

Why Should
We Care?



Charles' Coronation: Remnants of Byzantium and Solemnity of Orthodoxy

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As the first Roman emperor (though he never claimed the title for himself), Augustus led Rome's transformation from republic to empire during the tumultuous years following the assassination of his great-uncle and adoptive father Julius Caesar.

Augustus shrewdly combined military might, institution-building and lawmaking to become Rome's sole ruler. Constantine would do the same when he combines the Roman Senate with the Hellenic Archons laying the foundations of the 2000-year Pax Romana (Roman Peace) and an empire that lasted, in various forms, for nearly 1,500 years after Christ. The first monarch was Augustus (16 January 27 BC - 19 August AD 14). The last monarch was Constantine XI Paleologos on May 29, 1453, with fall of Roman [Byzantine] Empire. Though the empire fell its traditions continued not only in the Hellenic Orthodox church based in Constantinople but continued and exalted in the Ottoman Empire, the Czars (Caesars) of Moscow, the French monarchy and eventually the British monarchy



Why should we care? Traditions of Orthodoxy will be on full display May 6, 2023, at King Charles' coronation. Orthodox Tradition is a living entity and vibrant element of the coronation of Charles III. Not only the ancient ties emanating emulated by the British monarchy for centuries.

I wanted to take a moment and relish the participation of so many friends and the impact Orthodoxy unfolds before our eyes, even as we are blind to our own inheritance. Byzantium is on full display for the world to see and for the most part, the Orthodox world is blind to our presence in the ceremony. I am grateful to the Royal Trust, the Textile Research Institute, the Royal School of Needlework, London The Orthodox Arts Journal, and several other sources for the source material to make this introduction possible for us to connect the dots.

For us Orthodox symbolism is rich and the connections to Orthodox Traditions and connection to the imperial Roman empire known as Byzantium.

Royals throughout history have attempted to emulate the magnificence and awe inspiring pageantry on display during the coronation of King Charles III. Though few monarchies can repeat the ceremony of the Byzantine court in Constantinople with Agia Sophia as backdrop, the hippodrome celebrations before and after coronations, the Roman Palaces, coupled with the majestic Orthodox rituals. That said, May 6 Westminster Cathedral will be a glimpse into the mysterious solemnity and pageantry of a royal coronation. Here are connections based on the preliminary accounts by Buckingham Palace:

The Holy Roman imperial coronation in Rome evolved over the thousand years of the empire's existence from an originally very simple ritual which by its very simplicity paralleled and **most clearly demonstrated its origins in its Byzantine counterpart.**



Monogram

The new King's cypher is to be found everywhere, mounted with crown. The cypher was a secret or disguised way of writing, a code. An ancient way Christians would identify fellow Christians. It has evolved into a sort of monogram here are some examples of through history



Monogrammed capitals of Justinian from Agia Sophia in Constantinople.



Prayer service by Metropolitan Nikitas

Archbishop Nikitas will be one of three other religious leaders who will participate in the Coronation event.

The Archdiocese of Thyatira issued the following statement:

“With great joy, the Holy Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain announces that His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas will participate in the Coronation Ceremony of His Majesty King Charles III.

His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas, along with three other Christian leaders, will participate in the Coronation ceremony upon special invitation from His Majesty.

The Holy Archdiocese has sent a special Doxology to the Communities of Great Britain that will be chanted on Sunday, May 7th, 2023, in honor of this historic event. Long Live His Majesty King Charles III.”

Chrism from the Patriarch of Jerusalem

Implications of an Orthodox Church, namely the Patriarch of Jerusalem consecrating holy chrism for a non-Orthodox ecclesiastic entity has erupted in the rad-Orthodox circles implications and theological discourse are for future essays,

Buckingham Palace confirmed Friday that the Chrism oil that will be used to anoint the King, 74, and Queen Consort, 75, on May 6 was consecrated this morning at The Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem.

