

OFFICE
FOR
THE ROYAL MAUNDY



WESTMINSTER ABBEY

MAUNDY THURSDAY

21ST APRIL 2011
11.00 A.M.

MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

Most of the church, with the exception of the Transepts, is served by a hearing loop. Users should turn their hearing aid to the setting marked T. Members of the congregation are kindly requested to refrain from using private cameras, video, or sound recording equipment. Please ensure that mobile phones, pagers, and other electronic devices are switched off.

The Service is sung by the Choirs of Westminster Abbey and of Her Majesty's Chapel Royal, St James's Palace, conducted by James O'Donnell, Organist and Master of the Choristers of Westminster Abbey, and Dr Andrew Gant, Organist, Choirmaster and Composer of Her Majesty's Chapel Royal.

The organ is played by Robert Quinney, Sub-Organist, Westminster Abbey.

The State Trumpeters of The Blues and Royals are led by Captain Jason Griffiths.

The Fanfare Trumpeters from the Band of the Welsh Guards are led by Major Stephen Barnwell.

Before the Service Huw Williams, Sub-Organist, Her Majesty's Chapel Royal, plays:

Apparition de l'Eglise éternelle	Olivier Messiaen (1908–92)
Prelude and Fugue in C BWV 531	Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)
Allegro from Symphonie VI	Charles-Marie Widor (1844–1937)

James McVinnie, Assistant Organist, Westminster Abbey, plays:

Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele BWV 654	Johann Sebastian Bach
Allegretto and Andante espressivo from Sonata in G Op 28	Edward Elgar (1857–1934)

Before the Service the Collegiate Officers' Procession moves to places in the Quire. All remain seated.

THE COLLEGIATE OFFICERS' PROCESSION

The High Bailiff of Westminster

The High Steward of Westminster

The Lay Officers of Westminster Abbey

The Queen's Almsmen

The Priests Vicar of Westminster Abbey

OFFICE FOR THE ROYAL MAUNDY

A trumpet fanfare is sounded. All stand. The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh arrive at the Great West Door and are presented with the traditional nosegays. All then sing the hymn, during which The Queen's Procession moves to places in the Quire and Sacrarium.

THE COLLEGIATE PROCESSION

The Beadle

The Ivory Cross

Members of the Brotherhood of St Edward the Confessor

The Children and Gentlemen of Her Majesty's Chapel Royal,
St James's Palace

The Organist, Choirmaster and Composer of Her Majesty's Chapel Royal

The Choir of Westminster Abbey

The Organist and Master of the Choristers of Westminster Abbey

THE ECUMENICAL PROCESSION

The Archbishop of Westminster
The Most Reverend Vincent Nichols

Chairman, Assembly of Orthodox
Bishops in Great Britain and Ireland
*His Eminence Archbishop Gregorios
of Thyateira and Great Britain*

THE DIOCESE OF GIBRALTAR IN EUROPE DELEGATION

Verger

The Registrar of the Diocese of Gibraltar in Europe
Mr Aiden Hargreaves-Smith

The Chancellor of the Diocese of Gibraltar in Europe
Professor the Worshipful Mark Hill QC

The Chancellor of the
Pro-Cathedral of St Paul,
Valletta, Malta
The Reverend Canon Simon Godfrey

The Chancellor of the
Pro-Cathedral of the Holy Trinity,
Brussels
The Reverend Canon Dr Robert Innes

The Archdeacon of Germany
and Northern Europe
The Venerable Jonathan Lloyd

The Archdeacon of Italy
and Malta
The Venerable Jonathan Boardman

The Archdeacon of Switzerland
The Venerable Peter Potter

The Archdeacon of Gibraltar
The Venerable David Sutch

The Archdeacon of the East
The Venerable Patrick Curran

The Suffragan Bishop in Europe
The Right Reverend Dr David Hamid

The Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe
The Right Reverend Dr Geoffrey Rowell

