

- 1 The Apollo 15 spacecraft splashed down into the ocean on this day in 1971. The astronauts had spent 2 days 18 hours on the Moon. One of them, James Irwin, wrote that the greatest effect of that spaceflight had been to deepen and strengthen his faith and all the religious insight he ever had.
- 2 *"When you lean far back and look up, you can see the earth like a beautiful, fragile tree ornament against the blackness of space. It's as if you can reach out and hold it in your hand.*
- 3 *"As we reached out in a physical way to the heavens, we were moved spiritually. As we flew into space we had a new sense of ourselves, of the earth, and of the nearness of God. We were outside of ordinary reality; I sensed the beginning of some sort of deep change taking place inside me. Looking back at the spaceship we call "Earth", I was touched by a desire to convince mankind that we have a unique place to live, that we are unique creatures, and that we must learn to live with our neighbours.*
- 4 *"I had become a sceptic about getting guidance from God, and I know that I had lost the feeling of his nearness. On the moon, the total picture of the power of God and his Son, Jesus Christ, became abundantly clear to me."*
- 5 We'll use as our prayer today Psalm 8, a copy of which was left on the Moon in a metal canister during the first manned landing in July 1969:
- 6 *Let us pray:*
**Lord, our God and King,
your greatness is seen
throughout the earth.**
- 7 **When I gaze at the heavens
which your fingers have formed,
and look at the moon and the stars
which you have set there,
I realise how small we are
in the magnificence of your creation.**
- 8 **Yet you treasure us
above all that you have made,
and you give us control
over all the works of your hand
- animals both wild and tame,
birds in the air,
and the creatures of the sea.**
- 9 **Lord, our God and King,
your greatness is seen
throughout the earth.**

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