

Confrater

Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter & St. Paul



Seat of the Confraternity: Melbourne, Vic. Australia
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Confraternity News

Issue 158

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Verbum caro factum est – The word became flesh

Merry Christmas



Christmas Message from the Grand Master

Dear Confreres and Friends of the Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter & St. Paul,

I wish to thank you sincerely for the beautiful Christmas greetings received by my office, and for the messages you so generously shared with your fellow Knights and Dames, as well as with friends of our Confraternity.

Christmas is a sacred time for reflection on the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ. For many, it is celebrated at home with family, decorations, and a Nativity scene that reminds us of the humility and love surrounding His coming into the world.

For us, as Knights and Dames of the Confraternity, Christmas is especially a time for giving and sharing. Giving means reaching out to the poor, the sick, and those in need—offering not only material assistance but also hope and comfort that can bring a smile to their faces. Sharing means greeting others with kindness and compassion, especially the homeless, the lonely, and those who may feel forgotten.

At this special time of the year, let us keep in our prayers all who are suffering, particularly the sick and those we know personally. We remember those who are spending Christmas in hospital and those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. We commend them to the loving care of Our Lord and hold them close in our prayers.

Christmas is also a privileged time to draw nearer to God by attending church and participating fully in the Holy Mass, giving thanks for the gift of faith and the grace of Christ's birth.

May the peace and joy of the Infant Jesus fill your hearts and homes.

With blessings and best wishes for a Holy and Happy Christmas,

Chevalier Peter Paul Portelli

Grand Master



Christmas Message from The Most Rev. Peter A Comensoli

Archbishop of Melbourne

Honorary Member of the Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter & St. Paul

Melbourne. Australia.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Watch video here. <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1643567210360504>

In our Christian life, hope is not merely a feeling; it has become enfleshed in a person. Our hope has a name: Jesus Christ, Emmanuel – God-with-us. At Christmas, we remember not only the child in Bethlehem but the God who came through to us and for us, and who continues to do so. This is hope beyond optimism. It is a light the darkness cannot overcome. Christian hope is the light of the world. So my dear friends, I wish you and your families a joyful and hope-filled Christmas – full of the light of

Christ.

Chevalier Fr. Francis Xavier Buhagiar PE

Chaplain of the Confraternity

Melbourne. Australia.



Dear Friends and Members of the Confraternity: A prayer-greeting for Advent-Christmas Jubilee Year of Hope 2025.

From the Feast day of St. Francis Xavier SJ.[3rd December 2025.] Missionary to India and The Far- (Asia).

“ O God, who through the preaching of Saint Francis Xavier S.J. won many Peoples to Yourself, grant that the hearts your Holy People may burn with the same zeal for the Faith and that Holy Catholic Church may everywhere rejoice in an Abundance of offspring.

Through Our loving Saviour and Redeemer

Our Lord Jesus the Child of Bethlehem, who lives with You in unity with the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever Amen.”

Chevalier Reverend Msgr. Joseph Grech

Chaplain of the Grand Chapter of Malta
Nadur, Gozo.



Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Confraternity of Sts Peter and Paul,

As we celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, may the rock-solid faith of St Peter and the missionary zeal of St Paul inspire us anew to proclaim the Gospel with joy and unity.

May the Infant King fill your hearts and homes with His peace, strengthen your bonds of fraternity, and bless your apostolic works throughout the coming year.

A blessed and merry Christmas to you all!

In Christ,

Msgr. Joseph Grech

Chevalier Rev. Fr. Joseph Sikwese

Prior / Chaplain

Chapter of Malawi

Dear Grand Master, all Knights and Dames,



At Christmas, we contemplate the humility of Christ, who comes not in power but in love. In the Child of Bethlehem, we rediscover the true heart of our knighthood: service rooted in faith, courage refined by sacrifice, and leadership expressed through charity.

As spiritual heirs of Saints Peter and Paul, may this Holy Season renew in us steadfast faith, bold witness to the Gospel, and generous service to God's people with integrity and devotion.

May the Baby Jesus, the Prince of Peace, grant us meaning and joy in our service, and bless your homes, your families, and your noble mission.

Christ is born—let us serve Him faithfully.

Merry Christmas and God bless you all.

Chevalier Rev. Fr. António Manuel Martins PP

Chaplain of Portugal

Paróquia de Paranhos



Merry Christmas

UM MENINO NOS FOI DADO FINAL

A BOY WAS GIVEN TO US IN THE END

Watch the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mCRRN3BMj10>



NATAL - TEMPO DE PAZ

Nasceu Cristo, Dom do Pai,
Luz divina em nosso chão,
Deus conosco, Emmanuel,
Traz-nos Paz e Salvação.

BRILHA O DOM QUE VEM DO CÉU,
NO PRESÉPIO HUMILDE E SANTO,
UM MENINO NOS NASCEU
ANJOS CANTAM SEU ENCANTO.

Vem, conosco, habitar,
Traz consolo e claridade,
Faz do pobre o Teu eleito,
Sinal vivo da verdade.

