

(See also 15 January and 4 April)

- 1 We are going to listen to part of a sermon preached by Martin Luther King, two months before he was assassinated on 4th April 1968. A tape recording of him preaching that sermon was played at his own funeral. These were his words, played back for everyone to hear:
- 2 *“Every now and then I think about my own death, and I think about my own funeral. If any of you are around when I have to meet my day, I don’t want a long funeral. And if you get somebody to deliver the eulogy, tell them not to talk too long. Every now and then I wonder what I want them to say. Tell them not to mention that I have a Nobel Peace Prize - that isn’t important. Tell them not to mention that I have three or four hundred other awards - that’s not important.”*
- 3 *I’d like somebody to mention that day, that Martin Luther King tried to give his life serving others. I’d like for somebody to say that day, that “Martin Luther King tried to love somebody.” I want you to say that day, that I “did try to feed the hungry; that I did try, in my life, to visit those who were in prison.” I want you to say that I “tried to love and serve humanity.” I won’t have any money to leave behind. I won’t have the fine and luxurious things of life to leave behind. But I just want to leave a committed life behind.”*
- 4 Our response to the prayers will be:  
*“hear our prayer.”*  
**Hear our prayer.**
- 5 Let us pray that we may discover what is really important in life.  
**Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer.**
- 6 Let us pray that we may respect and value each person who comes into our lives.  
**Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer.**
- 7 Let us pray that we may be willing to learn from others.  
**Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer.**
- 8 Let us pray for those who will experience hatred, abuse, and violence this day.  
**Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer.**
- 9 Let us pray for people of violence, that their attitude and behaviour may change.  
**Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer.**

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)