



Britain's Catherine, Princess of Wales arrives at Westminster Abbey in central London ahead of the coronations of Britain's King Charles III and Britain's Camilla, Queen Consort. — AFP photos



Britain's Prince Louis of Wales and Britain's Princess Charlotte of Wales arrive at Westminster Abbey in central London ahead of the coronations of Britain's King Charles III and Britain's Camilla, Queen Consort.



Britain's King Charles III wearing the Imperial state Crown carrying the Sovereign's Orb and Sceptre leaves Westminster Abbey after the Coronation Ceremonies in central London.

Floral headpieces replace tiaras at Charles' dress-down coronation



Britain's Camilla sits on the throne wearing a modified version of Queen Mary's Crown during the Coronation Ceremony inside Westminster Abbey in central London.

Prince William's wife Catherine on Saturday chose a floral headpiece instead of a tiara for the coronation of Charles III, in line with the "green" tone set for the coronation by the king. Charles, a long-time environmental advocate with a passion for nature, made his wishes clear when he sent out coronation invitations featuring the Green Man, an ancient figure from British folklore symbolizing the arrival of spring and rebirth. The break with tradition was also in keeping with Charles's reported desire that the coronation be "meritocratic not aristocratic", which saw the aristocracy largely replaced with "community heroes" who had earned their place.

At the last coronation in 1953, almost all senior royal women and female aristocrats wore tiaras featuring precious stones and pearls. Catherine, whose formal title is Princess of Wales, instead wore a silver Jess Collett x Alexander McQueen headpiece with three-dimensional leaf embroidery, Buckingham Palace said. Her dress, also by Alexander McQueen, was in ivory silk crepe with embroidery featuring rose, thistle, daffodil and shamrock motifs to signify the four nations of the United Kingdom. It was worn with a

ceremonial cape. She also wore a set of pearl and diamond earrings that belonged to Prince William's late mother Princess Diana.

Floral motifs

Catherine's daughter Princess Charlotte, a granddaughter of King Charles, wore a headpiece that matched her mother's while her dress was also by Alexander McQueen and featured similar floral motifs. Queen Camilla meanwhile turned to British couturier Bruce Oldfield, a favorite of the king's former wife Diana, for her coronation dress. Her ivory silk dress with silver and gold embroidery featured "garlands of abstract wildflowers from fields and hedgerows: daisy chains, forget-me-nots, celandine and scarlet pimpernel", the palace said in a statement.

Oldfield designed dozens of evening gowns—several of them iconic—for Diana before her death in a Paris car crash in 1997. Oldfield has since become one of Camilla's favorite fashion creators. He designed the elegant black evening gown Camilla wore on the royal couple's state visit to Germany in March.

Charles, a biodiversity enthusiast, had a four-acre (1.6-hectare) wild-



(From left) Britain's Prince William, Prince of Wales, Britain's Catherine, Princess of Wales, Princess Charlotte of Wales and Prince Louis of Wales, arrive for the coronations of Britain's King Charles III and Britain's Camilla, Queen Consort at Westminster Abbey in central London on May 6, 2023. - The set-piece coronation is the first in Britain in 70 years, and only the second in history to be televised. Charles will be the 40th reigning monarch to be crowned at the central London church since King William I in 1066.

flower meadow at his former Highgrove home in Gloucestershire, western England. To mark his coronation, 200,000 packets of wildflower seeds have been sent to primary schools for

children to scatter in their green spaces and encourage them to develop a love of nature. —AFP



A handout photo shows Britain's Queen Camilla and Britain's King Charles III standing on the balcony of Buckingham Palace, following their Coronation Ceremony, in central London. — AFP

14 million watched coronation of King Charles III: BBC

More than 14 million people tuned in to watch King Charles III's coronation on BBC television, the corporation said on Sunday. At its peak, 13.4 million watched on the main BBC One channel, with an average of 11.9 million watching Saturday's coverage of the ceremony. A signed version on BBC Two peaked at 1.7 million, averaging at 1.4 million, a statement from the public broadcaster read. Saturday's coronation—the first to be held in Britain in 70 years—was only the second to be televised, and the first to be shown in color.

