

12 DECEMBER

- 1 On this day in 1653, Oliver Cromwell was declared “Lord Protector” of England. The country had become a republic, and King Charles I had been executed five years previously. Cromwell would have almost absolute power for the following five years.
- 2 A painting of the Lord Protector was commissioned. The artist felt that he should paint the feared Cromwell as favourably as possible. The problem lay in the fact that Cromwell was far from looking attractive, and had pimples and warts on his face. He said to the artist:
- 3 *“Use your skill
to paint my picture truly like me,
and do not flatter me at all.
Show me as I am - warts and all.
Otherwise I will never pay a farthing
for it.”*
- 4 That phrase - “warts and all” - has passed into the English language, as a reminder to accept people fully as they are: accepting not just a person’s positive points, but valuing the whole person, “warts and all”.
- 5 *Let us pray:*

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**God our Father,
as you welcome me
and accept me fully
and love me as the person I am,
so inspire me
to be generous to others
in the welcome and acceptance,
and the love and the care
that I offer.
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