THE DIOCESE OF SODOR AND MAN DELEGATION

Verger

The Chancellor of the Diocese of Sodor and Man

The Worshipful Clare Faulds

Canon of St Maughold

The Reverend Canon Philip Frear

Canon of St Columba

The Reverend Canon Malcolm Convery

Canon of St Patrick

The Reverend Canon Duncan Whitworth

The Archdeacon of the Isle of Man

The Venerable Brian Smith

The Vice-Dean of Peel

The Reverend Canon Nigel Godfrey

The Bishop of Sodor and Man

The Right Reverend Robert Paterson

THE QUEEN'S PROCESSION

The Cross of Westminster

The Minor Canons of Westminster

The Canons' Verger

The Canons of Westminster

The Dean's Verger

The Dean of Westminster

His Royal Highness

The Duke of Edinburgh

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

Her Majesty's Suite

ROYAL ALMONRY PROCESSION

Verger

The Clerk of the Cheque and Adjutant

The Sergeant-Major of the Yeoman of the Guard

The Yeomen carrying the Dishes containing the Alms

The Yeomen in Attendance

The Children of The Royal Almonry

Rosie Dalton

Bryan Levi

Ben Haworth

Amelia Haycock

The Wandsmen

The Assistant Secretary of the Royal Almonry

Mr Peter Hartley

The Secretary of the Royal Almonry

Mr Paul Leddington Wright

The Keeper of the Closet

Mr Philip Chatwin

The Sub-Almoner

The Reverend Prebendary William Scott

The Serjeant of the Vestry of Her Majesty's Chapels Royal

Mr David Baldwin

The Lord High Almoner

The Right Reverend Nigel McCulloch

All sing

THE HYMN

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 PRAISE to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise:
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.</p> <p>2 O loving wisdom of our God!
When all was sin and shame,
a second Adam to the fight
and to the rescue came.</p> <p>3 O wisest love! that flesh and blood,
which did in Adam fail,
should strive afresh against the foe,
should strive and should prevail;</p> | <p>4 And that a higher gift than grace
should flesh and blood refine,
God's presence and his very self,
and essence all-divine.</p> <p>5 O generous love! that he, who smote
in Man for man the foe,
the double agony in Man
for man should undergo;</p> <p>6 And in the garden secretly,
and on the Cross on high,
should teach his brethren, and inspire
to suffer and to die.</p> |
|--|--|
- 7 Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise:
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.

Gerontius 439i NEH
John Bacchus Dykes (1823–76)

John Henry Newman (1801–90)

When all are in their places the Lord High Almoner, standing at the east end of the Abbey, says:

JESUS said: I give you a new commandment: Love one another:
As I have loved you, so you are to love one another.

John 13: 34

The Reverend Michael Macey, Minor Canon and Precentor, and the Choirs sing

THE VERSICLES

O LORD, open thou our lips:
and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us:
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord:
The Lord's Name be praised.

Orlando Gibbons (1583–1625)
Organist of Westminster Abbey 1623–25

All sit. The Choirs sing

PSALM 138

I WILL give thanks unto thee, O Lord, with my whole heart:
even before the gods will I sing praise unto thee.

I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy Name,
because of thy loving-kindness and truth:
for thou hast magnified thy Name and thy word above all things.

When I called upon thee, thou heardest me:
and enduedst my soul with much strength.

All the kings of the earth shall praise thee, O Lord:
for they have heard the words of thy mouth.

Yea, they shall sing in the ways of the Lord:
that great is the glory of the Lord.

For though the Lord be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly:
as for the proud, he beholdeth them afar off.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, yet shalt thou refresh me:
thou shalt stretch forth thy hand upon the furiousness of mine enemies,
and thy right hand shall save me.

The Lord shall make good his loving-kindness toward me:
yea, thy mercy, O Lord, endureth for ever;
despise not then the works of thine own hands.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

Walter Alcock (1861–1947)

All kneel or remain seated.

THE PRAYERS

led by

The Minor Canon and Precentor

Our help is in the name of the Lord:
Who hath made heaven and earth.

Lord, show us thy mighty work:
And prosper the work of thy servants.

Send down thy light and salvation:
And teach us thy right judgements.

The Venerable Dr Jane Hedges, Canon Steward and Archdeacon of Westminster, says:

LORD Jesus Christ, who before instituting the Holy Sacrament at thy Last Supper, washed the feet of thine Apostles: teach us, by thine example, the grace of humility: and so cleanse us from all stain of sin that we may worthily partake of thy holy mysteries; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit art one God, world without end. **Amen.**

The Precentor says:

Blessed are those who fear the Lord:
And walk in his way.

Blessed are those who show mercy:
Mercy shall be shown to them.

