

Revelation 21: 1 – 6

**'Queen: Remembrance and Thanksgiving'**

**Introduction ...**

I wonder what memories, what images, came to mind in that earlier time of reflection?

What age was Queen Elizabeth?

Often, it's recent memories that come most easily to mind ...

For me, it was seeing Queen Elizabeth in St George's Chapel, Windsor whilst attending the funeral of her beloved husband – Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

Wearing black

Seated completely alone because of Covid Regulations

Suffering.

Yet – others of you may have had much happier times in your minds ...

Bright clothes

Royal banquets for state visits

Family videos or photos

Laughter

**These more positive images are better placed to give us a glimpse of heaven**

**Bible Reading ...**

The vision given to St John which we heard in our Bible reading brings **more** understanding, **more** insight of what life in heaven will be like for each of us – including for the late Queen.

The tough times – fully behind us ...

**Every tear wiped from our eyes**

**no more mourning, crying, pain**

No more sitting on her own, in black, suffering ...

And Jesus **making all things new ...** Renewing what has been good

Renewed relationships – for Queen Elizabeth – with her husband, with her Father

Renewed strength

Renewed joy

**PTO**

**Jesus ...**

And we can have confidence that these words, these promises, these insights, are true because of Jesus himself

Having died and been buried

He was raised to a new kind of life –

his scars still visible but no longer painful or limiting

his relationship with his Father God and with his disciples – restored – made new.

*(That's why there's an image of the first Easter Day in the Service Booklets ...)*

This is the Jesus to whom Queen Elizabeth always looked – for her daily life and then in her approaching death.

Thanks be to him for ever.

Amen.