



The Diocese of  
**Southwark**

# **THE FUNERAL EUCHARIST**

OF

**THE RT REV'D DR WOYIN KAROWEI DORGU  
BISHOP OF WOOLWICH**

**27 JUNE 1958 – 8 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**THURSDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2023  
12.00PM**

# WELCOME TO SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL

A MEMBER OF THE



## ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Please ensure that all electronic devices are switched to silent.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

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## HEARING LOOP

Please switch your device to 'T'.

## LIVESTREAMING

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## DONATIONS



There are several donation points in the Cathedral where you can make your donation, or you can simply scan the QR code, or text SOUTHWARK (Amount) to 70085 (one standard rate message is also charged). Thank you very much for your generous support of the Cathedral.

### The service is led by

The Rt Rev'd Christopher Chessun, Bishop of Southwark

———— • ————

### Setting

Requiem • Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

## BIOGRAPHY

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Bishop Karowei Dorgu's life was a tapestry woven with threads of resilience, faith, true love and a commitment to his calling. Born to George Kpunakpu Dorgu and Mrs Matilda Elizabeth Dorgu (née Torru) a Diocesan Lay Reader of Benin Diocese and an evangelist respectively, as the second twin to his sister Karara Collette Dorgu, and the 11<sup>th</sup> of 12 children, on 27<sup>th</sup> June 1958, in Burutu, present day Bayelsa State, Nigeria.

In 1987, Karowei took a significant step in his personal life, when on 15<sup>th</sup> August he married his beloved wife, Mosun, a union that would become a pillar of strength and love throughout his life journey. Their love story began in Medical School, and it was one that would endure through the ages.

Karowei and Mosun welcomed two precious sons into their lives. Their first son, Timi, was born in May 1988 in Zaria, where the parents were working in a missionary hospital, providing care to those in need. In February 1996, their second son, Joshua, was born in North London. Joshua brought immense joy and laughter to their home, filling it with the exuberance of youth and the promise of a bright future.





Tragically, on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2015, Joshua passed away just before his 19<sup>th</sup> birthday. In his memory, the Joshua Dorgu Foundation was established. The foundation has this year placed its first scholarship student at Highgate School, where Josh was a pupil. It stands as a symbol of hope and a source of support for those who aspire to learn and grow, just as Joshua did during his all-too-brief time with us.

As a loving husband and father, Karowe's family was at the centre of his world. He shared his love for faith, knowledge, and compassion with them, creating a home filled with warmth and purpose.

From his early days, Karowe showed a remarkable dedication to knowledge. Between 1979 and 1985, he pursued his medical studies at the College of Medicine, University of Lagos, earning Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery degrees. As a general practitioner, he touched countless lives, bringing healing and hope to those in need.

Driven by a steadfast calling to serve, Karowe enrolled at Oak Hill College, a conservative Evangelical theological institution. Two years later, in 1995, he was ordained as a deacon at St Paul's Cathedral, London, by the then Bishop of London, David Hope. The following year, he ascended to the priesthood, solidifying his commitment to his spiritual mission.

From 1995 to 1998, Karowei served as a curate at St Mark's Church, Tollington Park, Islington, making an indelible mark on his parishioners. His dedication and compassion shone brightly during these formative years, prefiguring the extraordinary journey ahead.

In 1998, he embraced joining St John the Evangelist Church, Upper Holloway. During his tenure at St John's, he progressed from an assistant curate and associate vicar to a dedicated team vicar from 2000 to 2012. In 2012, he became the Vicar, or incumbent, of the church he loved. On 6<sup>th</sup> March 2016, Karowei was appointed a Prebendary of St Paul's Cathedral. This role was a testament to his profound faith and dedication to his spiritual calling.

On 20<sup>th</sup> December 2016, he was announced as the next Bishop of Woolwich, within the Diocese of Southwark. The consecration ceremony on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at Southwark Cathedral, led by Archbishop Justin Welby, was a defining moment not just for Karowei but for the entire Church of England. His consecration marked a historic milestone, making him the first Nigerian Bishop in the Church of England.





