

11 MARCH

(See also 9 January)

- 1 It was about 1890 when the Churchill family visited friends who had a large house and a swimming pool. The children went for a swim, and one of them - Winston Churchill - began to drown in the pool. The others screamed for help. Into the pool jumped the son of the gardener of the house, and he rescued the lad. Winston Churchill's parents were so grateful to the gardener's lad that they asked his parents what they might do for him in return. "He wants to be a doctor," they said.
- 2 The Churchills agreed to pay his way through college so that he could train as a doctor. He would become world-famous as Sir Alexander Fleming, the person who discovered penicillin.
- 3 In 1943, at the height of the Second World War, Winston Churchill - who, by then, was the British Prime Minister - met with President Roosevelt of the United States and Soviet leader Joseph Stalin. After the meeting, Winston Churchill was struck down with pneumonia, which was likely to kill him. King George VI (*the sixth*) insisted that the best doctor in the country look after him, and so Dr Alexander Fleming - the same person who had rescued Churchill from drowning as a boy - now treated him for his life-threatening pneumonia.
- 4 Churchill said to Fleming: "*Rarely has one man owed his life twice to the same rescuer.*"
- 5 Today is the anniversary of the death of Alexander Fleming - 11th March 1955.

6 *Let's reflect and pray:*

**I shall pass through this world but once.
Therefore, any good that I can do,
any kind act that I can perform
for any fellow-creature,
let me do it now.**

**Let me not delay or omit it,
for I shall not pass this way again.**

(attributed to Stephen Grellet)

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