

- 1 John Vianney was aged 3 when the French Revolution began. He became a shepherd-boy in his village near Lyons in southern France. When he was 28 years old he was ordained a priest.
- 2 People began to discover that he was a good and holy person. Many came to hear him preach and, particularly, to go to him for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. People from all over France came to visit him, and he would spend up to 18 hours a day hearing the confessions of people, sharing with them God's compassion and forgiveness. In his last year, over 100,000 pilgrims visited the small village of only 300 people.
- 3 It was on this day in 1859, that John Vianney died. As is the case with most saints, the date of his death is also his feastday, because the day of death is considered the person's "birth-day in heaven."
- 4 John Vianney said:
 

*"We do not have to talk very much in order to pray well.  
We know that God is there...  
Let us open our hearts to him.  
Let us rejoice in his presence.  
This is the best prayer."*
- 5 Let's simply pause for a moment in silence in God's presence  
(pause...)

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Let us rejoice in his presence.  
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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)