

Westminster Abbey



A WREATHLAYING CEREMONY
AT THE GRAVE OF
ADMIRAL LORD COCHRANE,
10TH EARL OF DUNDONALD
ON
CHILEAN NAVY DAY



Thursday 18th May 2017
11.00 am

THE CHILEAN NAVY

Today we honour those men and women who, over the centuries, have given their lives in defence of their country, and who, through doing so, have shown the world their courage and self-sacrifice.

As a maritime country, Chile has important interests in trade and preventing the exploitation of fishing and other marine resources. The Chilean economy is heavily dependent on exports that reach the world markets through maritime transport. This is reflected by the fact that Chile is the third heaviest user of the Panama Canal. Ninety percent of its foreign trade is carried out by sea, accounting for almost fifty-five percent of its gross domestic product. The sea is vital for Chile's economy, and the Navy exists to protect the country and serve its interests.

Each year, on 21st May, all the cities and towns throughout Chile celebrate the heroic deeds of Commander Arturo Prat and his men.

On that day in 1879, Commander Arturo Prat was commanding the Esmeralda, a small wooden corvette built twenty-five years earlier in a Thames dockyard. With a sister vessel of lighter construction, the gunboat Covadonga, the Esmeralda had been left to blockade Iquique Harbour while the main fleet had been dispatched to other missions.

They were confronted by two Peruvian warships, the Huáscar and the Independencia. Before battle had ensued, Commander Arturo Prat had made a rousing speech to his crew where he showed leadership to motivate them to engage in combat.

Most of the crew paid the ultimate sacrifice, and the entire country was astonished with this example of heroism. Commander Prat and his crew became national heroes, and since then Chile celebrates every 21st May as Chilean Navy Day.

ADMIRAL LORD COCHRANE

Admiral Thomas Alexander Cochrane, 10th Earl of Dundonald, was born on 14th December 1775 in Annesfield, Lanarkshire, Scotland.

Admiral Cochrane had a truly remarkable career as a naval officer and politician. After serving with distinction in the Royal Navy during the Napoleonic Wars, he was wrongly jailed for fraud and stripped of his naval rank and parliamentary seat.

In 1817, he left the country and for the next ten years conducted a series of bold naval operations. Among his feats of bravery and tactical vision, in 1820 the formidable Spanish fortress of Valdivia was captured by 300 Chilean troops under his command. In the same year he captured the flagship of the Spanish South American fleet, the Esmeralda, from the port of Callao, Peru.

It was not until 1831, when Cochrane succeeded his father as the 10th Earl of Dundonald, that the great navy hero returned to Britain, under the new King, William IV. During the reign of Queen Victoria, her husband Prince Albert personally secured Cochrane's reinstatement as a Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Order of Bath, and promoted him to Admiral of the Royal Navy.

One of the most remarkable legacies to the Chilean Navy is still the phrase he coined during the formation of the new fleet: 'The word "impossible" is from today and evermore deleted from the dictionary of the Chilean Navy.'

Photography, filming, and sound recording are not allowed in the Abbey at any time. Please ensure that mobile telephones and other electronic devices are switched off.

The church is served by a hearing loop. Users should turn their hearing aid to the setting marked T.

The service is conducted by The Reverend Professor Vernon White, Canon in Residence.

The organ is played by Matthew Jorysz, Assistant Organist.

His Excellency the Ambassador of Chile to the Court of St James, Mr Rolando Drago, is received by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. Presentations are made.

The Second Sea Lord, Vice Admiral Jonathan Woodcock OBE, is received by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. Presentations are made.

ORDER OF SERVICE

All remain seated. The Reverend Professor Vernon White, Canon in Residence, gives

THE WELCOME

All stand. From the Great West Door, a Royal Marines trumpeter sounds a trumpet call.

The organist plays Oracion de la Gran Retreta, during which wreaths, borne in procession, are brought from the west end of the church to the grave of Admiral Lord Cochrane.

The wreaths are laid at the foot of the grave by The Second Sea Lord and the Ambassador of Chile.

The Last Post is sounded.

Silence is kept.

Reveille is sounded.

All sit. The Earl of Dundonald reads

THE PSALM

O GIVE thanks unto the Lord, for he is gracious: and his mercy endureth for ever.

Let them give thanks whom the Lord hath redeemed: and delivered from the hand of the enemy;
and gathered them out of the lands, from the east, and from the west: from the north, and from the south.

They went astray in the wilderness out of the way: and found no city to dwell in; hungry and thirsty: their soul fainted in them.

So they cried unto the Lord in their trouble: and he delivered them from their distress.

He led them forth by the right way: that they might go to the city where they dwelt.

O that men would therefore praise the Lord for his goodness: and declare the wonders that he doeth for the children of men.

For he satisfieth the empty soul: and filleth the hungry soul with goodness. They that go down to the sea in ships: and occupy their business in great waters; these men see the works of the Lord: and his wonders in the deep. For at his word the stormy wind ariseth: which lifteth up the waves thereof. They are carried up to the heaven, and down again to the deep: their soul melteth away because of the trouble.

They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man: and are at their wits' end.

So when they cry unto the Lord in their trouble: he delivereth them out of their distress.

For he maketh the storm to cease: so that the waves thereof are still.

Then are they glad, because they are at rest: and so he bringeth them unto the haven where they would be.

O that men would therefore praise the Lord for his goodness: and declare the wonders that he doeth for the children of men!

That they would exalt him also in the congregation of the people: and praise him in the seat of the elders!

Psalms 107: 1–9, 23–32

All kneel or remain seated. The Canon in Residence leads

THE PRAYERS

Let us pray.

O GOD, who art the lover of justice and peace: give thy grace, we humbly beseech thee, to those who now guide the councils of our two nations; and lead them by thy Holy Spirit, that by word and deed they may promote thy glory, and set forward peace and goodwill among men; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O ETERNAL Lord God, who alone spreadest out the heavens, and rulest the raging of the sea: be pleased to receive into thy protection all those who go down to the sea in ships, and occupy their business in great waters. Preserve them both in body and soul; prosper their labours with good success: in all times of danger, be their defence, and bring them to heaven where they would be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ETERNAL God, fount and source of all authority and wisdom, hear our prayers for Elizabeth our Queen and for the President of the Republic of Chile. Grant them grace as symbols of loyalty and unity for all their people: inspire their governments with vision, understanding and integrity; give to the nations' legislatures and judiciaries wisdom and skill, imagination, and energy; that all may live in peace and harmony, truth and prosperity; we ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

And let us pray, each in our own language, the prayer that our Saviour Christ hath taught us:

OUR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

All stand. The Canon in Residence pronounces

THE BLESSING

THE peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

All remain standing. The organist plays:

Brazas a Ceñir, Anthem of the Chilean Navy

Luis Mella Toro