
Friday, 9 September 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We are all deeply saddened by the news of the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

She was held in great respect and deep affection around the Commonwealth and beyond.

Queen Elizabeth's deep Christian faith and trust in God inspired and guided her through decades of public life. She used insights from her faith to encourage others. This was particularly evident in her annual broadcasts and in special messages in response to disasters and other world events, when she encouraged us to live as people of hope and peace, and to take the longer view.

During my time in England and working as a Vicar in a Church of England parish, my wife Leanne and I were invited to Buckingham Palace, together with many others, to attend a Garden Party in the summer of 2004. While we didn't meet her personally, we saw the Queen moving graciously through the crowd, putting people at ease, and making everyone feel welcome. She had a genuine interest in people, their stories, and their culture.

In a world that so desperately needs good leadership, her wise leadership, drawing on the values of self-giving, humble service and a duty to the common good, should be an example to us all.

Her life of service was truly inspirational and she leaves an extraordinary legacy throughout the Commonwealth.

May the faith that inspired Queen Elizabeth II throughout her long life, comfort us all in our grief (1 Thess 4:13).

On behalf of Anglicans on the North Coast, I offer my prayers for all those who grieve her passing, especially the Royal Family at this sad time.

Merciful Father and Lord of all life, we praise you that we are made in your image and reflect your truth and light. We thank you for the life of our late Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth, for the love she received from you and showed among us. Above all, we rejoice at your gracious promise to all your servants, living and departed, that we shall rise again at the coming of Christ. And we ask that in due time we may share with your servant Elizabeth that clearer vision promised to us in the same Christ our Lord; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

Yours in Christ



Dr Murray Harvey
Bishop of Grafton