

King Charles III Coronation



The Coronation of the King and Queen Consort Saturday 6th May 2023

Westminster Abbey is a Royal Peculiar: an Anglican church that belongs directly to the monarch and not to any diocese, and does not come under the jurisdiction of a bishop.

The Coronation is a solemn religious service, together with an occasion for celebration and pageantry. The ceremony has retained a similar structure for over a thousand years.

The service will be conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury and will reflect the Monarch's role today and look towards the future.





King Charles III

Charles III is King of the United Kingdom and the 14 other Commonwealth realms. He was the longest-serving heir apparent and Prince of Wales, and at the age of 73, became the oldest person to accede to the British throne, upon the death of his mother, Elizabeth II, on 8 September 2022.

Born: November 14, 1948 (age 74 years), Buckingham Palace, London.

Children: William, Prince of Wales, Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex.

The Queen Consort

Her Majesty the Queen Consort (formerly HRH The Duchess of Cornwall) supports her husband, formerly The Prince of Wales, now His Majesty The King, in carrying out his work and duties. She also undertakes public engagements on behalf of the charities that she supports.

The Queen Consort was born Camilla Rosemary Shand on 17th July 1947 at King's College Hospital London, the daughter of Major Bruce Middleton Hope Shand and the Hon Rosalind Maud Shand (nee Cubitt).

Prince George

As the procession of the King and Queen makes its way through the nave of Westminster Abbey Pages of Honour hold the robes of some of the leading individuals taking part.

King Charles III and Queen Camilla will each have four Pages supporting them including the monarch's nine year old grandson.

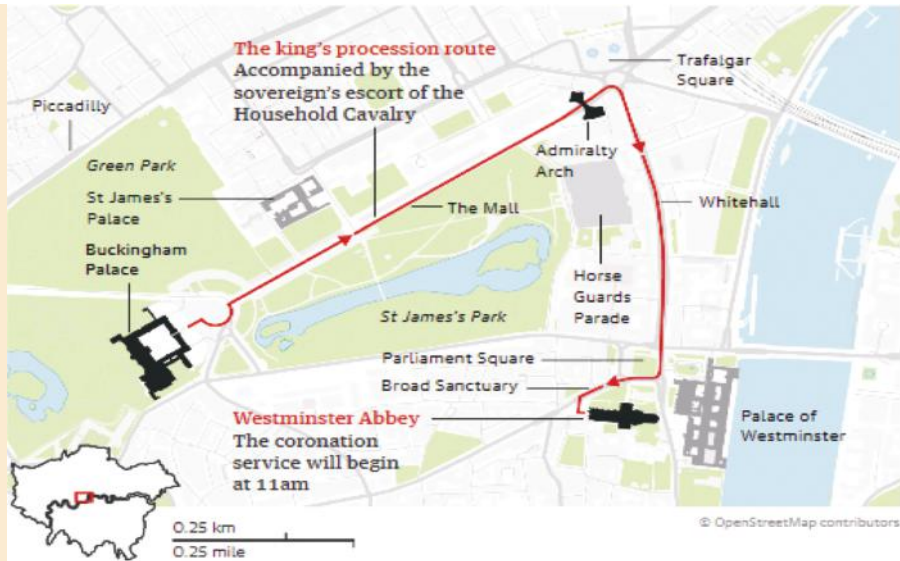
George, who is second-in-line to the throne, will join three other Pages for the King.





The Kings Procession Route

Their Majesties will arrive at Westminster Abbey in procession from Buckingham Palace, known as 'The King's Procession'.



The king and queen consort will leave Buckingham Palace in the diamond jubilee state coach, built to celebrate the late queen's 60th anniversary on the throne in 2012.

The Coronation Procession

They will depart, as King Charles III and Queen Camilla, in the 260-year-old gold state coach, which has been used in every coronation since William IV's in 1831.

Their Majesties will return to Buckingham Palace in a larger ceremonial procession, known as 'The Coronation Procession'. Their Majesties will be joined in this procession by other Members of the Royal Family.

At Buckingham Palace, The King and The Queen Consort, accompanied by Members of the Royal Family, will appear on the balcony to conclude the day's ceremonial events.



The Official Emblem

This official emblem celebrates the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III on 6 May 2023. The emblem is created with the flora of the four nations of the United Kingdom:

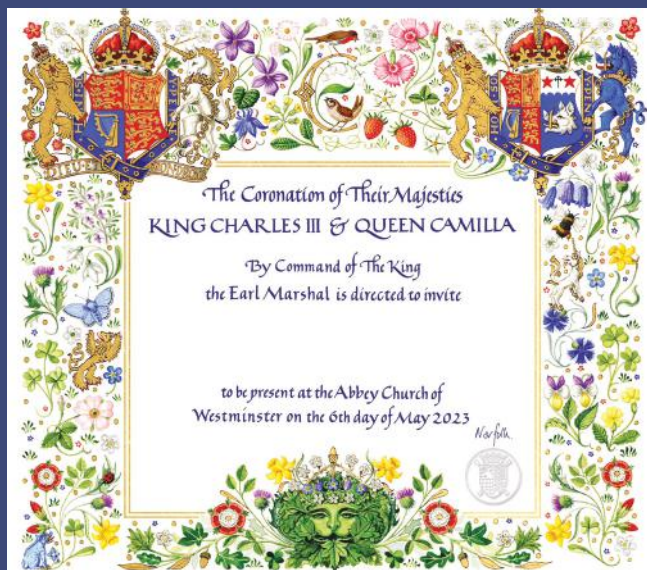
- the rose for England,
- the thistle for Scotland,
- the daffodil for Wales and the
- shamrock for Northern Ireland.

