

1 Many would say that Turner was one of Britain's greatest artists. He died on this day in 1851. It has been said that before Turner, nobody painted sunsets. He taught people to "really see" sunsets, even though they were so obvious. In Turner's water scenes, both the water and the sky are filled with brilliant, golden and hazy light, and it is difficult to see where the water finishes and the sky begins.

2 Living at the same time as Turner was another English painter, John Constable, who saw and painted the beauty in ordinary country scenes. He said:

*"There is nothing ugly;
I never saw an ugly thing in my life.
Let the form of an object
be what it may
- light, shade and perspective
will always make it beautiful."*

3 Both artists - Turner and Constable - remind us that the physical world and the spiritual are not separate, but overlap and are intermingled - the "veil" between them is thin. God's coming to us as a human being ("the Incarnation") reminds us that it is not helpful to try to draw lines between what is "sacred" and what is "secular".

4 *Let us pray:*

**God our Father,
you created light
and all that we can see.
Show us how to grow
in a sense of wonder
that we may "really see"
and appreciate
all the beauty that is around us.
Lead us to discover
how inter-connected
are so many things in life
and how inter-woven
with your presence.
May the coming into our world**

**of Jesus, your Son,
- who lived fully as a human being -
remind us that we are all called
to be at-one with you.**

**Show us how to transform
all that might be ordinary
in our daily lives
and, through your Spirit,
become more fully alive,
to your greater glory. Amen.**

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