The Reverend Andrew Tremlett, Canon in Residence, says:

O GOD, who dwellest above all heavens, yet hast respect unto the offerings of the children of men, who also hast taught us by thy blessed Son that works of mercy done unto our brethren find acceptance in thy sight; bless, we beseech thee, with thy favour our Sovereign Lady Queen ELIZABETH, and grant that these thy gifts bestowed by her may encourage and hearten those who receive them, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All stand to sing

THE HYMN

**1 IT is a thing most wonderful,
almost too wonderful to be,
that God's own son should come from heaven,
and die to save a child like me**

**2 And yet I know that it is true:
he chose a poor and humble lot,
and wept, and toiled, and mourned, and died
for love of those who loved him not.**

**3 But even could I see him die,
I could but see a little part
of that great love, which, like a fire,
is always burning in his heart.**

**4 It is most wonderful to know
his love for me so free and sure;
but 'tis more wonderful to see
my love for him so faint and poor.**

**5 And yet I want to love thee, Lord;
O light the flame within my heart,
and I will love thee more and more,
until I see thee as thou art.**

*Herongate 84 NEH
Essex folk song*

William Walsham How (1823–97)

All sit.

THE FIRST LESSON

read by

The Right Reverend Robert Paterson
Bishop of Sodor and Man

IT was before the Passover festival. Jesus knew that his hour had come and he must leave this world and go to the Father. He had always loved his own who were in the world, and now he was to show the full extent of his love. The devil had already put it into the mind of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. During supper, Jesus, well aware that the Father had entrusted everything to him, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, rose from table, laid aside his garments and taking a towel tied it round him. Then he poured water into a basin, and began to wash his disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel. When it was Simon Peter's turn, Peter said to him, 'You, Lord, washing my feet?' Jesus replied, 'You do not understand now what I am doing, but one day you will.' Peter said, 'I will never let you wash my feet.' 'If I do not wash you,' Jesus replied, 'you are not in fellowship with me.' 'Then, Lord,' said Simon Peter, 'not my feet only; wash my hands and head as well!' Jesus said, 'A man who has bathed needs no further washing; he is altogether clean; and you are clean, though not every one of you.' He added the words 'not every one of you' because he knew who was going to betray him. After washing their feet and taking his garments again, he sat down. 'Do you understand what I have done for you?' he asked. 'You call me "Master" and "Lord", and rightly so, for that is what I am. Then if I, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. I have set you an example: you are to do as I have done for you.'

John 13: 1–15

THE DISTRIBUTION OF MAUNDY GIFTS TO RECIPIENTS ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE ABBEY

*The Congregation stands throughout the Distribution,
but the Recipients and their Companions may sit when the Wandsmen so indicate.*

During the Distribution the Choirs sing:

GIVE almes of thy goods and turn never thy face from any poor man:
and then the face of the Lord shall not be turned away from thee.

Christopher Tye (c1505–c72)

*Offertory sentence Book of Common Prayer;
after Tobit 4*

LORD, how long wilt thou be angry: shall thy jealousy burn like fire for ever?
O remember not our old sins, but have mercy upon us, and that soon:
for we are come to great misery.

Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy Name:
O deliver us, and be merciful unto our sins, for thy Name's sake.

So we, that are thy people, and sheep of thy pasture,
shall give thee thanks for ever: and will alway be
shewing forth thy praise from generation to generation.

*Henry Purcell (1659–95)
Organist of Westminster Abbey 1679–95*

Psalm 79: 5, 8–9, 14

GEISTLICHES LIED

LAß dich nur nichts nicht dauern mit Trauern, sei stille,
wie Gott es fügt, so sei vergnügt mein Wille!

Was willst du heute sorgen auf morgen? Der Eine
steht allem für, der gibt auch dir das Deine.

Sei nur in allem Handel ohn' Wandel, steh' feste,
was Gott beschleußt, das ist und heißt das Beste. Amen.

*Do not be sorrowful or regretful, be calm,
as God has ordained, so my will shall be content!*

*What do you want to worry about from day to day?
There is One who stands above all, who gives you too what is yours.*

*Only be steadfast in all you do, stand firm,
what God has decided, that is and must be the best. Amen.*

Johannes Brahms (1833–97)

Paul Flemming (1609–40)

After the Distribution all sit.

THE SECOND LESSON

read by

His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh

JESUS said: ‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, he will sit in state on his throne, with all the nations gathered before him. He will separate people into two groups, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, “You have my Father’s blessing; come, enter and possess the kingdom that has been ready for you since the world was made. For when I was hungry, you gave me food; when thirsty, you gave me drink; when I was a stranger you took me into your home, when naked you clothed me; when I was ill you came to my help, when in prison you visited me.” Then the righteous will reply, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and fed you, or thirsty and gave you drink, a stranger and took you home, or naked, and clothed you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and come to visit you?” And the King will answer; “I tell you this: anything you did for one of my brothers here, however humble, you did for me.” Then he will say to those on his left hand, “The curse is upon you; go from my sight to the eternal fire that is ready for the devil and his angels. For when I was hungry, you gave me nothing to eat, when thirsty, nothing to drink; when I was a stranger, you gave me no home; when naked, you did not clothe me; when I was ill and in prison you did not come to my help.” And they too will reply, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and did nothing for you?” And he will answer, “I tell you this: anything you did not do for one of these, however humble, you did not do for me.” And they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous will enter eternal life.’

