

24 JANUARY

- 1 Between 1984 and 1992, men from Europe and the United States were taken as hostages in Beirut, the capital of the Lebanon.
- 2 Terry Waite, a special envoy of the Archbishop of Canterbury, helped negotiate the release of four Britons. He was on his fifth trip to Beirut to negotiate the freedom of other hostages when he was taken captive himself.
- 3 He was kept in complete isolation for four years. Like the other hostages, there were no windows or fresh air in his small cell, and he was chained to a wall, sometimes weeks without any light. He suffered cruelty and torture, and became very ill. It would be 1,763 days before he would be released.



- 4 Terry Waite tells of a postcard from Britain that somehow reached him, and which his guards surprisingly passed on to him. The postcard - from someone he didn't know - read:



Could use as a prayer that of 24 March

- 5 *“Dear Terry,
You are not forgotten. People everywhere are praying for your release, and that of other hostages.
With best wishes,
Joy Brodier.*
- 6 On his release in November 1991, Terry praised the work of agencies like Amnesty International with their letter-writing campaigns, supporting prisoners of conscience: letters written to prisoners of conscience themselves, and courteous letters to their captors or governments.
- 7 *Let's pray in silence for a moment for people across the world, like Terry Waite, who are prisoners of conscience...*

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