

## The Provincial Priory of Cheshire and North Wales

### A Christmas Message for 2023

Brother Knights, as 2023 fades quietly away, we reflect on the year now almost behind us, and look forward to what 2024 may bring. Let us however pause to celebrate this special time – the celebration of the Birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, at Christmas. May it for you and your loved ones be a time to share happy friendships and continuing enjoyment of those friendships; a pause in busy lives to appreciate what our Faith brings to us. The world is very different from only a few years ago but the love of Christ remains constant. Celebrate Christmas and cherish those near and dear to us.

A Prayer for Christmas is shared with us by The Provincial Prelate -

“Heavenly Father, King of Kings and Lord of Lords, you never forget us, as we at times forget you, nor turn away from us even when we fail you; we humbly ask that you will neither forget us nor turn away from us especially at Christmas as we celebrate the Birth of the Christ Child. As we celebrate this sacred feast, may He be close to the whole of humanity and by His birth give to the world peace, forgiveness and reconciliation. Let us never forget that through the horror of the wars which are being fought throughout the world, Christ is unseen but always present, alongside the injured and the homeless. We pray for all who are affected, that they may be conscious of Your love for the world shown in the Birth of Him we celebrate at this time, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen”

At 5 o'clock on Christmas Day let us toast all Knights Templar, with the Great Priory prayer –

‘Preserve O Lord our Brother Knights,  
By land and sea and air,  
And as we hold them in our thoughts,  
So keep them in Your care’

To all our Almoners - thank you for all the work you have done on behalf of your Preceptories in 2023. Your phone calls, your home and hospital visits and all the unknown work that you do behind the scenes, day after day, week after week, can make a real difference in the lives of those in need and their families.

May your 2024 be a happy time. Let us welcome the New Year with eager anticipation of the opportunities it will bring.

Merry Christmas to you all.

Alan Pierce  
Provincial Prior

20 December 2023