

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Church response to Coronation

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Image of the day

Church response to Coronation

There was an amazing response to the Coronation by churches throughout the UK.

Canterbury Cathedral was well filled by people wishing to view the Coronation service on a large screen and in a sacred space.



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**St. Patrick's
Jordanstown
provided a large
screen and a
Coronation Party**



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Flower arrangers rose to the occasion...



... with
Imagination





Coronation Choral Evensong

Dean Stephen Forde (right) and Canon Kevin Graham welcomed Mrs Jane Wells MBE DL, representing the Lord Lieutenant Dame Fionnuala Jay-O'Boyle DBE DStJ DDL and Councillor John Kyle Lord High Sheriff of Belfast to a Choral Evensong in Belfast Cathedral on the eve of the Coronation.



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Singing for the King - The choristers (above) from Methodist College Belfast were in the choir at Westminster Abbey (photo below) which sang at the coronation service. They and their tutor Mrs McCartney (right) were joined by the President of the Methodist Church in Ireland.





Sing for the King - Dundela goes nationwide

This was an open invitation from the Royal Schools for Church Music (RSCM) to all choirs across the UK to join in song to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III.

Joanna Forbes L'Estrange, an acclaimed singer and composer, was commissioned by the RSCM, to compose the coronation anthem: "The Mountains shall bring peace."

On Sunday the Open Choir of St Mark's Church Dundela joined hundreds of choirs across the UK singing the anthem "The Mountains shall bring peace".

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**Come
along for a
'Glorious
Glimpse' of
the
Coronation
Garden**

The
Coronation
Garden in
Hazelbank
Park opened
on Saturday
6 May from
10am to 4pm
for a first
'Glorious
Glimpse' of
this show
stopping

Coronation project ahead of the official opening of the
Garden later this month.

Staff and volunteers will be on hand to show you the key
features of this amazing new creation!

Find out more about the Coronation Garden here:
<https://bit.ly/3paoQCH>

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St John's team from Northern Ireland caring in London

Colonel Adrian Donaldson (centre) and a St John's Ambulance team from Northern Ireland were on duty over the Coronation weekend in London



Coronation all age family fun

Many parishes and congregations held all age events. There was great support for a Coronation Family Fun evening in Clabby Church Hall.

The Bishop of Clogher, Rt Rev Ian Ellis responded to an invite to judge and present awards to the winners of a colouring competition.



Some of the winners were present on the evening and got their prizes, the other prize winners prizes will be left into their schools.

Church leaders from Ireland present at Westminster service

Church leaders from Ireland attended Westminster Abbey on Saturday for the coronation of King Charles III

The Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, the Most Revd John McDowell, presented and retrieved the Sovereign's Orb as part of the Coronation Service.



(l to r) the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church Rt Rev Dr John Kirkpatrick; Catholic Primate Archbishop Eamon Martin; President of the Methodist Church Rev David Nixon; and, the Church of Ireland Primate Archbishop John McDowell.

The Rt Revd the Lord Eames of Armagh was present in the Procession as a member of the Order of Merit.

This honour is in the personal gift of the Sovereign, which Lord Eames received from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 2007.

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Royal Hillsborough

At Hillsborough Castle
Reservists of 206 (Ulster)
Battery, Royal Artillery fired a
Royal Salute. The
Hillsborough Fort Old Guard
bugler and the Band of the
Royal Irish Regiment took part.

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Appreciation

Rev Kevin Mullan

The death occurred on the morning of Saturday, 6th May of much loved Parish Priest, Fr Kevin Mullan.

Originally from Omagh, he was a Parish Priest of Langfield, Drumquin and formerly parish priest of Christ the King, Omagh.



Ordained in 1971, his priesthood spanned over 50 years.

He was renowned for his cross-community work, in particular in the aftermath of the 1998 Omagh bomb and also the campaign to retain acute services at the Tyrone County Hospital.

At his request, his funeral Mass on Tuesday, 9th May will be private. Family only.

Fr Mullan's remains reposed in the Parochial House in Drumquin for two nights.

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His remains will transfer to St Patrick's Church, Drumquin, this Monday afternoon, where they will repose until Tuesday at 1.00pm. Fr Kevin's remains will then be moved to his sister Joan's house, Dublin Road, Omagh, for a private Requiem Mass, with family only. He will be interred in the Dublin Road cemetery afterwards.

This Monday evening, at 7.30pm, a "parting" Mass will be celebrated in St Patrick's, Drumquin Co Tyrone.

News reports

Andrew Lloyd Webber hopes coronation anthem will be sung in churches

Composer Lord Lloyd Webber hopes his specially commissioned anthem for the coronation of King Charles III will be sung in churches.

The anthem, called "Make a Joyful Noise", is based on verses from Psalm 98.

