

- 1 On 3 occasions in English history, 3 kings have ruled one after the other in the same year. It happened in 1936 and in 1483 and - most famously - in 1066.
- 2 King Edward the Confessor died that year. He was succeeded by his cousin, Harold. On this day in 1066, the Battle of Hastings took place. Harold (the last Saxon king) was killed in battle, and another cousin - William of Normandy - became the first Norman King of England. William the Conqueror was crowned king on Christmas Day 1066, in Westminster Abbey. The building of the Abbey by King Edward the Confessor had been finished earlier that year.
- 3 *Let us pray:*

**There are likely to be some sudden
and abrupt changes in my life,
but there will be
many more changes
that are slow in taking place.
When I face difficulties and crisis,
I ask you, Lord, to help me
to be wise and balanced
in my decisions,
strong in my friendships,
and faithful to you,
and so be more able
to live at peace within.
Amen.**



 *The Saxon King Harold fought the Battle of Stamford Bridge (near York), defeating and killing the powerful Harald Hardrada, King of Norway, who had invaded. The battle-weary English (Saxon) army raced south on hearing the news of William's invasion from Normandy. At the Battle of Hastings (three weeks after the northern battle) King Harold was killed, and the English throne passed to the Normans, to the 38-year old William. The Conqueror claimed that his cousin, Edward, had promised him the throne. Yesterday, 13th October, marks the feastday of St Edward the Confessor.*

 *The events of 1066 were recorded in what is known as the "Bayeux Tapestry" - 79 scenes embroidered on cloth that is 70 metres (230 feet) long. 978 years later, the reverse journey was made on D-Day as the Allies set out from England to invade Normandy (NW France) to defeat Nazi Germany. An equivalent tapestry of that invasion is on display in Portsmouth.*

The phrase "It's all part of life's rich tapestry" (sometimes rendered "pageant" or "pattern") was used in the film "A Shot in the Dark" in which Peter Sellers played Inspector Clouseau.

If I was thinking of designing a "tapestry" of my own life, which places and key events (both positive and negative) and which significant people would I include? How might I decorate the margins of the tapestry e.g. with symbols of my talents and interests, and world events that have taken place during my lifetime?

 *In 1936 George V died. His son became Edward VIII but abdicated later that year, and Edward's brother became King George VI - he was Queen Elizabeth's father.*

 *In 1483 Edward IV died. He was succeeded by his 12-year-old son, Edward V, who was murdered - possibly by his uncle, who became King Richard III.*

 *Come let us go up; Father, I place; His banner over me is love; In you my God; Lord, make me a 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