

- 1 In December 1997, newspapers reported that a 5-year-old boy was re-united with his parents on Boxing Day after they had accidentally left him behind at a petrol station.
- 2 His parents had driven off in separate cars from the garage in Dunmow, Essex, without realising that their son, Kyle Collins, had gone into the shop to buy some sweets. The boy had slipped out of his mother's car while she paid for petrol and, when she returned, she presumed that he had got into her husband's car. The parents left the petrol station separately and were driving for an hour before they heard a police appeal on the radio.
- 3 We are reminded of the family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph travelling to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, when Jesus was 12 years old. As with the Collins' family, there was a mix-up, and Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents realising.
- 4 The Sunday after Christmas is normally the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.
- 5 *Let us pray:*

**God our Father,
we pray for all families,
that members may feel encouraged
to live fully,
and may discover
the sanctity of human love
and the value of family life.**

**If times are troubled
through separation
or difficulties in relationships,
may people learn to be generous.**

**May we all learn
how to break the cycle
of whatever may be negative,
growing in understanding
and appreciation
and in love and respect. 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