



June, 2019

Brethren it is with much sadness that I report the passing of M.W. Bro. Michael W. Walker, 28th May 2019, (peacefully), after an illness fought with patience and dignity.



R.W. Bro. Michael W. Walker, Honorary Past Grand Master and Past Grand Secretary

Below are excerpts from an address given by R.W. Bro. Michael Walker at the Quarterly Stated Communication of the United Grand Lodge of England, held on Wednesday 9th March, 2005 in Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London.

M.W. Pro Grand Master and Brethren,

I am indeed grateful for the opportunity to make a short valedictory address on this my last official visit as Grand Secretary for Ireland. A well-known Dublin character and successful art dealer was recently quoted in his obituary/appreciation as having frequently remarked, "Most of us have delusions of grandeur. If we can afford them, we've a responsibility to occasionally indulge them".

Well I have been graciously afforded the opportunity and will therefore indulge my delusions by these few words.

Because Freemasonry is a subjective entity it makes its own special contribution to each individual and therefore very difficult to provide an exact definition for an outsider, but I was reminded recently of one of the best definitions I have ever come across, the Pope was recorded as saying "There must be no yielding to ideologies which justify contempt for human dignity on the basis of race, colour, language or religion"; and the Israeli President, Moshe Katsav is reported as saying "the will must resurface for the fraternal world, a world based on respect for man and his dignity". I was immediately struck by the similarity of these sentiments to those expressed just two hundred years ago by Bro. Daniel O'Connell, Freemason, Lawyer and Statesman, who when delivering a speech in 1814, upon "illegal associations", described Freemasonry as "Philanthropy, unconfined by sect, nation, colour, or religion".

Truth, one of our three main principles and precepts does not change. Truth, in a Masonic connotation, may be interpreted as, public and private morality, the knowledge and fear of God and, following on from that, respect for, and love of, our neighbour. This respect includes toleration of his personal viewpoint, his religious beliefs and his political opinions.

If we pursue the aims of Freemasonry, our search should widen, yet focus our vision, while ever making us more deeply aware of, and closer to, the Great Architect of the Universe, heightening our spirituality and deepening our insight into that which we may never hope fully to understand.



There is so much more to Freemasonry than the shallow depth of today's assessment and its scant inspection and acceptance by today's society, obsessed as society is with overt material success for the individual rather than his overall contribution to society.

The purpose of Masonry is "self-improvement" - not in the material sense, but in the intellectual, moral and philosophic sense of developing the whole personal and psyche so as, in the beautiful and emotive language of the ritual "to fit ourselves to take our place, as living stones, in that great spiritual building, not made by hands, eternal in the Heavens".

Such an hypothetical, whole, developed, complete person must, in his journey through life, and in his interaction with others, make a more extensive contribution to society in general, thus realizing and fulfilling his expressed wish on initiation, to become "more extensively useful amongst his fellowmen". Such are the lofty, lawful and laudable aspirations of the Order.

In marketing terms we must view Freemasonry as a product. This is what we are "selling", or otherwise providing, for uptake by members and potential members. To increase our sales, we must either improve the product or make the packaging more attractive. Freemasonry is a fairly stable product in itself - very little can be done to alter the product without changing it entirely in both essence and appearance.

Its principles and precepts have stood the test of time and are as valid today as ever. We cannot change the product and remain in the same business; and we must be true to ourselves in this. If we want to change to the extent of getting into a new line of business it must be accepted and recognized that this is exactly what we are doing; and will it perhaps not be long before somebody

decides that the new product is not quite right and needs further adjustment to meet the current demands of society. This I suggest is not an option which is open to us.

What we have and what we stand for will always be right, even if its acceptance rises or falls on the scales of time. What we can do is upgrade the packaging, and make it look more attractive to potential customers, while also actually making it more palatable to current consumers. In the former case we can - and indeed already so do - actively adopt a higher profile; and gently but firmly "let our light shine before men".

The candle in the window is the invitation symbol understood by all; and some will accept and knock on the door. I am entirely against the "go out into the highways and by-ways and compel them to come in "attitude" as is currently being adopted and practiced by some North American Grand Lodges.

Hard-sell is not for Freemasonry however you may try to dress it up. Freemasonry is there to be adopted and savoured by those with minds attuned to, or even seeking, its attainment and what it provides.

Freemasonry is not for everyone; but within all populations and at all times there will be those to whom it will appeal. By its packaging and presentation these customers may be identified and maximised but they cannot be created.

