

13 MARCH

- 1 The people of Argentina and Chile were preparing for war because of a dispute over which country owned some land high in the Andes mountains that separated the two countries. On Easter Sunday many people gathered in the cathedral of Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina. The bishop preached in his sermon about the need for peace. Many disagreed with him, but some supported him - including a bishop in the opposing country of Chile who went about his own country, also preaching peace.
- 2 Such was the effect of the two bishops on the people of their countries, that the two governments felt they should step back from war and talk with each other again. They agreed to invite King Edward VII (*the seventh*) of Britain to make a decision about who should own the land over which they were about to go to war.
- 3 The bishop from Argentina had said: *"I would like to see Christ standing between our two nations, guiding us and leading us."* Some people decided to take this literally and set about fund-raising to build a statue of Christ. On this day - 13th March - 1904, representatives of both countries gathered around the huge statue that had been built on one of the mountains of the Andes, between both nations. This is one of the prayers used: *"that these great mountains may crumble into dust before the peoples of Argentina and Chile break the peace which we have promised to keep, here at the feet of Christ."*
- 4 The huge statue of "Christ of the Andes" is a great symbol and reminder of the

need to work together for peace.

- 5 *Let us pray:*

Lord,

**inspire us to act justly, love tenderly,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Breathe upon us your Spirit of peace
that we may be
bearers of reconciliation
wherever you place us.
May there be peace in our hearts,
in our homes, in our land,
and between all people.
Amen.**

 *The statue of Christ of the Andes is not to be confused with the statue of Christ overlooking Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.*

 *Edward VII was King of the United Kingdom from 1901-1910.*

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