



CAMP REFLECTIONS 2012 'The Queen's Diamond Jubilee'



A Scout Prayer for the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II

Loving God, we rejoice in this 60th Anniversary of the Coronation of our Patron, Queen Elizabeth II.

We thank you for the example of 'Duty' that our Queen has demonstrated in her sixty years as our Queen.

Help us in our turn to do our Duty, to God and to the Queen.

Keep Queen Elizabeth II in your loving care, now and forever. 'Long live the Queen'. Amen.

Day 1 - Princess Elizabeth

Input

Elizabeth was the first child of Prince Albert, Duke of York (later King George VI), and his wife, Elizabeth. Her close family called her "Lilibet". George V cherished his granddaughter, and during his serious illness in 1929 her regular visits were credited in the popular press and by later biographers with raising his spirits and aiding his recovery.

She was educated at home under the supervision of their mother and their governess, Marion Crawford, who was casually known as "Crawfie". Lessons concentrated on history, language, literature and music. Winston Churchill described Elizabeth when she was two as "a character. She has an air of authority and reflectiveness astonishing in an infant." She was also described her as "a jolly little girl, but fundamentally sensible and well-behaved".

As a granddaughter of the monarch in the male line, Elizabeth's full style at birth was Her Royal Highness Princess *Elizabeth of York*. She was third in the line of succession to the throne, behind her uncle, Edward, Prince of Wales, and her father. Although her birth generated public interest, she was not expected to become queen, as the Prince of Wales was still young, and many assumed he would marry and have children of his own. In 1936, when her grandfather, the King, died and her uncle Edward succeeded, she became second in line to the throne after her father. Later that year, Edward abdicated after his proposed marriage to Wallis Simpson provoked a constitutional crisis. Elizabeth's father became king, and she became heiress presumptive.

Prayer

We implore you, almighty God, that your servant Elizabeth our Queen, who has been called by your mercy to rule over this kingdom, may also receive from you an increase of all virtues. Equipped with these, may she be able to avoid all evil, and, finally, being pleasing to you, may she together with her husband and the royal family, come to you who are the Way, the Truth and the Life. Through Christ Our Lord.

R. Amen.

Action - Take time to think about what you might become when you are older and ask yourself how you could prepare for it.



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Day 2 - Marriage with Prince Philip

Input

Elizabeth met her future husband, Prince Philip of Greece and Denmark, in 1934 and 1937. After another meeting at the Royal Naval College in Dartmouth in July 1939, Elizabeth – though only 13 years old – fell in love with Philip, and they began to exchange letters. They married on 20 November 1947 at Westminster Abbey. They are second cousins once removed through King Christian IX of Denmark and third cousins through Queen Victoria. Before the marriage, Philip renounced his Greek and Danish titles, converted from Greek Orthodoxy to Anglicanism, and adopted the style *Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten*, taking the surname of his mother's British family. Just before the wedding, he was created Duke of Edinburgh and granted the style of *His Royal Highness*.

Elizabeth and Philip received 2500 wedding gifts from around the world, but Britain had not yet completely rebounded from the devastation of the war. She still required ration coupons to buy the material for her gown.

Prayer

"A thousand welcomes to you with your marriage kerchief, (shawl)
May you be healthy all your days.
May you be blessed with long life and peace,
May you grow old with goodness, and with riches."

(This is thought to be the work of Rev. Donald MacLeod, minister at Duirinish, Skye, Scotland c. 1760)

Action - Rationing was a fact of life for many years after the second world war and many people in our world today don't have the bare necessities of life. As you eat and drink today spare a thought for those who won't get any food or drink today or who will be forced to drink polluted water.



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Day 3 - The Coronation

Input

In early 1952, Elizabeth and Philip set out for a tour of Australia and New Zealand by way of Kenya. On 6 February 1952, they had just returned to their Kenyan home, Sagana Lodge, after a night spent at Treetops Hotel, when word arrived of the death of Elizabeth's father. Philip broke the news to the new queen. She was asked to choose a regnal name; she chose to remain Elizabeth, "of course" She was proclaimed queen regnant throughout her realms, and the royal party hastily returned to the United Kingdom. She and the Duke of Edinburgh moved into Buckingham Palace.

Despite the death of Queen Mary on 24 March 1953, the coronation went ahead on 2 June 1953. Before she died, Mary had asked that the coronation not be delayed. The ceremony in Westminster Abbey, except the anointing and communion, was televised for the first time. Elizabeth's coronation gown was embroidered on her instructions with the floral emblems of Commonwealth countries:- English Tudor rose, Scots thistle, Welsh leek, Irish shamrock, Australian wattle, Canadian maple leaf, New Zealand silver fern, South African protea, lotus flowers for India and Ceylon, and Pakistan's wheat, cotton, and jute.

Prayer

O God,
who providest for thy people by thy power,
and rulest over them in love:
Grant unto this thy servant ELIZABETH, our Queen,
the Spirit of wisdom and government,
that being devoted unto thee with her whole heart,
she may so wisely govern,
that in her time thy Church may be in safety,
and Christian devotion may continue in peace;
that so persevering in good works unto the end,
she may by thy mercy come to thine everlasting kingdom;
through Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord,
who liveth and reigneth with thee
in the unity of the Holy Ghost,
one God for ever and ever. **Amen.** *(Prayer from the actual Coronation)*

Action - Sing or recite together the first verse of our national anthem:-

God save our gracious Queen!
Long live our noble Queen!
God save the Queen!
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the Queen.



