

THE FUNERAL OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II

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The coffin of Queen Elizabeth II is carried into Westminster Abbey for her State Funeral. Picture: Gareth Cattermole/Getty

# Rest in peace, Ma'am

IN the longest of goodbyes, Queen Elizabeth II was laid to rest overnight, as her funeral service stopped the world.

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# One last time to be with Gan Gan

The Queen's great-grandchildren walked behind her coffin as emotional royals said their final farewells

**KERRY PARNELL**

IN the end, duty and their love for their "Gan Gan" won.

The Prince and Princess of Wales had "thought long and hard" about whether George, 9, and Charlotte, 7, were old enough to cope with the occasion, but ultimately gave in to their desire to bid their beloved great-grandmother a final goodbye.

Looking serious and smart, in their formal outfits – George in a navy suit and Charlotte in a fitted black coat and hat – the children trailed Her Majesty's coffin into the grand abbey, joining their extended family in the front row.

All of Queen Elizabeth II's loved ones were there: Her four children, King Charles III, 73, Princess Anne, 72, Prince Andrew, 62, and Prince Edward, 58, were joined by her eight grandchildren, Peter Phillips, 44, Zara Tindall, 41, Prince William, 40, Prince Harry, 38, Princess Beatrice, 34, and Princess Eugenie, 32, Lady Louise Windsor, 18 and James, Viscount Severn, 14 and even her 12 great-grandchildren, represented by George and Charlotte.

Underneath all the pomp —

which moved from Westminster Hall to Westminster Abbey and later St George's Chapel, Windsor – it was all about the family, as those closest to the Queen walked her to her final destination.

Following the Queen's coffin every step of the way, as it was pulled by gun carriage into Westminster Abbey, to the moving sound of the accompanying pipers, was the King, Princess Anne and her husband Tim Laurence, Prince Andrew, Prince Edward, the Prince of Wales, Prince Harry, the Earl of Snowdon, Peter Phillips and the Duke of Gloucester, along with members of the royal household.

They were visibly grief-stricken – the new monarch was fighting back tears, Prince Andrew looking grimly determined and Harry's face was furrowed in concentration as they honoured their beloved mother and grandmother.

They were joined by more members of the Royal Family as they walked down the aisle in the abbey. Camilla, Queen Consort, walked alongside the King.

The Princess of Wales reassured George and Charlotte, as they stayed close by her side,

accompanied by the moving strains of the choir.

George glanced up at his father and Charlotte walked carefully alongside her mother, at one point, holding her hand. Charlotte had a horse-shoe brooch pinned to her lapel, in a nod to her great-grandmother's love of horses. They were followed by the Duke and Duchess of Sussex.

The rousing service visibly moved the family. Sophie, Countess of Wessex, searched for a tissue at one point and Prince Edward wiped his eyes.

"We pray especially for all her family, grieving as every family at a funeral – including so many families round the world who have themselves lost someone recently – but in this family's case doing so in the brightest spotlight," The Archbishop of Canterbury said. "May God heal their sorrow, may the gap left in their lives be marked with memories of joy and life. All who follow the Queen's example, and inspiration of trust and faith in God, can with her say, 'We will meet again.'"

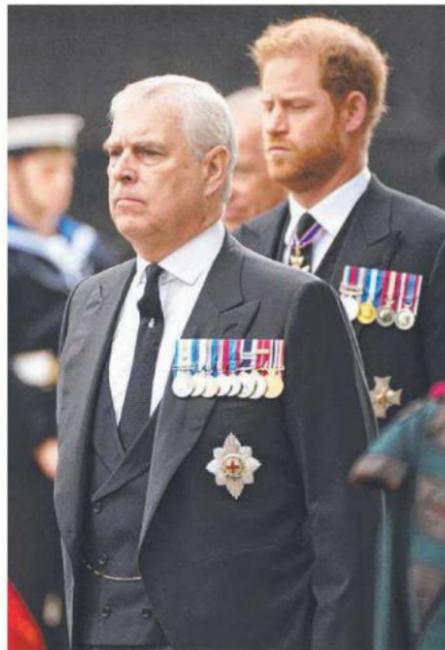
The abbey, which has seen so many coronations, weddings and funerals of monarchs in its 750-year history,



Prince William and Prince Harry walk side-by-side behind the Queen's coffin.



Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex.



Princes Andrew and Harry.



King Charles and Princess Anne enter the abbey for their mother's funeral.

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Prince George and Princess Charlotte with their mother, Catherine, Princess of Wales, and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex. Pictures: AFP

was dressed with myrtle, in a nod to the flowers used in the Queen's wedding bouquet on that happy day in the same location, in 1947. The wreath contained flowers cut from the royal homes.

Like any funeral, it was a time for all the wider members of the family to come together to mourn the ultimate matriarch, including Princess Margaret's descendants, the Earl of Snowdon, 60, who walked behind the coffin and his son Charles Armstrong-Jones, 23 and daughter Margarita, 20, as well as Lady Sarah Chatto, 58 and her sons Arthur, 23 and Sam, 26. Also among those in attendance were the Queen's cousins, the Duke

of Gloucester, 78, the Duke of Kent, 86, Prince Michael of Kent, 80, Princess Alexandra, 85, as well as Princess Michael of Kent, 77 and their extended families, Kate's parents Carole and Michael Middleton, Camilla's son Tom Parker-Bowles and Sarah Ferguson.

As the congregation sang God Save the King, including Camilla, next to him, the new monarch swallowed and looked full of emotion.

Then, finally, from Abbot's Pew, The Sovereign's Piper played the mournful lament of Sleep, dearie, sleep, which proved almost too much for the new King, the congregation and the watching world,

as the sound faded away into silence.

The King and key members of the Royal Family then joined the procession towards Wellington Arch. Meghan, The Duchess of Sussex, was seen wiping away a tear outside Westminster Abbey as she watched the Queen's coffin be placed into a hearse for the late monarch's final journey.

When Her Majesty was finally laid to rest after a ceremony in Windsor, it brought to close a day and a reign which nobody watching – in the abbey, the streets of London and Windsor, or at home all over the world – could fail to be humbled by.



George and Charlotte were the youngest mourners at the emotional service.



Sarah Ferguson at the funeral.

## 'Heartbroken' Fergie in from the cold for funeral

**JULIE CROSS**

THE former wife of Prince Andrew – Sarah Ferguson, Duchess of York – who was ousted from the inner royal circle after they divorced in 1996, was a guest at the Queen's funeral despite not attending any mourning events over the past 11 days.

The controversial figure, better known as Fergie, has only been seen once in public since

the Queen's death, when she was seen privately inspecting some of the floral tributes with her ex-husband at Windsor.

But last night she attended the monarch's funeral, and was spotted entering the abbey, alongside her children, princesses Beatrice and Eugenie and their husbands. Andrew followed behind the coffin.

After the Queen's death, the Duchess was notably absent on a walkabout of senior royals, in-

cluding Andrew and their children, at Balmoral, leaving people to speculate whether she would get an invite.

In a statement after the Queen's death, the Duchess said she was "heartbroken" and thanked the monarch for being "the most incredible mother-in-law and friend".

"I will always be grateful to her for the generosity she showed me in remaining close to me even after my divorce,"

she wrote on her Instagram page. "I will miss her more than words can express."

Bizarrely, while they divorced nearly 30 years ago, Fergie and Andrew still live together in a grace-and-favour house on the royal estate at Windsor. She has previously said they are "soulmates".

Fergie found herself effectively black-listed from royal family events following a number of embarrassing scandals.

The Queen's husband, the late Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, reportedly could not "stand her".

The biggest snub came in 2011, when she was not invited to the Prince and Princess of Wales' wedding.

However, the Duchess maintained that although she had a strained relationship with her former father-in-law, she continued to have a close relationship with the Queen.