

11 AUGUST

- 1 Astronomers are able to predict with accuracy the dates and times of eclipses of the moon or the sun.
- 2 An eclipse of the sun is observed when part of the sun appears black. The moon has moved between the sun and the earth, blocking out at least some of the sun's light reaching the earth.
- 3 A total eclipse of the sun occurs when the moon completely blocks out the sun's light, and so that part of the earth is then completely in the moon's shadow.
- 4 At 12.10pm on this day in 1999 a 2-minute total eclipse of the sun was (*will be*) observed in west Cornwall. With Cornwall having more miles of road than any other county - but many of them small, narrow, winding country roads - the police prepared plans in advance to handle the thousands of extra vehicles in the area.
- 5 Britain's next total solar eclipse won't be until 2090. The previous total eclipse in Britain was in 1927 in northern England.
- 6 *Let us pray:*

**Lord Jesus,
you are the light of the world.
Let us never cut ourselves off
either from the light and life
that you give to us,
or from the good influence
that others have on us.
When we encounter darkness
in our lives,
enable us to bring to it
the light that we already have
within us. Amen**



-  *When it was announced in France in 1560 that an eclipse of the sun would occur, many people thought the end of the world was approaching. People panicked and began fighting with each other for a place in queues to see priests for 'Confession' (the Sacrament of Reconciliation).*
-  *During a total eclipse of the sun ('solar eclipse') the outer part of the sun's atmosphere becomes visible. In normal circumstances the intense brightness of the sun itself prevents us from distinguishing the outer part, called the sun's 'corona'.*
-  *The sun is 400 times wider than the moon, and happens to be 400 times further away from the earth than is the moon. This co-incidence results in the sun and the moon appearing to be the same "size" when viewed from the earth.*
-  *An eclipse of the moon takes place when the reflected light from the moon is "cut off" because the moon travels into the shadow cast by the earth. The earth lies in-between the sun and the moon.*
-  *There is a saying: "Be like the sundial that records only the light and goodness of the day."*
-  *An alternative prayer would be that of 21 June.*

 Colours of day ("*the sun disappears*"); I watch the sunrise; Only a shadow; The light of Christ

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