

FAITH AND REASON

Upon learning of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Pope Francis sent his condolences in a telegram addressed to His Majesty King Charles III and the people of the United Kingdom.

In the telegram, sent shortly after her death, the Pope expressed his heartfelt “condolences to Your Majesty, the Members of the Royal Family, the People of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth”. He joins everyone who mourns her loss “in praying for the late Queen’s eternal rest, and in paying tribute to her life of unstinting service to the good of the Nation and the Commonwealth, her example of devotion to duty, her steadfast witness of faith in Jesus Christ and her firm hope in his promises.

“Commending her noble soul to the merciful goodness of our Heavenly Father, I assure Your Majesty of my prayers that Almighty God will sustain you with his unfailing grace as you now take up your high responsibilities as King. Upon you and all who cherish the memory of your late mother, I invoke an abundance of divine blessings as a pledge of comfort and strength in the Lord”.

The Queen died peacefully, September 8, at age 96. She reigned for over 70 years. Her son King Charles III said the death of his beloved mother was a “moment of great sadness” for him and his family and that her loss would be “deeply felt” around the world.

In a statement, the new Prime Minister Liz Truss said The Queen “was the rock on which modern Britain was built”. English-born Cardinal Arthur Roche released a statement to the Vatican Media to express the “immense sadness” of all who work in the Holy See from Great Britain, Northern Ireland and the countries of the Commonwealth. In his statement, the Cardinal said the late Queen dedicated herself “unstintingly to serve her people, but also entrusted this to God’s protection”.

“Her Christian faith, expressed so often in her annual Christmas messages and elsewhere, were moments of outstanding witness to her faith, the Gospel and the values of the common good, family life, peace and concord among peoples”. **Vatican**

An outpouring of love: Members of the Royal family and guests sing as the coffin of Queen Elizabeth II, draped in the Royal ...

23 September 2022. After lying in state for five days, Queen Elizabeth II was farewelled at a state funeral in Westminster Abbey on Monday, 19 September. The service was officiated by the Dean of Westminster Abbey, the very Reverend Dr David Hoyle. Among the 2000 strong congregation of family members, world leaders and dignitaries invited for the occasion, was also Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher, Vatican Secretary for Relations with States and International Organizations who represented the Holy Father.

During his sermon, Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby recalled Queen Elizabeth’s life of service, her way of being “present to so many, touching a multitude of lives”.

“Her Late Majesty famously declared on a 21st birthday broadcast that her whole life would be dedicated to serving the Nation and Commonwealth. Rarely has such a promise been so well kept!” Indeed, he added, “few leaders receive the outpouring of love that we have seen”. Archbishop Welby highlighted the deep faith of Queen Elizabeth, who held the title of Defender of the faith and Supreme Governor of the Church of England. “In 1953 the Queen began her Coronation with silent prayer”, he said. Indeed, “her allegiance to God was given before any person gave allegiance to her. Her service to so many people in this nation, the Commonwealth and the world, had its foundation in her following Christ”, he stressed.

During the service, several church leaders offered prayers including Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster and President of the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales; Rt Rev Dr Iain Greenshields, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland; and Shermana Fletcher, Principal Officer for Pentecostal and Charismatic Relations, Churches Together in England. Cardinal Nichols expressed gratitude for “Queen Elizabeth’s commitment to the Commonwealth throughout her kingdom, for her ability to serve and her dedication to her people and for the rich bonds of unity and mutual support she has fostered”.

At the end of the funeral service, Queen Elizabeth’s coffin was taken to Windsor Castle, her final resting place.

The great question that will be with us throughout this entire book: What did Jesus actually bring, if not world peace, universal prosperity, and a better world? What has he brought?

The answer is very simple: God.... He has brought God, and now we know his face, now we can call upon him. Now we know the path that we human beings have to take in this world. Jesus has brought God and with God the truth about our origin and destiny: faith, hope and love. It is only because of our hardness of heart that we think this is too little. Yes indeed, God’s power works quietly in this world, but it is the true and the lasting power. Again and again, God’s cause seems to be in its death throes. Yet over and over again it proves to be the thing that truly endures and saves... — **Pope Benedict XVI: From the Baptism in the Jordan to the Transfiguration**

Christ is already in that place of peace, which is all in all. He is on the right hand of God. He is hidden in the brightness of the radiance which issues from the everlasting throne. He is in the very abyss of peace, where there is no voice of tumult or distress, but a deep stillness, that greatest and most awful of all goods which we can fancy; that most perfect of joys, the utter profound, ineffable tranquility of the Divine Essence. He has entered into His rest. That is our home; here we are on a pilgrimage, and Christ calls us to His many mansions which He has prepared...**John Henry Newman**

Prayer to the Blessed Sacrament: Oh, Most Holy Jesus, who are truly hidden here; grant me to desire ardently, to search prudently, to know truly and to carry out perfectly in praise and glory of your holy name everything that pleases you. Command, Oh my God, the state of my life; grant that I may know what you want and that I carry out what is proper and needed for my soul.

