



METROPOLITAN GRAND LODGE
of
LONDON

SIR MICHAEL SNYDER
METROPOLITAN GRAND MASTER

31 March 2020

Dear Brethren and Companions,

it is now two weeks since the suspension of all masonic meetings and I wanted to write to each and every one of you to thank you for your understanding, support and cooperation during these difficult times.

Thank you to all of you working in essential services: the NHS, care homes, community services, police, armed forces, transport, food and medical supplies and indeed every area that keeps society functioning. Thank you to all of those fit and able enough to volunteer your time and services to your local or national volunteer programmes; I have been greatly impressed with the fantastic take-up.

Thank you to those caring for loved ones or simply self-isolating for the greater good. Thank you to those imaginative souls who have set up Zoom gatherings, WhatsApp groups, or utilising other forms of social media, not only to stay in touch with each other but especially to keep a watchful eye on our more vulnerable members and those perhaps alone without the comfort of a little company to share. Thank you to those formulating quizzes (masonic or otherwise) that entertain and amuse others in these dark days.

These are without question unprecedented times and it is clearly not going to come to an end quickly or abruptly. Patience and understanding will be paramount throughout this lockdown period and no doubt well beyond, especially given the uncertainty of no specific end-date to look forward to. If ever there was an opportunity for Freemasonry to prove its relevance in the 21st century then it is right now. Will it pass the test? I believe so. As a nation we have faced dark times before and I have every confidence that, once again, we will come through this stronger and more resilient than ever.

I am in no doubt that the world will be a different place after all of this is over but, in a way, this also affords us an opportunity to reflect upon what is important, to consider whether the way we have "always done it before" in our Lodges and Chapters is the best way for the future. Please use the time wisely, start those discussions now and explore what might be changed to your collective advantage.

We will continue to issue advice at regular intervals and the office remains fully manned (albeit virtually!) and ready to answer your questions where you have any.

In the meantime, I wish you and your widest family, the very best - please remember that this virus does not discriminate. Take care of yourselves and your loved ones, follow the guidance, stay safe, stay well, and I look forward to a resumption of masonic meetings just as soon as it is safe to do so.

Fraternally yours,