

**Bailiff's speech in the Royal Square on the Proclamation of the
Accession**

11th September 2022

Following the sadness of the last few days it is a great honour and privilege to read the Proclamation of the Accession to the throne of His Majesty King Charles III, after which it will be registered in the roles of the Royal Court.

Tributes have been rightly paid in the States Assembly on Friday to Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and those tributes were both full and well deserved.

During the 70 years of her reign she served all her peoples with an exemplary dedication and skill. Her qualities of kindness and resolve, of dignity and humanity, made her a truly exceptional monarch. She was the steady hand, the constant presence, giving a sense of reassuring continuity and calm during sometimes troubled and uncertain times.

She worked tirelessly. She held Jersey in great affection and regard visiting us some 6 times and showing a warmth which was reciprocated by the people of Jersey on each occasion. She sent us a warm note through the Earl and Countess of Wessex as recently as Liberation Day last and received our loyal greeting in response. We

all feel a sense of loss and sadness and many feel that we have lost a friend as well as a sovereign and Duke. We honour her memory and thank her for her service. Never was a promise, made when she was but 21, been so obviously and fully kept.

On the passing of Her Late Majesty, His Majesty King Charles III acceded to the throne and became King automatically. But nonetheless he was still to be proclaimed King throughout his realms and this was done for the first time in London yesterday after the meeting of the Accession Council.

Anyone who saw His Majesty King Charles' first address to the nation on Friday evening will I am sure, recognise many of the qualities of dignity, decency, and kindness that so characterised his late mother. If we watched the televising of the Accession Council yesterday we will have remarked to ourselves how His Majesty already wears the mantle of kingship, it was a moving experience. He will, I believe, reign as an exceptional King connected to His people .

His Majesty King Charles III sits on the throne and is our sovereign, our Duke. He has visited us in Jersey with his now Queen Consort and they showed the warmth that we have come to recognise in a Royal visitor. We hope very much that the King will be able to visit us in the years to come.

The last time a Charles was proclaimed King in Jersey – 373 years ago - the circumstances were very different. King Charles II succeeded his father King Charles I who had been executed in London. He, King Charles II, was first proclaimed King in Jersey fully 10 years before he was proclaimed in England with those who did so assuming great personal risk. In line with more recent tradition we proclaim the accession of HM King Charles III following the proclamation in London and our connection and link to the Crown is as deep and important to us as ever. I, and most here, were not born when there was last such a proclamation and we are connected to what has passed by our participation in an almost timeless ritual of transition and continuity.

It is now my honour to read the Proclamation: