

A Coffee with Alessio



Spring Ember Day

Today is the Spring Ember Day. In Australia we celebrate two Ember Days. One on the first Friday in March (the beginning of Autumn) and the second on the first Friday in September (the beginning of Spring). Ember Days, are days of prayer and penance (hence the purple border).

Now, I can hear some people saying, "We had Lent six months ago, so why do we need to do more penance?" We could think of these Ember Days as a mini Lent. As the Ordo states: "Ember days seek God's blessing of favourable weather and a fruitful harvest from the land, interceding in times of drought or flood and giving thanks in better times." Today we are praying for a fruitful harvest in springtime, so we can benefit from all those fruits and vegetables we enjoy so much at various times throughout the year.

So, today is an opportunity to pray for our farmers and for their crops that they may yield a fruitful harvest. The words of the hymn *For the fruits of all creation* by Fred Pratt Green can be our prayer today;

"For the fruits of all creation, thanks be to God!"

Thanks be to God indeed for the work of our farmers. So, on that joyful note, I am going to find a nice café to enjoy a coffee and a cake as I give thanks for the blessings of this land.

Enjoy your coffee and cake!

Mr Alessio Loiacono
Music Field Officer

Friday 7 September 2018