

IMA CHURCH RESOURCE KIT

January 26th Prayer

Australia Day is a difficult time for Aboriginal people, as it commemorates the violent settling of Australia by the British. The date marks the arrival of the First Fleet, not the “discovery” of Australia by the British. It enshrines an inherently colonial understanding of history and national identity. So for Aboriginal people it is a time of mourning. This is something we can pray about together.

For some non-Indigenous Australians, this view of Australia Day doesn't match with their own perception of Australian history. For the sake of improving the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, this is something we should also pray about: that all Australians can see God's perspective on what has happened here in the last two hundred and thirty or more years.

Let's Pray

Father, we come to you in prayer at this sensitive time in our nation's calendar. We acknowledge and mourn for the sins that have been committed against Aboriginal people in the last 230+ years: the stealing of land, the murder of much of the aboriginal population and the removal of children from their families.

We acknowledge that colonisation has ongoing effects for Aboriginal people today: intergenerational trauma; poverty and health issues; diminishing of Aboriginal culture and language and ongoing discrimination.

We pray for a revelation of how you see our nation and its history. We want to see things as you see them. We know that our life experiences as Indigenous and non-Indigenous people are so different: that empathy alone cannot bridge the gap.

Only you know the hearts of all involved: those hearts broken by the loss of land and culture; those hearts broken by being implicated in the crimes of our forebears; and those hearts hardened by indifference. Mend and soften all our hearts towards one another. Bring us together as a nation in truth, grace and holiness.

We pray that you would also give us a vision of who we are called to be going forward. Lord, in scripture you gave people new names and with them new identities. Would you do that for us? Would you show us who we are called to be as a nation? Please give us a new name and a new identity not based on colonialism.

We love you, Lord and we want to be shaped by your Word, your Spirit and your Love in all things. We pray this would shape our nation.

**In Jesus Name,
Amen**

