

6 MARCH

- 1 The ancient Greeks discovered that the bark of the willow tree provided medicine. Native Americans made the same discovery. It is the salicylic acid in the bark of the willow tree that counters fever and pain.
- 2 A German chemist, Felix Hoffman, produced a slight variation of this acid that is not as bitter as the original, nor as irritating to the stomach. On this day in 1899 he patented his compound - no one could copy it without his permission - and he called it ASPIRIN.
- 3 We know that aspirin is one of the medicines that may be taken for pain. Those who suffer from arthritis and rheumatism sometimes take it, and it is helpful to those with long-term heart problems. Research has shown that it also helps reduce the risk of some forms of cancer.
- 4 Let us pray that people be inspired to appreciate all that is good and beneficial around them. Let us pray that good decisions be reached concerning the environment - decisions that look to our heritage as well as to our needs.

Lord, in your mercy - *hear our prayer.*

- 5 Let us pray for those who are concerned about their health and their future. We pray for people in physical pain, for those who make little progress, and for those who will never get better.

Lord, in your mercy - *hear our prayer.*

- 6 Let us pray for all who are sad, and for all who have had bitter experiences in their lives. Let us pray that we may be protected from all that may harm us.

Lord, in your mercy - *hear our prayer.*

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