

- 1 In Saint Paul's Cathedral in London, visitors can climb stairs so as to walk around the inside of the great dome, which is 60 metres (200 feet) across. This ledge (or balcony) is called the Whispering Gallery because the sound from someone's whisper bounces back from the smooth walls of the dome. Even someone whispering on the other side of the dome can be heard if people listen close to the wall.
- 2 It was whilst on this Whispering Gallery just over a hundred years ago that a poor shoemaker whispered to his girlfriend that he didn't have enough money to buy leather to make shoes, and so didn't have enough money for them to get married.
- 3 On the other side of the dome someone heard the whispering of the couple and decided he would help them. He followed the shoemaker from a distance to find out where he lived, and then he paid for some leather and arranged for it to be sent anonymously to the shoemaker's shop. Everything went well because the shoemaker was then able to make enough money from his shop, and so the couple were able to marry.
- 4 It was a few years later that they found out who it was who had helped them. It was the Prime Minister, William Gladstone, and today was the day of his death in 1898.
- 5 *Let us pray:*

**Lord, most of us  
will not become well-known  
or be written about  
because of great achievements,  
but we will be known and loved  
for our attitude  
and the smaller ordinary things  
that we do**

**that make our part of the world  
a better place.  
Inspire us, Lord, each day,  
to find joy in giving  
as well as in receiving,  
and lead us to act justly,  
love tenderly,  
and walk humbly with you, our God.  
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)