

(See also 3, 12, 14 July)

1 William Harvey, who died on this day in 1578, was a doctor in London. He is recognised as having been the first to discover that blood circulates around the body, pumped by the beat of the heart.

2 Our prayer today has been used by some people with heart problems. The prayer refers to the “pounding of the heart”, and the need for us all to slow down and appreciate what is around us:

3 *Let us pray:*

Slow me down, Lord!
 Ease the pounding of my heart
 by the quietening and calming
 of my mind.
 Break the tensions
 of my nerves and muscles
 with the soothing music
 of the singing streams
 that live in my memory.
 Give me, amidst the confusion
 of the day,
 the calmness of the everlasting hills.
 Steady my hurried pace
 with a vision
 of your eternal reach of time,
 and restore and heal me
 in the hours of sleep.

4 Teach me the art
 of appreciating what is ordinary:
 of slowing down
 to look at and become more aware
 of the beauty around me;
 to take time to be with others,
 to sit and enjoy music
 or a good book
 - to give myself time for myself.

5 Remind me each day
 of the fable
 of the hare and the tortoise,
 that I may know
 that the race is not always
 to the swift;
 that there is more to life
 than increasing its speed.

6 Let me look upwards
 into the branches
 of the towering trees
 and know
 that they grew great and strong
 because they grew slowly and well.

Slow me down, Lord,
 and inspire me to send my roots
 deep into the soil
 of life's enduring values.

Slow me down, Lord,
 that I may grow true and well
 in your light.

Amen.

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