

26 May 2011 His Majesty King George Tupou V joined Her Majesty Queen Halaevalu Mata'aho, at a Thanksgiving Mass of the Queen Mother on Her 85th Birthday, held at the St Mary's Cathedral at Ma'ufanga on Thursday evening.



The service was led by the Catholic Church's Vicar General, Moseniolo Viliami 'Ita Koloamatangi, with vested priests, nuns and other members of the Tongan Catholic Diocese.

A deep sense of reverence was felt among the solemn gathering with the offers of prayers, liturgy readings and eucharistic prayers and the receiving of communions.

The occasion called for peace and Blessings for the Queen's Birthday and for the Royal Family as well as wishes to the beloved Queen from the Catholic community in Tonga.

King attends Thanksgiving Mass of Her Majesty's 85th Birthday

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This momentous occasion was also attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Pilolevu Tuita, members of the Royal Family. Also presiding was the Prime Minister, Lord Tu'ivakano and members of His Majesty's Cabinet, Nobility and resident foreign dignitaries.

Her Majesty's deep love for the Church is reflected in the Catholic blessings being one of the birthday events

In her early years, Her Majesty was educated at St Joseph's Convent School in Tonga before continuing to study at St Mary's Catholic school in Auckland, New Zealand. Her Majesty has served as patron of St Joseph's College for many years. Today, the present day school, 'Apifo'ou College as it is commonly now known has recently erected a new building complex in honour of Her Majesty, the 'Halaevalu Mata'aho House.'

To mark the school's Silver Jubilee and the 125th Anniversary of the establishment of Catholic schools in Tonga this year, this building will be fully accommodated with teaching facilities and including computer laboratories that will house 60 workstations for the students.



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