Matthew 25: 31–46

THE DISTRIBUTION OF MAUNDY GIFTS TO RECIPIENTS ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE ABBEY

*The Congregation stands throughout the Distribution,
but the Recipients and their Companions may sit when the Wandsmen so indicate.*

During the Distribution the Choirs sing:

LORD for thy tender mercy’s sake, lay not our sins to our charge, but forgive that is past, and give us grace to amend our sinful lives: to decline from sin, and incline to virtue, that we may walk in a perfect heart before thee now and evermore. Amen.

attributed to Richard Farrant (c 1530–80)

from Christian Prayers and Holy Meditations 1568

WASH me thoroughly from my wickedness and forgive me all my sin.
For I acknowledge my faults and my sin is ever before me.

Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810–76)

Psalms 51: 2–3

ZADOK the priest and Nathan the prophet anointed Solomon king.
And all the people rejoiced and said:
God save the King! Long live the King! God save the King!
May the King live for ever. Amen. Hallelujah.

George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)

1 Kings 1: 39–40

After the Distribution all kneel or sit.

THE PRAYERS

The Precentor and Choirs sing the Responses:

*The Lord be with you:
And with thy spirit.*

*O Lord save The Queen:
Who putteth her trust in thee.*

*Send her help from thy holy place:
And evermore mightily defend her.*

*Be unto her, O Lord, a strong tower:
From the face of her enemies.*

*William McKie (1901–84)
Organist of Westminster Abbey 1941–63*

The Most Reverend Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, says:

ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, who hast given thy Son Jesus Christ to die for our sins, and hast commanded us to love one another as thou hast loved us: make us, we beseech thee, so mindful of the needs and suffering of others, that we may ever be ready to show them compassion and, according to our ability, to relieve their wants; for the sake of the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

The Right Reverend Dr Geoffrey Rowell, Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe, says:

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who, of thy tender love towards mankind, hast sent thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility; mercifully grant, that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

WE thank thee, O Lord, and praise thy Name, that thou hast not only bestowed greatness and majesty upon our Sovereign Lady Queen ELIZABETH, but hast given her a heart also to show mercy. Accept this symbol of self-giving which she pays to thee, the giver of all good things; and stir up the hearts of all those who have received her gifts to be truly thankful for these and all thy mercies and pray for her that, after a long and prosperous reign in this world, she may have a heavenly crown in the world to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Precentor concludes the Prayers, saying:

ALMIGHTY God, Father of all mercies,
We thine unworthy servants do give thee
most humble and hearty thanks
for all thy goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all men.
We bless thee for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but, above all, for thine inestimable love
in the redemption of the world
by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace,
and for the hope of glory.
And we beseech thee,
give us that due sense of all thy mercies,
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful,
and that we shew forth thy praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives;
by giving up ourselves to thy service,
and by walking before thee in holiness
and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost
be all honour and glory,
world without end. Amen.

All stand to sing

THE HYMN

1 **M**Y song is love unknown,
my Saviour's love to me,
love to the loveless shown,
that they might lovely be.
O who am I,
that for my sake
my Lord should take
frail flesh, and die?

2 He came from his blest throne,
salvation to bestow;
but men made strange, and none
the longed-for Christ would know.
But O, my Friend,
my Friend indeed,
who at my need
his life did spend!

5 Here might I stay and sing:
no story so divine;
never was love, dear King,
never was grief like thine!
This is my Friend,
in whose sweet praise
I all my days
could gladly spend.

3 Sometimes they strew his way,
and his sweet praises sing;
resounding all the day
hosannas to their King.
Then 'Crucify!'
is all their breath,
and for his death
they thirst and cry.

4 They rise, and needs will have
my dear Lord made away;
a murderer they save,
the Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful he
to suffering goes,
that he his foes
from thence might free.

*Love Unknown 86 NEH
John Ireland (1879–1962)*

Samuel Crossman (1624–83)

While all remain standing The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster, leads the Prayers:

The Dean Lord, have mercy upon us.

All **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

The Dean Lord, have mercy upon us.

All **OUR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Dean says:

O GOD, our Creator, who revealed thyself in Jesus Christ as infinite self-giving love: grant us the same spirit of humble service we see in Him, and make us ambassadors of thy love to all the world; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

G OD 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.	Thy choicest gifts in store On her be pleased to pour, Long may she reign. May she defend our laws And ever give us cause To sing with heart and voice, God save The Queen.
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All remain standing as the Blessing is given from the High Altar.

