

- 1 Tomorrow, 21st April, is one of the days when the British National Anthem is played the most. Some radio stations, for example, will play it early in the day. 21st April is the birthday of Queen Elizabeth II.
- 2 The tune of what we now know as “God save our Gracious Queen” (or King) is based on a piece written in 1619 by an English composer.
- 3 Britain had governed what is now the United States of America until the Declaration of Independence in 1776. The tune of the old British anthem was kept, but was used with new words - either “God save George Washington” or “God save the Thirteen States” (being the number of States in the USA at the time of Independence). The United States’ present anthem (“The Star-Spangled Banner”) officially became their national anthem only in 1931 - both tunes were in use until then.
- 4 The tune of “God save our Gracious Queen” has also been used in the past as the national anthems of Denmark, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, and in parts of what is now Germany. The small country of Liechtenstein is the only country still to use for its national anthem the same tune as the British national anthem.
- 5 Let’s pray the shortest psalm in the Bible. It invites people - not of any **single** country but the people of **all** nations - to give praise to God:
- 6 *Let us pray:*

**Praise the Lord, all you nations.  
Speak to him, all people of the earth,  
because his love is great  
and he is always faithful.**

(Psalm 117)

This is an excerpt from the page of this date in  
*'Praying Each Day of the Year'*,  
a 3-volume book  
by Nicholas Hutchinson, FSC.

For details:

<http://www.matthew-james.co.uk/>

Could make use of a search engine  
to research this topic further.

This material is part of  
the prayer and education website  
of the De La Salle Brothers  
in Great Britain:

[www.prayingeachday.org](http://www.prayingeachday.org)