

Confratern

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



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

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In nomine Patris, et Filii, et Spiritus Sancti, Amen.

Grand Master's Message

Dear Knights and Dames,

The month of February marked the beginning of our new year of activities following the summer break. During this time, many of us here in Melbourne enjoyed a well-deserved rest by the sea.

At the same time, through news and social media, we are constantly reminded of our brothers and sisters overseas who are experiencing the cold winter months.

In Malta, for example, the Feast of St Paul's Shipwreck is celebrated on the 10th of February in the capital city of Valletta, as well as in other parishes dedicated to this significant event. This feast is a National Feast Day in Malta, drawing large crowds to the city to take part in the celebrations — including many political leaders and dignitaries.

Here in Melbourne, February was also a busy and productive month as we prepared for our first fundraising lunch of the year, held on Sunday, 1 March.

During February, I also sent out a message titled *"Our Mission on Earth – To Serve God, His Church and His People."* As Grand Master, my role is to keep you — the confreres and friends of the Confraternity — informed and connected through regular updates.

I am also pleased to share that in February we received two nominations to join the Confraternity in June: Andre J. Galea from Ғаž-Ғеbbuғ, Malta, and Zlatko Kozlevčar, a Croatian-Australian from Melbourne.

I wish them both a long and faithful journey within the Confraternity when they take their oath during the celebrations of the Solemnity of St Peter and St Paul in June.

May God bless you all through the intercession of St Peter and St Paul and the Blessed Virgin Mary.



INVITATION TO ST. PATRICK'S DAY MASS

ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

Annie Carrett

Chancellor of the Archdiocese,
Chief of Staff to the Archbishop
Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne
St Patrick's Centre



On behalf of Most Rev Peter A Comensoli DD STL MLitt PhD, Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne, I would like to invite you to the St Patrick's Day Mass and 2026 Patrick Oration on Tuesday 17 March 2026 at [St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne](#).

He would very much like the Confraternity to be present as part of this evening, which commences with Mass at 6pm. I thought perhaps the following text might be included in your newsletter if it has not already gone out. The Confraternity would, of course, be very welcome to wear their regalia.

This year's Oration is a significant one. The Oration will introduce **Light into the City**, the Archbishop's vision for the renewal of the Cathedral and its surrounds, and a deepening of the connection between faith, culture and community.

Light into the City is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to restore the Cathedral and reimagine its precinct, ensuring this sacred site continues to welcome, gather and inspire generations to come.

The Archbishop would be honoured if you could attend this event, which will invite Catholics and the wider community to be part of this next chapter in St Patrick's legacy, as a shared commitment to our faith, heritage and the future of the city.

Please kindly let me know if you can attend or RSVP directly [here](#).

With kindest regards

Annie Carrett

Chancellor – Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne.

Event details

Date: 17 March 2026

Location: [St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne](#)

Time:

- Mass will be celebrated at **6.00pm**, followed by the Patrick Oration at **7.10pm**. You are warmly invited to attend **both**, or to join us **for the Oration only**.
- The Cathedral doors will be open **from 5.00pm**. As the Patrick Oration will be broadcast live, please ensure you are **seated by 7.10pm**.

●Refreshments will be served from 8.00pm to 9.00pm.

A Prayer for Peace in the Middle East

God of mercy and compassion,
we come before You with heavy hearts for the lands of the Middle East—
for every city scarred by conflict,
for every family living in fear,
and for every life touched by loss.

You are the Creator of all people,
and every child, woman, and man is precious in Your sight.
Where there is hatred, plant understanding.
Where there is violence, awaken courage for peace.
Where there is grief, bring comfort and healing.

Guide the hearts of leaders and those with power.
Give them wisdom greater than pride,
and a deep desire to seek justice, dignity, and reconciliation
for all people who share that land.

Protect the innocent, shelter the displaced,
and strengthen those who work tirelessly for peace.
Help communities see one another not as enemies,
but as neighbors and fellow human beings.

We pray especially for the people of Iran—
that they may live in freedom, safety, and hope,
and that their voices may be heard without fear.

May weapons fall silent.
May fear give way to hope.
May forgiveness begin to heal what generations of conflict have wounded.

God of peace,
let Your justice flow like a river
and Your mercy cover the earth.

We pray for a future where children grow up without the sound of war,
where faiths meet without suspicion,
and where the people of the Middle East can live side by side
in safety, dignity, freedom, and lasting peace.

Amen.

Prayer of Pope Leo XIV to Saint Francis of Assisi

By Chevalier Rev. Fr. Frank Buhagiar PE
Chaplain of the Confraternity in Melbourne.



