

The Coronation of



King Charles III



King Charles III

On 8th September 2022, King Charles III's mother, Queen Elizabeth II, died. This automatically made him King of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth Realms. This is called [ascension](#).

He will be officially given the crown at a special coronation service.

Usually, the coronation of a new king or queen takes place months after their ascension, due to the amount of time it takes for planning and organising such a large event.



King Charles III's coronation service will take place on Saturday 6th May 2023. The service is part of a three-day event when people will come together to celebrate.



What Is a Coronation?

A coronation is a service at which a crown is formally placed on the head of a new king or queen, making them the official [monarch](#).

It is a service full of [pageantry](#) and celebration but it also has a solemn religious side. It focuses on the duty of the monarch to God and the people.

Did You Know...?

The coronation service has been part of British history for over 1000 years. The first recorded coronation service was for King Edgar, in 973.



The coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953.



Where Will the Coronation Take Place?

Since 1066, the coronation of every British monarch has been held at Westminster Abbey in London.

Westminster Abbey is a large church. It was originally a monastery before King Edward the Confessor had a large stone church built on the site. The church opened in 1065, shortly before King Edward's death. Harold II was the first British monarch to have a coronation at Westminster Abbey, in 1066.

The current building dates back to 1269, when King Henry III decided to rebuild the stone church in a new Gothic style of architecture. The building is now over 750 years old.

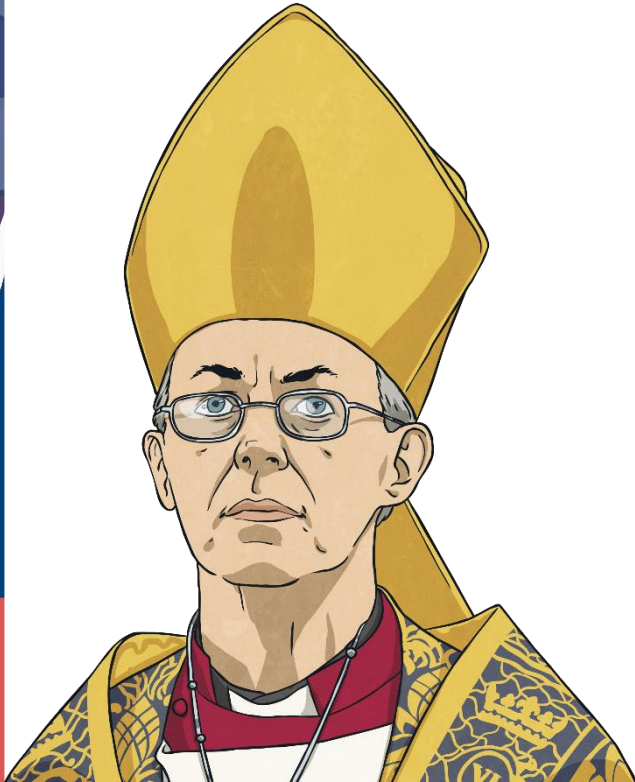


Did You Know...?

The coronation of King Charles III will be the 39th coronation to take place in Westminster Abbey.



Who Will Lead the Coronation?



Since 1066, the service has nearly always been led by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Archbishop of Canterbury is the spiritual head of the Church of England.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has to prepare the order of service, lead the service and put the crown on the head of the new monarch.

The current Archbishop of Canterbury is the Most Reverend Justin Welby who was [enthroned](#) at Canterbury Cathedral in 2013.



Coronation Music



Many musicians perform at a coronation service, including the Westminster Abbey choir. The choir contains up to 30 boys and 12 adult singers.



[Westminster Abbey-panoramio \(8\)](#)
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One of the most famous pieces of coronation music is called 'Zadok the Priest'. It was composed by George Frideric Handel for the coronation of George II in 1727 and has been performed at every coronation since then.



What Will Happen During the Coronation Service?

The coronation service normally follows the same pattern for each king and queen. Queen Elizabeth II's coronation service was around three hours long, with over 8000 people in attendance. King Charles III wants a simpler and shorter service.

The Coronation Oath

King Charles III will make a promise. Although the wording of the oath has varied between monarchs, he will promise to serve the people of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth realms, follow the law, rule the country fairly and to maintain the Church of England.

The Anointing

King Charles III will sit in King Edward's Chair. This is a special chair made in 1300 and present in every coronation since 1308. The Archbishop of Canterbury will use holy oil to make the sign of the cross on The King's hands, chest and head.





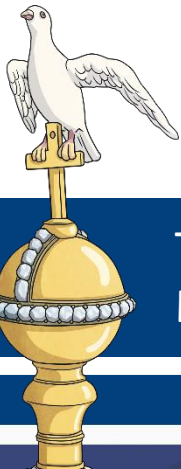
What Will Happen During the Coronation Service?

