

(See also 30 January, 12 May)

- 1 Mohandas Gandhi was born in India in 1869. He spent 3 years in Britain, training to be a lawyer, and then lived for 21 years in South Africa, where he saw and experienced much racial prejudice and discrimination. Gandhi encouraged some of the Indian workers in South Africa to go on strike and march in a non-violent way. The government responded with violence, killing many.

- 2 Gandhi left South Africa in 1915, after the government made some important concessions for a more just treatment of non-whites. He returned to India, where he became known as "Mahatma" (which means "Great Soul") as he began to campaign to make India independent from British rule.

- 3 He knew that violence was evil, and he also knew that attempts for reasoned discussion often got nowhere. The alternative way was his method of passive, non-violent resistance. His method of non-co-operation included boycotting British goods. At the same time, he also sought to show the Indian people that they needed to remove prejudices and injustices amongst themselves - such as considering some people to be "untouchables", the lowest "caste" of people in India.

- 4 Gandhi said:

"If you don't find God in the very next person you meet, it is a waste of time looking for him further."

- 5 *Let us pray:*

**God and Father of all people,
never let me look down on others
or make anyone feel inferior.**

**Show me how to remove any prejudices
so that**

**I may appreciate individuals more
for who they are.**

**Inspire me to live in such a way
that I may discover you**

in the people I will meet today.

Amen.

- 6 Gandhi said:

*"If you don't find God
in the very next person you meet,
it is a waste of time
looking for him further."*

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