The official oil was made with olives harvested from local groves including on the Mount of Olives, at the Monastery of the Ascension and the Monastery of Mary Magdalene, where King Charles' grandmother, Prince Philip's mother Princess Alice, is buried. The olives were pressed near Bethlehem, and the oil was perfumed with scents of sesame, rose, jasmine, cinnamon, neroli, benzoin, amber and orange blossom.



Implications and historical evidence for the Orthodox Church blessing chrism for a non-Orthodox monarch have created a fierce debate on-line beyond the scope of this essay. Perhaps the social media vocal and vi-trial can produce and outcome worthy and beneficial of the Orthodox community.

DOXOLOGY
In Honour and in Celebration
of His Majesty King Charles III's Coronation
Sunday, 7th May 2023

Priest: "Blessed is our God..."
Cantor:
Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs, He has granted life. (3 times)
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.
All-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy God, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.
Lord, have mercy. (3 times)
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.
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 the evil one.
Priest: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.
Cantor: Amen.

ΔΟΞΟΛΟΓΙΑ
πρός τιμήν τῆς
Αὐτοῦ Μεγαλειότητος τοῦ Βασιλέως Καρόλου Γ'
(7 Μαΐου 2023)

Ὁ ἱερεὺς: Εὐλογητός ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν πάντοτε· νῦν καὶ ἀεί καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰῶνων.
Ὁ λαός: Χριστὸς Ἀνάστηθι ἐκ νεκρῶν, θανάτῳ θανάτων πατρὸς καὶ τοῖς ἐν τοῖς μνημασί ζωὴν χαρισάμενος (τρὶς)
Δόξα Πατρὶ καὶ Υἱῷ καὶ Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι· καὶ νῦν καὶ ἀεί καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰῶνων. Ἀμήν.
Παναγία Τριάς ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς. Κύριε ἰδούθητι πάς ἀμαρτίαις ἡμῶν. Δέσποτα σπυριούρησον τὰς ἀνομιὰς ἡμῶν. Ἄγιε ἐπιτοκῆσαι καὶ ἴασαι τὰς ἀσθενείας ἡμῶν, ἕνεκεν τοῦ ὀνόματός σου.
Κύριε, ἐλέησον· Κύριε, ἐλέησον· Κύριε, ἐλέησον.
Δόξα Πατρὶ καὶ Υἱῷ καὶ Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι· καὶ νῦν καὶ ἀεί καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰῶνων. Ἀμήν.
Πάτερ ἡμῶν, ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς, ἀγαπήθη τὸ ὄνομά σου. Ἐλθέτω ἡ βασιλεία σου. Γενηθῆτω τὸ θέλημά σου, ὡς ἐν οὐρανῷ καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς. Τὸν ἄγνον ἡμῶν τὸν ἐπιούσιον δός ἡμῖν σήμερον. Καὶ ἄφες ἡμῖν τὰ ὀφειλήματά ἡμῶν, ὡς καὶ ἡμεῖς ἀφίεμεν τοῖς ὀφειλέταις ἡμῶν. Καὶ μὴ εἰσενέγκῃς ἡμᾶς εἰς πειρασμόν, ἀλλὰ ῥύσαι ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ τοῦ πονηροῦ.



Anointing

The anointing is the most sacred part of the coronation ceremony and takes place before the investiture and crowning. The archbishop pours holy oil from the Ampulla (or vessel) into the spoon, and anoints the sovereign on the hands, breast and head. The tradition goes back to the Old Testament which describes the anointing of Solomon

“The Chrism oil which will be used to anoint His Majesty the King on 6th May 2023 has been consecrated in Jerusalem March 3, 2023,”

Buckingham Palace said in a statement today. The ceremony took place at 10 a.m. local time in The Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem, with the oil consecrated by the Patriarch of Jerusalem, His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos III, and the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem, The Most Reverend Hosam Naoum. The oil was created using olives from two groves on the Mount of Olives, one at the Monastery of Mary Magdalene, which is the burial place of Prince Philip’s mother, Princess Alice of Greece. It has been perfumed with essential oils including sesame, rose, jasmine, cinnamon, and orange blossom.

