

1 During his Visit to Britain in 1982, Pope John Paul II ordained some men as priests in Manchester. As we listen to the words he spoke, we can think of particular priests whom we know or have known:

2 *"You must be men of God,  
his close friends.  
You must develop daily patterns of prayer,  
and penance  
must be a regular part of your life.  
Prayer and penance will help you  
to appreciate more deeply  
that the strength of your ministry  
is found in the Lord  
and not in human resources...  
You must try to deepen every day  
your friendship with Christ.  
You must also learn to share  
the hopes and the joys,  
the sorrows and the frustrations  
of the people entrusted to your care...  
When you celebrate the sacraments  
at the decisive moments of their lives,  
help them to trust  
in Christ's promised mercy  
and compassion."*

3 *Let us pray for all priests whom we know:*

**God our Father, we pray  
for those whom you have called  
to serve your people as priests.  
Every day  
may they live in your presence  
and deepen their friendship  
with Jesus, your Son.  
Fill them with your Spirit  
and inspire them  
to be faithful in prayer  
and always place their trust in you.  
May they grow in faith and compassion  
as they celebrate  
the Sacraments of your love  
and bring good news to the poor  
and healing to the broken-hearted.**

**Inspire them to live in such a way  
that they are credible witnesses  
of the transforming power  
of your love,  
as they share the hopes and the joys,  
the sorrows and the frustrations  
of those entrusted to their care.  
Give them the gifts they need  
to accompany your people  
along the path of holiness. Amen.**

*"Try to deepen every day  
your friendship with 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](http://www.prayingeachday.org)