

To serve, not to be served.

Many are the memories we may hold of the coronation. Perhaps foremost was the emphasis on a life of service. Jesus words were woven throughout the Order of Service. The king was welcomed by a chorister: *'Your Majesty, as children of the kingdom of God we welcome you in the name of the King of kings.'* The King replied: *'In his name and after his example I come not to be served but to serve.'*



The anointing in a simple white linen gown, with oil from the groves where Jesus walked; the ancient throne on which he will never again sit; the crown and royal regalia which he will never wear again; he owns neither regalia nor power. All are symbolic of the responsibilities of service. As constitutional monarch, King Charles represents our collective desire for freedom, justice and mercy. To use his royal role and influence wisely, in environmental and social welfare, the king needs God's guidance and our prayers and support. This time, instead of the peers of the realm swearing their allegiance, we were all invited to do so – in recognition that we are all equal in the sight of God and that the king promises to serve alongside us all.

To this end, King Charles requested to make a personal prayer -

'GOD of compassion and mercy, whose Son was sent not to be served but to serve, give grace that I may find in thy service perfect freedom and in that freedom knowledge of thy truth. Grant that I may be a blessing to all thy children, of every faith and belief, that together we may discover the ways of gentleness and be led into the paths of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen'

The coronation serves to remind us, as we pray for King Charles and Queen Camilla, that it is indeed in Godly service that we find complete freedom and fullness of life.

Almighty God, in whom we live and move and have our being,
who hast made us for thyself,
so that our hearts are restless till they rest in thee:
Grant us purity of hearts and strength of purpose,
that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing thy will,
no weakness from doing it;
but that in thy light we may see light clearly,
and in thy service find our perfect freedom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(St Augustine 354-430)