

- 1 The highest mountain in Wales is Snowdon. Nearby lies the village of Beddgelert. "Bedd" is the Welsh for "grave", so "Beddgelert" means "the Grave of Gelert". This is the story of how the village got its name.
- 2 A chieftain called Llewellyn had a faithful dog called Gelert. At home the dog was gentle, but was fierce in the hunting pack. One evening, Llewellyn rode back towards his castle, having missed his dog during the day. He heard his barking, but could tell that something was wrong. The dog did not bound forward to greet him, but lay low on the ground, licking his lips. As Llewellyn got off his horse, he could see in the dim light that Gelert's coat and face had blood on them.
- 3 Llewellyn ran into the castle, and found a trail of blood and signs of a struggle. He rushed upstairs and saw more blood. Behind him came his dog, limping slowly. Llewellyn's eyes were drawn to his baby's cot where his son should have been lying. The sheets were torn and covered with blood and, now, at his side, stood his blood-covered dog, Gelert. Llewellyn could think of only one thing, and cursed his dog: "You have betrayed my trust and killed my child" - and he plunged his sword into the dog.
- 4 No sooner had the dog died, than Llewellyn heard his baby son cry in the next room. He rushed in. There, next to his child, was the torn and mangled body of a huge wolf.
- 5 His dog had, after all, been faithful and brave, and had been injured in defending his master's child from the wolf. Happy as Llewellyn was that his child was alive, he knew that he had drawn the wrong conclusion from what he had

seen. He had not relied on his past experience of his faithful dog. But nothing could be changed. He buried his dog with great sadness. There, beneath a mound of stones, Gelert's grave can still be seen today in the village called "Gelert's Grave" - Beddgelert in North Wales.

6 *Let us pray:*

**God our Father,  
the Bible reminds us  
that your love for each of us is great  
and that you are faithful for ever,  
never letting us down.**

**Inspire us  
to value friendship and loyalty,  
and grow in faithfulness  
to those who love and trust us.  
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  
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