

- 1 A German-speaking boy was often physically abused - beaten by his father for the smallest thing he ever did wrong. The father did not call him by his name. Instead, whenever the father wanted the boy to come to him, he whistled for him, as if his son was a dog.
- 2 Sometime later, the boy discovered that his grandfather (whom he hardly knew) was Jewish. In his twisted way of thinking, he thought that his grandfather's "Jewishness" somehow must be the reason why his father was so cruel and nasty towards him.
- 3 Having been insulted and abused by his father, the boy grew up with strange views about himself, and with strange views about Jewish people. This boy was Adolf Hitler.
- 4 After leading Germany and Europe and much of the world in devastation and war, costing the lives of so many people (including millions of Jews), Adolf Hitler committed suicide on this day in 1945 in his bunker deep under the ruined city of Berlin.
- 5 *Let us pray in silence for a moment, thinking of all who died during that war...*

*(pause...)*

- 6 **Let us pray for all who suffer  
from hatred and prejudice,  
from abuse and ill-treatment,  
and for all who are victims  
of other people.**

**Let us pray, too,  
for the people of violence,  
that they may change their ways  
and learn to respect others.**

**Let us pray for ourselves,  
that when we face  
what is negative or evil**

**we may have  
the courage and generosity  
to break the cycle of violence,  
taking responsibility  
for the direction  
in which we want our lives to go.**

**Let us pray**

**that we may always do to others  
as we would wish them to do to 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  
in Great Britain:  
[www.prayingeachday.org](http://www.prayingeachday.org)