

# The Queen is dead. Long live King Charles III and Queen Camilla

Dear friends,

All of us are deeply saddened and reflective as we remember the passing of our Head of State for the past 70 years, Elizabeth, by the grace of God, Queen of Australia.

We unite our thoughts with all members of the Commonwealth of Nations, giving thanks for her dedication and service. As Queen of Australia and the Commonwealth, as she promised, she faithfully delivered.

The relationship with the Anglican Church of Australia is not the same as the Church of England: we are forbidden by our constitution to have a state religion but rather enjoy the many freedoms and plurality that comes from the enlightenment of our forebears.

That said, the origins of the Anglican Church of Australia, previously the United Church of England and Ireland in Australia, are deeply rooted in the established Church of England as formed in the reign of Henry VIII.

Oaths of allegiance and service were removed from the requirements of incumbents and parochial office holders within the Church in the latter part of the last century.

Her Majesty once noted that mourning hurts because we care.

Today, along with all the world, we surround the Royal Family with our love and care as they mourn a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and aunt/cousin.

To their Majesties, Charles and Camilla, we assure them of our prayers as we begin their reign.

We also pray for the Princes Royal, HRH Ann, the Duke of York, their Royal Highnesses Earl and Countess of Wessex, and their families.

We uphold in our prayers the Heir Apparent, their Royal Highnesses William and Catherine, Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and Cambridge and their children.

We also acknowledge the presence of the Prince Henry of Sussex.

On the Parish, the website will be resources to enable our prayers for the Royal Family and our new King and give thanks for the life of Elizabeth Windsor, our late Queen.

[www.anglicanparishgisborne.org.au/royalty](http://www.anglicanparishgisborne.org.au/royalty)

Many in the Parish would advocate a change in the Constitution of Australia at this juncture to allow an Australian head of state, be it a Presidential or Governor General, without recourse to the Crown of England. Already this has been promulgated by some politicians.

For the moment, we respect the call and difference of opinions, but as a Parish, may we accept our differences and, for the moment, enter into the fullness of the ten days of mourning the passing of the second Elizabethan era.

Thanksgiving for the life of Her Majesty, the late Queen, will be held this coming Sunday at St Paul's Cathedral during Evensong.

**CHORAL EVENSONG THIS SUNDAY** The Archbishop will be preaching at the Choral Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral on Sunday, 11 September 2022, at 6:00 pm to celebrate the long life of the Queen. The service will be streamed live.

I will liaise with the clergy of the Parish and musicians as to whether we have an Evensong on the day before the funeral within our Parish. The Church of England has designed a beautiful service of thanksgiving. More information on my return from leave next Tuesday.

Please check the Parish website for our tributes, prayers for private and public use, some films and clips, and intercessions for this coming Sunday if those rostered for intercessions could let Fr Alan know ([ajrs@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:ajrs@unimelb.edu.au)) that you have received the additional prayers).

May Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor, by the Grace of God Queen of Australia and Her other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth, Head and Fountain of Justice, of Order, and of Honour, Sovereign Head of the Order of Australia, Captain-General of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery, Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Australian Engineers, the Royal Australian Infantry Corps, the Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps, Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps, Air-Commodore-in-Chief of the Australian Citizen Air Force

✠ rest in peace and rise and glory. Amen.

Rev'd Dennis Webster  
Vicar

Gracious God, we give thanks  
for the life of your servant Queen Elizabeth,  
for her faith and her dedication to duty.  
Bless our nation as we mourn her death  
and may her example continue to inspire us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God of love,

We thank you for the life of The Queen,  
for her service to our nation,  
and for her faith in you.  
Be close to all of us who mourn,  
that we may we find comfort and hope in your love,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Everlasting God, we pray for our new King.  
Bless his reign and the life of our nation.  
Help us to work together  
so that truth and justice, harmony and fairness  
flourish among us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*(for use with young children)*

Loving God,  
our Queen has died and people are sad.  
Thank you for her long life  
and her care for her people.  
We pray for our new King.  
Bless and guide him as his reign begins. Amen.