But the figures indicate that overall viewing figures were well down on previous major royal occasions. Last year's state funeral of Charles's mother Queen Elizabeth II attracted one of the biggest television audiences in the UK in modern times. An estimated average audience of 26.2 million watched on TV sets alone, peaking at 28 million, including 18.5 million on the BBC. In 2011, more than 24 million viewers

watched the wedding of Charles's son Prince William on BBC terrestrial television. In 1997, more than 32 million viewers in the UK watched the funeral of Charles's first wife and William's mother, Princess Diana. The 1953 coronation of Elizabeth is seen as a breakthrough in broadcasting, as it was the first shown on TV. Then some 27 million people watched and 11 million listened to the service on the radio, according to Buckingham Palace. But TV set ownership was low.

The BBC was the only broadcaster at the time. Since then the media landscape has been transformed, with dozens more channels, as well as online, on-demand and streaming services. Charles's coronation was also broadcast live by commercial channel ITV—which only launched two years after Elizabeth's coronation—and other figures were not immediately available. —AFP

Princes Harry, Andrew parked on third row at coronation

Princes Harry and Andrew attended the coronation of King Charles III but were relegated to the third row of the royal family seating—and did not join them later Saturday on the Buckingham Palace balcony. Charles's younger son Harry and his American wife Meghan quit royal duties in 2020 and have since unleashed a string of barbed attacks on the monarchy.

Andrew, the king's eldest brother, has been frozen out over his past association with the disgraced late US financier Jeffrey Epstein and a related sexual abuse allegation which was settled out of court. But both Harry, 38, the Duke of Sussex, and 63-year-old Andrew, the Duke of York, were in the royal ranks for the coronation at London's Westminster Abbey, albeit without a formal role.

Andrew was driven in a state car from Buckingham Palace to the Abbey and part of the crowd in a grandstand in front of the palace booed as he went past. Harry and Andrew walked into the abbey with other members of the Windsor family. It was the first time Harry has joined his family since subjecting them to a torrent of stinging criticism in his recent memoir "Spare" and in a series of television interviews. Meghan has remained in California with the couple's young children, thereby avoiding potentially awkward interactions with her in-laws.

Smiles in the abbey

Former British Army captain Harry, who served in Afghanistan, was wearing a morning suit with his medals, while Andrew—who flew Royal Navy helicopters in the 1982 Falklands War—wore his robes as a knight of the garter. Harry was seen chatting with Edoardo Mapelli Mozzi, husband of his cousin Princess Beatrice, Andrew's elder daughter. He also had a quick word with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, after entering the Great West Door. Welby married Harry and Meghan at St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle in May 2018.

Both Harry and Andrew were seen smiling as they walked through the abbey to their seats. They were both seated on the third row—out of keeping with their places in the line of succession to



Britain's Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex leaves after attending the coronations of Britain's King Charles III and Britain's Camilla, Queen Consort, at Westminster Abbey in central London. —AFP

the throne. Harry is fifth in line, following his brother Prince William, and William's three children—Prince George, Princess Charlotte and Prince Louis of Wales.

Andrew is eighth in line, coming after Harry and his children—Prince Archie and Princess Lilibet of Sussex. Andrew sat at the end of the row next to Beatrice. Harry sat next to Jack Brooksbank, the husband of Andrew's younger daughter Princess Eugenie, the cousin who is perhaps Harry's closest ally in the family.



(From left) Britain's Prince Andrew, Duke of York, Britain's Princess Beatrice of York, Peter Phillips, Edoardo Mapelli Mozzi, Zara Tindall, Princess Eugenie, Jack Brooksbank, Mike Tindall and Britain's Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex at Westminster Abbey in central London attend the coronations of Britain's King Charles III and Britain's Camilla, Queen Consort.