Prayer of Pope Leo XIV to Saint Francis of Assisi (English translation) Saint Francis, our brother, you who eight hundred years ago went to meet Sister Death as a man at peace, intercede for us before the Lord. You who, in the Crucifix of San Damiano, recognized true peace, teach us to seek in Him the source of every reconciliation that tears down every wall. You who, unarmed, crossed lines of war and misunderstanding, grant us the courage to build bridges where the world erects borders. In this time afflicted by conflict and division, intercede that we may become workers of

peace: unarmed and disarming witnesses of the peace that comes from Christ. Amen.

Pope Leo XIV

Poem honoring St. Peter and St. Paul, two pillars of the early Christian Church, capturing their faith, contrast, and unity in mission:



Two Pillars: St. Peter and St. Paul

(Poem)

Upon the rock where waters break,
Stood Peter, bold for Jesus' sake.
A fisherman with calloused hand,
He cast his net at Love's command.

He faltered once upon the wave,
Yet found the hand of One who saves.
And though he wept at rooster's cry,
He stood redeemed, no longer shy.

A shepherd forged in fire and grace,
He led the Church through trial's face.
With keys in hand and heart made whole,
He bore the weight of Heaven's role.

From distant roads and scroll-filled halls,
Came Paul, who answered higher calls.
A Pharisee with burning zeal,
Transformed beneath Damascus' wheel.

No longer bound by law alone,
He preached the Christ he once disowned.
His letters thundered through the age,
Still burning on the sacred page.

Where Peter led with heart and hand,
Paul lit the fire in every land.
Through storms, through chains, through deathly pall,
The Gospel rose — they gave it all.

Two men so different, yet the same,
Both burning with the Savior's name.
One held the keys, one bore the sword,
Together, saints who served the Lord.

And now in light, where martyrs sing,
They stand in glory by the King.
O Peter, Paul — still guide the way,
As we bear Christ from day to day.

Grand Chapter of Malta

Chevalier Angelo Muscat



Chevalier “Tenor” Angelo Muscat has generously donated two boxes of Mini Colomba to be distributed to those in need in Gozo. He has also donated 100 Panettone during the Christmas season and in previous years.

The Confraternity is truly grateful for his continued support of the needy.

Well done, Chevalier Angelo Muscat!

Born in Malta in 2000, Angelo began singing at an early age with the Chorus Urbanus, under the direction of Dr. John Galea. He later proceeded with his opera and classical studies under the guidance of Juliette Bisazza Zanni and subsequently Dr. Andriana Yordanova.

Chevalier Angelo Muscat also performs in the Basilica of St. Peter and St. Paul during the celebrations in Nadur, Gozo. Malta.



CANDIDATES FOR INVESTITURE – JUNE

The Confraternity is honoured to announce the candidacy of **Andre' Galea** of Ғaż-Żebbuġ, Malta, and **Zlatko Kozlevčar**, a Croatian–Australian.

The Investiture of Andre' Galea will take place in **Nadur, Gozo, Malta**, on **Sunday, 28 June**. The Investiture of Zlatko Kozlevčar will take place in **Melbourne** on **Saturday, 27 June**.

Membership in the Confraternity is a lifelong commitment. Members are therefore called to demonstrate loyalty, obedience, respect, and dedication in the service of God, the poor, and the sick, while faithfully supporting the mission and spirit of the Confraternity.

On behalf of the Confraternity, I extend my sincere congratulations to both candidates and wish them every blessing as they prepare for their Investiture and begin this important step in their journey of faith and service.

Chevalier Peter Paul Portelli

Grand Master



Photo from left: Andre' Galea and Zlatko Kozlevčar

A Lifelong Friend – Vince Buccheri

This year I had the pleasure of reconnecting with a lifelong friend, Vince Buccheri, whom I first met in 1972. Vince is one of the founders of the Feast of Santa Sofia, a tradition that originated in Sortino, Sicily, and is proudly celebrated today by the Italian community in Koo Wee Rup, South Gippsland.

St. Sofia is remembered for her virtues of wisdom, faith, hope, and love. According to tradition, she fled Constantinople after converting to Christianity and settled in Sortino, Sicily, where she became a symbol of faith and strength.

Each year the community gathers to honour her legacy and keep this beautiful tradition alive.

Congratulations to Vince Buccheri and his wife Gina, Frank and Rosa Caserta, Vince Bucello, and Sam and Nella Bertuna for their dedication and service in preserving the Feast of Santa Sofia for the Italian community in Koo Wee Rup.