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Day 4 - Duty to the Queen

Input

From the outset, Elizabeth was held in high esteem and affection, not only in the United Kingdom but throughout the Commonwealth. Her strong sense of dedication had been revealed a few years earlier in a speech she gave in South Africa on her 21st birthday. She read with dignity and earnestness from the prepared script, giving a deeper meaning to the words than even her speech writer had intended: "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, but I shall not have the strength to carry out this resolution alone unless you join in with me, as I now invite you to do. I know that your support will be unfailingly given. God help me to make good my vow and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it."

Throughout her reign, Queen Elizabeth has consistently demonstrated her profound sense of responsibility to the nation, as did her father and mother.

In our scout promise we promise to do our duty to God and to the Queen. Duties are those tasks which you have to do. You should try to do those things you know need doing before someone else tells you to do them. Your duty to the Queen, includes showing respect for her and what she stands for as the head of your country. This includes obeying the laws of your country (and any other country which you visit).

Prayer

May the time be not too distant, O LORD, when all your children will understand that they are brothers and sisters, so that, one in spirit and one in fellowship, they may be forever united before you. Then shall your kingdom be established on earth, and the word of your prophet shall be fulfilled: "The Lord will reign for ever and ever." Amen

-- From the Jewish Sabbath Service

Action - We each have a duty to perform be it small or great. Today, ensure that you carry out all of your duties without waiting to be asked.



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Day 5 - The Queen as a Girl Guide Input

When both girls (Elizabeth and Margaret) expressed their delight at the prospect of Guiding and being treated as equals with ordinary girls, The 1st Buckingham Palace Guide Company was born. The company was composed of twenty Guides and fourteen Brownies who were all daughters of court officials and palace employees. Princess Mary, Elizabeth and Margaret's aunt, enrolled the girls herself. They turned a garden summerhouse on Buckingham Palace grounds into their headquarters, but when the Blitz began in September of 1940, the Company had to close down. They left the summerhouse and moved instead to the more rural Windsor Castle. Young Elizabeth performed the duties required of a princess and heir to the British throne. But her life was not solely composed of radio speeches, public appearances, and the like. She also cooked over a campfire, pitched tents, tied knots, and earned badges just like any other Guide of her day. Among the badges Princess Elizabeth earned were Cook, Child Nurse, Needlewoman, and Interpreter. Some footage taken at a Windsor Great Park Guide camp in 1942: shows Princess Margaret and her fellow Guides cooking over a campfire; Princess Elizabeth washing the dishes; then all the girls, princesses included, jumping into nearby slit trenches at the sound of an air raid siren.

Throughout the World War II years and beyond, Elizabeth continued her association with Guiding. In 1943, she became a Sea Ranger. She passed her Boating Permit Test and served as a coxswain. In 1944, the Girl Guide Association presented her with a camping set for her 18th birthday. In 1946 Elizabeth became Chief Ranger of the British Empire. When she married in 1947, two of her bridesmaids were former Guides.

Prayer

Almighty God, by whose Grace your servants are able to fight the good fight of faith and always prove victorious, we implore you to inspire us and our fellow (scouts &) Guides throughout the world, that we may bend our hearts to obey you and exercise our wills on your behalf. Help us to think wisely, to speak rightly, to resolve bravely, to act kindly, to live purely. Bless us in body and soul and make us a blessing to our comrades. Whether at home or abroad, may we ever seek the extension of your kingdom. May the assurance of your presence save us from sinning. Strengthen us in life and comfort us in death. O Lord our God, accept this prayer for Jesus Christ' sake. Amen. *(World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts [WAGGS] prayer, slightly adapted)*



Action - Look around you at your fellow scouts, some of these may well become lifelong friends. Do something today to cultivate the friendship of your fellow scouts.

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Day 6 - Her Reign

Input

Did You Know?

According to Buckingham Palace officials, during her reign, Queen Elizabeth II has:

- made 251 official overseas visits to 129 different countries
- met with 10 prime ministers
- hosted 91 state banquets
- received 3 million pieces of correspondence
- conferred 387,700 awards and honours
- mailed 37,500 Christmas cards
- sent 100,000 telegrams to centenarians
- sent 280,000 telegrams to couples celebrating wedding anniversaries
- entertained over 1.1 million guests at garden parties
- launched 23 ships
- posed for 139 portraits
- delivered 52 Christmas broadcasts
- attended 34 Royal Variety Performances
- owned more than 30 Welsh corgis

Prayer

Help me to grow less.

Less concerned by my wants
Less worried by my future
Less blind to others' suffering
So that you may grow more
More present in my life
Making me
More aware of my dignity
More trusting in your providence
More filled with love for all people
God of simplicity and abundance
Give me less and more

Amen.



Action - Spend some time reflecting on how much you do for the community. What else could you do?

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Day 7 - Long live the Queen

Input

'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.' – Queen Elizabeth II

'It's all to do with the training: you can do a lot if you're properly trained' – Queen Elizabeth II

'Like all the best families, we have our share of eccentricities, of impetuous and wayward youngsters and of family disagreements.' – Queen Elizabeth II

'I cannot lead you into battle. I do not give you laws or administer justice but I can do something else - I can give my heart and my devotion to these old islands and to all the peoples of our brotherhood of nations.' – Queen Elizabeth II.

Prayer

Creator God, create us anew!

Teach us respect for your wonderful world,
awareness of the earth's resources,
compassion for the needy,
and gratitude for our daily blessings.

Jonathan Leach/Bellerive FCJ Catholic College, Liverpool

Action - The Queen has given of herself for sixty years as Queen and for quite a number of years before that. Today go out of your way to be of service to others.

(c) Rev John Seddon MA

