




21 MARCH


- 1 From 1948 until 1990, “apartheid” was the system in South Africa. The word “apartheid” means “separateness”, and the laws enforced a very firm separation of people according to race and colour. On this day in 1960 about 15,000 black people formed a peaceful demonstration against the “pass laws” which forced blacks to carry identification and travel permits with them all the time. The police opened fire in the black township of Sharpeville. 56 black people were killed, and a further 162 were wounded. It is known as the ‘Sharpeville Massacre’.
- 2 We remind ourselves of the evils of all systems that declare some people to be inferior because they are “different” in some way. We think of apartheid in South Africa, Nazi rule throughout Europe, Pol Pot in Cambodia, and Stalin in the Soviet Union.
3. *Let us pray:*

Father,
you have made all people
in your own likeness,
and you love all that you have made.
Your Son was born
as a member of a Jewish family,
and was recognised
by wise men from the east.
He rejoiced in the faith
of a Roman soldier
and a Syrian woman,
and he praised Samaritans
for their attitude and good works.
He welcomed the Greeks
who searched for him,
and he was helped to carry his cross
by an African.

- 4 **Father, may our human family
not become separated from you
by building barriers
of race and colour,
of class and belief.**
Inspire us to recognise
that we are all made
in your image and likeness,
so that we may grow
in appreciation of all people,
and encourage each other
to grow in pride
in who we are
and who we are called to be.
May we recognise your Son in our midst,
and live truly as brothers and sisters.
Amen.



-  (3): Gen 1²⁷, Wis 2²³, Wis 11²⁴;
Lk 2, Mt 2¹⁻¹²
Lk 7¹⁰, Mk 7²⁶, Lk 17¹⁹, Lk 10³⁶
Jn 12²⁰, Lk 23²⁶
-  (4): Jn 11⁵²
Gen 1²⁷, Wis 2²³, Lk 1⁴⁸, Jn 15¹⁵
Lk 24³¹, 1 Pet 3⁸, 1 Jn 4²⁰.
-  Acts 10¹⁻³⁵ - God has no favourites: anyone of any nationality is acceptable to him.

 Amazing grace; Christ is our king; Come let us go up to the Lord

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