From left: Vince Buccheri, Chevalier Peter Paul Portelli and Gina Buccheri.

THE CONFRATERNITY OF THE KNIGHTS AND DAMES OF ST. PETER & ST. PAUL



Chevalier Peter Paul Portelli
Grand Master
Confraternity of the Knights of St.
Peter & St. Paul
Melbourne, Australia.

Dear Friends of the Confraternity,
Happy and Blessed weekend.

You stand in a noble lineage of faith, courage, and sacrificial love. You bear the names of two towering pillars of the Church—Saint Peter and Saint Paul—men transformed by grace, strengthened by trials, and consumed with zeal for Christ and His people.

Peter, the steadfast rock, teaches us fidelity. Though he stumbled, he rose again in humility and love, becoming a shepherd who fed the flock with courage and devotion. Paul, once a persecutor, became a tireless missionary, carrying the Gospel across lands and seas, enduring hardship, imprisonment, and sacrifice so that others might know the saving love of Christ.

Their lives remind us that holiness is not born of perfection, but of surrender. Not of comfort, but of commitment. Not of status, but of service.

As Knights and Dames, your mission is not merely ceremonial—it is evangelical and charitable. When you serve the poor, you touch Christ Himself. When you care for the sick, you become instruments of His healing mercy. When you stand beside the Holy Roman Catholic Church in unity and obedience, you strengthen the Body of Christ on earth.

Let your charity be bold. Let your faith be visible. Let your service be joyful.

In a world often marked by division, indifference, and suffering, you are called to be witnesses of hope. Walk with the courage of Peter. Proclaim with the fire of Paul. Love with the heart of Christ.

Stand firm in your vows. Deepen your prayer. Support your clergy. Defend the faith with gentleness and truth. Build bridges of compassion wherever there is loneliness, hunger, or despair.

Remember always: your knighthood is not about honor received, but about sacrifice offered. It is not about recognition, but about reflection—the reflection of Christ's light to the world.

May God strengthen your hands for service, your hearts for compassion, and your spirits for perseverance. And may the intercession of Saints Peter and Paul guide you in every step of your earthly pilgrimage, until the day you share in the eternal victory they now rejoice in.

Forward in faith. Forward in charity. Forward in Christ.

May Almighty God bless you abundantly in your leadership, your service, and your devotion to His Church.

May He strengthen your mission, guide your words, and reward your charity toward the poor and the sick.

God bless you always. Sincerely in Christ Jesus the Lord.

Thank you to Chevalier Frank Scicluna - Prior of South Australia CSPP. for publishing this page on his E-Newsletter

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR ARCH-GRAND PRIOR

“Our Archgrand Prior, Dame Angela Greto, celebrated her birthday in February, and it was both fitting and a pleasure to extend our warmest birthday wishes to her during the February meeting.”



GUESTS AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING

In the February meeting, we had 2 guests speakers Dr. Carmel Sammut and Herbert Portanier. They were invited to give a talk on St. Vincent De Paul Society. Thank you for taking time to come across the other side of the city to talk to us about the wonderful work that St. Vincent De Paul Society is doing across the State of Victoria.



Photo from left: Dr. Carmel Sammut SVDP and Herbert Portanier SVDP.

“With every good wish.”



I have borrowed this line from His Grace Archbishop Emeritus of Melbourne, Denis Hart.

Archbishop Denis Hart was a great supporter of the Confraternity. During his years as Vicar General, and later as Archbishop of Melbourne, he was always generous with his guidance and encouragement.

The Most Rev. Denis Hart served as Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne from 2001 until his retirement in 2018, having been ordained a priest in 1967.

We express our sincere gratitude to Archbishop Denis Hart for the leadership, advice, and support he consistently offered to the Confraternity. Much of the Confraternity's success can be attributed to his encouragement and goodwill over many years.

With every good wish.



Archbishop Denis Hart presiding on the investiture of the Confraternity in June 2004.



Photo: Archbishop Denis Hart with Bishop Mile Bogovic of Croatia at the opening of the Croatian Catholic Centre in Ardeer, Melbourne, with members of the Confraternity 17-11-2001.

That is all I have for you this month.

We remember in our prayers those who need our prayers, the sick, the lonely and the needy.

I hope that you find the newsletter interesting.

God bless you through the intercession of St. Peter and St. Paul and the Virgin Mary.

With every good wish.

Sincerely in Christ Jesus the Lord.



Chevalier Peter Paul Portelli

Grand Master

CKSPP

Melbourne. Australia.