

(See also 10 June.)

- 1 One of England's greatest authors, Charles Dickens, died on this day in 1870.
- 2 He had started school at the age of 9 but had to leave when his father was imprisoned for debt. Charles Dickens was then aged 12 and he had to get a job to support himself. He found work in a shoe-polish factory, but felt humiliated and not in control of his own life. This experience would haunt him for the rest of his life. Later he would write a book called '**David Copperfield**', which reflected his own difficult experiences as a child.
- 3 Dickens used some of his novels to point out that many people suffered greatly at that time in Victorian England. These stories were a good way of encouraging people to look at how they might help make their part of the world a better place.
- 4 His stories were printed as a serial in a London newspaper. Dickens was in great demand as a public reader of his novels, which he tended to act out as he spoke.
- 5 Charles Dickens died in 1870. Queen Victoria wrote of him in her diary: "*He is a very great loss. He had a large loving mind, and the strongest sympathy with the poor.*" He was buried in Westminster Abbey beside the graves of the nation's kings and queens and other famous people.
- 6 We can reflect on some words written by Charles Dickens:  
*"Some great people  
 make others feel small,  
 but the real great people  
 are those who make others feel great."*
- 7 Let's pause in silence to think just how I might help someone today to "feel great" about themselves.  
*(pause...)*

8 *Let us pray:*

**Lord our God,  
 may I learn  
 to treat others generously,  
 with respect,  
 and with care and understanding,  
 that we may all  
 bring out the best in 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](http://www.prayingeachday.org)