The Investiture

King Charles III will be presented with the Coronation Regalia (the Crown Jewels). He will be handed an orb, two sceptres and a coronation ring. The Crown Jewels symbolise the passing of power from one monarch to the next.



The Sovereign's Orb is a hollow gold sphere, set with a range of gemstones. The sphere represents the world and the cross on the top represents God. It is traditionally placed in the monarch's right hand before being placed on the altar.



The Sovereign's Sceptre with Cross is said to represent the monarch's worldly power. It contains the largest colourless cut diamond in the world.



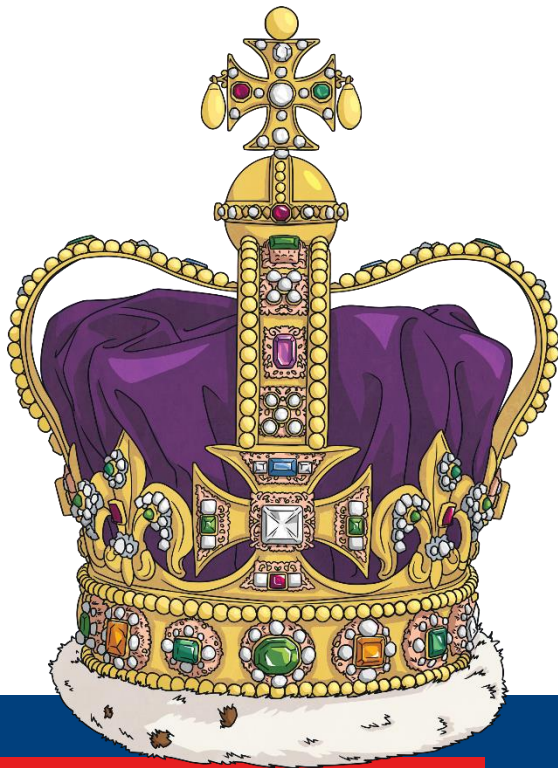
The Sovereign's Sceptre with Dove - also known as the Rod of Equity and Mercy - symbolises the monarch's spiritual role.



What Will Happen During the Coronation Service?

The Crowning

The St Edward's Crown will be placed on King Charles III's head. This crown is only worn for the crowning of a new monarch.



Following the crowning, King Charles III will leave the King Edward's Chair and move to sit on a throne. The throne is newly made for each coronation.

Camilla, the Queen Consort, will then have her anointing and crowning ceremony.

Did You Know...?

The St Edward's Crown was made for the coronation of Charles II after the previous crown was melted down in 1649.



The Queen Consort

Camilla, the Queen Consort, will be crowned alongside King Charles III. Her crowning will take place as part of the coronation service, in a similar but simpler ceremony. She will be crowned with Queen Mary's Crown. Following the coronation, she will be known as Queen Camilla.





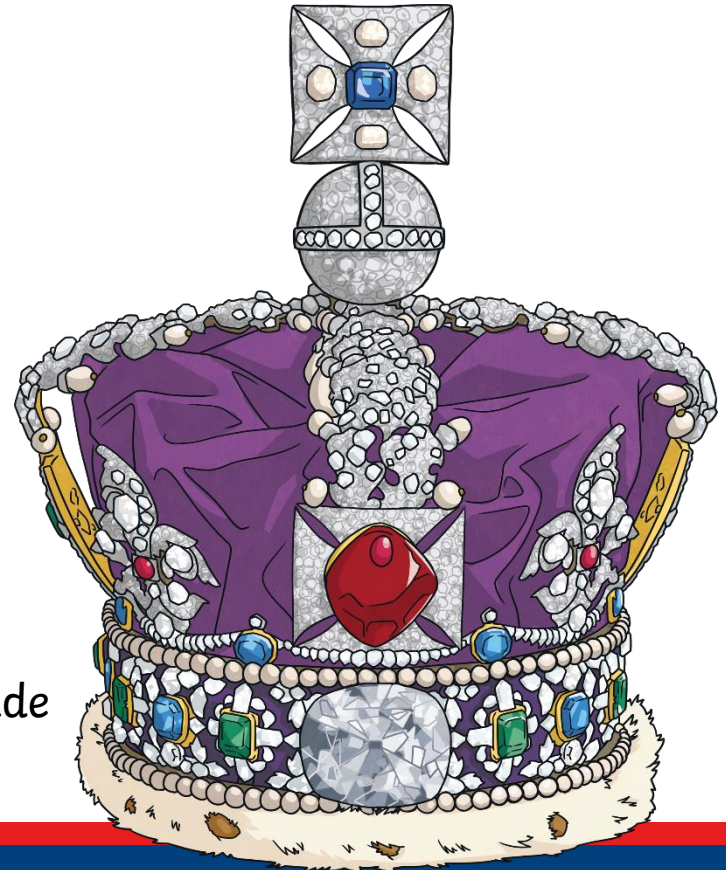
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The Procession

While the choir sings, King Charles III will put on a robe of purple velvet and exchange the St Edward's Crown for the Imperial State Crown. He will then process through Westminster Abbey wearing the Imperial State Crown and carrying the Sovereign's Orb and the Sovereign's Sceptre with Cross. The national anthem will be sung.

