It is great to be here, a real pleasure to be back in the Speaker's Staterooms and see so many people together.

You very rarely see processions in the city of Glasgow with the litter-picking as they go. But it speaks volumes to the wider service the Sikh community provides and the contribution that they make. And when the procession came to the second Gurdwara on the journey, they were handing out the Langar. And as in Scotland as you would expect, not only were they handing out food, you were getting an Iron Bru as well when you were going past. This shows that the Sikhs have taken Scotland to their hearts as Iron Bru forms part of the Langar.

I also want to thank your community for the work that was done during the pandemic as well. Because that has left a long legacy and a good impression that the community in Scotland and particularly in Glasgow have of the Sikh Community.

The Sikh food bank which provided to so many, and the evolution of that Sikh food bank that continues to this day. And to thank the community very much for that continued contribution, you can’t go anywhere near the Gurdwara without being fed and well looked after. Glasgow is very grateful for that hospitality. The community in the central Gurdwara stepped in when some international students at the start of term this year couldn’t find accommodation. They put those students up and allowed them to come in and sleep on the floor of the Gurdwara. They looked after those students and made sure they were looked after very well.

And those students weren’t just from Glasgow. They had come from different parts of Scotland to be looked after in Glasgow, which was a great act of generosity not just to feed somebody once but to keep them for some time until they were able to get accommodation. So I want to make sure that a great act of generosity is acknowledged and thanked by me as the local member of parliament.

It would also be remiss of me not to mention on behalf of my colleague Mark Doherty-Hughes the ongoing situation with Jagtar Singh Johal, who will face 2000 days of arbitrary imprisonment tomorrow. And we remember and keep him and his family in our thoughts and continue to put pressure where we can to ensure he’s returned to his family. And that he gets a fair trial rather than the detention he’s facing. It is a great sadness to his family, I know that they can’t be together, particularly at this time of year.

I want to thank Pat for all he’s done to put this event on every year. Thank all of you for coming here together.

This Parliament is your place, you belong here, and you should feel able to come here not just once a year for Vaisakhi and I know many of you come on other occasions. Come in, visit and be part of this place and find yourself in here as the other MPs have mentioned earlier.

This is your place, be part of here as well and feel you can put yourself forward to be here, it belongs to you as much as it does to anybody else.

Thank you very much.