

- 1 The British yachtsman, Tony Bullimore, sailed in the Whitbread round-the-world yacht race in his boat, 'Exide Challenger'. Horrendous sea conditions between Australia and the Antarctic caused his boat to capsize, to overturn. An automatic satellite distress signal was picked up from the upturned boat, but he was nearly 1500 miles from the nearest land, Australia. Satellite technology enabled the Australians to locate the boat, and they sent spotter planes to keep it in sight. No-one knew, though, if Tony Bullimore was still alive.
- 2 Because of the huge distances involved, it took three days for the Australian Navy in their ship, the 'Adelaide', to reach the stricken yacht. On the 9th January 1997, a dinghy from the 'Adelaide' took a few men across to Bullimore's boat. There they hammered on the upturned yacht. A few seconds later, Tony Bullimore emerged from the water to cheers from the navy.
- 3 He had survived by crouching on a shelf, with nets stretched across to stop himself falling into the ice-cold water inside the upside-down boat. He was in total darkness for those three days, with his boat still being buffeted by 60 foot waves. Not being able to see outside, he suffered from motion sickness and, hearing creaking of the hull, he was never sure if the boat would break up.
- 4 Parts of some of his fingers were later amputated because of the damage from the severe cold. Tony Bullimore would not have survived without his protective survival clothes, and he had a little chocolate to eat and fresh water to drink. "It was a miracle", he said, "an absolute miracle. I got to the point where I was thinking in hours. I feel that I've been born again."
- 5 Across the world, the Australian Navy and Air Force were praised for their skills and courage and determination in the rescue.
- 6 *Let us pray:*
**We pray, Lord, for all
who will need strength and courage
in the day ahead:**
 - for those who face danger;
 - for those who risk themselves
for others;
 - for those who must make
an important decision today;
 - for people who are seriously ill;
 - for those facing persecution
or torture.**We ask you, Lord,
to give them
the power of your Spirit.
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