Grant me, Oh Lord my God, that I never fail between prosperities and adversities, so that I don't become proud in the ones nor dejected in the other. That I may not have joy nor sorrow, except from what takes me to You, or takes me away from You. That I desire to please or displease no one except You. May all transitory things be vile to me, but very precious the eternal ones.

May I dislike, Lord, all joy without You, and may I not be ambitious about anything outside of You. And may become pleasant to me any work for You and disgusting my rest without You.

Give me Oh my God, that I may lift my heart to You frequently and with fervor, that I do everything with love, that I take for dead anything that does not belong to your service, that I don't do things out of routine but referring them to You with devotion.

Make me Oh Jesus, my love, my life; obedient without contradiction, poor without going low, chaste without corruption, patient without dissipation, mature without affliction, diligent without inconsistency, fearful of You without desperation, true without bending, make that I practice what is good without presumption, that I correct my neighbor without pride, that I build with words and deeds without falsehood.

Give me Oh Lord my God, a vigilant heart that does not go away from You for a curious thought; give me a noble heart that does not deviate for any sinister intention, give me a firm heart that does not break for any tribulation, give me a free heart that will not be dominated by any violent passion.

Grant me Oh Lord my God, understanding to know You, diligence to search for You, wisdom to find You, behavior that You will be pleased with, perseverance that hopefully will wait for you, and hope, that finally will embrace You.

Grant that I may be afflicted by sorrows here as penance, and in the way of my life I use your benefits for grace, and that in Heaven be happy with your joys for glory. Lord, You that live and reign, God forever and ever. Amen... **St. Thomas Aquinas**

A Thought For the Day

Sunday Be thankful for the smallest blessing, and you will be worthy to receive greater.

Monday There's no greater lifestyle and no greater happiness than that of having a continual conversation with God.

Tuesday Ponder the fact that God has made you a gardener, to root out vice and plant virtue.

Wednesday Truth is not determined by a majority vote.

Thursday Every part of the journey is of importance to the whole.

Friday Nothing emboldens the wicked so greatly as the lack of courage on the part of the good.

Saturday To desire grace without recourse to the Virgin Mother is to desire to fly without wings.

After each failure, ask forgiveness, pick yourself up, and try again. Very often what God first helps us toward is not the virtue itself but just this power of always trying again. For however important chastity (or courage, or truthfulness, or any other virtue) may be, this process trains us in habits of the soul which are more important still. It cures our illusions about ourselves and teaches us to depend on God. We learn, on the one hand, that we cannot trust ourselves even in our best moments, and, on the other, that we need not despair even in our worst, for our failures are forgiven...**C. S. Lewis**

Your heart is but a mass of pride: You will tell me, perhaps, that you never judge people except by what you see or after you have actually heard or been the witness of some action: "I saw him doing this action, so, I am sure. I heard what he said with my own ears. After that, I could not be mistaken. "But I shall reply by telling you to begin by entering into your own heart, which is but a mass of pride wherein everything is dried up. You will find yourself infinitely more guilty than the person whom you are judging, and you have plenty of room for fear, lest one day you will see him going to Heaven while you are being dragged down to Hell by the demons. "Oh, unfortunate pride," says St. Augustine to us, "you dare to judge your brother on the slightest appearance of evil, and how do you know that he has not repented of his fault and that he is not numbered among God's friends? Take care rather that he does not take the place which your pride is putting you in great danger of losing."

Yes, my dear brethren, all these rash judgments and all these interpretations come only from a person who has a secret pride, who does not know himself, and who dares to wish to know the interior life of his neighbour, something which is known to God alone. If only, my dear children, we were able to arrive at the stage of eradicating this first of the capital sins from our hearts, our neighbour would never do any wrong according to us. We should never amuse ourselves by examining his conduct. We should be content to do nothing else save weep for our own sins and work as hard as we could to correct them. **Jean-Baptiste Marie Vianney**

In His Will is Our Peace

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