

- 1 The words of the song “*Amazing Grace*” were written by John Newton, who was born on this day in 1725. His father was a ship’s captain, and his mother died when he was 7. He attended a boarding school and was so badly treated there that he ran away to sea. There he lived a very rough life, and found himself “press-ganged” - forced to join a ship of the Royal Navy. Having escaped and been imprisoned, he got work on a slave-ship.
- 2 By accident he came across a book called “*The Imitation of Christ*”, and he began to think seriously about his life. A very violent storm almost capsized his ship and, wrongly, he thought that he was “too late” to turn to God. The following morning he was a changed person. He became a preacher, and his most famous hymn is “*Amazing grace*”. He talks of “*many dangers, toils and snares*” that he has already come through. The word “*grace*” is sometimes used to mean God’s power in a person’s life.
- 3 We use the words of John Newton’s hymn as our prayer today, asking that we may be aware of God’s amazing grace in our daily lives:
- 4 **Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I’m found;
was blind, but now I see.**
- 5 **’Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.**
- 6 **Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come.
’Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.**
- 7 **The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.**

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