

5 NOVEMBER

- 1 On the death of Queen Elizabeth I of England, the throne passed to the son of her cousin, Mary Queen of Scots. King James VI (*the sixth*) of Scotland became King James I of England. Uniting the two thrones would eventually lead to the joining of Scotland, England and Wales to form “Great Britain”.
- 2 King James enforced some harsh anti-Catholic laws. A small group of Catholics conspired together in what is now known as the “*Gunpowder Plot*”. They placed 36 barrels of gunpowder in cellars underneath the House of Lords in the British Parliament. Guy Fawkes was to be the one who would light the fuse. It was intended that the explosion would kill the king and members of the Lords and Commons as they gathered for the State Opening of Parliament.
- 3 One of the conspirators leaked details of the Plot, and Guy Fawkes was discovered in the cellars. He was arrested, tortured and executed, along with the other conspirators.
- 4 Parliament decreed that, from then on, bonfires should be lit each year on the 5th of November to celebrate the deliverance from the “*Gunpowder Plot*”. Nowadays a “guy” is often still burnt as a reminder of Guy Fawkes.
- 5 In our own times, on the night before the State Opening of Parliament, there is a symbolic searching of the cellars of Parliament by the ceremonial ‘*Yeomen of the Guard*’, bearing lanterns.
- 6 *Let us pray:*

**God our Father,
open our eyes
to whatever may not be just and right
in our own surroundings
and in our society.**

**Enable us to be of good influence
and work in a non-violent way
to promote understanding
and better relationships
that will lead to justice and peace.
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