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BREAKING

King Charles III's Coronation: Queen Camilla Crowned At Westminster Abbey Ceremony

Isabel Togoh Forbes Staff
I am deputy editor of the news team.
Ty Roush Forbes Staff
I cover breaking news.



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TOPLINE Queen Camilla has been crowned at Westminster Abbey, following a similar ceremony involving King Charles III, as thousands of church guests and millions of watchers around Britain and the world witnessed his coronation, the biggest ceremonial event the nation has put on in 70 years.



King Charles III departs the Coronation service at Westminster Abbey. GETTY IMAGES

KEY FACTS

- Queen Camilla was anointed in public view, the first time the moment has been televised, and received the Queen's Consort's Rod with Dove—an ivory scepter steeped in [controversy](#) because of the UK's ban on ivory last year, in addition to Prince William's criticism of the ivory trade.
- Charles took two oaths—the Coronation Oath and Accession Declaration Oath—in which he pledged his faith and promised to uphold the law, before the Archbishop of Canterbury delivered a sermon, before the new king was shielded from public view as a choir sang Handel's "Zadok the Priest," a cinematic moment ahead of Charles' anointing.
- Charles and his wife, Queen Camilla (whose "Consort" title has now [been dropped](#)), were greeted by fanfare and the Abbey's ringing bells as they arrived to the ceremony.
- The monarchs, both in ceremonial dress, waved to the crowds during an opulent procession along the Mall lined by thousands of supporters—the scene will be familiar to viewers who witnessed the procession of Queen Elizabeth II's funeral eight months ago.
- Central London was blanketed by distinctly British gray clouds and a light drizzle as Charles' procession from Buckingham Palace to the Abbey got underway.
- Thousands of guests, including Prince Harry and other members of the royal family, foreign presidents and charity workers, awaited the new monarch in the Abbey, which has been the site of coronations for [nearly 1,000 years](#).
- Faith leaders representing communities across Britain—including Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Sikh and Buddhist—are also in attendance, a historic move that represents Charles' desire to make the British monarch's job as "[defender of the faith](#)" more inclusive.
- Police arrested several anti-monarchy demonstrators in Trafalgar Square on Saturday morning, part of the Republic campaign group protesting the ceremony's reported cost—estimates vary, but the BBC puts it at up to [\\$126 million](#) (£100 million)—and calling for a public vote on the future of the monarchy.





Britain's Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex, left, arrives with Edoardo Mapelli Mozzi ASSOCIATED PRESS



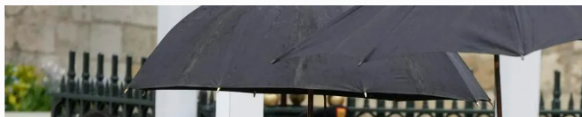
Britain's King Charles III and Camilla, the Queen Consort, on the way to the coronation ceremony in ...
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French President Emmanuel Macron and French President's wife Brigitte Macron are among the guests AFP OR LICENSORS



Camilla, the Queen Consort, traveled in the Diamond Jubilee Coach alongside her husband 2023 GETTY IMAGES





Britain's former prime minister Boris Johnson is in attendance. COPYRIGHT 2023 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

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US First Lady Jill Biden arrived at Westminster Abbey earlier. ASSOCIATED PRESS



Well-wishers line the route of the 'King's Procession', a two kilometres stretch from Buckingham ... [+] AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



Supporters of the Republic pressure group protest against the coronation on the edge of Trafalgar ... [+] GETTY IMAGES

KEY BACKGROUND:

Saturday's ceremony caps off months of preparation and anticipation over how Charles' would mark his day. His coronation is relatively scaled back compared with his mother's: as well as fewer guests, his procession to the Abbey was shorter, while the ceremony featured a gospel choir. But it also reflects the causes Charles has championed while in waiting—and the type of monarch he hopes to be. As well

as the expansion of the “defender of the faiths” role, Charles’ environmental campaigning is being marked by the U.K. government creating new woodland and committing funding to tree planting in honor of the coronation. Guests from [more than 200 countries](#) attended Saturday’s ceremony, which was more diverse than previous coronations. As the first coronation of the social media age, the Royal Family Twitter account posted updates of the event all morning. Yet, tradition remained front and center, with Charles being crowned with the priceless St Edward’s Crown, which dates back more than 360 years, along with other long-established elements of coronations [dating back to 1066](#).

BIG NUMBER

2,000. That’s how many guests—including Royal Family members, world leaders, royals from around the world and ambassadors of charities handpicked by the British royals—will attend the ceremony at Westminster Abbey. That’s about a quarter the number of guests who watched Queen Elizabeth II’s coronation. Today’s guest list had been a source of great speculation, particularly as to whether Prince Harry would attend. He is, but without wife Meghan Markle and his children. Thousands more royal supporters from across the world are expected to line the streets around central London.

CONTRA

Despite the overwhelming coverage, Union Jack bunting lining the streets and party preparation across Britain, many are apathetic. The extravagance of the event stands in sharp contrast to a backdrop of high inflation, rising household bills and a cost of living crisis. Around 60% of Britons support the monarchy’s future, while a quarter want an elected head of state, according to a recent YouGov [poll](#). A plurality (35%) of people polled by YouGov last month said they **cared “not very much”** about the coronation. Anti-monarchy protests are taking place in Trafalgar Square, less than a mile from Westminster Abbey.

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Isabel Togoh

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I am deputy editor for the Forbes breaking news team, covering Europe and the U.S. from London. Previously I was a news reporter for HuffPost UK, the Press Association... [Read More](#)



Ty Roush

