



**Order of Saint John of Jerusalem**  
**Knights Hospitaller - OSJ (Malta)** Under the  
Constitution given by His Late Majesty King Peter II of Yugoslavia Lieutenant Grand Master  
HE Bailiff Paul Borg OSJ

**Grand Priory of Australasia**

HE Grand Marshal  
Conventual Bailiff David Wilckens OSJ  
Grand Prior  
Grand Priory of Australasia

PO Box 717  
Hutt Street, Adelaide  
South Australia SA 5000

Grand Magesterium  
223 Saint Paul Street  
Valetta  
Malta

**Protocol**  
**Nomination of Admission and Investiture**  
**Protocol**

At a recent Petit Conseil it was brought to the attention of the Grand Marshal of instances of Nomination and Investiture Protocol not being in accordance with the Malta Rules.

Tradition, custom and practice dictate as follows, in accordance with these Malta Rules:

- A revised Nomination of Membership to the Order is attached and is requested to be used in preparation to the next Investiture. The changes which were made by the Petit Conseil are made on the last page as a DECLARATION item (ii) and reads as follows.  
*'I do not have any legal conviction or other characteristics or impediment that if I were to become a Knight/Dame would be likely to adversely affect the reputation of, or discredit, the Order or any of its members.'*
- After an Aspirant has been approved by the Lieutenant Grand Master, and prior to the Investiture he/she must be made aware of the appropriate dress. Female Aspirants must be of modest dress and Male Aspirants Dinner Suit with black tie for evening, and dark business suit for day wear, bow tie and white shirt.
- Protocol and due courtesy demand that the Lt. Grand Master be officially invited to all investitures of the Unit since it behooves the Lt. Grand Master to officiate an investiture

This invitation is to be made by the Grand Prior or by the senior member of the Unit.

- Investiture should only be by the Lt Grand Master or, in the absence of the Lt. Grand Master, by the Grand Prior/Prior or by a member of the Sovereign Council appointed in writing by the Grand Master for this purpose. No members under the rank of Commander of Justice can be appointed to invest new aspirants into the Order.
- When possible and practical, Investitures shall take place and should be arranged as a main event once (at most twice) a year, by Grand Priorities,

Priories or Independent Commanderies for the units under their jurisdiction and in consultation with the Grand Priors and Councils.

- The service of Investiture shall, always, be subject to the requirements of the religious confession and usage of the Unit.
- An Aspirant may be invested centrally, locally or even in another geographical area by previous arrangements made in consultation with the appropriate Heads.

It is important to remember that it is not only a very important ceremony, but an Investiture is also a formal act of Christian Chivalry.

### ***INVESTITURE Precedence and Ritual***

Members will **process in ascending**, and **recess in descending order** or Rank, on all formal occasions, except that the Master of Ceremonies and the Sword Bearer will precede their official.

#### **Holders of International Rank (as may be present)**

Lieut. Grand Master – or his nominated person  
Conventual Bailiffs  
Bailiffs of the Sovereign Council  
Members of the Supreme Court

#### **Holders of local Head Rank (independent)**

Judge at Arms (Herald) – *Priory appointment*  
Vice Grand Prior  
Priors  
Grand Priory Chancellor  
Mace Bearer  
Prelate  
Chaplain

Members will process in ascending, and recess in descending order or Rank, on all formal occasions

- Aspirants
  - Serving Sisters / Brother – SSSJ/ SBSJ
  - Knights/Dames of Honor – KSJ / DSJ
  - Knights/Dames of Grace – KGSJ / DGSJ
  - Knights/Dames Commanders of Grace - CGSJ
  - Knights/Dames of Justice – KJSJ / DJSJ
  - Knights/Dames Commanders of Justice - CJSJ
  - Knights/Dames Grand Cross of Justice - GCSJ
  - Bailiffs/Grand Dames – OSJ
- 
- On entry, the Marshalls will conduct the Knights and Dames to their corresponding seats, previously arranged by Rank as per processing order.
    - They will remain standing in their pews until directed to sit.

- The new members will be at the rear and the most senior members at the front.
  - The party of the Grand Prior or the Head of the Unit will proceed to the Sanctuary accompanied by two attendants.
- The Aspirants' Mantles, which shall be folded, the Insignia, clearly showing the names of those to receive them shall be placed on an appropriate location on the side for blessing and to be collected and passed to the Investing Officer as required.
  - The dubbing sword shall be resting on a cushion placed on the Alter.

### **INVESTITURE - CEREMONY**

- When the Investiture is to commence, the Sword Bearer will collect the Officiating Officer and after a bow, conduct him/her to the front of the altar. The Sword Bearer will then stand with the sword, slightly behind the Officiating Officer at his/her left.
- Two senior Officers shall go to the right to help the Officiating Officer with the Insignia and the Mantle.
- The Grand Prior in the absence of the LT Grand Master will move to the pulpit/lectern to declare the *Opening of the Ceremony* and read the *Proclamations*.

All those involved in the ceremony must be provided with a list of names of all those to be called. The list shall have first the names and investing rank of all Aspirants.

Further instructions for each Investiture can be found in the Order of Service booklet prepared in consultation with the Grand Prior and Prelate and provided by each Priory.

### **INVESTITURE DRESS CODE BY MEMBERS OF THE ORDER**

The Regalia Booklet v 2021 Revised 2024 is on the International Webpage

<http://osjmaltaknights.org.home>. With Day time Investitures all Knights wear a black bow tie, white shirt and a dark business suit. With evening Investitures, Knights wear a dinner suit with white bow tie. Different country dress code may dictate a black bow tie in lieu of white.

Dames to wear modest dress.

Please note when wearing a Mantle and Insignia the neck ribbon is placed under the shirt collar.

***H E Grand Marshal Bailiff David Wilckens OSJ  
November 15<sup>th</sup> 2024***