THE BLESSING

The Dean

GOD grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Church, The Queen, the Commonwealth, and all mankind peace and concord, and to us sinners, life everlasting; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

All remain standing as the Processions move through the Abbey.

Allegro maestoso from Sonata in G Op 28

Edward Elgar

THE COLLEGIATE PROCESSION

The Beadle

The Ivory Cross

Members of the Brotherhood of St Edward the Confessor

The Children and Gentlemen of Her Majesty's Chapel Royal,
St James's Palace

The Organist, Choirmaster and Composer of Her Majesty's Chapel Royal

The Choir of Westminster Abbey

The Organist and Master of the Choristers of Westminster Abbey

THE ECUMENICAL PROCESSION

The Archbishop of Westminster

The Archbishop of Thyateira
and Great Britain

THE DIOCESE OF GIBRALTAR IN EUROPE DELEGATION

Verger

The Registrar of the Diocese of Gibraltar in Europe

The Chancellor of the Diocese of Gibraltar in Europe

The Chancellor of the
Pro-Cathedral of St Paul,
Valletta, Malta

The Chancellor of the
Pro-Cathedral of the Holy Trinity,
Brussels

The Archdeacon of Germany
and Northern Europe

The Archdeacon of Italy
and Malta

The Archdeacon of Switzerland

The Archdeacon of Gibraltar

The Archdeacon of the East

The Suffragan Bishop in Europe

The Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe

THE DIOCESE OF SODOR AND MAN DELEGATION

Verger

The Chancellor of the Diocese of Sodor and Man

The Canons of Peel

The Archdeacon of the Isle of Man

The Vice-Dean of Peel

The Bishop of Sodor and Man

THE QUEEN'S PROCESSION

The Cross of Westminster

The Minor Canons of Westminster

The Canons' Verger

The Canons of Westminster

The Dean's Verger

The Dean of Westminster

His Royal Highness
The Duke of Edinburgh

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

ROYAL ALMONRY PROCESSION

Verger

The Serjeant of the Vestry of Her Majesty's Chapel Royal

The Lord High Almoner

The Keeper of the Closet

The Sub-Almoner

The Secretary of the Royal Almonry

The Assistant Secretary of the Royal Almonry

The Children of the Royal Almonry

The Clerk of the Cheque and Adjutant of the Yeomen of the Guard

The Sergeant-Major of the Yeomen of the Guard

The Yeomen in Attendance

The bells of the Abbey church are rung.

**Members of the congregation are requested to remain in their places
until invited to move by the Stewards.**

After the Service the Collegiate Officers' Procession moves through the Abbey church.

THE COLLEGIATE OFFICERS' PROCESSION

The High Bailiff of Westminster

The High Steward of Westminster

The Lay Officers of Westminster Abbey

The Queen's Almsmen

The Priests Vicar of Westminster Abbey

THE ROYAL MAUNDY

Today's 801st known Royal Maundy Service is very special as it falls on The Sovereign's birthday and this year the Bishop of Sodor and Man, the Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe, together with the Dean of Westminster have been invited to nominate Maundy Recipients. Thus people from England, the Isle of Man and across Europe make up the eighty five men and eighty five women who will receive their Maundy Gifts from The Queen on Her Majesty's eighty-fifth birthday.

The distribution of Alms and the washing of the feet on the Thursday of Holy Week are of great antiquity. The Maundy can be traced back in England with certainty to the twelfth century, and there are continuous records of the Distribution having been made on Maundy Thursday from the reign of King Edward I. The first known Royal Distribution from records we have at present was at Knaresborough, North Yorkshire by King John in 1210.

The Service derives its name from the Latin word *mandatum*, meaning a commandment, and its opening words are, 'Jesus said: "I give you a new commandment."'

From the fifteenth century, the number of recipients has been related to the years of the Sovereign's life. At one time recipients were required to be of the same sex as the Sovereign, but since the eighteenth century they have numbered as many men and women as the Sovereign has years of age. Recipients are now pensioners selected because of the Christian service they have rendered to the Church and the community. The Distribution is in two parts, and the gifts which are handed to the recipients are symbolic.

The red purse contains an allowance for clothing and provisions formerly given in kind and a payment for the redemption of the royal gown. The white purse contains in Maundy coins silver pennies, twopences, threepences and fourpences, as many pence as the Sovereign has years of age. Maundy coins are legal tender, and when the United Kingdom changed to decimal currency in 1971, the face value of a set of four coins became 10 new pence, instead of 10d in the old £sd system.

