

# Service Medal of the Order of St John



Since 1900 the Service Medal of the Order of St John has been awarded to members of St John for long service. In most countries the medal is for 12 years of service. It is one of only two non-government awards in the Australian Honours and Awards System, the other being for membership of the Order of St John.

The medal measures 39mm in diameter and is suspended on a watermarked ribbon consisting of three black and two white vertical stripes. The current medal is supplied with a miniature and medal ribbon and was produced by T&S Signcraft, based in Sydney.



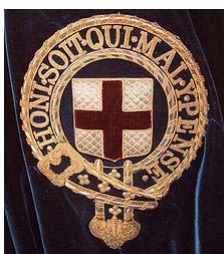
The obverse (front) of the medal features a bust of Queen Victoria wearing a crown and veil. It was Queen Victoria who, in 1888, granted Royal Charter to the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem. This particular image of Queen Victoria is based on a bust produced by her daughter, HRH The Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyle.

Surrounding the bust are the words 'VICTORIA+D+G+BRITT+REG+F+D+IND+IMP' meaning 'Victoria Dei Gra Britt Regina Fid Def Ind Imp' or 'Victoria by the Grace of God Queen of the Britons, Defender of the Faith, Empress of India'.

## Reverse of the medal

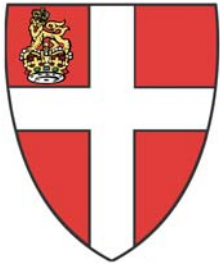


The centrepiece of the reverse (back) of the medal is the **Royal Arms of the United Kingdom**, incorporating the Royal emblems of the United Kingdom: the three lions of England in the first and fourth quarters, the lion of Scotland in the second and the harp of Ireland in the third.



**The Garter** surrounding the Arms symbolises the Order of the Garter, the premier order of the United Kingdom, of which the Queen is Sovereign. The motto, from the French, reads 'Honi soit qui mal y pense' ('Evil to him who evil thinks').





The **Arms of the Order** sit immediately to the left of the Royal Arms. This version of the Arms of the Order incorporates a plain white cross on a red background, the Royal Beasts and the Cross of The Order. It pre-dates the decision in 1926 to allow The Order to use the Royal Crest in the top left quadrant of its Arms, as shown at left..



The **Tudor Crown** sits immediately above the Royal Arms.



The **Arms of the Duke of Clarence and Avondale** sits to the right of the Royal Arms. Prince Albert Victor, Duke of Clarence and Avondale (1862-1892) was the first Sub-Prior of the Order. His arms are the same as the Royal Arms, with the inclusion of the Coat of Arms of Saxony at the centre.



The **Prince of Wales Feathers** sit immediately below the Royal Arms. They are the heraldic badge of the Prince of Wales, comprised of a gold coronet (small crown), three Ostrich feathers and the phrase 'Ich Dien', German for 'I serve'.



**St Johns Wort** (*Hypericum*) adorns the spaces between the Imperial Crown, Prince of Wales Feathers and various Arms. St Johns Wort has medicinal properties, although its original link with The Order is not well understood.



The reverse of the medal is ringed with the phrase 'MAGNUS. PRIORATUS. ORDINIS. HOSPITALIS. SANCTI. JOHANNIS. JERUSALEM. IN. ANGLIA' which is Latin for 'Grand Priory [of the] Order [of the] Hospital [of] St John [of] Jerusalem in England'.

