

Bishop Michael message to the diocese

When she was just 21, the future Queen Elizabeth said this ‘I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service’. Today, the long life of our Queen has come to an end. For almost all of us, we cannot recall life before her steady, consistent presence among us, and we are reeling at her loss. So I speak to you today at a time of great sorrow for the Queen’s family, for our country, for the whole Commonwealth and for all whom Queen Elizabeth served.

In our sadness and confusion, we give thanks for a life long lived, a life well lived, of service, daily steadfastness. All of us will have our own memories of the Queen. I was privileged to meet with the Queen earlier this year when I became Bishop here in Bath and Wells. It was extraordinary to meet her and to encounter her focus, her inquisitiveness, her interest.

The bedrock of the Queen’s life that has shone out through the years is her faith in Jesus Christ. We now commend her to His care and keeping, claiming for Queen Elizabeth Jesus’ promise that all who believe in Him will have eternal life.

I’m not sure that any of us know quite what to do at this time. If you would help you, please come along to one of our churches which are open for you. To light a candle, say a prayer, sign a book of condolence, lay some flowers, talk to someone about your feelings and thoughts. We are here for you.

Here above all to give thanks for Queen Elizabeth II. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.