

- 1 The President of Egypt in the 1970s was Anwar Sadat. Egypt and other Arab countries had been at war with their neighbour, Israel, for many years.
- 2 With great courage (and risking hostility from people on both sides), President Sadat flew on a mission of peace from his capital city of Cairo, to Jerusalem. It was the 18th of November, 1977.
- 3 All the countries involved in the on-going hostilities had suffered. Whilst in Israel, President Sadat spoke to the Israeli Parliament, quoting from the Jewish scriptures and from the Islamic Koran, stating that it is not possible to build happiness on the misery of others. He said:
- 4 *"I speak to you the bewailing mother, you the widowed wife, you the child who lost a brother or a father - you, the victims of all wars."*
- 5 President Sadat's initiative was courageous and generous. He wanted to consign the past **to** the past, and promote understanding and peace. The name "*Jerusalem*" means "*city of peace*", and it is a place that is holy to followers of Judaism and Islam (as well as to Christians).
- 6 We'll pray using words from the psalms of the Jewish scriptures, acknowledging that President Sadat said: "*Until now, the distance between Cairo and Jerusalem seemed very great.*"
- 7 *Let us pray:*

**Happy are those, Lord  
who long in their hearts  
to walk the roads  
that lead to Jerusalem,  
the City of Peace.**

*Ps 84<sup>6</sup>*

**Now that I stand in Jerusalem,**

**I pray:**

**"Peace be upon everyone."** *Ps 122<sup>2,8</sup>*

**I know that in your presence, Lord,**

**justice and peace**

*Ps 85<sup>1-4</sup>*

**will come about. Amen.**



 *Jerusalem is a sacred city to the Jews - the "Wailing Wall" is the remnant of the huge Temple where God's Presence was deemed to focus on the Holy of Holies where Moses' stone tablets of the Ten Commandments were kept in the Ark of the Covenant.*

*Jerusalem is sacred to Christians as the site of the last days of Jesus, from Palm Sunday and the Last Supper to his betrayal, trial and crucifixion, and from where the Resurrection took place.*

*Muslims, the followers of Islam, hold Jerusalem to be holy, worshipping in the golden-roofed mosque, the "Dome of the Rock", that is built on the site of the Jewish Temple, over the rock on which Abraham is thought to have been about to sacrifice his son, Isaac (and from where Mohammed is said to have ascended to heaven). Abraham is considered "our father in faith" of the three mono-theistic religions (i.e. worshipping one God) - Judaism, Christianity and Islam - and therefore Jerusalem is a unique place.*

 *The name "Jerusalem" means "city of peace", with "salem" in Arabic and "shalom" in Hebrew being words that mean "peace".*

*The following words are said by practising Muslims five times a day, at the conclusion of their formal prayer:*

*"Lord, you are peace, and peace is from you. Blessed are you, enrobed with majesty and honour."*

 *Anwar al-Sadat: 25/12/1918-6/10/1981 (assassinated).*

 *Come, let us go up to the Lord ("to Jerusalem - peace"); Lord, make me a means of your peace; 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  
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