

- 1 On this day in 1976 the English painter, L.S.Lowry, died. He painted scenes of mills and houses in the industrial towns of Manchester and Salford, painting in a simple, almost child-like way. He portrayed enormous factories and smoking chimneys that surrounded people whom he showed as small, stick-like figures. Lowry said of himself: *"I'm a simple man, and I use simple materials."* A song was written about Lowry and his paintings, called *"Matchstalk Men and Matchstalk Cats and Dogs"*.

- 2 Thinking of the "little people" whom Lowry painted, we are reminded that if others saw anyone in the gospels as "small" or "insignificant", Jesus made them "walk tall".


- 3 Zacchaeus lived in Jericho. He was a small man who wanted others to look up to him, and he hoped to gain importance as a tax-collector. As Jesus walked along the road, crowds stood around him, and the small Zacchaeus could not see. He ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to make himself look bigger. As Jesus moved along, he not only looked at Zacchaeus, but called him by his name. Jesus arranged to eat in his house that night, showing the crowd that, whilst **they** had an attitude of rejecting Zacchaeus, he did not.

- 4 Let us pray:

**Lord Jesus,
 you called Zacchaeus by his name
 and enabled him to grow.**

**I ask you to enter my life
 in a new way this day
 that I may grow
 in stature and wisdom and grace
 as the person you call me to be.**

**Inspire me to follow you more closely
 and help me to live in such a way
 that I encourage others
 and bring life to them.
 No one is small in your eyes;
 let no one be small in mine.
 Amen.**

 *Lk 19¹⁻¹⁰ - Zacchaeus; Lk 15⁴⁻¹⁰ - "little" animals/coins*

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