Karowei Dorgu was a beacon of light and a symbol of hope; and his life was a testament to the transformative power of faith, perseverance and dedication. Karowei championed justice and inclusivity, striving to make the Church truly representative of God's diverse Kingdom.

In his personal life, Karowei was a loving husband of 36 years to Mosun and a devoted father to Timi. In later years, Timi found true love and happiness, welcoming Suzie into their lives as a beloved daughter-in-love.

Bishop Karowei Dorgu departed this world on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023, after a valiant struggle with his health. His legacy lives on in the hearts of those who loved him, we celebrate the extraordinary life he lived and the lives he touched. Bishop Karowei is also survived by five siblings; Mrs Zumo Adugbo, Chief Tamaraseri Dorgu, Mrs Stella Oganwu, twin sister Miss Karara Collette Dorgu and Mr Nana Dorgu.

In Bishop Karowei Dorgu, we found a spiritual guide, a compassionate healer, and a visionary leader. His memory will forever be etched in our hearts, reminding us to embrace faith, diversity and justice as he did. As we bid farewell to this remarkable soul, let us carry forward his torch of compassion and hope, for he has left an indelible mark on our lives and on the Church.





# THE FUNERAL EUCHARIST

OF THE RT REV'D DR WOYIN KAROWEI DORGU  
BISHOP OF WOOLWICH

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*Please stand as the Procession enters.*

## THE SCRIPTURE SENTENCES

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‘I am the resurrection and the life,’ says the Lord. ‘Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.’

**John 11.25,26**

I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Romans 8.38,39**

Since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. So we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

**1 Thessalonians 4.14,17b,18**

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is his faithfulness.

**Lamentations 3.22,23**

Blessèd are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

**Matthew 5.4**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

**John 3.16**

*Please remain standing.*



## THE GATHERING

---

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**All      Amen.**

Peace be with you  
**and also with you.**

**All**

We have come here today  
to remember before God  
our dear brother  
and father in God, Karowei,  
to give thanks for his life and ministry  
as priest and bishop in God's Church;  
to commend him to God  
our merciful redeemer and judge;  
and to comfort one another in our grief.

God of all consolation,  
your Son Jesus Christ was moved to tears  
at the grave of Lazarus his friend.  
Look with compassion on your children in their loss;  
give to troubled hearts the light of hope,  
and strengthen in us the gift of faith,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All      Amen.**

*Please remain standing to sing:*

## THE HYMN

---

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
    'Come unto me and rest;  
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down  
    Thy head upon my breast:'  
I came to Jesus as I was,  
    Weary, and worn, and sad;  
I found in him a resting place,  
    And he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
    'Behold, I freely give  
The living water, thirsty one;  
Stoop down, and drink, and live:  
I came to Jesus, and I drank  
    Of that life-giving stream;  
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,  
    And now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
    'I am this dark world's Light;  
Look unto me, thy morn shall rise,  
    And all thy day be bright:'  
I looked to Jesus, and I found  
    In him my Star, my Sun;  
And in that light of life I'll walk  
    Till travelling days are done.

### **TUNE: KINGSFOLD**

Adapted from an English folk song  
by R. Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

### **TEXT:**

Horatius Bonar  
(1808-1889)

*Please be seated for:*

## **A FAMILY TRIBUTE**

---

Timi Dorgu

*Please stand for:*

## **THE PRAYERS OF PENITENCE**

---

As children of a loving heavenly Father,  
let us ask his forgiveness,  
for he is gentle and full of compassion.

Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.

**All Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

*The Bishop of Southwark pronounces absolution.*

God our Father, forgive us our sins  
And bring us to the eternal joy of his kingdom  
Where dust and ashes have no dominion.

**All Amen.**

*Please remain standing for:*

## **THE COLLECT**

---

Let us pray.

