

Guide to Conducting Investitures

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide some guidance to people involved in arranging investitures for the Order of St John.

Introduction

Investitures for the admission of members of the Order of St John, or for their promotion within the Order are customarily performed by the Prior or Deputy Priors of the Priory in Australia. The Chancellor of the Priory in Australia may also conduct Investitures, usually of those persons admitted to the offices of Prior or Deputy Prior in the Priory in Australia.

As Investitures are customarily performed in the Official Residences of the Prior and Deputy Priors, the appropriate Government House will prepare a ceremonial brief for the Investiture cognisant of the expectations of the relevant Prior or Deputy Prior. The Prior does not normally require that a Capitular Procession be held at Government House, Canberra, but a Deputy Prior may wish to include a Capitular Procession. Further guidance on Capitular Processions is available in the Director of Ceremonies Handbook.

Model Order of Service

Attached is a model Order of Service. It is provided as a starting point for creating the Order of Service for a specific investiture.

The model Order of Service is the one used in national Investitures conducted at Government House in Canberra for national and ACT people being admitted or promoted in the Order.

For State/Territory investitures, the people undertaking the duties will be different. States are free to choose who undertakes each of the duties identified in the Order of Service. For example:

- A State CEO or Government House official may undertake the duties of the Priory Secretary.
- The Chair of the State Board may undertake the duties of the Chancellor.
- The Deputy Prior in the State or Territory will typically undertake the duties of the Prior.
- The State or Territory Chaplain will undertake the role of the Sub-Prelate.

Note: Special considerations exist if a Deputy Prior, Prior, Lord Prior or Grand Prior are in attendance at an investiture ceremony. Normally, the person with the highest rank in the Order officiates at an investiture. If this situation arises, it is important to discuss this with the Priory Secretary before finalising the Order of Service.

The model Order of Service assumes that the officiating officer is male, as is the case with the current Prior. Adjustments are required if the officiating officer is female. The same applies for postulants, except for the investiture of a Dame.

The Model Order of Service provides words related to each grade: Knight, Dame, Commander, Officer and Member. This will need to be adjusted for each specific Order of Service depending on who is being invested and their grade.

Where there are multiple people being invested in the one grade, the words '*The same procedure is repeated for:*' can be used followed by a list of names. An example of this is provided for the Member grade in the attached Order of Service. Alternatively, the full wording for the grade can be inserted for each person: This is particularly appropriate if there is a small number of people being invested at the one grade.

ORDER OF SERVICE

POSTULANTS STAND – GUESTS SIT

Priory Secretary: “We present to you, Prior, our Confreres who have been duly selected for admission and promotion as Members of the Order of St John.”

Chancellor: Do you promise to pay obedience to the Governing Authorities of the Order as laid down in our Royal Charter in all things consistent with your duty to your Sovereign and your country?”

Postulants: “I do.”

Chancellor: “Will you do all in your power to contribute to the dignity, prosperity and utility of the Order, combating everything that is prejudicial to its well-being, and devoting yourselves so far as you are able, to the objects and purposes of the Order, more especially the Christian care of the sick and injured, and will you always conduct yourselves as men and women of honour?”

Postulants: “I will, God being my helper.”

Chancellor: “Prior, now that I have heard their pledges to the Order, I invite you to invest our confreres”

Prior: “By virtue of the powers vested in me, I am about to invest you severally with the Insignia of your grade. Remember always that the Cross you are about to receive is, for Christians, the sign of redemption, that its Arms symbolise the four cardinal virtues, Prudence, Temperance, Justice and Fortitude, and its points stand for the Eight Beatitudes which spring from the practice of those virtues. May its whiteness ever remind you of the purity of life required of those who fight for the defence of their faith, and live for the service of the poor and suffering. Be loyal to your Sovereign, true to your honour and faithful to the Order”.

POSTULANTS SIT

The name and the citation of each Postulant are read by the Priory Secretary. Each Postulant will stand when their name is read the first time, wait while the Citation is read, and move directly to His Excellency after their name is read for the second time.

Priory Secretary:

{Postulant Name}'s citation is read and concludes with:

“To be invested as a Knight of Grace of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, {Postulant Name}.”

{Postulant Name} moves forward and kneels on the right knee on the faldstool.

ADC carries the sword to the Prior.

Receiving the sword from the ADC, the Prior confers the Accolade of the Order with three strikes on the left shoulder.

ADC retrieves and replaces the sword.

Chancellor carries neck badge to the Prior, who places it onto him.

His mantle is then placed around his shoulders by the Chancellor.

The Prior:

“Arise Confrere, I receive you as a Knight of Grace of this Most Venerable Order.”

Recipient returns to seat.

Priory Secretary:

{Postulant Name}'s citation is read and concludes with:

“To be invested as a Dame of Grace of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, {Postulant Name}.”

ADC carries insignia to the Prior, who places the insignia on the medal hook worn by the recipient.

Her mantle is then placed around her shoulders by the Chancellor.

The Prior:

“Confrere, I receive you as a Dame of Grace of this Most Venerable Order.”

Priory Secretary:

{Postulant Name}'s citation is read and concludes with:

“To be invested as a Commander of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, {Postulant Name}.”

{Postulant Name} moves forward.

ADC carries insignia to Prior, who places the insignia on the medal hook worn by the recipient.

His mantle is then placed around his shoulders by the Chancellor.

Prior:

“Confrere, I receive you as a Commander of this Most Venerable Order.”

Recipient returns to seat.

Priory Secretary:

{Postulant Name}'s citation is read and concludes with:

“To be invested as an Officer of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, {Postulant Name}.”

{Postulant Name} moves forward.

ADC carries insignia to Prior, who places the insignia on the medal hook worn by the recipient.

Prior:

“Confrere, I receive you as an Officer of this Most Venerable Order.”

Recipient returns to seat.

Priory Secretary:

{Postulant Name}'s citation is read and concludes with:

“To be invested as a Member of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, {Postulant Name}.”

{Postulant Name} moves forward

ADC carries insignia to Prior, who places the insignia on the medal hook worn by the recipient.

Prior:

“Confrere, I receive you as a Member of this Most Venerable Order.”

Recipient returns to seat.

The same procedure is repeated for:

{Postulant Name}

{Postulant Name}

{Postulant Name}

Priory Secretary:

“I now invite Bishop Richard Hurford, the Sub-Prelate of the Priory of the Order of St John in Australia, to say the concluding prayers.”

Sub-Prelate:

“The Lord preserve us in the number of the Faithful; the Lord grant us means and opportunity to do good, resolution to persevere, and grace to attain happily to the blessed inheritance of Eternal Life; that as charity hath united us on earth, so Divine Mercy, which is the help and support of love, may vouchsafe to unite us with His faithful ones in heaven, through the good gift of Jesus Christ Our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen”.

Prayer for members of the Order.

Sub-Prelate:

“Faithful God, keep all our members in love and enlighten our minds, so that we may offer useful service and maintain the honour of our Order, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

Priory Secretary:

“Prior, that concludes this investiture in The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem.”