

# 14 APRIL

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- 1 One of the greatest ships of its time, the luxury liner the Titanic, set sail on its maiden voyage from Southampton to New York. Just before midnight on 14th April 1912, the Titanic struck an iceberg.
- 2 The ship had been called “unsinkable” because it had been fitted with watertight compartments, but more of these were gashed by the iceberg than it was ever thought could be involved in an accident. The huge “unsinkable” ship sank within 3 hours. There were not enough lifeboats for everyone on board. Of about 2,200 people on board, over 1500 died.
- 3 Investigations after the tragedy showed that the ship had been travelling too fast in an area that sometimes had icebergs. A nearby ship, the Californian, didn’t go to the rescue because its radio-operator was off-duty and asleep and so missed the S.O.S. Morse Code messages.
- 4 Many changes were made because of this tragedy: there was to be someone at the radio 24 hours a day whilst a ship was at sea; there were to be enough lifeboats on ships to hold everyone; there were to be lifeboat drills; and there was to be an international patrol to keep watch on icebergs.
- 5 There have been several films about the sinking of the Titanic. Many think this is one of the worst disasters of all time, especially since human pride and many mistakes led up to the tragedy.
- 6 Let’s pray in silence for all who are suffering...  
*(pause...)*
- 7 Let’s pray for those who care for people who have suffered tragedies in their lives...  
*(pause...)*
- 8 Let’s pray for courage when we will face difficult times...  
*(pause...)*
- 9 Let’s pray for those who place their own safety at risk for the good of others - for all members of the rescue services...  
*(pause...)*

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)