

(See also 4 March)

- 1 In 1861 Abraham Lincoln was elected 16th President of the United States, just as the country was about to break up in Civil War for four years between the States of the North and those of the South.
- 2 One of the reasons for the start of the Civil War lay in the fact that the South had slavery. Of the 9 million people in the South, 4 million were slaves. Lincoln said:  
*“ ‘A house divided against itself cannot stand.’  
 I believe this government cannot endure permanently, half slave and half free.”*  
 He abolished slavery, declaring all people to be free.
- 3 During the Civil War, 4 out of every 100 Americans were either killed or seriously wounded. Of every 100 soldiers, 5 died in battle and 20 died of illness and disease.
- 4 Today is the anniversary of the end of the American Civil War in 1865.
- 5 Abraham Lincoln wrote a prayer about injustice and war and all who suffer in war. We use Lincoln’s words today, as we pray for those who need justice and healing and peace in their lives:
- 6 **Grant, O merciful God,  
 that with malice toward none,  
 with charity to all,  
 with firmness in the right  
 as you give us to see the right,  
 we may strive to finish  
 the work we are in:  
 to bind up the nation’s wounds,  
 to care for those  
 who have borne the battle**

**and for their widows and orphans,  
 to do all which may achieve and cherish  
 a just and lasting peace  
 among ourselves and with all nations.  
 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](http://www.prayingeachday.org)