

- 1 On this day every year, thousands gather in Hiroshima, Japan. They meet for a prayer service in the Peace Memorial Park that is built on the site where the atomic bomb exploded in 1945.
- 2 The use of the bomb on the city of Hiroshima (and then on Nagasaki 3 days later) forced the Japanese to surrender and bring the Second World War to a close. All that had been seen of the way that the Japanese fought, led the Americans to conclude that every person would fight to the death - civilians as well as soldiers. The taking of each island occupied by the Japanese would cost so many lives on both sides and lengthen the war considerably, that it was argued that use should be made of the atomic bomb to bring the war to a swift end.
- 3 The single bomb is thought to have killed about 140,000 people in Hiroshima at that time. The heat blast from the bomb flattened more than 10 square kilometres (4 square miles) of the city. People 2½ miles away suffered severe burning. Many died in later years from the effects of radiation.
- 4 Let's pray in silence for all victims of war and violence and unrest in our own times.
(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