

The Coronation of King Charles III

(New Zealand Parliament, 2023b)

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His Majesty King Charles III, New Zealand's Sovereign, was crowned on Saturday 6 May 2023 in a ceremony at Westminster Abbey. Read on to learn more.



The New Zealand delegation arriving at the Coronation ceremony

Source: Department for Culture, Media and Sport, UK Government

The Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla took place on Saturday 6 May at Westminster Abbey in London. Constitutionally, King Charles III became our head of State immediately following the death of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, last year but the Coronation service was ceremonial recognition of this fact.

New Zealand was invited to send a delegation to the Coronation service. The delegation included Prime Minister Rt Hon Chris Hipkins, Governor-General Rt Hon Dame Cindy Kiro, the New Zealand High Commissioner to the United Kingdom Phil Goff, senior Royal Honours recipients, and ten additional representatives including Leader of the Opposition Christopher Luxon, Kiingi Tuheitia, and Willie Apiata VC. Prior to the Coronation ceremony, members of the delegation met with the King and his family during formal events Buckingham Palace.

Click here to see the full list of the New Zealand delegation. (<https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/pm%E2%80%99s-travel-advance-nzs-economic-interests>)

5th



Dame Cindy Kiro shakes hands with King Charles III at Buckingham Palace

Source: Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, UK Govt



Kiingi Tuheitia Pootatau Te Wherowhero VII with King Charles III at Buckingham Palace.

Source: Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, UK Govt.

King Charles III is our **Sovereign, the Head of State and source of all executive legal authority in New Zealand** (<https://www.parliament.nz/en/visit-and-learn/history-and-buildings/special-topics/the-demise-of-the-crown/the-sovereigns-role-in-new-zealand/>). The Sovereign acts on the advice of the Government in all but the most exceptional circumstances. Prior to his accession to the throne, King Charles III made nine trips to New Zealand, most recently in 2019. **Learn more about King Charles III and his relationship to New Zealand here.** (<https://www.parliament.nz/en/visit-and-learn/history-and-buildings/special-topics/the-demise-of-the-crown/new-zealand-s-new-sovereign-king-charles-iii/>)



King Charles III and Rt Hon Chris Hipkins at Buckingham Palace.

Source: Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, UK Govt.

The Coronation was marked across Aotearoa in several ways, including the He Rā Rākau Tītapu tree-planting campaign, the illumination of buildings and landmarks across New Zealand (including the Parliament Buildings) with purple light, gun salutes by the New Zealand Defence Force, and an art exhibition at the New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts.

The first tree planting of He Rā Rākau Tītapu – the King Charles III Coronation Plantings **happened on Parliament grounds on Wednesday 26 April** (<https://www.parliament.nz/en/get-involved/features/trees-planting-marks-coronation-of-king-charles-iii/>). Local councils and community groups will plant native trees all across New Zealand to mark the Coronation. **You can find out more about the programme by visiting Trees That Count** (<https://treesthatcount.co.nz/blog/more-than-100-000-trees-to-be-planted-as-part-of-coronation-celebrations>), the organisation leading the work in partnership with the Department of Conservation.

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