The holy oil is at the center of the most sacred part of the Coronation ceremony—the anointing—which happens before the investiture and crowning. The Royal Collection Trust describes how the Archbishop of Canterbury pours the oil onto the Coronation Spoon and anoints the sovereign on the hands, breast and head. “The tradition goes back to the Old Testament where the anointing of Solomon by Zadok the Priest and Nathan the Prophet is described,” the RCT explains. “Anointing was one of the medieval holy sacraments and it emphasized the spiritual status of the sovereign. Until the seventeenth century the sovereign was considered to be appointed directly by God and this was confirmed by the ceremony of anointing. Although the monarch is no longer considered divine in the same way, the ceremony of Coronation also confirms the monarch as the Head of the Church of England.”



Screen by Iconographer

The coronation and anointing should be of great interest to Orthodox viewers, as these are among the most ancient religious rites, described even in the Old Testament. Sacramental anointing of a monarch was practiced as a sacred mystery by the Orthodox Church until the 20th century. Today no Orthodox monarchs remain – sacramental anointing of a Christian monarch still occurs in only two countries – Great Britain and Tonga.

Iconographer Aidan Hart “It is not often that one receives a phone call from a king’s private secretary asking if you can design something for a coronation. But this is what happened to me in November last year; the last coronation in Britain was, over seventy years ago, for Queen Elizabeth II.

The request was to design three large fabric screens that would be processed into the sanctuary at the appropriate time and surround the King on three sides during his anointing. The anointing with holy oil is the most sacred moment of the coronation. All the other elements of the service, to be held at Westminster Abbey, are open to public view but this moment is traditionally veiled.

The Tree represents in general the Tree of Life, and in particular, the Commonwealth of Nations. It has always struck me that the Greek word for cross that is frequently used in Orthodox hymns also means tree and wood—xylo. The wood of the Cross becomes the Tree of Life. Similarly, one of the roles of a king is to lay down his life for his people. A number of Orthodox sainted kings of England have done just this, such as St Edward Martyr (d. 978) and St Oswald (d. 641).

Roman Spoon of Anointing

The oldest implement of the coronation is the “Roman” Spoon of anointing tying the royal family with the ancient emperors and Caesars of the Roman Empire: Byzantium. Reports of its spoils of the 1204 crusade.

The spoon is first recorded in 1349 as preserved among St Edward's Regalia in Westminster Abbey. Already at this date it is described as a spoon of 'antique form'. Stylistically it seems to relate to the twelfth century and is therefore a remarkable survival - the only piece of royal goldsmiths' work to survive from the 12th century. It was possibly supplied to Henry II or Richard I.

Until the seventeenth century the sovereign was considered to be appointed directly by God and this was confirmed by the ceremony of anointing. Although the monarch is no longer considered divine in the same way, the ceremony of Coronation also confirms the monarch as the Supreme Governor of the Church of England.





The Mitre

"The tiara [from which the mitre originates] probably developed from the Phrygian cap, or frigium, a conical cap worn in the Graeco-Roman world. In the 10th century the tiara was pictured on papal coins." Other sources claim the tiara developed the other way around, from the mitre. In the late Empire it developed into the closed type of Imperial crown used by Byzantine Emperors derived by the stemma, the Byzantine imperial crown. Together with other imperial-derived vestments like the Sakkos, the crown-like mitre embodied the regality and richness of the defunct empire, of which the bishops inherited the legacy.



