

1 In every World Cup football match since the 1980s, two people could be seen behind one of the goals. When the cameras focused on the goalmouth they held up a small sign which simply read:

***Jn 3:16***

2 A number of people who were in the crowd, and many watching TV in many countries throughout the world, realised that this meant:

*St John's Gospel, Chapter 3, verse 16.*

3 Some of the people who saw "Jn 3:16" looked it up in the Bible, and realised that the words were appropriate for an event that was being watched around the world. This is what the passage from St John's Gospel says:

4 *"God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost, but may have eternal life."*

5 The same passage appears in all the many languages in which the Bible has been translated.

**6 *In French:***

Car Dieu a tant aimé le monde qu'il a donné son Fils unique, afin que quiconque croit en lui ne se perde pas, mais ait la vie éternelle.

**7 *In German:***

Denn so lebte Gott die Welt, dass er seinen eingeborenen Sohn hingab, damit jeder, der an ihn glaubt, nicht verlorenghe, sondern ewiges Leben habe.

**8 *In Italian:***

Dio ha tanto amato il mondo da dare il suo unico Figlio perché chi crede in lui non muoia ma abbia vita eterna.

**9 *In Spanish:***

Porque tanto am-Dios al mundo que dio a su Hijo único, para que todo el que crea en él no perezca sino que tenga vida eterna.

**10 *In Welsh:***

Do, carodd Duw y byd gymaint ned iddo roi ei unig Fab, er mwyn; bob un sy'n credu ynddo ef beidio â mynol i ddistryw ond cael bywyd tragwyddol.

**11. *Let us pray:***

**God our Father,  
your love for our world  
and for each of us individually  
is so great  
that you sent Jesus, your Son,  
to live fully as one of us.  
May he lead us to live in peace  
and work well with each other  
to build your kingdom  
in our world which you love so much.  
May your Spirit unite us  
and lead us to appreciate and value  
all who are different from ourselves.  
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)