

## Guidance for Schools Collective Worship

### On the morning following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

#### WORDS OF OUR NATION'S LEADERS

**His Majesty The King:** King Charles III released a statement saying: "The death of my beloved mother HM the Queen is a moment of the greatest sadness for me and all members of my family."

**The Archbishop of Canterbury, Right Reverend Justin Welby:** "It is with profound sadness that I join the nation, the Commonwealth and the world in mourning the death of Her Late Majesty The Queen. My prayers are with The King and the Royal Family. May God draw near them and comfort them in the days, weeks and months ahead. As we grieve together, we know that, in losing our beloved Queen, we have lost the person whose steadfast loyalty, service and humility has helped us make sense of who we are through decades of extraordinary change in our world, nation and society"

A longer statement can be accessed here: <https://www.anglicannews.org/news/2022/09/death-of-queen-elizabeth-ii-statement-by-the-archbishop-of-canterbury-justin-welby-.aspx>

#### **The Bishop of Oxford, Right Reverend Steven Croft:**

Following Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's death, the Bishop of Oxford revealed how he was inspired by her "deep, personal Christian faith".

"Her Majesty the Queen has been a cherished presence in all of our lives and for the whole of our lives. She has been our example and a rock for the nation and Commonwealth.

"Her devoted service has given stability to the nation throughout this Elizabethan age. Her deep, personal Christian faith has been an inspiration to many, including me.

"The whole nation will be united in mourning for our beloved Queen in the coming days. We will need time to grieve and to share our grief with others.

"We pray at this time for the Queen's family and especially for Charles as he prepares to become King. This will be a season for deep reflection in the life of our nation as we look back in thanksgiving and forward in hope.

"This United Kingdom has deep foundations in Christian faith. A key part of our faith is the distinctive hope of resurrection from the dead: that our life in Christ endures beyond death and for eternity.

"As we grieve and pray, we also look forward together in hope to that new and eternal life with God.

"We have prayed through all of our lives: God save the Queen. We now entrust Her Majesty to her Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and commit ourselves afresh to his service and to God's eternal kingdom."

#### READINGS

**John 13:1-9** Jesus washes his disciples feet, reflecting his ministry of service

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2013%3A1-17&version=NIV>

**John 14:1-6** Jesus reassures his disciples before his death

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+14&version=NIV>

**Romans 8: 38-39** Paul reassures the early church that nothing can ever separate them from God's Love

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=romans+8&version=NIV>

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

## **PRAYERS**

### **The Church of England's Official Prayer**

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.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

### **2 Minute Silence**

It would be appropriate to hold a 2 minute silence, inviting the school community to pray for, and hold in their thoughts, The Royal Family as they grieve the Queen, and to give thanks for her life and her service to the nation.

## **MUSIC TO SING:**

**The National Anthem** – This should be sung as God save the King, with the appropriate pronouns being replaced.

**I vow to thee my country** – if not known, then perhaps this online version would be helpful

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7tFMZDoTeko>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ct-bU0XqvHI>

## **MUSIC FOR REFLECTION**

**Nimrod from the Enigma Variations** by Edward Elgar, which was played at Queen Elizabeth's coronation and is played at every Remembrance Sunday service.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sUgoBb8m1eE>

**In Paradisum (in Paradise) from The Requiem** by Gabriel Faure

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOUXA1sNlKA>

## **SYMBOLIC ACTIONS**

**Flag at half mast** If you have one you should raise it first and then lower it to half mast

**Book of Condolence with a photo of the Queen** This can be left open, particularly at break time. Supervision is recommended as pupils might find their own individual grief to be triggered

**T-lights (electric)** A symbol of prayer and solidarity

**Paschal Candle (The resurrection Candle for Easter)** from Church, symbolising the new life Christians believe awaits them after death due to Jesus' resurrection.

**Bell can be tolled for up to one hour** If you have a school bell, this is a sombre act, but can also be very moving and helpful for expressing grief. Make your own judgement about whether this would or would not be helpful.