great Priory in London on Wednesday 18th May which is followed a week later by the annual meeting of our Provincial Priory at Bridgend on 25th May.

At the first of those two meetings, a number of members of our Province whose names were listed in the previous edition will be invested with Great ranks and many of us will travel up to London to see that happen and to congratulate them.

At the second of those two meetings, we have restricted the number of guests invited to attend from other Provinces this year in order to encourage as many members of our own Province to attend, by maximising social distancing for everyone's comfort and reassurance

This will be a more than usually special occasion, not only because it will be the first time that we have been able to hold a physical meeting of the Templar Province for three years but also because we will see a new Provincial Sub-Prior, E Kt Richard Phillips, appointed and invested.

I do hope that as many of you as possible will attend and enjoy this happy occasion and celebrate both of these milestones and congratulate all those Provincial Officers who will be invested on that day. It will also be my great pleasure to extend an individual and warm welcome to the latest Brother Knights who have been admitted to your Preceptories.

Also during May, Installation meetings will be held at Menevia Preceptory in Aberaeron on 4th May and at Gwent Preceptory in Newport on 13th May – at both of which guests would be very welcome. So, Brother Knights, you can see that we have much to look forward to and enjoy the sunshine!

Yours in the Bonds of the Order

Paul Calderwood

This year's Easter Sermon

By the Great Prelate, R E Kt Revd Malcolm Lane



I often think about the Blessed Virgin Mary and how that sword pierced her heart at the crucifixion. In doing so, and trying to piece together the events that led to her son's brutal death and trying to make sense of his life which she sees as one where Jesus appears to be surrounded by men who could not be trusted or had questionable backgrounds, she is surrounded by overpowering grief and continues to live in fear for her life. She does not have all the answers.

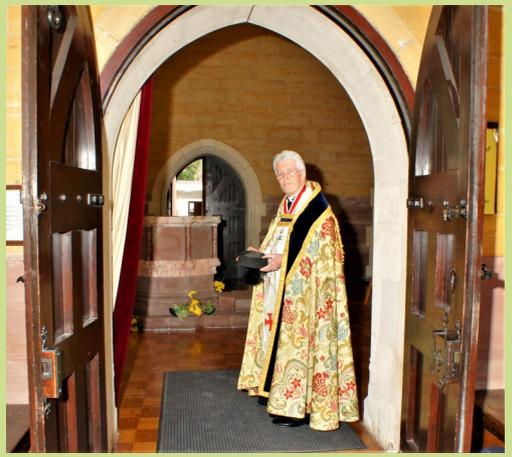
When we look back on the Easter story with our hindsight and our understanding of what was happening it's easy to forget the sense of mystery and confusion that the disciples must have felt. Perhaps Jesus was not all they thought He was. Perhaps He was just some kind of charismatic speaker and leader from a village 90 miles away with delusions of grandeur. When they were with Him they often struggled to understand Him as he spoke to them in stories and parables and keep up with His teaching.

So perhaps it's not surprising they don't seem to completely understand what is happening here once He's been crucified. They didn't immediately make the link between some of the things Jesus had said and the events that were now taking place. They were confused, uncertain and almost certainly going through bereavement which made logical thought and behaviour really difficult for them. But they kept moving on, kept moving forward. They didn't have all the answers, they couldn't explain what was happening in a logical manner, partly because it defined all human logic.

The reality was there for all to see – Jesus had been crucified, buried in a tomb, which Joseph of Arimathea had provided but he was inexplicably no longer there when they went to look for Him to anoint Him. The facts were indisputable, but that didn't help them in their understanding. It wasn't until they experienced the resurrected Christ for themselves that things began to make sense. And it's really only as we begin to experience the resurrected Christ that Easter begins to make sense. Experience what it meant to truly die to self and individual ambitions and agendas and experience the resurrection of the new life in Christ personally. Because as we look back at the Easter story we too can be in the same position as the disciples that went to the tomb. The reality of the empty tomb was before their very eyes.

The Easter facts of the crucifixion and resurrection were and are undeniable – if they were not they would have been disproved years ago. Many of us don't have a problem with understanding the Easter facts, but we can confuse our cerebral head knowledge of the death and resurrection of Jesus with understanding of what the reality of Easter means in our lives and thinking that we fully understand the Paschal mystery which is Easter. The Easter story, and in particular the resurrection, are more than just mere neutral facts. At their very heart they are life changing and transforming and in a sense can never be fully understood and realised until we meet with Christ. Because it's not so much the fact of the resurrection that makes a difference in our lives but more the reality of what that means for us as we live out our lives as redeemed, re-created and transformed people who live out an Easter faith.

As we acknowledge Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, and die to self so that we can be raised in Him, so we parallel the events of Easter in our own lives and Christ Himself as He died and rose again, three days later. That doesn't mean to say we will, or even need to completely understand Easter or the mystery of our faith. Just as for Mary or the disciples in the gospel stories, we will probably never fully understand it. There will



always be parts which remain a bit of a mystery, parts which we only begin to understand bit by bit, year by year, and bits that we still find a bit confusing. But as believers through faith we understand and accept enough of the facts to move on in faith, to be comfortable in the mystery, and to live out the faith of the experience of the risen Christ in our everyday lives. It's true we are able to look back on the facts with a certain degree of understanding, but as with Mary and the disciples, we look forward, without necessarily understanding all of the details or implications, with faith and expectancy as the risen Christ takes increasing hold of our lives.

Yes! Jesus died and rose again so that we all may come to know Him and His Father and in so doing have life in all its fullness. We may not fully understand it at a cerebral level, or comprehend why Jesus went through what he did for us. But we are invited to accept it, and to experience the transforming outcomes of the presence of the resurrection in our lives. That is the message of Easter. We don't have all the answers, we might not even know all the Easter facts, we never will. But in the risen Christ, and through our Easter faith, we know the one who does. He has risen He has risen indeed.

Allelulia, Allelulia, Allelulia. Amen

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THE INDEPENDENT ORDER OF GOOD TEMPLARS

An aside and a clarification - article and photo provided by Kt Gary Lillywhite

Some of you may have already heard of this Order. The Independent Order of Good Templars, apart from the name, has absolutely nothing to do with the Masonic Knights Templar at all. It is a 19th Century Temperance society, one of many which were formed around that time.



With the aim of campaigning against the consumption of alcohol. It was formed and organised, loosely based on Freemasonry. The Good Templars still survives to this day, except that it is now known as The International Organisation of Good Templars.

The original I.O.G.T was formed in 1851 at Utica in New York. It was founded as a fraternal society for teetotallers. The original aim was to promote a total abstinence from alcohol. Its membership was open equally to both men and women and it was also open to all races and nationalities, as long as the Order's aims and principles were supported. As the Order grew, so junior members were also admitted.

The regalia of the order was a collar with the order's badges worn on it. Some of these badges are shown in the photo. Originally the order worked three Degrees, known as Heart, Charity and Royal Virtue. The modern-day organisation now only works one Degree, the initiatory Degree of Justice.

It is thought that the modern-day organisation has up to one million members worldwide. Lodges can be found in most countries of the world. Its aims and principles have now been expanded to fight drug use and abuse.

This is only a very brief history of The Independent Order of Good Templars. If anybody is interested in this Order in greater detail, a quick internet search will source much more information.