

- 1 In 1987 this day was Remembrance Sunday, and people in the town of Enniskillen in Northern Ireland gathered around their War Memorial to honour those who had died in the two World Wars.
- 2 At 10.45am a 30-pound bomb exploded. Several people lay under a collapsed wall, including 20-year-old nurse, Marie Wilson. "I love you," were her last words to her father, Gordon, as they held hands under the rubble. Marie was one of 11 killed that day. 63 others were wounded - some seriously.
- 3 The following day, Marie's 60-year-old father said:
"My wife and I do not bear any grudges. I am very sorry for those who did this, but I bear them no ill-will. I prayed for them last night. I shall pray for those people tonight and every night. May God forgive them."
- 4 Gordon Wilson's words touched many people throughout the world. Listeners to BBC Radio 4 voted Gordon Wilson as "Man of the Year". In her Christmas Broadcast, Queen Elizabeth remarked that he had "impressed the whole world by the depth of his forgiveness."
- 5 Yet, each day, Gordon has experienced physical and emotional pain, and he and his wife find they can take only one day at a time.
- 6 *Let us pray:*

God our Father,


**may no-one's negative actions
 ever overpower my determination
 to choose to live in a positive way.**


**I know that to forgive someone
 can be far from being an easy option,
 and I know that forgiveness
 isn't somehow pretending
 that something wrong
 hasn't happened.**


**For what I have done wrong, Father,
 forgive me
 to the extent that I am generous
 in forgiving - or hoping to forgive -
 those who have done wrong to me.**


**Empower me
 to break the cycle
 of any hatred, resentment
 or bitterness,
 always resisting evil
 and conquering it with goodness.
 Amen.**





 *An alternative prayer would be that of 13 May, about influencing for good the people of violence.*

 *On the night of a memorial service in Dublin for the victims of Enniskillen, the Republic of Ireland came to a standstill at 6pm for a minute's silence.*

 *On Good Friday, 10th April 1998, the film 'Ben Hur' was being broadcast on BBC 1. At 5.36pm - as Jesus was shown dying on the cross - words flashed on the TV screen that a Peace Agreement had been reached by all sides at the Peace Talks in Stormont, Northern Ireland.*

 *"Love means to love that which is unlovable - or it is no virtue at all. Forgiving means to pardon that which is unpardonable - or it is no virtue at all. To hope means hoping when things are hopeless - or it is no virtue at all."
 - G. K. Chesterton*

 *In 1993, Yitzhak Rabin (the Israeli Prime Minister) before signing an agreement with Yassar Arrafat of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, remarked to U.S. President Bill Clinton: "You don't make peace with your friends; you make peace and then you make friends".*

 *Come, let us go up to the Lord; God forgave my sin; Lay your hands; Lord, make me means; Make me a channel*

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