



Weekly Resources for Schools

PHASE: SECONDARY

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

What can we learn from her Christian faith and example of Servant Leadership?



KEY CONCEPT/MESSAGE:

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

But nothing that can be said can begin to take away the anguish and the pain of these moments. Grief is the price we pay for love." ... "But the love will have been enough; all those impulses of love return to the love that made them. Even memory is not necessary for love."

Queen Elizabeth II (11 September 2001) used these words in a message of support to the victims of the September 11th terrorist attacks; they seem particularly poignant today.

The death of the Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II brings to an end a reign which has seen the transition of the United Kingdom from a Nation with an Empire to a Nation which has embraced the role of partnership within a Commonwealth of Nations. These nations, lands and peoples with a diversity of culture, wealth, identity and faith, all united together in a common vision. This common vision is focused on, reflected by and directly linked to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, her sense of duty and her example of servant leadership. Her destiny changed with the abdication of her uncle King Edward VIII and the succession of her father King George VI. She sought to commit herself, nurtured by her Christian faith, on her 21st birthday to serve her Country and the then Empire. "I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong.....God help me to make good my vow, and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it. She affirmed that vow through the Coronation rite when she was crowned Queen Elizabeth II on June 2, 1953, at age 27.



BIBLE PASSAGE OF THE WEEK:

Come Holy Spirit, Painted by Lance Brown, oil on canvas, Painted circa 2014

Slide 2 | Peter 4:7 -11 New Revised Standard Version

Living for God

The end of all things is near. Therefore, be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. ¹ If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.



Gathering

Before students arrive ensure that you have everything in place for the response to the reflection. This needs to be easily accessible for students and central to line of sight for all. Within the area there needs to be a table basket in which the black- edged cards will be placed, a basket with prayer cards for collection and a separate holder from which night light candles can be collected. A large real or electronic candle will need to be placed by a picture of the Queen on a table ,with the baskets nearby.

Start your time together by saying something positive to each other as a greeting:

Welcome, thank you for being here today... Welcome, how are you today? Or you can say 'Peace be with you'

(You may wish to share the quote and key message above)

Ask students to take a few moments to reflect on how the death of Queen Elizabeth has impacted on us - personally, as a school, community, locally, nationally, and internationally. Explore with them how this is the end of an era, and for many people here and across the world, she is the only monarch they will have known. Explain that she has been acknowledged as a person of sincere and devout Christian faith, who has reflected the qualities and virtues of servant leadership, as our Queen and Supreme Governor of the Church of England and as a world leader.

Engagement



Print out the Servant Leadership qualities and virtues list and quotes and share with Students (on accompanying document). Ask students to identify:

Which of the qualities and virtues would be the top 3 that they would associate with Queen Elizabeth? Explore:

Why did you choose these 3?

Share with the person next to you.

Slide 3-8 Looking at a selection of the quotes: Where in the quotes can you see those qualities and virtues reflected? How do these quotes enable you to understand Queen Elizabeth's faith and leadership?

Share thoughts again:

Reflect/think about a time when you have acted as a servant leader. How did people react? How might you encourage others to become servant leaders?

Where might we draw strength from to reflect the qualities and the virtues of servant leadership which the Queen has modelled throughout her reign? What words or phrases would we need to help us sustain that style of leadership?

In the Bible reading (Slide 2), Peter offers a warning and encouragement. Followers of Jesus must be very careful to stay clear-minded and focused so that we can pray faithfully. We must share with and serve each other well and encourage everyone with God's gifts, message and strength. Peter warns that things are coming to an end and Christians should not be surprised when suffering becomes intense. Instead, they should look ahead to the moment when Christ's glory will be revealed to all of the universe.

Response

Give each person a black-edged Postcard. Ask them to write a message of condolence or reflection which sums up how the life and faith of Queen Elizabeth has left a legacy to the world or impacted upon them. What characteristics, values, or personality qualities will they especially remember and why?

