

1 On 4th January 1809, Louis Braille was born in Paris. His father used leather to make harnesses for horses. When Louis was very young, he was playing in his father's workshop, and he pressed an awl against some leather to try to make a hole. The awl slipped and struck his eye. Before long, his other eye became infected and he became totally blind.

2 He attended a school for the blind in Paris. Large letters were raised on each page so that the person could recognise words by moving a finger over the large letters. Louis thought back to how his father worked, remembering that the awl would make a small lump on the other side of the leather before making a hole. He realised that he could press on one side of a sheet of paper to make raised dots on the other side. Aged 15, he set about devising a code of letters that we now know as the Braille system of printing and writing for the blind.

3 Each letter is represented by a combination of raised dots - up to a maximum of six, laid out two across and three down.

4 *Let us pray:*

**Lord Jesus, light of the world,
open our eyes
to notice the magnificence
of creation.**

**Open our eyes
that we may always
value and appreciate
all who are part of our lives.**

**Open our eyes
that we may be quick to notice
when people are going through
difficulties.**

**Open our eyes
so that we may share your vision
and "really see". Amen.**

English Braille Alphabet						
A	B	C	D	E	F	G
•	••	•••	••••	•••••	••••••	•••••••
H	I	J	K	L	M	N
••	•••	••••	•••••	••••••	•••••••	••••••••
O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
•••	••••	•••••	••••••	•••••••	••••••••	•••••••••
V	W	X	Y	Z		
••••	•••••	••••••	•••••••	••••••••		

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