

- 1 Major problems occurred during the Apollo 13 Space Mission to the Moon in 1970, but the men returned safely.
- 2 Jim Lovell was the Commander of Apollo 13, and he once talked of piloting an aeroplane in combat conditions. He was to fly back and land on his aircraft carrier, but his radar and homing signal had failed. A great ocean lay before him, he was fast running out of fuel, and he was too far out to sea to return to the land. Where was the aircraft carrier? In which direction should he fly?
- 3 He thought that matters couldn't get worse, and then, suddenly, all his cockpit lights went out. Then, below him, as his eyes became adjusted to the darkness, he could see a long path of green phosphorescent algae. There could only be one explanation for that long path - the aircraft carrier must have churned up the algae in the sea. All he had to do, with his fuel running low, was to fly along that phosphorescent path, and then he would be able to land on the aircraft carrier.
- 4 *"I thought it a disaster" he said "that the lights in my aircraft went out, but if they had not gone out, I would never have been able to see the algae which led me back to the ship, and I would have died in the sea when my fuel ran out. Some things work out well when you least expect them to."*
- 5 *Let us pray for God's protection, using a prayer of St Columba, written 1400 years ago:*

**Be a bright flame before me, Lord.
Be a guiding star above me.
Be a smooth path below me.
Be a kindly shepherd behind me
- today, tonight, and forever. 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