Lord God,  
you chose our brother Karowei  
to serve your people as a priest  
and to share the joys and burdens of their lives.  
Look with mercy on him  
and give him the reward of his labours,  
the fullness of life promised to those  
who preach your holy Gospel;  
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you,  
now and for ever.

**All      Amen.**

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

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*Please be seated.*

## THE FIRST READING

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**Revelation 21.1-7**

*Read by:*

**Sophia Nzeribe Nascimento**  
**St John the Evangelist, Upper Holloway**

A reading from the Revelation of John.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

‘See, the home of God is among mortals.  
He will dwell with them;  
they will be his peoples,  
and God himself will be with them;  
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away.’

And the one who was seated on the throne said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’ Also he said, ‘Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.’ Then he said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## PSALMODY

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### Psalm 23

*Sung by:*

**Children from Key Stage 2  
The Boutcher School, Bermondsey**

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want  
I have everything that I need.

Near to pastures green,  
By the cooling stream,  
here he will revive my drooping spirit.

My Lord, Lord be my shepherd  
Let me be your sheep.

My footsteps he guides on the right path,  
as he promises to all men,  
even when I trail,  
through the darkest vale,  
with his crook and staff he gives me comfort.

My Lord, Lord be my shepherd  
Let me be your sheep.

A banquet so fine he prepares for me,  
where my enemies can all see,  
Holy oil to spread and anoint my head,  
and my cup he fills to overflowing.

My Lord, Lord be my shepherd  
Let me be your sheep.

His goodness and mercy shall follow me,  
and be with me, all my days,  
in his house divine,  
to the end of time  
I will honour him for evermore.

My Lord, My Lord, My Lord, My  
Lord.



*Please stand for:*

## **THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

---

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
**All Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Blessèd are those who die in the Lord  
for they rest from their labour.

**All Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## **THE GOSPEL**

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**John 14.1-6**

The Lord be with you  
**All and also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated for:*

## **THE HOMILY**

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**The Rev’d Dr Peniel Rajkumar**

*Please remain seated or kneel for:*

## **THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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*The prayers are led by:*

**The Woolwich Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns Committee**

*The response to the prayers is:*

Lord, in your mercy

**All      Hear our prayer.**

# THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

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*Please stand for:*

## THE PEACE

---

Jesus says:

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.

Not as the world gives do I give you.

Do not let your hearts be troubled

Neither let them be afraid.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**All and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All are invited to share a sign of peace with one another.*

*Please remain standing. During the Offertory Hymn, bread and wine are presented at the Altar.*

*Please stand for:*

## THE OFFERTORY HYMN

---

In Christ alone my hope is found,  
He is my light, my strength, my song;  
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My Comforter, my All in All,  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,  
Fullness of God in helpless babe.  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones He came to save:  
Till on that cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied -  
For every sin on Him was laid;  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain:  
Then bursting forth in glorious day  
Up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am His and He is mine -  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the power of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand:  
Till He returns or calls me home,  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

**WORDS & MUSIC:**  
**Stuart Townend and Keith Getty**

*Please remain standing.*

## **THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

---

**All**      The Lord be with you  
            **and also with you.**

            Lift up your hearts.  
**All**      **We lift them to the Lord.**

            Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**All**      **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

And now we give you thanks  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
In him who rose from the dead  
our hope of resurrection dawned.  
The sting of death has been removed  
by the glorious promise of his risen life.

Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and singing:  
and join their unending hymn of praise:

*The Choir sings:*

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus	Holy, holy, holy
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.	Lord God of Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt caeli et terra	Heaven and earth are full of thy
gloria tua.	glory.
Hosanna in excelsis.	Hosanna in the highest.

*The Bishop continues:*

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
and as we follow his example and obey his command,  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father,  
we remember his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross;  
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;  
we look for the coming of your kingdom,  
and with this bread and this cup  
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus.

