



Explore the Seven Virtues Evening

The word 'virtue' is one of the most frequently referenced terms in the 1st degree ceremony. It is also the last word in the formal part of the ceremony. Yet many brethren can not name the virtues, let alone explain their historical significance. Nor have they taken time to consider where each virtue sits in a contemporary context with the shift in ethics from the past to the present day.

FORMAT: 70 to 80min interactive and participatory session involving presentations and discussion. It involves a facilitator/s and 14 co-opted brethren of the Lodge, each of whom give a prepared 2min presentation on a nominated topic as follows.

This session should begin with the facilitator setting the scene about 'virtue' and its references in the ceremony. This is followed by 7 brethren each giving a 2min presentation on one of the seven virtues (which they have been allocated) – the four cardinal virtues (temperance, fortitude, prudence & justice) and the three theological virtues (faith, hope & charity) in their historical context.

The facilitator should then briefly explore the shift in the virtues in regard to present day ethics as a lead into another 7 brethren each giving a 2min presentation looking at where their nominated virtue sits in a contemporary context for them. The session should then conclude with a discussion amongst all brethren including their observations and questions.

PRESENTER/S: A competent facilitator/s
AUDIENCE: Suitable for any Lodge meeting for EA's and above.
VENUE: Lodge Room

RESOURCES: The ceremony of the 1st Degree.