These natural forms combine to describe St Edward's Crown, used for the coronation of British monarchs.



The Invitation

The invitation for the Coronation has been designed by Andrew Jamieson, a heraldic artist and manuscript illuminator whose work is inspired by the chivalric themes of Arthurian legend.



Mr Jamieson is a Brother of the Art Workers' Guild, of which The King is an Honorary Member.



Symbolic Elements of the Ceremony

The State Coach

The Gold State Coach has been a splendid sight at royal coronations, jubilees, and events since it was built in 1762 to transport British kings and queens.

It was designed by William Chambers and made by the coachmaker Samuel Butler.

The Gold State Coach is an enclosed, eight-horse-drawn carriage used by the British Royal Family at every coronation since William IV's in 1831.



The Crowns

Crowns are the main symbols of royal authority.

All crowns in the Tower are decorated with alternating crosses patée and fleurs-de-lis, a pattern which first appears on the great seal of Richard III, and their arches are surmounted with a monde and cross patée. Most of the crowns also have a red or purple velvet cap and an ermine border.



St Edward's Crown

The centrepiece of the coronation regalia is named after Edward the Confessor and is placed on the monarch's head at the moment of crowning.

Made of gold and completed in 1661, St Edward's Crown is embellished with 444 stones. The crown is 30 centimetres (11.8 in) tall and at a weight of 2.23 kg (4.9 lb) has been noted to be extremely heavy.



Imperial State Crown

A much lighter crown is worn by the monarch when leaving Westminster Abbey, and at the annual State Opening of Parliament.

The current Imperial State Crown was made in 1937 for George VI and is a copy of the one made in 1838 for Queen Victoria, which had fallen into a poor state of repair, and had been made using gems from its own predecessor, the State Crown of George I.



Consort Crown

After the Restoration, wives of kings – queens consort – traditionally wore the State Crown of Mary of Modena, wife of James II, who first wore it at their coronation in 1685.

Originally set with 561 hired diamonds and 129 pearls, it is now set with crystals and cultured pearls for display in the Jewel House along with a matching diadem that consorts wore in procession to the Abbey.



The Coronation Chair

The centrepiece of the ceremony sees the crown placed on the head of the monarch sitting on the oak chair, which was originally covered in gold leaf gilding and elaborately decorated with coloured glass.

The Coronation Chair, known historically as St Edward's Chair or King Edward's Chair, is an ancient wooden chair on which 26 monarchs, including Queen Elizabeth, have sat when they are invested with regalia and crowned at their coronations.

The historic Coronation Chair, on which Henry VIII and other monarchs of England have been crowned for some 700 years, has been restored for this year's ceremony for King Charles.

The Coronation Chair has featured in coronation ceremonies since 1308, has been used to crown monarchs since Henry IV in 1399, and claimed to be the oldest surviving piece of furniture still used for its original purpose.

The Coronation Chair is highly protected and only leaves its secure location in St George's Chapel in the nave of the abbey during coronations when it is sited near the High Altar.





The Sovereign's Orb

The Sovereign's Orb, as this part of the Crown Jewels is officially named, is a symbol of Godly power.

A cross above a globe, it represents 'Christ's dominion over the world', as the Monarch is God's representative on Earth.

The pearls divide the orb into three sections, which represent the three continents medieval rulers believed existed.





Ceremonial Highlights of the Service

Order of Service

An order of service is a booklet that explains the structure and content of Christian services, used at everyday services as well as larger, special services such as coronations.

As a guide, the order of service will include information about when the congregation are to speak and what they say, which readings from the Bible will be said and by whom, along with lyrics for hymns and any other important information. Simply put, it ensures the right things happen at the right time.

The Oath

The sovereign swears to uphold the law and the Church of England

“I solemnly promise and swear to govern the Peoples of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the Union of South Africa, Pakistan and Ceylon, and of my Possessions and the other Territories to any of them belonging or pertaining, according to their respective laws and customs.

I will to my power cause Law and Justice, in Mercy, to be executed in all my judgements.

I will to the utmost of my power maintain the Laws of God and the true profession of the Gospel. I will to the utmost of my power maintain in the United Kingdom the Protestant Reformed Religion established by law. And I will maintain and preserve inviolably the settlement of the Church of England, and the doctrine, worship, discipline, and government thereof, as by law established in England. And I will preserve unto the Bishops and Clergy of England, and to the Churches there committed to their charge, all such rights and privileges as by law do or shall appertain to them or any of them.

The things which I have here before promised, I will perform and keep.
So help me God.”



The Recognition

While standing beside the 700-year-old Coronation Chair, the monarch is presented to those gathered in the Abbey by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The congregation shouts “God Save the King!” and trumpets sound.

The Anointing

The anointing is the most important part of the Coronation, the only part of the ceremony the congregation do not watch.

The King’s robe is removed and he sits in the Coronation Chair.

A gold cloth conceals the King from view as the Archbishop pours holy oil into a spoon and anoints the King’s hands, breast and head with oil made to a secret recipe.

The oil created for Charles will not contain any animal ingredients.

The Investiture

The sovereign is presented with items including the Royal Orb, representing religious and moral authority; the Sceptre, representing power; and the Sovereign’s Sceptre, a rod of gold topped with a white enamelled dove, a symbol of justice and mercy. Finally, the Archbishop places St Edward’s Crown on the King’s head.



The Enthronement and Homage

The King leaves the Coronation Chair and moves to the throne. Peers kneel before the monarch to pay homage. After Charles is crowned and receives homage, Camilla will also be anointed and crowned as Queen Consort with a modified version of Queen Mary’s 1911 coronation crown.



Windsor Castle

The Principal British royal residence. Located on the River Thames in Windsor, Berkshire, and first developed in about 1070.