Listen to the song 'May it be' By Enya

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8u4VLk0iTI>

*May it be an evening star
Shines down upon you
May it be, when darkness falls
Your heart will be true
You walk a lonely road
Oh, how far you are from home*

*Mornië utúlië
Believe and you will find your way
Mornië alantië
A promise lives within you now*

*May it be, the shadow's call
Will fly away
May it be, you journey on
To light the day
When the night is overcome
You may rise to find the sun*

*Mornië utúlië
Believe and you will find your way
Mornië alantië
A promise lives within you now*

Sending

Conclude with 'I wonder....' (Slide 9)

- how might the words in the song *May it be*, help someone who is grieving?
- what legacy the faith, qualities and virtues of Queen Elizabeth and her example of servant leadership will leave with us?
- how our time today might encourage and support you this week as we remember our Queen
- as we mourn, reflect and mark the changes in the life of our nation and Commonwealth what will we remember?
- how this reflection time might inspire you to share your thoughts and/or inspire you to model servant leadership going forward this week and into the future?



Invite the students to bring forward their postcards (in silence) and leave them on the area prepared with a lit candle. Encourage them to take a copy of the prayer card and a candle, while you play the track:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=02z4PLPMekg> God be in my head and in my understanding

Slide 10

God be in my head,
and in my understanding;
God be in my eyes,
and in my looking;

God be in my mouth,
and in my speaking;
God be in my heart,
and in my thinking;
God be at my end,
and at my departing. Amen.

Slide 11 – Listen to the prayer from the Archbishop of Canterbury

Slide 12 - 14 – Finish with these last reflective slides, the final one using the words of the Nunc Dimittis (see below).

Conclude by inviting students to take with them the quotes and then say: Go in peace to love and serve.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

(Practical ways to help us explore faith and develop spiritually at home together)

EXPERIENCES that can help us ENCOUNTER:

"But nothing that can be said can begin to take away the anguish and the pain of these moments. **Grief is the price** we pay for **love**." ... "But the **love** will have been enough; all those impulses of **love** return to the **love** that made them. Even memory is not necessary for **love**." Queen Elizabeth II (11 September 2001)

Consider how people might find these words comforting and particularly at this time.

How do these words resonate with you?

How is love a measure of devotion and service?

How is love a mark of faith and commitment for you?



This picture is called The Parables of Jesus by Argentine artist Jorge Cocco Santiago, painted in 2018. There is an intense atmosphere created in the painting which conveys to the viewer the importance of the parable. One of Jesus' most significant parables regarding work is set in the context of wealth, service and being a good servant (Matt. 25:14-30).

Meditation

(Settle in a quiet space and you might like to use a candle as a focus)

Quietly focus on the words in Matthew 25:23: His lord said to him, "**Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful** over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord."

Think about how the Queen has exemplified servant leadership throughout her reign.

- Reflect on the times when you have succeeded, and your talents have been recognised.
- Do you think that God (however you conceive God) is on your side, has your back, and wants you to live a good life?
- Christian theology suggests that God loves you and has wonderful plans for you. To what extent you agree?
- Do you believe that you have been created them with a unique personality?
- Consider: How can you to tap into that passion and dream placed down deep in your heart to serve the world?

Repeat out loud x3 the words in Matthew 25:23: His lord said to him, "**Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful** over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord."

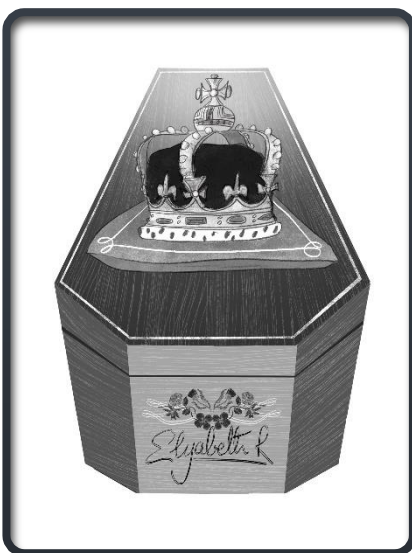
ACTIVITIES that can develop PRACTICES-HABITS:

