

- 1 Before the Age of the Railways in Britain, clocks were set at various times in towns and villages, varying by as much as 20 minutes. By 1850, the railways throughout the nation had a regular timetable, but “Railway Time” did not always agree with “Local Time”. This caused further confusion as some towns installed clocks with two faces - one for “Local Time” and the other for “Railway Time”!
- 2 On this day in 1858, a court case was held in Dorset, set to start at 1.00pm. One of the men involved in the court case was not in court on time, and so the judge awarded the case in favour of his opponent. At that moment, the other man arrived - only to be told that he was late. He disagreed with the judge, saying that he was on time according to his watch which he had set according to the station clock in his own town of Carlisle.
- 3 Because different “times” were in use in different places, the court case had to be re-tried. The matter received a lot of publicity. Then, in 1880, Parliament finally decided that the whole nation should follow ‘*Greenwich Mean Time*’, standardised at the Greenwich Observatory in London.
- 4 **Let’s think of those who look back and wish they had an extra day or more time:**
 - **those who have too little time for what they are expected to do;**
 - **those who have lost a sense of balance and proportion in their lives;**
 - **those who feel that they have made a mess of everything and would like to be able to start again.**
- 5 **We pray, too,**
for those who might wish for less time:
 - **those who are worried about what might happen;**
 - **those who are in despair;**
 - **those who suffer hours of pain and illness;**
 - **those who are in prison or are being tortured;**
 - **those who wish to die.**
- 6 **On all these people, Lord,**
we ask your blessing.
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