



**St Andrew's Parish Church Guernsey**  
**Saturday 10 September – Vigil Mass**  
**To honour our Late Queen Elizabeth II and Prayers for King Charles III**  
**Reading: St John 14: 1-6. 27**  
**Given by Rev Juliette E C Robilliard**

The inevitable day still took us by surprise, when our beloved Queen of 70 glorious and faithful years died. We feel grief similar to losing a beloved member of our own family. The Gospels recount how after Jesus' death the disciples were dislocated, unable to think logically. And, perhaps, we too on learning the news of the Queen's death, can empathise with that sense of dislocation, as many of us have never known another sovereign.

In good times and bad, throughout our lives our dear late Queen Elizabeth was there for us like a rock. She guided not just her own family, and us, but also, many leaders of the world. Who else, in our time received so much respect for the way that she fulfilled her vocation right to the very end of her long life? Her son, King Charles reflected yesterday on the words she had spoken on her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, which words are now inscribed in the pages of history:

“I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong.”

It was a commitment that the Late Queen kept to the very end of her days. His Majesty in his speech vowed to honour that same commitment during his reign.

Over the course of the late Queen's long reign countless thousands flocked to her: some of you may have met her in person. She had a charismatic appeal, comparable, in some respects, to the appeal that our eternal sovereign, Jesus Christ had when on earth when countless thousands were drawn to him. And it is that eternal sovereign from whom the late Queen drew strength to support her through each day.

A chapter in history has closed but a new chapter has opened. We are still here and we have a new sovereign, King Charles III. There will be many expectations of his reign doubtless comparing and contrasting with the reign of his beloved mother. From the information that we have received in media reports, the one who will demand the most of him, is himself. So, too Christ gave of himself time-after-time. However, the expectations people had of him, as Messiah, were to replicate the glory days of their heroes from times past forgetting the many attendant social inequalities. Jesus had to dispel their misconceptions introducing his new world order of loving, self-sacrifice. In his ministry, he prepared his disciples, in advance of his death, resurrection and ascension for that different world, which they only truly understood when they put it into practice. Our late Queen emulated much of that self-giving in her life. Now, as the King takes on the onerous duties that monarchy places upon

him, he too will give of himself daily, drawing strength from the wisdom his mother imparted to him, as she prepared him for his role. Also, like his dear mother, he will be supported by his faith in Jesus Christ, as he stated in his speech.

The King's style of monarchy will be his own, he has been writing the pages of his reign in the background for decades. With hindsight, the world now acknowledges that he was at the forefront of alerting us to climate change long before we took any notice. And, through his Princes' Trust, he has help thousands of disadvantaged young people overturn social inequalities to find purpose in their lives. So, too, for us when a loved one dies, it is good to remind ourselves of the things that give us purpose. In the Gospel Jesus stated that for those who believe in him, he would never abandon, even after death he would come to gather them to himself. Jesus proved that through the power of his resurrection he had transcended the human barrier of death. Therefore, with Christ beside us, the book of our lives need not close. Working together, he can help us to write new chapters drawing strength for daily living. Of course, just as the late Queen knew and, King Charles knows too, having faith does not mean that all of life's problems disappear, however, in Christ's light, they are put into perspective. All our fears can be shared with him at any time and in any place through prayer and reading his Holy Word supporting us 'With that peace, which the world cannot give' (*Book of Common Prayer – Evensong Second Collect for Peace*).

Jesus said "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you". In these changing times, like the disciples before us, our hearts need not be troubled nor need we be afraid. May it be our prayer that King Charles will draw strength from our loyalty, as well as his faith. And, may the soul of our beloved late Queen, through the mercies of God, rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.