The six alms dishes used for the Distribution date from the reign of King Charles II. The traditional Maundy Dish is part of the Regalia, and bears the cipher of William and Mary. The pair of Dishes known as the Fish Dishes, one seawater the other freshwater, were once part of the Chapel Royal Plate. The Fish Dishes were first used in a Maundy service at Tewkesbury in 1971. The fourth dish was first used at Bristol in 1999 and has a crowned rose in the centre and a wide border within a flower and a leafage motif, a horse, a bull, a boar and a stag. The fifth dish used for the first time at Canterbury in 2002 has a central sun motif, engraved with the Royal Stuart Arms in garter motto with a Prince's coronet at the top. The sixth dish, used for the first time at Guildford, comes from The Royal Collection and is by John Bodington and engraved I.H.S.

This year the four Children of the Royal Almonry have all been selected from the Diocese of Sodor and Man, the Diocese of Gibraltar in Europe, Westminster Abbey and the Royal Almonry.

The Chapel Royal Choir which takes part in this Service has a notable musical history and remains a distinctive part of the Royal establishment. It sang at Agincourt and was present at "The Field of Cloth of Gold", indicating the place it took in the Royal entourage.

Though the act of washing the feet seems to have been discontinued in about 1730, the Lord High Almoner and his assistants are still girded with linen towels in remembrance, and carry the traditional nosegays of sweet herbs. Some of the linen towels worn at this Service date from 1883, with new towels which were made in 1993 and 2003.

The Queen's Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard (the "Indoor Guard") also plays an important part in the Service. This is the oldest Military Corps now existing, having been created in 1485 by King Henry VII.

In earlier times the Ceremony was observed wherever the Sovereign was in residence. For many years the Maundy Gifts were distributed in the old Chapel Royal (now the Banqueting Hall) in Whitehall, but from 1890 to 1952 the Service was held at Westminster Abbey, except during the Coronation year in 1937 when the Service took place at St. Paul's Cathedral. This year will mark the sixteenth occasion the Service has been held at Westminster Abbey during the present Reign. In the intervening years, it has been held in the following cathedrals and abbeys:

1953 St Paul's	1974 Salisbury	1987 Ely	1999 Bristol
1955 Southwark	1975 Peterborough	1988 Lichfield	2000 Lincoln
1957 St Albans	1976 Hereford	1989 Birmingham	2002 Canterbury
1959 Windsor	1978 Carlisle	1990 Newcastle-upon-Tyne	2003 Gloucester
1961 Rochester	1979 Winchester	1992 Chester	2004 Liverpool
1963 Chelmsford	1980 Worcester	1993 Wells	2005 Wakefield
1965 Canterbury	1982 St David's	1994 Truro	2006 Guildford
1967 Durham	1983 Exeter	1995 Coventry	2007 Manchester
1969 Selby	1984 Southwell	1996 Norwich	2008 Armagh, NI
1971 Tewkesbury	1985 Ripon	1997 Bradford	2009 Bury St Edmunds
1972 York	1986 Chichester	1998 Portsmouth	2010 Derby

*Paul Leddington Wright
Secretary of the Royal Almonry, 2011*

THE DIOCESE OF GIBRALTAR IN EUROPE

English churches and congregations have been established on the Continent of Europe since before the Reformation. The number of these grew to such an extent that in 1633, by Order of the Privy Council, congregations of the Church of England in all foreign countries were placed under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of London (London then being the chief port of England). Anglican Dioceses and then Provinces were later formed in all parts of the world outside the United Kingdom.

The Diocese of Gibraltar was founded by Letters Patent of Queen Victoria on 21 August 1842 and took the pastoral care of the chaplaincies and congregations in Constantinople, Athens, Florence, Naples, Turin, Madrid, Alicante, Barcelona, Cadiz, Cartagena, Malaga, Ancona, Genoa, Leghorn, Messina, Naples, Nice, Palermo, Rome, Venice, Marseilles, Fiume, Trieste, Patras, Prevesa, The Dardanelles, Salonica, Smyrna, Tripoli, Tangier, Tunis, Sardinia (Cagliari), Corsica, Minorca (Mahon), Crete, Cyprus, Syria, and Malta. In course of time places such as Cyprus and Syria were moved elsewhere and the Diocese extended from the Canaries to the Caspian. In 1883 the Bishop of London appointed a Suffragan Bishop, who later was given the title of Bishop of Fulham, to supervise the chaplaincies in North and Central Europe.