Byzantine Crowns



Crown of Emperor
Nicephorus Phocas,
Constantinople 10th c. gold



Orthodox Wedding Crowns



Royal Clothes

The Supertunica

The Supertunica, also called the Robe Royal, or Sakkos, is a full-length, sleeved coat with a belt, made of gold silk cloth and with embroidery down the front opening. The Supertunica forms part of the coronation garments worn by British monarchs. The form of the Supertunica derives from one of the Christian ecclesiastical vestments, and is said to have been inspired by Byzantine garments.

Imperial Mantle

The Imperial Mantle is a large, semi-circular mantle or cloak worn by the sovereign during the British coronation ceremony. The Imperial Mantle is also known as the Pallium or the Dalmatic Robe. The design is based on earlier mantles and has its origins in a priestly garment (cope). Its form has not changed much since the medieval period.

As part of the investiture during the coronation ceremony, after the anointing with holy oil, the sovereign is robed in the embroidered Supertunica and Stole Royal, followed by the Imperial Mantle on top.

Royal Stole

The Stole Royal is a liturgical vestment worn by British monarchs at their coronation. It is worn with the Supertunica (Robe Royal). A stole is a long, narrow length of cloth that is worn around the back of the neck, with the two ends hanging down parallel to each other in the front. The Stole Royal is normally embroidered with gold and silver thread and may be set with jewels and pearls.

Armil Cuffs

An Armil or armilla is a type of medieval bracelet, or armlet, normally in metal and worn in pairs, one for each arm. They were usually worn as part of royal regalia, for example at a coronation, or perhaps as part of especially grand liturgical vestments.

The Orb and Two Scepters

King Charles will be holding the orb and two scepters thus way down he will then have to receive Oaths of Allegiance and homage from a number of his subjects but for the enthronement and homage part of the ceremony he will be transferred to the more comfortable Red Throne chair made for George VI





The Sword of Offering (epigonation)

The Sword of Offering is one of the objects with which the sovereign is invested during the coronation ceremony. This takes place after the anointing, when the sovereign is then robed and presented with a number of symbolic ornaments. Many of these relate to knightly virtues. The Archbishop blesses the sword and then delivers it to the monarch with the injunction that it should be used for the protection of good and the punishment of evil. The sword is then offered on the altar. After the investiture the sovereign is then crowned.

Coronation Spurs

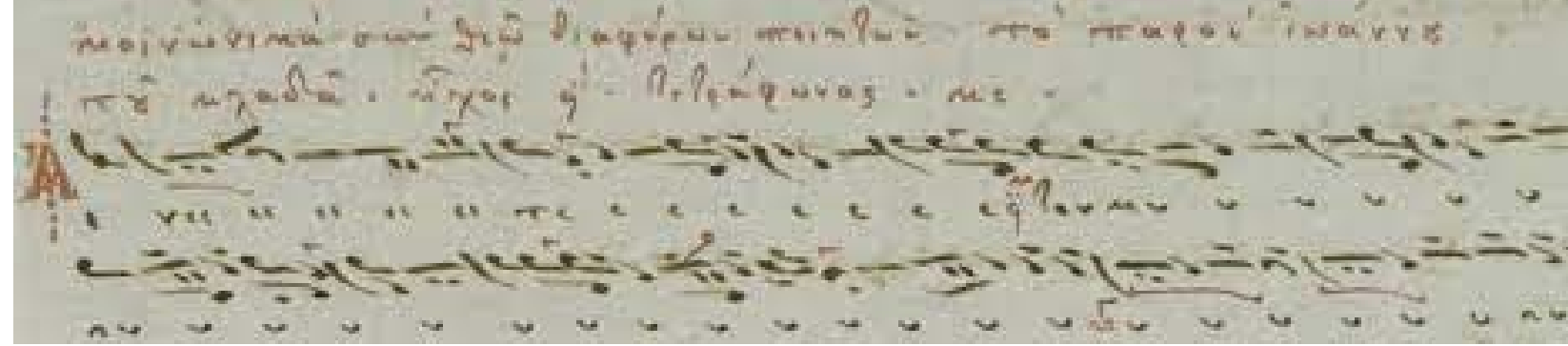
The spurs are representative of knighthood and form part of the coronation ceremony in which the sovereign is invested with the ornaments or symbols of royalty. The sovereign is first anointed with holy oil and then presented with robes, armills, swords, orb, ring, scepters and spurs.



