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Message of His Eminence Archbishop Makarios of Australia on Australia Day



The blessed land of Australia has become a welcoming homeland for people whose origins reach every corner of the globe. Different languages, customs and traditions, different religious beliefs... And yet, a shared code of values, grounded in mutual understanding and mutual respect, has transformed diversity into a privilege and a source of prosperity for the Australian nation.

Today offers us an opportunity to celebrate the great achievements of modern Australia, while showing respect and honour to those who have worked hard for the common good and collective progress, and to those who have struggled to heal the mistakes and injustices of the past. At the same time, it serves as a reminder of the sacred duty we bear to safeguard what has been achieved by steadfastly upholding solidarity, justice, and the unity of Australian society.

I am proud that Hellenism and Orthodoxy, since taking root and flourishing on Australian soil, have generously offered their fruits for the benefit of the wider community and the country. I have no doubt that we will continue to move forward with the same philotimo, the same sense of responsibility, the same dedication to our shared principles and values, and with the openness that has always

characterised Romiosyni – our Hellenic and Orthodox heritage.

It would, however, be an omission not to acknowledge the contribution of all the other communities that form the multicultural mosaic of Australia, including the First Peoples, the traditional custodians of this land. It is indeed a blessing that so many people, from diverse cultural backgrounds, remain committed to solidarity and harmonious coexistence, as was also affirmed by the unanimous condemnation of the recent abhorrent antisemitic attack in Sydney.

May God enlighten us to continue seeking those things that unite us, rather than those that divide us, and to build an even brighter future here in the Antipodes.

Happy Australia Day to us all!

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