From 1970 the Jurisdiction of North and Central Europe, together with the Diocese of Gibraltar, was in the episcopal care of one Bishop, the Bishop of Fulham and Gibraltar. Since July 1980 a single Diocese has been formed, commonly known as the Diocese in Europe, and it became the forty-fourth Diocese of the Church of England. The cathedral remained in Gibraltar and a Pro-Cathedral in Brussels was added to the historic pro-Cathedral in Malta. The Bishop of the Diocese (currently The Right Reverend Dr Geoffrey Rowell) is assisted by a Suffragan Bishop (The Right Reverend Dr David Hamid). The Diocese is divided into seven archdeaconries.

The Diocese has grown significantly since 1980 and now comprises some 300 congregations between Madeira and Moscow, Casablanca and Trondheim, served by some 150 clergy. It has a deep commitment to the quest for the full visible unity of the Church and ecumenical relations are a high priority. The Diocese continues to grow, not only through British citizens moving to Europe, but also from many other English-speakers from Africa, America, and Australia. Under the Porvoo agreement there is full communion with the Lutheran churches of Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Lithuania, and Denmark, as well as with the Old Catholic Churches of the Union of Utrecht. Special agreements also exist with the Evangelical Church in Germany (the Meissen Agreement), with the French Protestant churches (the Reuilly Agreement), and with the Roman Catholic Church in France ('Twinning and Exchanges').

THE DIOCESE OF SODOR AND MAN

The Diocese of Sodor and Man is surrounded by the Irish Sea and consists of three islands: Mann, St Patrick's Isle, and the uninhabited Calf of Man. Her Majesty The Queen is 'Lord of Mann' and the Island is a Crown Dependency, neither part of the United Kingdom nor a full member of the European Union.

The Diocese of Sodor and Man is one of the ancient 'Celtic' dioceses of the British Isles. The first Christian mission to the Island is said to have been led by Ninian, Bishop of Galloway (*d* 432), followed by that of Patrick, whose nephew, Germanus, is the first recorded bishop of the Island from AD 447. In the fifth to seventh centuries the sea was a vital means of communication and it is known that there was a great deal of movement between the Christian missions in Brittany, Cornwall, Wales, Ireland, Mann, north-west England, and Scotland. Many of the Keeills (remains of ancient chapels) preserve the names of the early Christian missionaries, and, among the over 180 early Celtic Manx crosses that survive, is a mid-seventh century one from Maughold displaying Maltese crosses and hexafoils typical of the sub-Roman art of Celtic Gaul, and another of the late-seventh century depicting two "Chi-ro" crosses and a circular inscription in debased Roman characters recording a "Bishop Irneit". There also survives the magnificent mid-ninth century crucifixion stone of Manx slate, evidently made for a local Altar, found on the Calf of Man, and depicting the risen and glorified Christ with eyes open and wearing a robe, typical of the art of the Eastern Mediterranean church.

The bishopric that later took the name 'Sodor' – the southern Hebrides – was constituted by Pope Gregory IV in 838. On the conquest of the Hebrides and Mann by the Norwegian King Magnus 'Barefoot' in 1098 the Bishopric of Sodor was united with the Church of Mann. When Scandinavian rule of the Western Isles ended a Scottish bishopric was formed, known now as the Diocese of Argyll and the Isles, and joint ecclesiastical jurisdiction ceased. However, 'Sodor' was retained for some time in the title of the diocese and its bishop, perhaps in the hope of eventual re-union, and antiquarians revived its use in the seventeenth century.

The Diocese has been part of the Church of England's Northern Province since the sixteenth-century Reformation but its relationship with the Established Church in England and Wales was ambiguous until the revestment process was complete in the early nineteenth century.

The Diocese has two cathedrals. The partly-ruined early thirteenth-century Cathedral on Holm Patrick (St Patrick's Isle) at Peel is the probable site of the earliest Christian settlement and of a ninth-century cathedral. It is surrounded by the ruins of a late fourteenth-century castle, now in the trusteeship of Manx National Heritage. In the late nineteenth century a larger parish church was built for the City of Peel and that church, dedicated to Saint German, became the Cathedral of the Diocese in 1980. The present Bishop was installed in both cathedrals, the first in the mediaeval church since 1784.

There are seventeen ancient civil parishes on the Island and these still have a part to play in civil administration. The Diocese has forty-five churches and currently twenty-seven ecclesiastical parishes. It is currently engaged in a complex series of changes aimed at enabling local churches to serve their communities more effectively and to be strengthened by four Mission Partnerships which are replacing the rural deaneries.

