

**MASS FOR HM THE QUEEN
ST CHAD'S CATHEDRAL – 9 SEPTEMBER 2022**

We do it for a wreath that will never wither.

Following the sad news yesterday of the death of Her Majesty the Queen, we come together as the Catholic community of the City of Birmingham to pray for the repose of her soul. We are united with the whole country in mourning the loss of a remarkable and inspiring monarch and a dedicated and faithful servant of her people for more than 70 years.

It is consoling for us to remember the evident strength of the Queen's own faith in Jesus Christ – shared with us year by year in her Christmas broadcasts – and to recall the ways in which she put into practice the teaching of our Lord in her own life and service as Queen.

In the coronation ceremony she was anointed with holy oil and consecrated to a life of service – and it is clear that she was always conscious of the promise that she had made, not only to her subjects but to Almighty God, to do her utmost for the people entrusted to her care.

In her high office and in her person she united people of different backgrounds and cultures, different faiths and political convictions. The way in which the Queen exercised her office enabled her to be a peacemaker. This was very evident during her State Visit to the Republic of Ireland and as she offered the hand of friendship to the political leaders of Northern Ireland.

Today and in the days to come we may well feel the death of the Queen as a personal loss because she has always been part of our individual and national life. We pray that she may now see the light on the face of her Redeemer and be welcomed into the company of the blessed. We pray for His Majesty the King, for the Queen Consort and for the Royal Family that God may uphold and comfort them at this time.

The Queen's death has prompted an outpouring of grateful and affectionate tributes. We pray that she may now receive a wreath that will never wither in the eternal Kingdom of God.