Many Christians believe that when someone dies, it is only their physical body that stops living. The eternal part of a person, the soul, continues, as they believe that death is not the end of our existence. This belief has shaped the Christian faith since Jesus rose from the dead that first Easter Day 2,000 years ago. This does not mean that Christians are somehow immune from or unaffected by the pain of grief and loss when a close friend or relative dies. What helps many Christians at such times is the message of salvation and hope which Jesus gave. For Christians, death is not the end and life eternal goes beyond life and death as we know it. It is this hope that sustains them in such difficult times. For some people, this might be a worrying, even frightening prospect. But Christians anticipate life after death, confident that it will be a good experience. Their certainty is based on the reality of their existing relationship with God. They believe that because of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, those who have followed Jesus and his teachings have been reconciled with God. It is a gift that can be freely accepted – or rejected by all. Many Christians believe they will be held to account for the way they have lived their life. Heaven is seen as a place where they will experience God's perfect and endless love, love which they may have felt during their life and now will know for eternity.



Light the candle you have taken home and listen to this track which reflects the hope of salvation, The [Nunc Dimittis](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cMNs9O55tpk) : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cMNs9O55tpk>

The Nunc Dimittis is sometimes used at funeral services as the coffin is taken out of Church. Explore and research the origins of the actions, symbolism and words used when someone dies and how these highlight the person's life and beliefs. Consider, how do these rituals convey hope, comfort, and assurance of a life after death?



Illustrations by Sharon Davey (used with permission) © sharondaveyillustration.com



PRAYERS that can help us REFLECT:

The newspapers, magazines and social media record and explore the life and work of the Queen and the royal family. At this time of national mourning, they provide images and comments on the impact and changes her death will bring for us. At times of challenge and change, Memory and Prayer jars are often used to capture words, images, and mementos to aid reflection and prayer.

Materials: newspaper articles and collage of stories, magazine articles, cuttings and pictures, scissors, glue

- Read the headlines and look at the pictures on the collage
- Think about the stories and if you would like, pray for those involved
- Cut out a headline, picture, or phrases

- Stick each one on a piece of card and write a prayer around the edge to create a frame
- place each one in the jar.

You might also like to use the quotes from Queen Elizabeth about her faith and place those in the jar along with the words in Matthew 25:23:

“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’”

CONVERSATIONS which CONNECT COMMUNITIES:

Discussion starters for groups:

How easy is it for us to understand the impact of what happens now that the monarch has died?
What can we do to help each other find ways of exploring what happens at death?

How can we support someone who is bereaved?

What could we say to help and support them?

Are we ready to walk alongside someone who is mourning? What gifts and virtues do we need?

How would you know if you felt supported when someone you love dies?

What could others do to comfort you more? Who are the best empathisers?

Would you know where to go if you needed to talk about hope, death and dying?

Do you know the people you could be vulnerable with to say – please can you help me?

Who can you see in the Bible who had second chances? How can faith in God get people back on track – does this give us clues of how to help others and become servant leaders?

INVITATIONAL

Everyone is welcome to take part in collective worship, as much or as little as they or their parents and carers are comfortable with. This means we use invitational language and consider carefully our choice of words and songs. Children are invited to pray but are not compelled or expected to do so; they always have a choice. We invite them to pray or reflect in whatever way they would usually as a family, if that is part of their home experience.

INCLUSIVE

Acts of worship need to be inclusive of all. Therefore, we choose topics and ideas that are shared by different faiths and worldviews. When we present Christian teaching, we make it clear that this is 'what Christians believe', saying things like:

'I wonder why this story might be important to Christians?'

'The story today comes from the Bible (the holy book of Christians), which teaches that ...'

Our worship should be accessible for children and young people with a range of different backgrounds, and so we take care that activities do not require expensive resources. We also offer a variety of activities, so that children and young people with differing needs can all find something they can engage with.

INSPIRING

We aim for our acts of worship to inspire those engaging with them. How might it engage their emotions, enabling a sense of peace, comfort, hope or motivation? How might it inspire them into action, into thinking differently and considering their behaviour or actions? How might it inspire them to reflect on their faith or beliefs, and on the faith or beliefs of others?