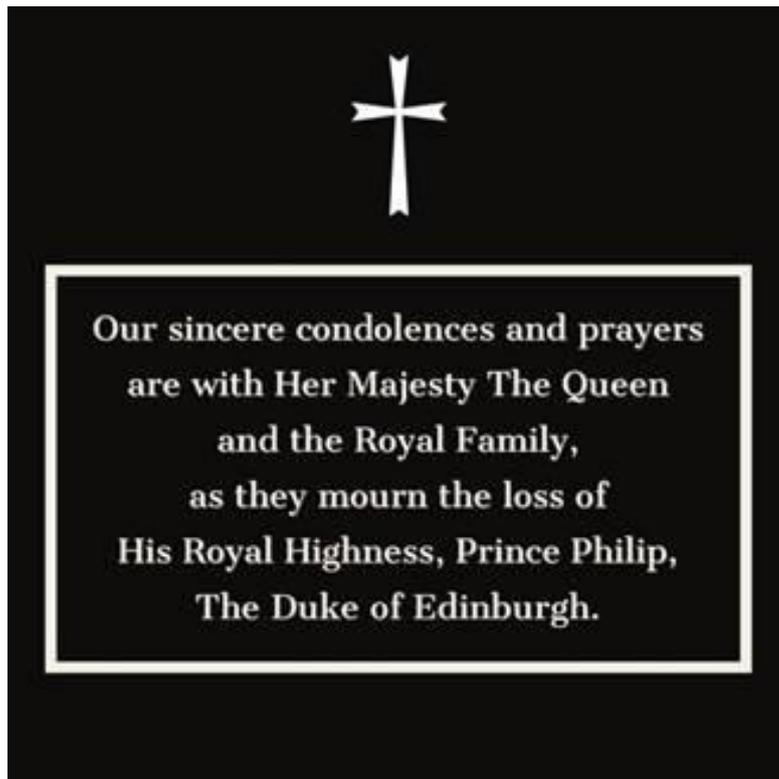


10th April 2021

Dear all



Quite randomly, yesterday afternoon, I tuned into the radio in the middle of a programme, and it was a strange dawning awareness that something momentous had happened. It was a minute or two before it became clear that Prince Philip had died.

There was something rather appropriate about this way of finding out, as it reflected a growing awareness throughout the day, watching and listening to a range of tributes, what a significant person had just died.

In my lifetime, Prince Philip had always been there – the figure in all the photos and newsclips, there in the background, one step behind the Queen. He was already fully-fledged, the father of 3 children at the time I was born. I knew little else, other than what made the news – sadly, often sensationalist.

It was perhaps about 10 years ago that a friend of mine was invited to a dinner hosted by the Queen and Prince Philip. She couldn't wait to tell me the details afterwards. She had been seated at the 'second' table, with the Prince, as a recognition of her work with Service charities. She was immensely proud, and couldn't stop talking about this man who put her so much at her ease, and conversed with her, showing great interest in her and her work. He was charming, witty and had quite a twinkle in his eye. She was bowled over, and I was impressed.

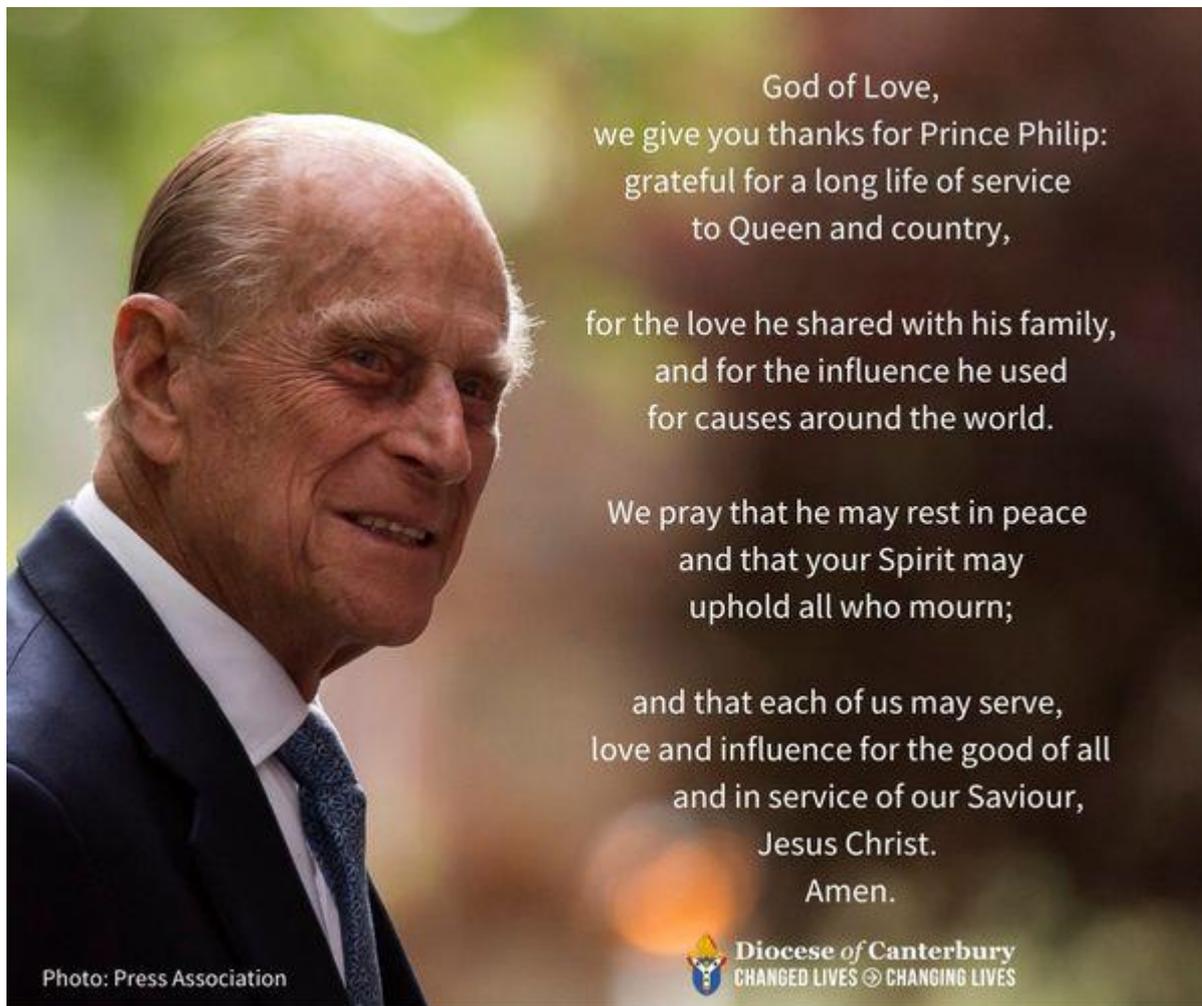
Yesterday, I learned about a man with a very disturbed childhood – a refugee, from the age of one, struggling to find his place in a foreign land, a victim of prejudice (referred to later by 'establishment' figures as 'Zorba, the Greek'). School and then the Royal Navy made him. A distinguished cadet, he won rapid promotion, and was loved and respected by those who served under him. After a very distinguished war record, he gave it all up to support the woman he loved and married.

