

# 15 MARCH

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- 1 On 15th March 1877 the first Test Match in cricket was held: Australia and England played in Melbourne, Australia.
- 2 It was five years later, in 1882, that England unexpectedly lost the Test Match at home against Australia. One of the newspapers reported the great shock - England had lost in the sport that the country had invented. The following "obituary" notice appeared in *'The Sporting Times'*:
  - 3 *"In affectionate remembrance of English Cricket which died at the Oval on 29th August 1882. Deeply lamented by a large circle of sorrowing friends and acquaintances R.I.P. The body will be cremated and the ashes taken to Australia."*
  - 4 Later that year, an English team in Australia was presented with an urn containing ashes. That trophy is now kept permanently at Lord's cricket ground in London. The phrase has remained: whoever wins the Test Match is said to have won "the Ashes".
- 5 I can think of times  
    when others have let me down.  
I remember when I have let others down.
- 6 I can think of times  
    when people expected too much of me.  
I remember  
    when I haven't expected enough  
    of myself.
- 7 I can think of times  
    when I haven't felt appreciated.  
I remember when I haven't praised others  
    for the good use of their talents.
- 8 *And so we pray:*  
**May we learn  
    to value and appreciate one another,  
    bringing out the best  
    in those around us.  
May what is not good  
    die within us,  
    and may we bring life to all we meet.  
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)