Our principles, sometimes referred to as "Ancient Landmarks", must stand firm, upright and visible, like the pillars of stone and brick raised by Enoch in the land of Siriad, and which were still standing in the time of Josephus, lest the Arts and Sciences - in our case the whole body of Freemasonry - should slip from the knowledge of men.



I would like to close by likening my experience of Freemasonry and the wealth of kindness, generosity and friendship extended to me over the years by so many, but particularly by those representing this Grand Lodge, by paraphrasing a description, by our probably best known poet and philosopher, William Butler Yeats, of Lady Gregory's home at Coole, in Co. Clare, - certainly a "maternal shelter" for craftsmen of a different "métier" - that "this house has enriched my soul out of measure, because here life moves, without restraint, through gracious forms".

Through his visit to New Zealand in 2007, MW Bro. Walker was known to many of us. His encyclopaedic knowledge and passion for Irish Freemasonry will be very sadly missed.

Rest in Peace.



Grand Lodge of Instruction

Foreign Representatives

Further to recent Clarifications which have been disseminated to Lodges, the Grand Lodge of Instruction has also advised the following regarding Foreign Representatives.

In New Zealand 'Foreign Representatives' means any mason representing any Grand, District or Sub-ordinate Craft lodge representing the Grand Lodge of New Zealand, The United Grand Lodge of England, The Grand Lodge of Scotland and any other visiting Freemason.

Over a period of time, there has been much discussion regarding the greetings given by members of Irish Lodges who are also representatives of other subordinate Lodges.

Such members occasionally bring Fraternal Greetings from the Constitution which they also belong. This is not correct.

It has also been decided that Foreign Representatives do not wear their regalia at meetings of Lodges of which they are subscribing members, except on the occasion of the Installation Ceremony each year, or on the occasion of a formal visit from a senior Grand Lodge Officer or Provincial/District Grand Lodge Officer. The foregoing also applies to Grand Lodge Officers (present and past) and Provincial Grand Lodge Officers (present and past).



What is Vision 2020?

The Grand Lodge of Ireland, through its Lodges throughout Ireland and overseas is becoming increasingly recognised for its continuing support of non-masonic charities. The cumulative total each year distributed to a wide range of charities, normally chosen at local level, now runs at around 2 million euro. Roughly every 5 years the Grand Master calls for an additional Festival to support specific Charities.



One of the chosen charities for Vision 2020 is Medecins sans Frontieres. In bringing assistance to those in greatest need, Medecins Sans Frontieres runs hospitals and clinics, performs surgery, battles epidemics, carries out vaccination campaigns, operates feeding centres and offers mental health care services. MSF constructs wells, dispenses drinking water and provides shelter material.

MSF also treats patients with infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, sleeping sickness and HIV/AIDS and provides medical and psychological care to marginalised groups.

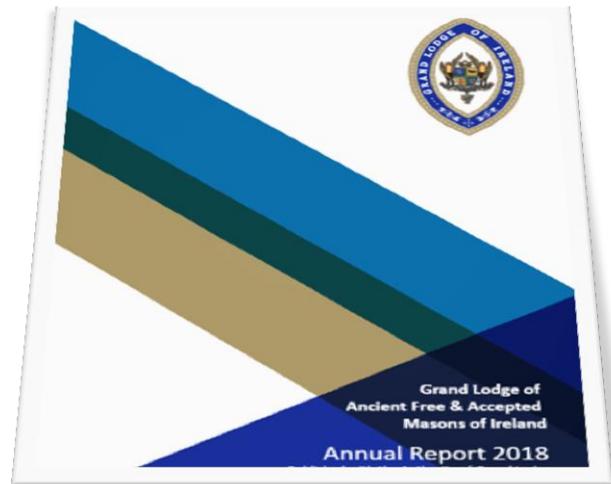


The impact of *Vision 2020* may be to support our work during emergencies, enabling us to respond quickly and effectively to provide for those in need. These needs can be great as can be seen by our work during the conflict in Yemen, following Cyclone Idai in Mozambique or during the Ebola epidemic in West Africa.

At this time no one can be aware of what emergency and where would best suit *Vision 2020* but during the term of your Festival we will, no doubt, be called for help at which time your project can be both confirmed and published.