Much was said about his role as the longest living royal consort (73 years marriage), described by the Queen as 'my strength and stay', and about his finding a role to fulfil in public life. He was an innovator and supporter, both of industry and the environment, and had a major role in the modernisation of the monarchy.

But for me, the most fascinating and illuminating tribute came from Martin Palmer, CEO of FaithInvest on Radio 3. He talked about how Prince Philip had approached him to set up an environmental initiative involving faith leaders. He talked about the Prince's personal faith, and how it coloured his awareness of the role that faith played in environmental concern. In this he was not only far ahead of his time, but also swimming against the tide of popular thought. He described a man of great humour, who was an invaluable personal support, and 'a mate'. He was immensely well-read and well-informed – Martin Palmer would describe how he would often recommend titles of books or articles that would inform discussion. He appreciated honest and informed discussion, and was open to being persuaded by a well-argued case.

His other great passion was the support for the education and personal development of young people, seen most clearly in the establishment of the Duke of Edinburgh's award, in which he took a continued personal interest.

Truly a remarkable man, who will leave a lasting legacy.



You may wish to listen to Faure's wonderful Requiem, which speaks strongly of the hope of eternal life through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

[Faure : Requiem \(John Eliot Gardiner\) - YouTube](#)

I would also like to share a recording of the Easter Anthems (apologies if there are adverts!):

[Anonymous: Easter Anthems - YouTube](#)

Here is a page including a child's-level biography and children's activities about Prince Philip.

[Prince Philip Printables for Kids \(activityvillage.co.uk\)](#)

Please note there will be **no study group** for the next week. We resume on Thursday 22nd April, continuing where we left off in Mark's Gospel, chapter 5.

Service details for this coming Sunday, the Second Sunday of Easter.

Readings – Acts 4:32-35; 1 John 1:1 – 2:2 and John 20:19-end. The Psalm is Psalm 133. (There is no Old Testament reading – for the next few weeks, the lectionary requires a reading from the book of Acts, and one other, either Old or New Testament).

Hymns – ‘Christ, the Lord is risen today’, and a new hymn ‘How often we, like Thomas’ (sung to the tune of ‘The Church’s one foundation’).

Today’s musical offerings (apologies for adverts – it’s how they are able to make content free!):

Firstly, Anglican chant.

[Psalm 133 - YouTube](#)

And, for total contrast...

In Hebrew, in a modern idiom

[HINEH MA TOV \(Psalm 133\) LIVE at the TOWER of DAVID, Jerusalem // Joshua Aaron // Messianic Worship - YouTube](#)

And a version by Harry Belafonte (in case you’re wondering, his paternal grandfather was Jewish).

[Harry Belafonte - Hine Ma Tov \(live in England, 1959\) - YouTube](#)

Anthems appropriate for this Sunday include:

Tomkins – Jesus came when the doors were shut.

[Jesus Came When The Doors Were Shut - YouTube](#)

Also Surgens Jesus (from John 20: 19 & 20) *The risen Jesus, our Lord, standing in the midst of his disciples, said: Peace be with you. Alleluia. The disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.*

By Peter Philips

[Surgens Jesus - Peter Philips, John Rutter, The Cambridge Singers - YouTube](#)

Orlande de Lassus

[Surgens Jesus - YouTube](#)

And Monteverdi

[Notre Dame Magnificat Choir: "Surgens Jesus" by Claudio Monteverdi - YouTube](#)

Stay safe.



Blessings and love

Mark