

- 1 Westminster Abbey in London has been used for the coronation of kings and queens. Also held there have been the funerals of members of the Royal Family and great public figures.
- 2 Some of the spaces above the main entrance of Westminster Abbey have been filled with statues of modern-day saints - unveiled on this day in 1998 in the presence of many church leaders from across the world. It's a very imaginative idea, not least because the statues are of people from different Christian traditions. They include:
 - 3 - Maximilian Kolbe of Poland , a Catholic priest who volunteered to take the place of a married man condemned to death in Auschwitz Concentration Camp in 1941;
 - 4 - Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a Lutheran minister who was part of a plot to kill Hitler, and who was executed by the Nazis in 1945;
 - 5 - Martin Luther King, a Baptist minister and black civil rights campaigner, assassinated in the United States in 1969;
 - 6 - Catholic Archbishop Oscar Romero, gunned down at the altar as he celebrated Mass in his cathedral in El Salvador in 1980;
 - 7 - and Anglican Archbishop Janani Luwum, shot in 1977 in Idi Amin's Uganda.

8 *Let us pray:*

**Loving Lord,
 these individuals we have heard about
 were ordinary people.
 They spent years
 making choices each day**

**about small ordinary things.
 Their positive and life-giving attitude
 eventually led to serious decisions
 about standing
 with the poor and the underprivileged
 and those treated unjustly.
 Inspire us, Lord,
 to choose wisely
 in the ordinary circumstances
 of *our* daily lives.
 Having then chosen wisely
 in small things,
 inspire us
 with courage and generosity
 when we must make
 more important decisions. 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