

1 After landing on the moon on the 20th July 1969, it was a few hours before Neil Armstrong stepped out onto the moon, followed by Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin. Aldrin later wrote about something he did during those few hours:

2 *“There are many thousands of things that God and man have made here on earth and, before I blasted off, I got thinking and wondering what I would choose to take to the moon. So I said: What’s our greatest treasure here on earth? And I thought: It’s Christ’s gift of himself. So, shortly after touchdown, I opened two little plastic packages, one containing bread and the other, wine. I poured the wine into the chalice which our home church had given me, and I read what Saint John tells us that Jesus said: ‘I am the vine, you are the branches.’ In the one-sixth gravity of the moon the wine curled slowly and gracefully up the side of the cup. It was interesting to think that the very first liquid ever poured on the moon and the very first food eaten there were what Christ chose when he gave himself to be our close friend.”*

3 *Let us pray:*

**God our Father,
the landing on the moon
was one of the most significant events
in human history.**

**We give thanks
for the skills and expertise
and the courage and co-operation
which led
to that successful venture.**

**In giving thanks
we recall, too,
that the astronauts
showed their appreciation
and reminded us
of important values.**

**We pray for the power of your Spirit
in our lives
that we may live in thankfulness
and be people of vision and courage
who have compassion for one another.
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