

The Queen's Christmas Message 2021

Although it's a time of great _____ and good cheer for many, Christmas can be hard for those who _____ loved ones. This year, especially, I understand why.

But for me, in the months since the death of my _____ Philip, I have drawn great _____ from the warmth and **affection** of the many **tributes** to his life and work – from around the country, the Commonwealth and the world. His sense of service, intellectual _____ and capacity to squeeze fun out of any situation – were all **irrepressible**. That **mischievous**, **enquiring** twinkle was as bright at the end as when I first set _____ on him.

But life, of course, consists of final **partings** as well as first _____; and as much as I and my family miss him, I know he would want us to _____ Christmas.

We felt his presence as we, like millions _____ the world, readied ourselves for Christmas. While Covid again means we can't _____ quite as we may have wished, we can still enjoy the many happy _____. Be it the singing of _____ (as long as the tune is well known); _____ the tree; giving and _____ presents; or watching a favourite _____ where we already know the ending, it's no surprise that _____ so often **treasure** their Christmas routines. We see our own children and their families **embrace** the roles, traditions and _____ that mean so much to us, as these are passed from one generation to the next, sometimes being updated for changing times. I see it in my own family, and it is a source of _____ happiness.

Prince Philip was always **mindful** of this sense of passing the **baton**. That's why he _____ The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, which offers young people throughout the Commonwealth and beyond the chance of exploration and _____. It remains an **astonishing** success, grounded in his faith in the future.

He was also an early champion of taking seriously our **stewardship** of the _____; and I am proud beyond words that his **pioneering** work has been taken on and magnified by our eldest son Charles and his eldest son William - admirably supported by Camilla and _____ - most recently at the COP climate change summit in Glasgow.

Next _____, we look forward to the Commonwealth Games. The baton is currently travelling **the length and breadth** of the Commonwealth, heading towards Birmingham, a **beacon** of hope on its journey. It will be a chance to celebrate the **achievements** of _____ and the coming-together of like-minded nations.

And _____, just six weeks from now, will see the start of my Platinum Jubilee year, which I hope will be an _____ for people everywhere to enjoy a sense of togetherness; a chance to give thanks for the enormous changes of the last seventy years - social, scientific and cultural - and also to look _____ with confidence.

I am sure someone somewhere today will **remark** that Christmas is a time for _____. It's an engaging truth, but only half the story. Perhaps it's truer to say that Christmas can speak to the child within us all. Adults, when weighed down with _____, sometimes fail to see the joy in simple things, where children do not.

And for me and my family, even with one familiar _____ missing this year, there will be joy in Christmas, as we have the chance to **reminisce**, and see anew the wonder of the festive _____ through the eyes of our young children, of whom we were delighted to _____ four more this year.

They _____ us all a lesson - just as the Christmas story does - that in the _____ of a child, there is a new **dawn** with endless potential.

It is this simplicity of the Christmas story that makes it so universally _____: simple happenings that formed the starting point of the life of Jesus — a man whose teachings have been handed _____ from generation to generation and have been the **bedrock** of my faith. His birth marked a new _____. As the carol says, "The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight".

I wish you all a very happy Christmas.

Write the highlighted words from the text to their definitions below:

1. accept (a belief, theory, or change) willingly and enthusiastically _____
2. to say a few words that give the facts or your opinion about something _____
3. the ideas and principles on which a belief or system is based _____
4. extremely surprising or impressive; amazing _____
5. conscious or aware of something _____
6. the action of leaving or being separated from someone _____
7. playfully annoying _____
8. a gentle feeling of fondness or liking _____
9. a light or a fire, usually on a hill or tower, which acts as a signal or a warning _____
10. to talk, think, or write about enjoyable experiences in your past _____
11. a thing done successfully with effort, skill, or courage _____
12. a short stick or tube passed from runner to runner in a relay race _____
13. impossible to restrain, or control _____
14. the time when something such as a new period in history begins _____
15. the job of supervising or taking care of something, such as an organization or property _____
16. keep carefully (a valuable or valued item) _____
17. something that you say, write, or give that shows your respect and admiration for someone _____
18. involving new ideas or methods _____
19. curious; probing; inquisitive _____
20. through all parts of (a place) _____

Queen Elizabeth II will become the first British monarch to be honored with a Platinum Jubilee. The Platinum Jubilee recognizes a milestone for both Elizabeth and for Britain. This year, Her Majesty The Queen will celebrate seventy years of service, having acceded to the throne on 6th February 1952 when Her Majesty was 25 years old.

