




Speech By
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Record of Proceedings, 11 October 2022

MOTION

Death of Queen Elizabeth II and Accession of King Charles III, Address of Condolence and Congratulations

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (2.09 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the condolence motion for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I offer my sincere condolences to King Charles III and all members of the Royal Family for their great loss. I was honoured to pay my respects on behalf of the people of my electorate and the Redlands coast here in the Queensland parliament by signing the condolence book and by attending a condolence service at St John's Cathedral. As I took an oath to serve Queen Elizabeth II, today I extend that oath and swear my allegiance to King Charles III. God save the King.

MPs in this House and around our nation have spoken on many aspects of her life. I note those many broad and appropriate contributions. I want to focus on an aspect of her life that is often not spoken off—the personal faith of Queen Elizabeth II. In my opinion, Queen Elizabeth was one of the most significant Christians and Christian leaders of the 20th and 21st centuries.

We can only fully understand her popularity, how she served for so long and with such distinction, how she sustained herself in that service if we understand the place of faith in her life and service. It is instructive for us today. She held a devotion that went well beyond the ecclesiastical duties she performed as head of the Anglican Church.

Elizabeth was raised in a Christian household by her parents, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. They ensured that Elizabeth and Margaret attended church weekly, read their Bibles, said their prayers, and her father was known to sing hymns to his daughters at bedtime. While she was raised as a Christian and experienced the love of God as a child, in her teenage and young adult years she clearly adopted her parents' faith as her own. Her own personal faith in Christ was important to her and to her motivation to serve others. This was evidenced in a speech she gave in 1952, prior to her upcoming coronation. She said—

... I want to ask you all, whatever your religion may be, to pray for me on that day—to pray that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making, and that I may faithfully serve Him and you, all the days of my life.

At the coronation, the Archbishop of Canterbury anointed her and said these words—

Be thou anointed, blessed, and consecrated Queen over the peoples, whom the Lord thy God hath given thee to rule and govern ...

This commenced the extraordinary life of service that lasted more than seven decades.

The importance of her faith to her life and service was regularly expressed in her famous Christmas speeches broadcast across the world and listened to by millions that she was known to have written herself. In her famous Christmas broadcasts she celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ as the

saviour of the world but also her personal saviour. Let me read a few choice excerpts. In Her Majesty's 2021 Christmas message—her last Christmas message—she stated—

It is this simplicity of the Christmas story that makes it so universally appealing: simple happenings that formed the starting point of the life of Jesus—a man whose teachings have been handed down from generation to generation, and have been the bedrock of my faith.

In her 2014 Christmas message she said—

For me, the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, whose birth we celebrate today, is an inspiration and an anchor in my life. A role-model of reconciliation and forgiveness, he stretched out his hands in love, acceptance and healing. Christ's example has taught me to seek to respect and value all people of whatever faith or none.

In her 2013 Christmas message she said—

For Christians, as for all people of faith, reflection, meditation and prayer help us to renew ourselves in God's love, as we strive daily to become better people. The Christmas message shows us that this love is for everyone. There is no one beyond its reach.

In her 2012 Christmas message she said—

This is the time of year when we remember that God sent his only son 'to serve, not to be served'. He restored love and service to the centre of our lives in the person of Jesus Christ.

We can go through Christmas message after Christmas message—there are many other examples I have here—to see her personal reflections and her personal expression of her love for God and the centrality of the person of Christ in her life and service and the inspiration that she drew from him and from God's word. It is instructional for us today. I conclude by saying that Queen Elizabeth II certainly made good on her vow of faithful service, drawing on the strength and blessing of almighty God and Jesus her saviour.