We will be arranging our own events, the details of which will be co-ordinated by W. Bro. Wayne Oswald. If anybody has any suggestions, please let him know (wayne.oswald@gmail.com). The

Grand Master is asking all Provinces and Lodges to please support this cause as it demonstrates Irish Freemasonry as being outgoing, as well as its well-known internal efforts.



Annual Report 2018

You are welcome to view the Grand Lodge Annual Report on line at:

<https://freemason.ie/annual-report/>



Two Dispensations for Lodge St. Patrick No. 468

Last month it was my pleasure to approve two dispensations for Lodge St. Patrick to raise two brothers to the sublime degree of Master Mason. The last time Lodge St Patrick made a request for dispensation was in xxxx. Congratulations to the Lodge and to the two brethren, I am confident that they will add lustre to the Lodge and be an asset to Irish freemasonry, we all wish them well.



De Burgh Adams Lodge No 446

Following is a report received from V.W. Bro. Brieseman on a recent initiative to take freemasonry to the public.

“An update for you on our stand at the Expo. Overall we were very pleased with the results. We have a brother who has returned to New Zealand from Ireland where he joined an Irish Lodge and who like to join us. We have another two very strong prospects and probably another five or six who could go either way. We had a lot of positive feedback with many people surprised that we were out in public considering we are a "secret society." It was a perfect opportunity to set them right and they were all quite appreciative.

We have already pre booked a site for next year so that we can build on this experience. As I have said to the members of De Burgh, "we are not doing this for the survival of our Lodge; we are doing it for the growth of our Lodge."

Brethren, freemasonry has changed; it is no longer hidden in the cupboard and perceived by the public as a secret, elitist's society. We should all be proud to be freemasons. Be confident to talk about it amongst your friends, family and acquaintances. Be proud of its history, its meaning and the benevolence we demonstrate to our societies, the friendships that are gained and especially the moral lessons it teaches, which we should all strive to live our lives by.

Below is the Interfaith Prayer I read during the lovely service at Beth Shalom following an invitation for brethren from all constitutions to join with them for their Friday night Sabbath service. The occasion was also supported by M.W. Winger (GLNZ), Bro. Imlah PDDGM representing the NI DGL (S.C) and W. Bro. Chopping ADGM NZGGL (UGLE).

Power of all creation, we stand in awe before you, impelled by visions of human harmony. We are the children of many traditions - inheritors of shared wisdom and tragic misunderstandings, of proud hopes and humble successes. Now it is time for us to meet in memory and truth, in courage and trust, in love and promise.

In that which we share, let us see the common prayer of humanity; in that which we differ, let us wonder at human freedom; in our unity and differences let us recognize the uniqueness of every being.

May our courage meet our convictions, and our integrity match our hope. May our faith in You bring us closer to each other.

May our meeting with past and present bring blessing for the future.



Trustees Report 2019

The Trustees of the Teddies for Loving Care Appeal New Zealand Trust take pleasure in presenting this, the Second Annual Report of the Trust.

Following the successful launch of the programme in November 2017 and the subsequent roll out to District Health Boards across the North Island in early 2018, the Trustees are now pleased to report the programme has now been expanded to cover all but two of the District Health Boards in the North Island.

We have made a special point of ensuring rural hospitals, such as Kaiataia, Kawakawa and Wairoa, have been included in the programme. These smaller hospitals do not generally offer a full Emergency Department service but are often the first point of access in rural areas.

The Trust is now receiving regular requests to replenish the supplies at the various Emergency Departments and regular positive feedback from staff, children and families.

For Christmas 2018 the Trustees decided, as a trial, to also place teddy bears in the Children's Wards to be given to any child who had the misfortune to be in hospital over the Christmas period. Again, the teddy bears were very well received by staff, children and parents.

As at 31 March 2019, a total of 12,960 teddy bears have been given away. The volumes of teddy bears being given away are somewhat less than originally projected and, at this time, there appears to be no risk demand will exceed the supply capacity of the Trust.

The Trust is receiving a regular stream of large and small donations from individuals and Freemasons Lodges and is financially secure for the foreseeable future.

Tony Mansfield Chairman

The brethren of the Ara Lodge No. 348 have recently agreed to give a further donation to aide in the longevity of this very important cause and I would encourage all Lodges to continue making contributions.

Dear Brethren,

I wish you and your nearest and dearest all good health and happiness throughout 2019.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

Andrew

*RW Bro. AG McGregor
Provincial Grand Master.*