

- 1 The science-fiction writer, Arthur C. Clarke, estimated that 300,000 people contributed in different ways so that Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first people to walk on the moon in 1969.
- 2 Of those 300,000 people, a group of technicians built the lunar landing craft. To name their vehicle they chose the letters and numbers "JN 1-14". They were asked to explain their unusual choice.
- 3 The technicians said that, like everyone else, they were very aware of the significance of landing on the moon. As a group of Christians, they wanted to call to mind that there was something even more significant and special in human history. So they named the moon's landing craft after the gospel passage of Saint John, chapter 1, verse 14 - "JN 1-14", which reads:
"God's Word became a human being, and he lived among us."

*"God's Word became a human being, and he lived among us."
 Jn 1:14*

4 *Let us pray:*

**God our Father,
 we thank you
 that in the vastness of your creation
 there is something special
 about the beauty of this earth.**

**Into our world
 which you love so much
 you sent Jesus, your Son
 - your Word
 who became a human being -
 and he made his home among us.**

**Open our eyes
 that we may have
 a sense of wonder and awe
 that leads us to treasure
 all that you have made.**

**Show us how to value
 all who are a part of our lives this day.
 Amen.**



 *Arthur C Clarke, a former radar instructor in the Royal Air Force, is perhaps best remembered for his book, "2001: A Space Odyssey", later developed into a film by Stanley Kubrick. Clarke is the person who came up with the idea of satellites that would be "geo-stationary" or in "geosynchronous" orbit i.e. although they travel around the Earth, they do so at such a speed as to match that of the land below. There are now hundreds of communications satellites in geosynchronous orbit - they follow a circular orbit over the equator at a height of 35,800 km (22,300 miles). The satellites can be used to receive signals (the 'uplink') from one ground station, amplify the signal, and then re-transmit the signal at a different frequency (the 'downlink') to another station. By this means TV, radio and telephone communications are beamed around the world. If laser signals are used in the blue-green wavelength (which penetrates water) then communication may be held with submarines under the water.*

 *The prayer called "the Angelus" reflects in part on the message of the gospel passage of Jn 1¹⁴.*

 *Michael Collins (who stayed in lunar orbit) said that "the beauty of the planet from 100,000 miles should be a goal for all of us, to help in our struggle to make it as it appears to be."*

 *See also 20,21,25 July.*

 *I watch the sunrise; Look at the sky;*

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