



A LETTER FROM BISHOP MATT ON THE DEATH OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

Dear Friends,

Last night Queen Elizabeth II passed into the nearer presence of our Lord and hers. Aside from being the constitutional head of our land, Queen Elizabeth was also the Supreme Governor of the Church of England – the church which we here as Anglicans in the Diocese of Bendigo owe our beginning and affection. We are ‘in communion’ with the Church of England and this is a good way for us to understand how we should respond to the Queen’s death and what we shall do.

Being ‘in communion’ as a church lends at least three imperatives to our response:

1. We should take this time to give God thanks for a woman who bore much to ensure that the faith she shared is clearly and effectively enacted through the very down to earth and ordinary structures of a people’s church. Queen Elizabeth’s long and patient work as a leader with high responsibility is a mark of her own discipleship and has shaped our own expression of faith even as we probably do not realise it. Please make use of the prayers below as you think through the best way to do this in your local context (a usual way would be to make your morning prayers and eucharists times of particular thanksgiving).
2. We will mark a time of mourning and thanksgiving as a whole diocese. The timetable for these services (and those as we gather with others from the Province of Victoria) is listed below. You will note that some of these services will be livestreamed. Please consider how you may disseminate this information so that others may join in. We do this to show that part of the Queen’s role was to promote a church universal – and that our local prayers form part of something much larger.
3. We will withhold political comment knowing that at its heart these next days are a chance to highlight a personal witness to Christ, pray for the Queen’s close family and entrust ourselves as a whole church to God’s continuing care. Here in Australia the role of the monarchy is of course a matter for continuing reflection and debate, however as fellow members of God’s family with the Queen our first instinct should be to respond as those who have lost the near presence of one of our family even as we know she now in the nearer presence of the Father.

Queen Elizabeth was not well enough to receive the bishops and spouses gathered for the recent Lambeth Conference, as was her usual practice. The Queen did however write us at Lambeth a letter exhorting us to live out our faith boldly and lead you well, especially as we attend to a creation which is groaning. What a gift we have had, that even to the end of the Queen’s earthly days she had us, you and me, and our faith-full lives at heart.

Your servant in Christ



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AND EVENTS			
Time & date	Service	Location	Live streaming
6.00pm Friday 9 September	Solemn Choral Evensong	St Paul's Cathedral Bendigo	St Paul's Cathedral Bendigo YouTube channel
<i>Commemorative prayers will be offered at services at St Paul's Cathedral, Bendigo throughout the 10 day mourning period</i>			
Sunday, 11 September	<i>Commemorative Prayers at each Sunday morning Eucharist (8.00am, 9.30 am and 11.00am) at St Paul's Cathedral, Bendigo At 4.00pm the bells of St Paul's Cathedral will chime half-muffled for an hour then the tenor bell will chime for each year of the Queen's life</i>		
6.00pm Sunday, 11 September	Provincial Service of Thanksgiving	St Paul's Cathedral Melbourne	St Paul's Cathedral Melbourne YouTube channel
Day of Queen's Funeral	<i>Commemorative Prayers at each Eucharist at St Paul's Cathedral, Bendigo The bells of St Paul's Cathedral will chime half-muffled for an hour then the tenor bell will chime for each year of the Queen's life</i>		
Day of Queen's Funeral Evening service (time to be confirmed)	Service of Thanksgiving	St Paul's Cathedral Bendigo	St Paul's Cathedral Bendigo YouTube channel
Day of Queen's Funeral Evening screening (time to be confirmed)	Public Screening of Funeral Service	St Paul's Cathedral Bendigo	



MEDIA STATEMENTS FROM BISHOP MATT AND DEAN ELIZABETH

St Paul's Cathedral mourns the death of a much-loved Queen

Following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of Australia earlier today, Bendigo's Anglican Cathedral will hold a solemn Choral Evensong at 6.00pm today to celebrate the long life of the Queen. The service is led by the Bishop of Bendigo and the Dean. The service is open to all and will be live screened online.

