

## Australia Day 26 January



### About Australia Day

26 January marks the date of the arrival in 1788 of the first European settlers in Australia. The liturgy marks Australia's national day with prayers asking God's blessing on all people who live in this country and placing our future in God's hands.

### How can we apply the liturgy of Australia Day to our lives?

The Southland of the Holy Spirit (La Australia del Espíritu Santo) is the name given by the Portuguese explorer Pedro de Quiros to the land mass that he believed existed south of Asia.

We have been baptized with water and the Holy Spirit and we receive the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit at Confirmation. Let us pray to the Holy Spirit to guide our leaders in this country so that they make wise decisions and those which see the common good flourish.

Our country has been placed in God's hands, and indeed the Lord placed the Southern Cross in our sky. Let us accept the invitation of today's liturgy, and pray for everyone in this country, asking God's blessing upon them and put our trust in God to guide us in our future.

### Collect

Grant, we pray, O Lord our God,  
that as the Cross shines in our southern skies,  
so may Christ bring light to our nation,  
to its peoples old and new,  
and by saving grace, transform our lives.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12a

How happy are the poor in spirit

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

**'How happy are the poor in spirit;**  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle:  
they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn:  
they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:  
they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful:  
they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart:  
they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers:  
they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you  
and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account.  
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'**

Antiphon

Bless the Lord, my soul, and never forget all his benefits.

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### Hymn for Australia Day

On this Great Southland, Australia,  
pour Your blessings Lord, we pray;  
upon all who call this land home,  
bless us each and every day.

**May Christ's light shine on this nation,**  
upon peoples old and new,  
may His saving grace transform us,  
and our faith in Him renew.

God we ask you to be our rock,  
and all days to be our strength.  
May we preach the Good News of Christ,  
**across this country's great length.**  
May the Holy Spirit guide us,  
in this land that bears His name,  
that to this land we may witness,  
our faith in our hearts aflame.

We ask You to hear our prayers, Lord,  
from all harm keep this land free.  
Quench the fires, water the drought,  
dry the flood – we make this plea.  
In Australia, You have blessed us,  
a most perfect creation,  
may we preserve this land with care.  
Bless, we pray, the whole nation.

Text: Chris deSilva and Alessio Loiacono  
Tune: Hyfrydol, 87.87D

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