Que aprendamos Teu exemplo,
de servir com caridade;
Natal é tempo de encontro,
De amor e fraternidade.

Menino Deus, fonte e guia,
Da esperança, eterno altar,
Faz do mundo uma família
Onde o bem possa reinar .

P. Manuel Martins, CM

Grand Chapter of Germany

By Chevalier Peter Michael Neuen

Grand Prior of Germany

Deputy Grand Master in Europe

Frohe Weihnachten und ein gutes neues Jahr!



Dear Confreres and Consueur,

And once again, the year has passed, and Christmas is just around the corner.

This is a time for reflection. It has been another difficult year; we are threatened by wars and global disasters.

The economic situation is becoming increasingly dire, and selfishness, violence, aggression, and poverty are on the rise.

This gives me time for a stop, and I consider how I can at least have a positive impact on those around me during these challenging times.

My family and friends are very important for me; we draw closer together, support each other, listen to one another, and are concerned of each other's needs. In this way, we can create at least a small paradise of peace and togetherness in our own lives!

Let's use this time to pause and reflect, to show gratitude, and to appreciate the little things in life.

I wish you a peaceful and harmonious Christmas season and that our gracious Lord in Heaven will always protect you!

With warm fraternal greetings.

Chevalier Peter Michael Neuen
Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter & St. Paul
Am Buhl'schen Park
Deidesheim, Germany.



Christmas Message from Portugal – Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter and St. Paul

By Chevalier José António da Cunha Coutinho, MD

Grand Prior

Feliz Natal e um próspero Ano Novo!



Dear Knights, Dames, Companions, and Friends of the Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter and St. Paul,

Greetings from Portugal, land of Saint Mary.

As we enter the holy season of Christmas, it is with heartfelt joy that I extend my warmest greetings to all members of our Confraternity around the world. This sacred time invites us to contemplate the profound mystery of the Incarnation and to renew our commitment

to the mission entrusted to us as a Catholic Apostolic Roman Confraternity dedicated to charity, humanitarian aid, and the service of the Church.

Guided by the steadfast example of Saint Peter, foundation of the Church, and Saint Paul, Apostle to the nations, we continue to uphold the noble values of courage, faith, justice, and fraternity. Their enduring witness inspires our vocation as Knights and Dames to defend human dignity, promote peace, and support those in need through works of mercy and compassion.

This year, our Confraternity has continued its humanitarian mission with dedication and purpose. Through charitable initiatives, community support, and international cooperation among our chapters, we have sought to bring comfort to the vulnerable, hope to the struggling, and Christian fellowship to all who cross our path. Your generosity and commitment reflect the light of Christ in a world that longs for compassion.

As we celebrate the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ, may the peace of the Holy Infant fill your homes and hearts. May this blessed season renew our unity, strengthen our spirit of service, and inspire us to deepen our faith and charity in the coming year.

Let us walk forward together, under the protection of St. Peter and St. Paul, embracing our noble mission with renewed courage, devotion, and love.

Wishing you and your families a blessed Christmas and a grace-filled New Year.

In chivalric fellowship and with highest esteem,



Photo from left: Chev. Dr. Gonçalo Nuno da Cunha Coutinho, Chev. Baron Dr. José António da Cunha Coutinho and Chev. José António da Cunha Coutinho

Dr. José António Alves da Cunha Coutinho, Barão de Nossa Senhora da Oliveira, MD

Representative of Portugal of the

Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter and St. Paul

Sincerely yours

Chevalier Baron Dr. José António da Cunha Coutinho

GRAND CHAPTER OF MALTA

By Chevalier Carmel Saliba

Grand Prior

Il-Milied it-Tajeb u s-Sena t-Tajba



Happy Christmas and a Happy New year 2026 from the Grand Chapter of Malta to the Grand Master Peter Paul Portelli and his wife Dame Mary Portelli and all the Confraternity Knights and Dames around the globe. I wish you all blessing, joy and peace.

Celebrating Christmas is the remembering of the birth of Jesus Christ and helping those in need.

May we have a better Christmas and a better New Year.

Chevalier Johan Briffa



Christmas Message for the Confraternity Newsletter

As we approach the blessed season of Christmas, I extend my heartfelt greetings and prayers to all my brothers and sisters in our beloved Confraternity. May the light of the Christ Child fill your homes with peace, your hearts with hope, and your lives with the grace that only His love can bring.

This sacred time reminds us that even the smallest act of kindness can reflect the glory of God, and that unity in faith

strengthens our mission and our bond as a global family. Let us welcome the season with humility, gratitude, and renewed dedication to serving one another.

May the joy of Christmas accompany you throughout the coming year, and may God's blessings be with you and your loved ones always.

Wishing you a holy and joy-filled Christmas.

Chevalier Josef Camilleri

Christmas Blessing



As we celebrate the sacred mystery of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, we rejoice in the light that shines from Bethlehem — a light that unites all who confess Him as true God and true Man.

