

3 AUGUST

- 1 The *'Guinness Book of Records'* lists Jeanne Calment as the world's oldest person. Her birth certificate confirmed her age. Tomorrow, 4th August, commemorates her death in 1997, 5 months after marking her 122nd birthday.
- 2 To put her age into context, she was born in 1887. At that time, most of the world's modern inventions were undiscovered - including the radio and telephone. When she was 13 she met the artist, Vincent Van Gogh, as he shopped at her father's art store. When she was aged 14, Queen Victoria died. She rode a bicycle until she was 100, and used to remark that a smile was her recipe for long life.
- 3 When Jeanne Calment was aged 90, a local lawyer (aged 47) asked to buy her flat. They signed a contract that he would pay her a certain amount of money each year, and then he would inherit her flat when she died. As she was then aged 90, the lawyer didn't expect her to live long - and certainly not to the age of 122!
- 4 As the arrangement had been that the lawyer would pay her a certain amount each year, he ended up giving her a total of £100,000 - three times the actual value of the house- and then **he** died before she did!
- 5 *Let us pray for ourselves, that we may live fully and peacefully each day of our lives - thinking, too, of those who are presently living the last few years of their lives:*
- 6 **Lord Jesus,**
we can think of your people
down the ages
who have travelled over
life's stormy sea
and, in dying,
have reached the harbour
of peace, light and happiness.

As you calmed the sea,
we ask you to be with us
and bring peace in our lives each day,
because the boat of our own lives
is small
and the ocean is very large.

As you have set our course,
we ask you to steer our lives
towards the shore of everlasting life.

Bring us, at last,
along with all who are dear to us,
to the quiet rest that we seek,
where you live and reign
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. 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