The first live performance of the anthem was during the coronation on Saturday as Queen Camilla was enthroned.

Speaking to The Telegraph before the coronation, Lord Lloyd Webber revealed that the King had asked that the piece be "humtable" and joyful.

He also told the newspaper of his hope for the song to be sung in churches and on other happy occasions like weddings or christenings.

The anthem was released as a single by Decca Records on Saturday, with proceeds going to the Royal British Legion and Age UK.

Commenting on the anthem last month, Lord Lloyd Webber said he hoped it would be sung long after the coronation.

"I hope my anthem will encourage everyone across the country to go and 'Make A Joyful Noise' in honour of this fantastic national occasion, and will be sung by many at other joyful occasions in the future," he said.

In the media

The anointing of the Sovereign was an act ancient and modern

Old Testament ritual marks the role of monarch as being more akin to that of priest than politician, Fergus Butler-Gallie writes in The Sunday Telegraph

What was the most ordinary thing in the Coronation? Which aspect could you rustle up, Blue Peter style, from a domestic setting? Not, I suspect, the Stone of Destiny or the Sword of Temporal Justice. Arguably, surprisingly, it is the substance which was used in the ritual at the very heart of the service: oil.

On this occasion the oil isn't just any old oil. It was blessed by both Orthodox and Anglican bishops in Jerusalem itself,

from groves in the Holy Land. It was this that was daubed on the King at the moment of his anointing.

It is the presence of oil which indicates that anointing is, unlike other parts of the Coronation such as the swearing of allegiance or the procession, an ancient ceremony rooted in the Bible itself and not a hangover from the Saxons or an innovation by the Stuarts or Edwardians. Oil is not a natural product of the agriculture of Northern Europe. It comes from the world of the Bible, of olive groves and oases.

This speaks to quite how old the concept of anointing is. When sour-faced critics call the Coronation “Bronze Aged”, in this one sense they are right. Kings and priests in the Old Testament were anointed with oil as a sign of their authority and, for all generations since, Christian priests and monarchs have undergone the same rite. When a previous King Charles was beheaded by Parliament, the fear was not so much that peers and MPs had broken their oaths to him but that Psalm 105 warned “Touch not the mine anointed”, and God would punish England.

The quick collapse of the unfortunate republican experiment into violence and tyranny convinced many that such fears were well placed.

But we do not only anoint authority figures: anointing happens to those to be baptised, the sick, the dying, even, in the New Testament, to Christ himself in preparation for his crucifixion. To be anointed is to show vulnerability. In the context of the Coronation, it is also an act of renewal.

The King was clad not in grand vesture but a simple robe and a stole, another priestly symbol, baring his head, hands and breast. The thing occurred behind a screen, hidden not to convince us of the monarch's power but of his vulnerability. The touching of skin with oil is the moment where the lofty ambitions and purposefully escalated language of monarchy meet the physical and the perishable. When the spiritual meets the fleshly and frail.

This matters now as it did thousands of years ago because it reminds us what the Coronation – or any of those other sacred moments – is really about: a consecration by God. Anointing is not a contract with the other institutions of the nation, it is no caveated deal with the media or the mob. It is a rare, strange, holy practice. It is, despite the ordinary ingredient at its centre, deliberately arcane. Because to be set aside by God for a particular purpose is no small thing. It places at the centre of our constitution a figure of sacral service, who has more in common with a priest than a politician.

It is a strange moment. I know, because as a priest I was anointed too. "The oil should burn" I remember one old clergyman telling me. He meant that figuratively: my bishop didn't use chip fat. Rather, he meant that at this moment the weight of calling would be most visceral. He was right, as I suspect the King discovered yesterday.

Undoubtedly, anointing a monarch is mystical. But at the heart of the mystical is the acknowledgement of that which is bigger than ourselves, greater than one individual. It is an engagement with that which stretches across ages, rather than that blinded by the petty considerations of the present alone. Such things might be Bronze Age or arcane: but the

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age that forgets such greater truths in favour of its own lies is not more enlightened, but foolish. Strange it might be, but as a deep, ancient reminder of sacred service, nothing could have been a more appropriate centre point for the Coronation.

Fergus Butler-Gallie is a Church of England priest and the author of 'Touching Cloth'. Courtesy The Sunday Telegraph May 7, 2023

Poem for today

Jerusalem by William Blake

And did those feet in ancient time
Walk upon England's mountain green?
And was the holy Lamb of God
On England's pleasant pastures seen?
And did the countenance divine
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here
Among those dark satanic mills?
Bring me my bow of burning gold!
Bring me my arrows of desire!
Bring me my spear! O clouds, unfold!
Bring me my chariot of fire!
I will not cease from mental fight,
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,
Till we have built Jerusalem
In England's green and pleasant land.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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