

# 17 AUGUST

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1 When Pope John Paul II visited Britain in 1982 he focussed on each of the Sacraments in turn. During his visit to York, couples were invited to renew their marriage vows. We'll base our prayer today on themes in his sermon at that time:

2 Let us pray for people who are married, that they may make choices to live sincerely and in compassion, in gentleness and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another. In these ways may their relationships grow and develop, and so may they remain faithful to each other in good times and bad.

Lord, in your mercy - *hear our prayer.*

3 Marriage is a sign of God's faithful and unbroken love. Let us pray that families may share in God's love, and grow as communities where young people are guided to maturity.

Lord, in your mercy - *hear our prayer.*

4 Let us pray that families may be generous in extending their love to lonely and burdened people locally, and to those who are on the margins of society.

Lord, in your mercy - *hear our prayer.*

5 We pray for those who know the pain of failure in marriage. We pray for those who know the loneliness of bringing up a family on their own. We pray for those whose family life is dominated by tragedy, or by illness of mind or body.

Lord, in your mercy - *hear our prayer.*

6 We see many damaged relationships around us. We ask for the gift of being able to build bridges between people.

Lord, in your mercy - *hear our prayer.*

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)