

- 1 On this day in 1918 Nelson Mandela was born. On 10th May 1994 he became the first democratically-elected President of multi-racial South Africa.
- 2 In his inaugural speech as South African President, Nelson Mandela said:

*"Our biggest fear  
is not that we are inadequate;  
our biggest fear  
is that we are powerful  
beyond measure.  
It is our light, not our darkness  
that most frightens us.  
We ask ourselves:  
'Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous,  
talented and fabulous'  
Actually, who are you **not** to be?  
You are a child of God.  
Your 'playing small'  
doesn't serve the world.  
There is nothing enlightened  
about shrinking  
so that other people  
won't feel insecure around you.  
We are born to make manifest  
the glory of God that is within us.  
It's not just within some of us  
- it is within **everyone!**  
And as we let our own light shine,  
we consciously give to other people  
permission to do the same.  
As we are liberated from our own fear,  
our presence  
automatically liberates others."*

- 3 Let us pray:

**Lord Jesus,  
bring your love to our lives  
in a new way today  
so that any fear that we might have  
is driven away,  
knowing that  
"perfect love casts out fear".**

**Then your light  
will shine more brightly in us,  
and others will be able to see  
the good things that are done  
in your name.  
Help us to grow more aware  
of the love and respect and dignity  
that you give us  
in calling us your "friends".  
We ask that your Spirit acts in us  
so that we discover  
and take pride  
in who we really are.  
Make us credible witnesses  
of your love  
so that others  
may more readily share  
in your love and your light,  
you who are the light of the world.  
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)