



St Peter's Newsletter

June 2022

For most of you reading this, Her Majesty The Queen has always been a part of your life. Some will be able to recall a 'before' and remember the Coronation and others of you may have watched 'The Crown'. Even for those who are ambivalent about the idea of the monarchy may nonetheless have an appreciation for the Queen's particular and exceptional life. This role was not one she would have expected so soon, yet she embraced the responsibility that came to her and continues to do so. Before her coronation she recorded a speech in which she said:

"I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service... But I shall not have strength to carry out this resolution alone unless you join in it with me, as I now invite you to do: I know that your support will be unfailingly given.

God help me to make good my vow, and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it.” *Princess Elizabeth, 21 April 1947*

For seventy years the Queen has accompanied us through the ups and downs of our nation’s life. She is more than just a figurehead; she has become someone for whom many feel love and affection, a steady constant in our lives. She is an example of duty over the years and a life lived with a focus away from self.

At her coronation she made solemn promises studied and prayed through. On the Coronation Day she received symbols of state, was anointed with holy oil as were kings and queens before her and received the bread and wine of the Holy Communion. It was the sacramental setting apart of a person for a specific task to which she has remained faithful all her life.

The Queen often refers to the strength and comfort she has found in her Christian faith in supporting her in a lifetime of service. It is not simply that she has endured the passage of time but that she has endured the vicissitudes of life and found the strength to remain true to herself and her commitment to her people. She has developed the virtues of perseverance and steadfastness, courage and hope. She exemplifies the principle that we become that which we habitually try to be.

A virtuous life does not ‘drop from the sky’, it is acquired. If we develop the habits of being honest, brave, just, kind, generous and so on in our daily lives, we develop what Aristotle describes as an ‘honorable and moral character’. What and how we think determines who we are. As Jesus said years later – it is out of our heart (our innermost thinking) that we will act.

This is a challenge to us all. Do we purposely make a habit of trying to live well, to develop a ‘moral character’? If we do, over time Aristotle suggests, this will form us. so we become more likely to make right choices when faced with ethical challenges.