Last year, the churches of the Island signed a Covenant for Mission and began collaborating in the training of lay and ordained public ministers. The Diocese has a missionary outlook that we share with Christians of other traditions, expressed in the vision and purpose recently adopted by the Diocese: Together making Christ visible.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY - AN HISTORICAL OUTLINE

We cannot say with certainty when Westminster Abbey was founded, but we know that around the year 960 Benedictine monks settled on the marshy north bank of the Thames, in a place called Thorney Island. In the mid-eleventh century the Anglo-Saxon King Edward established his palace there and became an enthusiastic patron of the monks. He built an entirely new church for them which was consecrated on 28 December 1065 and then became the King's own burial place in January 1066. Later that year William the Conqueror defeated King Harold at the Battle of Hastings and made his way to London. He was crowned in Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day and a further thirty-seven coronations have taken place within the Abbey's walls in the subsequent centuries.

After the canonisation of King Edward as St Edward the Confessor in 1161 the Abbey became a place of pilgrimage. With a royal residence and the principal seat of government alongside it, the monastery developed into one of the most important and influential religious houses in medieval England. In 1245 King Henry III resolved to rebuild the Abbey church in the Gothic style and to provide a magnificent new shrine for the Confessor's remains. After fifteen years the eastern portion of the church, its side chapels, and the two transepts were complete. Numerous craftsmen worked to decorate the interior with stained glass, paintings, and sculpture of the finest quality. On 13 October 1269 the church was consecrated and St Edward's remains were transferred to their new shrine, east of the high altar, where they remain to this day.

After his death in 1272 Henry III's own tomb was placed near to the Shrine and was joined in due course by the tombs of several of his successors. Among them was Richard II under whom construction of the Gothic Abbey resumed in the latter part of the fourteenth century. Owing to a decision to continue the work in the original architectural style the whole building has a remarkable unity of design, even though the very west end of the nave was not finally vaulted until the early 1500s. The western towers intended by the medieval masons remained unfinished, barely rising above the level of the vault of the nave, and were only finally completed (to a design of Nicholas Hawksmoor) in 1745.

The early sixteenth century also saw the construction of the new Lady Chapel of King Henry VII at the Abbey's east end. It was consecrated in 1516 and the fan-vaulted interior is one of the architectural glories of the Abbey. Within its walls are the tombs of Henry VII himself and of Queen Elizabeth I, Mary Queen of Scots, and many other members of the Tudor, Stuart, and Hanoverian royal houses.

The Benedictine monastery was dissolved in 1540. A period of change and uncertainty followed, but in May 1560 Queen Elizabeth I established the Abbey by royal charter as 'the Collegiate Church of St Peter'. The new foundation consisted of a dean and twelve prebendaries (canons), minor canons, and additional lay officers. It was charged with two main duties: to continue the tradition of daily worship (for which a musical foundation of organist, choristers, and singing men was provided) and to maintain a school for the education of forty 'Queen's Scholars'. Abbey and School flourished as a single institution until the Public Schools Act of 1868 made the School independent of the Dean and Chapter (though a close association between the two remains).

The arrival of Arthur Penrhyn Stanley as Dean in 1864 had brought new vigour to the Abbey's life. He wrote extensively about its history, gave permission for the burial of national figures such as Dickens and Livingstone, and did much to establish the idea of the Abbey as a place in which every citizen of the nation and Empire had a share. In particular Stanley saw the nation's history reflected in the Abbey's monuments and memorials. In monastic times burials in the church had been limited to royalty and to a few highly favoured nobles and churchmen, but after the Reformation the side chapels, transepts, and nave began to be filled with tombs and memorials. Today there are some 600 monuments and memorials which seem to fill almost every available space. They add to the rich historical and artistic interest of the Abbey which is now also a leading visitor attraction, visited by more than one million people each year.

In the aftermath of the First World War, and particularly with the burial of the Unknown Warrior in November 1920, the Abbey acquired a wider role as the setting for occasions of national celebration or sorrow. Not least among these were the four twentieth-century coronations with their pomp and pageantry; the weddings of Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, and of The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh; and a developing tradition of special services, some of which, such as the Commonwealth Observance and the Battle of Britain Service, are now a regular part of the Abbey's calendar. Other services mark significant anniversaries or events, such as the visit of Pope Benedict XVI in September 2010.

This rich and varied mission, firmly rooted in the Abbey's long history but always responding to changing and current needs, continues to place Westminster Abbey at the very centre of the nation's life.

Printed by
BARNARD & WESTWOOD LTD
23 Pakenham Street, London WC1X 0LB
By Appointment to Her Majesty The Queen
Printers and Bookbinders