**All     Dying, you destroyed our death.**

**Rising, you restored our life.**

**Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,  
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,  
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts  
in the presence of your divine majesty,  
renew us by your Spirit,  
inspire us with your love  
and unite us in the body of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, Father almighty,  
in songs of everlasting praise:

**All     Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**



## THE LORD'S PRAYER

---

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray.

All     Our Father in heaven,  
          hallowed be your name,  
          your kingdom come,  
          your will be done,  
          on earth as in heaven.  
          Give us today our daily bread,  
          Forgive us our sins  
          as we forgive those who sin against us.  
          Lead us not into temptation  
          but deliver us from evil.  
          For the kingdom, the power,  
          and the glory are yours  
          now and for ever.  
          Amen.

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

---

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.

All     Though we are many, we are one body,  
          because we all share in one bread.

## THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

---

Draw near with faith.  
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ  
which he gave for you,  
and his blood which he shed for you.  
Eat and drink  
in remembrance that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts  
by faith with thanksgiving.

*All are invited to receive communion. Please follow the directions of the Stewards. If you wish to receive from the chalice please go to the point of administration after receiving the host. Please do not dip the host into the chalice. If you would like to receive a blessing please bow your head.*

*During the distribution, the Choir sings:*

## **AGNUS DEI**

---

Agnus Dei,  
qui tollis peccata mundi,  
dona eis requiem.

Agnus Dei,  
qui tollis peccata mundi,  
dona eis requiem.

Agnus Dei,  
qui tollis peccata mundi,  
dona eis  
requiem sempiternam.

Lux aeterna luceat eis,  
Domine:  
Cum Sanctis tuis in  
aeternum:  
quia pius es.  
Requiem aeternam dona  
eis, Domine:  
et lux perpetua luceat eis.

O Lamb of God, that takest away  
the sins of the world,  
grant them rest.

O Lamb of God, that takest away  
the sins of the world,  
grant them rest.

O Lamb of God, that takest away  
the sins of the world,  
grant them  
everlasting rest.

May light eternal shine upon  
them, O Lord,  
with Thy Saints  
for evermore:  
for Thou art gracious.  
Eternal rest give to them, O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon  
them.

*At the conclusion of the Agnus Dei, please remain seated to sing:*

## **THE COMMUNION HYMN**

---

Just as I am, without one plea  
But that thy blood was shed for me,  
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about  
With many a conflict, many a doubt,  
Fightings within, and fears without,  
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
Yea all I need, in thee to find,  
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve:  
Because thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

Just as I am (thy love unknown  
Has broken every barrier down),  
Now to be thine, yea thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, of that free love  
The breadth, length, depth and height to prove,  
Here for a season then above,  
O Lamb of God, I come.

### **TUNE: SAFFRON WALDEN**

Arthur Henry Brown  
(1830-1926)

### **TEXT:**

Charlotte Elliott  
(1789-1871)

*The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of Southwark and the Archdeacons of Southwark and Lewisham & Greenwich move to stand by the coffin.*

*Please stand for:*

## **THE COMMENDATION**

---

*The Bishop of Southwark says:*

Let us commend Karowei  
to the mercy of God,  
our maker and redeemer.

*Silence is kept.*

God our creator and redeemer,  
Karowei has fallen asleep in the peace of Christ.  
We entrust him, with faith and hope in everlasting life,  
to the love and mercy of our Father  
and surround him with our love and prayer.  
In baptism, he was made by adoption a child of God.  
At the eucharist he was sustained and fed.  
God now welcomes him to his table in heaven  
to share in eternal life with all the saints.

*The coffin is sprinkled with holy water. This sprinkling reminds us of Karowei's baptism. After the sprinkling the coffin is censed, showing our respect for Karowei's body in which the Spirit of God dwelt. As the smoke rises towards heaven, so do our prayers.*

Saints of God, come to his aid.  
Hasten to meet him, angels of the Lord.

**All Receive his soul and present him to God the most high.**

Eternal rest, grant unto him O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon him.

