

## Australia Day PRAYER

Lord, we thank and praise You for this vast land of Australia with its unique beauty and grandeur, for its wealth and its resources. Help us to take good care of our land for ourselves and for others.

We thank you for your many gifts and blessings to us, for peace & prosperity, freedom & good government, education & culture, work & leisure. Help us not to squander our heritage, but to use it wisely and preserve it for our children.

We thank you for all the people and cultures in our nation, for the Indigenous 'First Nation' people and the early settlers, for our ancestors and their descendants, and for migrants from all over the world. Teach us to respect and value each other.

We thank and praise you that by the preaching of the gospel, you have planted and nurtured your church among the original inhabitants, and the newcomers in this land.

Move us to promote the unity of your church in this country, and proclaim the good news of salvation to our own family, and our neighbours.

We commend to your Fatherly care all those who are lonely and forgotten, the homeless and destitute, the sick & the aged, & all victims of prejudice or injustice. Help us to love and care for our neighbours in need.

We commend to you those who are unemployed & those who are overworked, those who suffer economic hardship, and those who fail to receive fair return for their work.

Have mercy on those who put their hope in wealth, and help us to work together for a just distribution of our nation's resources.

We commend to you all those in government and positions of authority, our Queen and her advisers, the parliaments of our Commonwealth and State.

Help them to govern wisely and justly so that people may be restrained from wrongdoing and encouraged to live good lives.

We share your joy in welcoming Denise into your family through Holy Baptism and ask that you guide us in daily re-living our own Baptism.

We pray in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**