INVESTITURE IN THE MOST VENERABLE ORDER OF THE HOSPITAL OF ST JOHN OF JERUSALEM
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE CAROLINE WELLS
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, FRIDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2026

VICE-REGAL SALUTE

Please be seated.

Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to Government House for this Investiture in the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem.

I would like to begin by acknowledging the Palawa people as the First Peoples of lutruwita/Tasmania and the Traditional Custodians of the land we're gathered on today.

For countless generations, they have cared for this island, its landscapes, its waterways and its communities, and I am grateful to be able to live here.

I pay my respects to Elders past and present, and to any Aboriginal people with us today. Your continuing contribution to the cultural, social and spiritual life of our State is deeply valued.

It is an absolute pleasure, and indeed a great privilege, to welcome you all as I host this Investiture in my capacity as the newly installed Deputy Prior.

St John holds a very special place in my heart. It was a formative part of my upbringing, with mum involved in the organisation for many years and I know how proud she would be today. I joined the Sandy Bay Cadet Division in the mid-1970s and those early experiences gave me so much more than I could have appreciated at the time. The values, friendships, sense of service and lessons I gained through St John have stayed with me throughout my life, and I have no doubt they have helped shape the person I am today.

One particularly special memory was receiving my Grand Prior's Badge 47 years ago. It was presented to me by His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, our Grand Prior, during his visit to Hobart. I remember that occasion with great pride and gratitude.

Little could I have imagined back then that, almost five decades later, I would find myself standing on the other side of the ceremony, with the privilege and responsibility of welcoming and recognising others for their commitment and service to St John.

Awards are a way that we say thank you and acknowledge the outstanding work being done to benefit our community. Whether that be by way of duties at large events, training to ensure more people are in a position to provide lifesaving care, administration and leadership to ensure our institutions continue to operate, all here this afternoon deserve our appreciation.

I am particularly delighted that four of our young members will receive their Grand Prior's Certificate and Badge this afternoon. This is especially meaningful for me. These young people represent the future of St John, and their commitment, enthusiasm and willingness to serve their community are wonderful to see. Wear your Badge with pride, knowing that it represents not only what you have accomplished, but also the values of service and dedication that are at the heart of St John.

Pro Fide Pro Utilitate Hominum

Would the Postulant please stand.

I have it on command from the Grand Prior to invest with insignia in the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem a recipient upon whom honours have been conferred.

[OS to introduce Chancellor]

The Presenting Officer Says:

“We present to Your Excellency our confrere who has been duly selected as a member of the Order of St John.”

Promises

“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?”

Postulant answers: “I do”

“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 yourself, so far as you are able, to the objects, purposes and values of the Order, more especially the care of the sick and injured, and will you conduct yourself always as a person of honour?”

Postulant answers: “I will”

“And do you commit to the enduring values of the Order: respect and kindness to others, selflessness, excellence in delivering modern care, openness to learn, devotion to helping others, togetherness, inclusiveness and faithfulness to the vision of its founders?

Postulant answers: “I do”

HE says: "By virtue of the powers vested in me, I am about to invest you 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 symbolize the four cardinal virtues, Prudence, Temperance, Justice and Fortitude. Its points stand for the Eight Beatitudes which spring from the practice of those virtues.

Be loyal to your Sovereign, true to your honour and faithful to the Order."