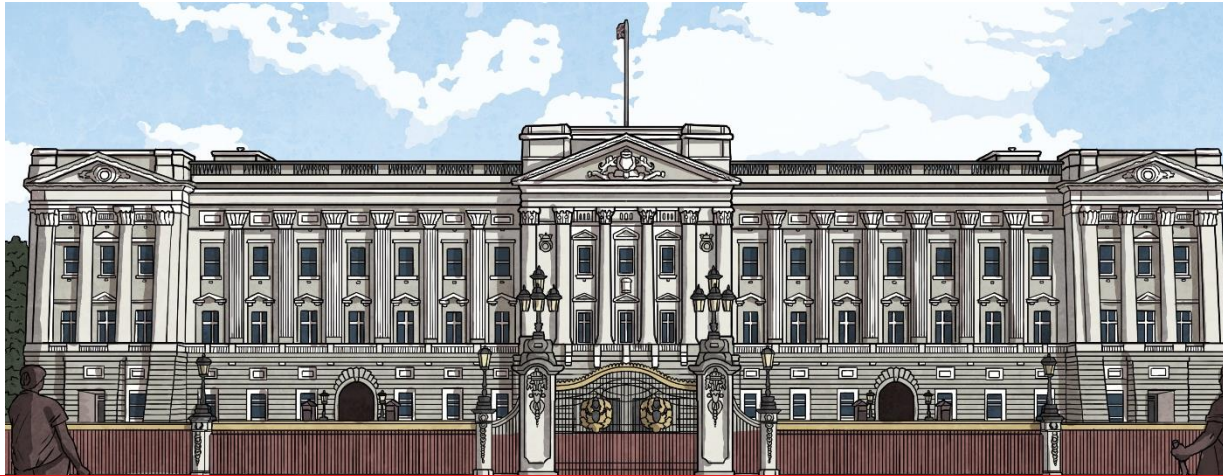
Did You Know...?

The Imperial State Crown was originally made for Queen Victoria's coronation in 1838. It is also worn during formal occasions such as the State Opening of Parliament.





What Happens After the Service?



Following the coronation service, there will be a procession through London which will take King Charles III and Queen Camilla from Westminster Abbey to Buckingham Palace.

After the procession, King Charles III, Queen Camilla and other members of The Royal Family will make an appearance on the balcony of Buckingham Palace.



What Other Events Are Happening?

A three-day Coronation Weekend is happening across the United Kingdom to celebrate the crowning of King Charles III.

Sunday 7th May

The Coronation Big Lunch

Neighbours and communities are invited to come together to share food and have fun. The aim of the Coronation Big Lunch is to encourage communities to get to know each other a little better, build relationships and help to reduce loneliness.



The Coronation Concert

This will be a special concert in the grounds of Windsor Castle, featuring a range of singers, dancers, orchestras and a specially formed Coronation Choir. During the concert, iconic locations around the United Kingdom will be lit up by projections, drones and lasers. It will be called 'Lighting up the Nation'.



What Other Events Are Happening?

Monday 8th May

The Big Help Out

People are encouraged to volunteer with charities and projects in their local communities. The event hopes to create an ongoing legacy of volunteering.



In what ways could you volunteer to help in your local community?



Quick Quiz

1. Where will the coronation take place? Westminster Abbey
2. Who will lead the coronation? The Archbishop of Canterbury
3. What is the name of the chair that King Charles III will sit in for the coronation?
King Edward's Chair
4. What two things are at the top of the two sceptres? A cross and a dove
5. What is the name of the crown that King Charles III will wear for the procession?
The Imperial State Crown
6. What other events are happening during the Coronation Weekend?
The Coronation Big Lunch, The Coronation Concert and The Big Help Out



Glossary

ascension:

The act of moving up or of reaching a high position.

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enthroned:

A king, queen or important member of the church sits on a throne in a ceremony to mark the beginning of their rule.

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monarch:

A king or queen.

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pageantry:

Impressive events and ceremonies involving people wearing special clothes.

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