This holy season recalls our shared apostolic faith, solemnly proclaimed by the Fathers of the **Council of Nicaea**, who confessed the Son as “*begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father.*” In this same Nicene faith, Catholics and Orthodox continue to stand together, drawing from the one wellspring of the early Church.

In a spirit of hope, we are encouraged by the recent fraternal meeting between **His Holiness the Pope and His All-Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople**, a visible sign of dialogue, mutual respect, and a shared desire to walk together on the path toward full communion. Such encounters remind us that unity is not merely an aspiration, but a calling rooted in prayer, humility, and love.

May the Child born of the Virgin Mary renew in us the desire for deeper communion, the healing of divisions, and faithful witness to the truth entrusted to us. Rooted in the Nicene faith, may we grow in mutual understanding, prayer, and charity, so that the unity we profess may increasingly be reflected in our lives and in our service to the world.

May the Prince of Peace guide our Churches along the path of unity and reconciliation, and strengthen us to bear common testimony to the Gospel in our time.

I pray that the peace, joy, and blessing of the Christ Child may fill your hearts and homes, and that the coming year may be one of renewed faith, hope, and unity among all who glorify His Holy Name.

Christ is born — glorify Him.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.

With every blessing for a holy and joyful Christmas.

Chapter of California

Chevalier Dr. Spencer M Dayton

Prior



Dear Confrères, Knights, Dames, and Friends of the Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter & St. Paul,

May the peace and blessing of Our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

As we draw near to the holy celebration of the Nativity, I send my heartfelt Christmas greetings to each of you, with gratitude for the witness you give through fraternity, prayer, and works of charity.

United across our chapters, we remain committed to serving God and His people, especially the poor, the sick, and those in need.

In this season of light, Sacred Scripture draws our hearts to the mystery at the center of our faith: “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). And with the angels we rejoice: “For unto you is born this day... a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11).

May that same Lord renew in us a steadfast charity, so that in all we do we may recognize Him in those we serve: “Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:40).

On behalf of the Priory of California, please accept these greetings with my prayers for a holy and joyous Christmas, and for a New Year filled with faith, peace, and generous service under the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary and our Holy Patrons, Saints Peter and Paul.

With fraternal respect and prayerful good wishes,

Dr. Spencer M Dayton

Prior of California

Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter & St. Paul



Grand Chapter of Melbourne

Dame Connie Genua

Buon Natale e felice anno nuovo



To Grand Master Peter Portelli his family, Knights and Dames of the Confraternity of St Peter and Paul, I wish you all a blessed and safe Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2026.

Dame Gail Vas



May the joy and peace of Christmas be with you and your families, relatives and friends now and always. God Bless one and all from the Vas Family

***Wishing you and your family
a safe and happy Christmas Holiday.
All the very best of wishes for 2026.***

Chevalier Ange Kenos



May our gracious Lord shine his divine light over one and all and may we all live by His holy words as expressed in the greatest of all books

Chapter of South Australia

Chevalier Frank Scicluna

Prior



On behalf of the South Australian branch of the Confraternity of St. Peter and St. Paul, I extend my warmest wishes to the Grandmaster, Peter Paul Portelli, as well as to all the Knights and Dames globally, for a serene and blessed Christmas. May we experience peace, harmony, and the blessings of God throughout the upcoming year of 2026.

With best regards
Frank L Scicluna
Adelaide – South Australia

Chapter of New Zealand

By Chevalier Nick Pacey

Prior



May you feel God's presence in the candles that softly spread their glow at Christmas and may you experience the wonder of His *abiding* love as He guides you, thru each day of the coming year. As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, may you be filled with the wonder and glory of God's love. Have a happy and Holy Christmas.

Take time to celebrate as well as meditate the season.

Nick Pacey (NZ)

Chapter of Canada

Toronto.

Dame Carmen M. Galea



Wishing you **"A Very Merry & Blessed Christmas"**

Friends of the Confraternity

Chevalier Chris Galea MA KM



Your Excellency, dear Sir

Thank you for your kind message.

Sincere best wishes to you. A Holy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year 2026.

Yours sincerely

Chevalier Chris Galea MA KM
Knight Grand Cross of Magistral Grace in Obedience
Sovereign Military Order of Malta (SMOM)
Order of Malta Volunteers in Gozo (OMVG office).

SBS Radio
Melbourne. Australia.
By Joe Axiaq
Executive Producer



Thank you Grand Master Chevalier Peter Paul Portelli and best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and all your family and to all the members and friends of the Confraternity.

From Uruguay

Dionisio Villa Olivera y Ėzkèvèni d'Agla

Merry Christmas!!!

Cordials Greetings and Blessings from Uruguay.

Sincerely



Nativity Scene at the Society of Christian Doctrine in Nadur, Gozo. Malta.
Photo by Mario Muscat.



I would like to sincerely thank the Knights, Dames, and Friends of the Confraternity for sharing their Christmas greetings with us. I extend to each and every one of you my heartfelt best wishes for a Merry and Holy Christmas.

With every good wish.



Chevalier Peter Paul Portelli
Grand Master
CKSPP
Melbourne. Australia.