The Bishop of Bendigo, The Right Reverend Matt Brain, said:

"Queen Elizabeth II has been an exemplary servant of many throughout her whole life. Irrespective of one's view regarding Australia's constitutional arrangements, the Queen has shown passionate commitment to the maintenance of a safe and stable land. Similarly her position as Supreme Governor of the Church of England with the clear influence this bears on the Anglican Church of Australia was no mere trifle. Queen Elizabeth's steadiness under great pressure has been one artefact of a faith-filled life. The Queen's steadfast commitment to service flowed directly from her faith in Jesus Christ and has been an adornment to the gospel of Christ. I give thanks for her life and dedicated service".

Dean of Bendigo, the Very Rev'd Elizabeth Dyke, said:

"I give thanks to God for Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee and her years of faithful, prayerful service to the Anglican Church worldwide. A woman of great faith, courage and resilience, Queen Elizabeth showed the Church and the world how to live a life of faith, hope and love."

Prayers of thanksgiving for the long life of the Queen and for those who mourn her will be said at all services at St Paul's in the coming ten days.

On the day of the State Funeral, there will be a service in the Cathedral. More details to follow.



PRAYERS

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING AT THE WEEKDAY EUCHARIST

In faith let us pray to our risen Lord Jesus Christ, who is the resurrection and life of all who trust in him, remembering before him Elizabeth, Queen of Australia, whom we now recall in a moment of silent prayer:

For the faithful witness of our Queen,
We give thanks and praise.

For her dutiful commitment to her people,
We give thanks and praise.

For her loving leadership of Commonwealth and family,
We give thanks and praise.

For her gentle constancy amidst continuing change,
We give thanks and praise.

For her royal dignity in joy and in adversity,
We give thanks and praise.

For her kindly humanity to one and all,
We give thanks and praise.

We give thanks and praise for these divine gifts given to Elizabeth, our late Queen, and we pray that you will grant her peace; let light perpetual shine upon her; and in your loving wisdom and almighty power work in her the good purpose of your perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYERS AT THE EUCHARIST AND EVENSONG D +2 (OR D +3): PROCLAMATION OF SOVEREIGN

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness,
bless our Sovereign Lord, King Charles,
and all who are in authority under him;
that they may order all things in wisdom and equity,
righteousness and peace,
to the honour and glory of your name
and the good of your Church and people;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Thanks be to God for the gift of life:
You have made us in your image,
and called us to reflect your truth and light.

We thank you for the life of Elizabeth, our Queen,
for her faithful devotion, dutiful commitment,
loving leadership, gentle constancy,
royal dignity and kindly humanity.



Above all, we thank you for your gracious promise to all your servants, living and departed, that we shall be made one again in our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PRAYERS AT EVENSONG

O eternal God, our Heavenly Father, we bless your holy name for all that you have given us in and through the life of your daughter Elizabeth, our late Queen. We give you thanks: for her love of family and her gift of friendship; for her grace, dignity and courtesy; for her humour, generosity and sheer love of life. And we praise you for: the courage that she showed in times of hardship; the depth and reality of her Christian faith; the good example that she set for us to follow. We offer you our heartfelt thanks for the deep affection she drew out of everyone she met, and we pray that you will grant her peace; let light perpetual shine upon her; and in your loving wisdom and almighty power work in her the good purpose of your perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness, we humbly pray you to bless our most gracious Sovereign, King Charles, Camilla, Princess Consort, William, Duke of Cornwall and Cambridge, and all the Royal Family: endue them with your Holy Spirit, enrich them with your heavenly grace; prosper them with all happiness; and bring them to your everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, Father of all mercies and giver of all comfort: deal graciously, we pray, with your servants, Charles our King, Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, William, Duke of Cornwall and Cambridge, the Royal Family and all those who mourn the death of Elizabeth, our Queen, that casting all their care on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord. **Amen.**

God of all grace, who sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to bring life and immortality to light: we give you grateful thanks that by his death he destroyed the power of death, and by his glorious resurrection he opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Grant us to know that because he lives we shall share his risen life, and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come, shall be able to separate us from your love, in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**