

1 On this day in 1948 Britain's National Health Service - the N.H.S. - came into being. Before that time, poorer people and their families suffered great financial hardships if a family-member became ill. Since those times, the N.H.S. has grown considerably and offers many services to people.

2 National Insurance is deducted from the wages of those who are working, and that money helps to fund the Service for all who are ill.

3 Many countries see Britain as being blessed with such a fine system of medical care, and most of that care is provided free.

*(short pause...)*

4 In thinking of those who are sick, we are going to listen to a few sentences of Saint Luke's Gospel. We'll hear about the cure of a sick person - someone who has the skin-disease of leprosy. One of the best ways of reading the gospels is to place ourselves there as one of the characters. We can think of ourselves as the person who is ill and needs help:

5 **Narrator:**

Jesus left the lakeside  
and went into one of the villages.  
A man appeared, covered with leprosy,  
and people kept their distance from him.  
He came closer to Jesus  
and knelt on the ground before him.  
The man with leprosy spoke:

6 **Sick person:**

*"Sir, if you want to,  
you can cure me."*

7 **Narrator:**

What was the reaction of Jesus? He said:

8 **Jesus:**

*"Of course I want to  
- be cured of what is wrong with you."*

9 **Narrator:**

*And the man stood up,  
and everyone saw that he **was** cured.*

10 *Let's pause in silence for a moment*

*(pause...)*

11 *Let us pray:*

**Lord Jesus,  
we hear you say  
that, "of course", you want to heal us  
of what is not good in our lives.**

**Touch us today  
that we may experience your healing  
and the fullness of your life.**

**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](http://www.prayingeachday.org)