Gold spurs were first included among the English coronation ornaments in 1189, at the coronation of Richard I (the Lionheart). They symbolized knighthood, and their use in the coronation ritual derives directly from the ceremony of creating a knight. Like the rest of the regalia, the original spurs did not survive the Interregnum and this pair was newly made in 1661 for Charles II.

The Girdle

The girdle also known as the coronation sword belt which is made of gold and embroidered in gold thread with arabesques and scrolls it is lined with dark red silk a gold buckle stamped with national emblems and a gold clip for attaching the jeweled sword of offering in place during the service the sword belt is placed around the super Tunica with the jewels sort of offering girded or fastened at the sovereign's waist



Byzantine Music

Dr. Alexander Lingas, founder and music director of Cappella Romana will lead the Byzantine Chant Ensemble in the Coronation at Westminster Abbey on Saturday, 6 May 2023.



Archon Mousikodidaskalos (Music Teacher) of the Great Church of Christ

Buckingham Palace recently announced that "at the request of His Majesty, in tribute to his late father His Royal Highness the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, Greek Orthodox music" will feature in the Coronation Service of Their Majesties The King and The Queen Consort at Westminster Abbey on Saturday 6 May 2023.

Dr. Lingas formed the Byzantine Chant Ensemble especially for the occasion. Its singers have served as cantors in cathedrals and parishes in the UK and Greece, as educators for the Byzantine Music School of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Thyatira and Great Britain, and in such specialist choirs as the Greek Byzantine Choir, the Maïstores of the Psaltic Art, and Cappella Romana.

The choir will perform Psalm 71 in Greek during the Exchange of Swords as parts of The Presentation of Regalia. Dr. Lingas said:



"As a scholar and practitioner of the ancient traditions of Byzantine chant, I am deeply honored to have been asked to help realize the request of His Majesty, King Charles III that the Coronation include a musical tribute to his late father, His Royal Highness the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. Integrating Greek psalmody into the equally ancient rites of the Coronation Service is a profound and beautiful demonstration of the deep appreciation for Orthodox Christianity long shown by both His Majesty and the late Duke of Edinburgh."





Finally standing around the queen in 1953 are the Peers (Archons) of the Court. Wearing their coronets while we may not see many of these if as Charles has asked the aristocracy to dress down I would just like to explain <<Συνοδεία των Αρχόντων>>

Members of the House of Lords are sometimes referred to as peers. Most members are Life Peers although 92 sit by virtue of hereditary title. Life Peers are appointed by the monarch on the advice of the Prime Minister to serve for their life; the title is not transferable.

Currently, there are about 800 members who are eligible to take part in the work of the House of Lords.

Members of the House of Lords are appointed by the Queen on the advice of the prime minister

Whereas Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate are appointed (tonsured) by the Ecumenical Patriarch on the advice of local hierarchs and exarchs...



There is undeniably a dignity and a certain charm attached to a coronet. Essentially a crown in miniature, the coronet is primarily a distinguishing sign of rank, reserved for members of the nobility and peers of the realm.

The coronet has its origin in the Middle Ages: jeweled examples can be seen on the surviving helmets of medieval knights and are represented on tombs and in illuminated manuscripts.

Title Αξιοπρεπής οφίκιον

Duke Δούκας
Marquess Μαρκήσιος
Earl Κόμης
Viscount Υποκόμης
Baron Βαρόνος



The titled coronet is more than a badge of rank and item of ceremonial dress. It expresses noble status and family lineage, values which find potent expression in heraldry. Members of the peerage are entitled to use the coronet in their coat of arms, where it customarily appears above the shield and below the helm and crest.

