

1 Let's pause for a moment to remind ourselves that we are in the presence of God who is always faithful...

(pause...)

2 In 1692 the Scottish highland clans still supported the Catholic King James II who was of Scottish descent. The supporters were called "Jacobites" (as "Jacobus" is the Latin for "James"). King James is generally considered not to have been a good king. He had been deposed by Parliament in London in what is called "The Glorious Revolution", and they invited the Protestant William of Orange to be king in his place.

3 Each Scottish clan had to swear to be loyal to the new king, or they would be imprisoned and have their lands confiscated. The chief of the MacDonald clan signed his oath of loyalty, but was a week late in doing so because blizzards had prevented him from travelling.

4 A hundred soldiers, including some of the Campbell clan (who were long-standing enemies of the MacDonalds) were sheltered and fed in Glencoe by the MacDonalds for over a week. Early one morning, the soldiers turned on the MacDonalds who had given them hospitality, and murdered the chief of the clan and some of the men, women and children. They had received orders to kill the people.

5 Why was this Massacre at Glencoe (one of many in those days) thought to be even worse than murder itself?

6 Those who were taken in as guests turned on those who had looked after them. They murdered those who had given them hospitality. King William's ministers (if not also the king himself)

certainly knew what was going to happen. It was "political murder" as it was meant to be a "lesson" to all who might think of rebelling against the new king.

7 *Let us pray:*

**God our Father,
the Bible reminds us
that your love for each of us is great
and that you are faithful for ever,
never letting us down
or forgetting your promises to us.**

**Inspire us to value friendship and loyalty,
that we may be faithful
to those who love and trust us.**

**We pray that we may live in such a way
that we may make others feel
welcome and secure.**

**Show us how
to look upon other people
in the same generous way
that you look upon each of us.**

**Extend our horizons
that we may understand better
those who are far from us.**

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