**All Receive his soul and present him to God the most high.**

**All Heavenly Father,  
in your Son Jesus Christ  
you have given us a true faith and a sure hope.  
Strengthen this faith and hope in us all our days,  
that we may live as those who believe in  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins  
and the resurrection to eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

*Please remain standing for the Final Hymn. During the Final Hymn, the symbols of ministry placed upon the coffin are removed.*

## THE FINAL HYMN

---

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;  
as Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

### Refrain:

*Great is Thy faithfulness!*  
*Great is Thy faithfulness!*  
*Morning by morning new mercies I see;*  
*all I have needed Thy hand hath provided:*  
*great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest;  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

### Refrain

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

### Refrain

#### TUNE: FAITHFULNESS

W. M. Runyan  
(1870-1957)

*Please remain standing.*

#### TEXT:

Thomas Chisholm  
(1866-1960)

## THE BLESSING

---

### The Archbishop of Canterbury

May God in his infinite love and mercy  
bring the whole Church,  
living and departed in the Lord Jesus,  
to a joyful resurrection  
and the fulfilment of his eternal kingdom.  
And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

All      **Amen.**

*Please remain standing as the coffin is carried from the Cathedral.*

*The Choir sings:*

## IN PARADISUM

---

In paradisum deducant  
te angeli;  
in tuo adventu  
suscipiant te martyres,  
et perducant te in  
civitatem sanctam  
Jerusalem.  
Chorus angelorum te  
suscipiat,  
et cum Lazaro  
quondam paupere  
aeternam habeas  
requiem.

May the angels  
lead you into paradise;  
may the martyrs  
receive you at your arrival  
and lead you  
to the holy city  
Jerusalem.  
May choirs of angels receive  
you  
and with Lazarus,  
once poor,  
may you have  
eternal rest.



*Following the service, the coffin will be taken for burial in Islington.*

*Please continue to pray for Bishop Karowei's family in the weeks to come. The family thank you for joining them today and for all your support. Tributes can be left at [www.forevermissed.com/bishop-karowei-dorgu](http://www.forevermissed.com/bishop-karowei-dorgu)*

*Donations to the family charity, The Joshua Dorgu Foundation, are gratefully received in memory of Bishop Karowei. Please leave your donations in the baskets provided.*

**The Joshua Dorgu Foundation**  
**Registered Charity 1185758**  
[www.joshuadorgufoundation.org](http://www.joshuadorgufoundation.org)

*Please leave the Cathedral by the north-west doors and the Millennium Courtyard. Please consider supporting the Cathedral by giving using the contactless donation points if you have not set up a regular payment. Thank you for joining us. We look forward to welcoming you back.*

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# **SOUTHWARK**

## **◆ CATHEDRAL ◆**

**Welcome to Southwark Cathedral. Set on the south bank of the River Thames in one of the most vibrant and diverse communities in London, this building has been a constant witness in a place of change.**

**The first church was built on this site around the year 606. First a convent, then a monastery, it became in 1106 the Augustinian Priory of St Mary Overie. With Westminster Abbey and St Bartholomew the Great in Smithfield it is one of the three remaining great monastic churches of London. At the Reformation the Priory became a parish church and it remains so for the people of Bankside. In 1905, as south London was rapidly expanding, the church was consecrated as the cathedral for the new Diocese of Southwark.**

**As well as a place of constant witness to our faith in Jesus Christ, this church has a momentous and proud history and has had links with many famous and influential characters including St Thomas Becket, Geoffrey Chaucer, William Shakespeare and Charles Dickens.**

**In the 20<sup>th</sup> century this cathedral was at the heart of the new movement in theology termed 'South Bank Religion'. This movement asked challenging questions of people about faith in the modern age which continue to be explored at Southwark Cathedral which describes itself as 'inclusive: faithful: radical'.**

**Whatever has brought you here today, you are most welcome. Become part of the life here if you can; it will change your life as you encounter with us our living God.**

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