

21 SEPTEMBER

- 1 About this time, people of the Jewish faith will celebrate the feast of 'Rosh Hashanah'. The words in Hebrew mean "beginning of the year".
- 2 On the feast of 'Rosh Hashanah', people celebrate God's creation. During a festive meal, pieces of apple dipped in honey are eaten. It is an expression of hope for a sweet and pleasant year ahead.
- 3 'Rosh Hashanah' is also the first day of a ten-day period of reflection, asking God's forgiveness for faults of the past, promising to approach things in a better way in the year ahead. On this day, a ram's horn - called the 'shofar' - is blown.

4 *Let us pray:*

**Blessed are you, Lord,
God of all creation,
for having made us all different.**

**What I don't know about you
I need to learn from others
because they reflect
your image and likeness
in a different way.**

**I ask you to lead me
to seek to understand
the many people of good will
who are different from me.**

- 5 **Blessed are you, Lord,
God of all creation.
I am grateful
for all that is good in my life.
I know that you look on me
with tender love,
and invite me
to assess and renew
my attitude and direction in life.
Be with me in my determination
to live in a positive way.
Amen.**



 *Derived from lengths of time mentioned in the Old Testament, it was once thought that the creation of the world took place in 3761 B.C. - and it is from that date that the Jewish calendar is named. Accordingly, add 3,761 to the year of the Christian Calendar to determine the number of the Jewish year e.g. 2000 is the Jewish year 5761; 2012 is the Jewish year 5773.*

 *The Jewish New Year is celebrated on the first and second days of the Jewish month of Tishri (which falls in September or October).*

 *Genesis 22 details the episode of Abraham and Isaac, and the sacrifice of a ram. The blowing of the 'shofar', the ram's horn, recalls this incident. The Book of Numbers 29^{f-11} mentions the 10 day period of reflection, penitence, and atonement that starts with this feast and concludes with Yom Kippur - see 8 October.*

 *The phrase "Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation" occurs in the prayers of the Jewish Sabbath (see 30 March), and form the basis for the Offertory prayers in the Roman Catholic Eucharist (Mass).*

 *For 'New Year', see also 1 and 16 January.*

 *Blest be the Lord; God forgave my sin;
Oh the love of my Lord; O Lord all the
world; Seek ye first; The Lord's my shep-
herd; You shall cross the barren desert*

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