

14 FEBRUARY

- 1 We generally think of 14th February as St Valentine's Day. We don't know who Valentine was, but there are many legends about him. One of the stories names him as a bishop when the Roman emperor of the time made it a law that no Roman soldier should be allowed to marry. The emperor thought that his soldiers would not fight well in his many wars if they were afraid to risk dying in battle because of great love for their wives and families.
- 2 The story tells us that Bishop Valentine said that the emperor's law was not right; it was unjust - men and women have the right to marry and have families. Soldiers began to approach the bishop, and so he arranged marriages secretly. Word got back to the emperor, but Valentine was courageous in speaking before him: "*I have promised to serve God who loves us, and I obey his laws.*" According to this legend, Bishop Valentine was put into prison where he died on this day - a patron saint of all who are in love.
- 3 *Let us pray:*

**Father, we read in the Bible
that the best way to describe you
is to use the word "Love".**

**Your love for mankind is so great
that you sent Jesus, your Son,
to live as one of us.**

**We pray that we may appreciate
and value one another.**

**God of love,
lead us to grow in love. 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