

City church treats British royalty to red carpet

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NTANDO MAKHUBU

A PACKED congregation of worshippers and guests participated in a thanksgiving service to honour Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee with her daughter Princess Anne in attendance at St Alban's Cathedral yesterday.

The service was led by the Archbishop of Cape Town Thabo Makgoba and a full complement of the Pretoria Anglican Diocese priests – from deans and canons and reverends and archdeacons – attended the ceremony to mark the occasion of the Queen of England's 60th year on the throne.

Zulu prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi also attended.

The cathedral's Bishop Dr Jo Seoka was reported to be out of the country representing the church on anti-human trafficking efforts.

Princess Anne arrived with her husband, retired Vice-Admiral Tim Laurence and British high commissioner to SA, Dame Nicola Brewer.



Princess Anne and her husband Vice-Admiral Tim Laurence are welcomed at the St Alban's Cathedral in Pretoria yesterday by the Archbishop of Cape Town Dr Thabo Makgoba. The princess is on a visit to the country to celebrate her mother, Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee. Picture: Sizwe Ndingane INL SA

She greeted each of the waiting clergy before she was led in a procession into the church by Makgoba and Reverend Rudolph Pauls.

The princess read the first reading for the service.

Yesterday's service followed an early morning meeting between the princess and Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe, at his city official residence, OR Tambo House.

Princess Anne arrived in SA on Monday for a three-day visit which will take her from Gauteng to Cape Town today, from where she will leave for Mozambique.

On Monday she visited charity organisations linked to the royal family in Joburg and also visited a hospital where she met mothers and babies in an ante natal facility.

A reception was held at the high commissioner's residence on Monday evening.



Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe welcomes Princess Anne at his official residence - OR Tambo House - in Pretoria yesterday. Picture: Phill Magakoe INL SA

Pretoria High School for Girls and Pretoria Boys' High choirs sang hymns during yesterday's service.

The St Alban's choir also sang in English and Setswana, and the archbishop gave the homily.

He mentioned in his sermon how the queen had, through the commonwealth, united member countries in true spirit as outlined in the church. "She went beyond her Commonwealth duties and promoted peace and justice through out the world," he said.

"SA should also make a contribution to work for peace."

He reminded the congregation of the pledge made by a young Princess Elizabeth, in SA in 1947, when she promised to support all Commonwealth activities and serve them throughout her life.

He said: "She has been able to fulfil her promise and we offer her our heartfelt congratulations and praise, that she has done this and more."

After tea on the church grounds the princess flew off to Cape Town where she and her husband were to visit the grave of the Duke of Edinburgh's nanny today and participate in a Ceremony of Remembrance.

Princess Anne will also start a 100m race for children to mark 100 days to the start of the London Olympic Games.

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