

1 The comedy series 'Blackadder' stars Rowan Atkinson. One series was set in the times of Queen Elizabeth I, and another in the trenches of the First World War. Edmund Blackadder also appears as the butler to George, the Prince Regent. One of the characters in that series is Doctor Johnson, who is seen to be compiling a dictionary.

2 The **real** Doctor Samuel Johnson - who died on this day in 1784 - spent 8 years preparing his dictionary of about 40,000 definitions. He was also a poet, and is remembered for short phrases (sometimes comical) that sum up a situation.

3 He wrote this simple statement:  
*"True greatness  
 consists in being great  
 in little things."*

4 *Let us pray:*

**Lord, I need to keep an eye  
 on the small things in life  
 as well as the bigger issues,  
 because my thoughts  
 become my attitude,  
 my attitude becomes my words,  
 my words become my actions,  
 and my actions form my character.**

**Be there, Lord,  
 in that instant before every thought,  
 that I may choose wisely  
 my thoughts and my attitude,  
 my words and my actions,  
 so that I may grow in friendship  
 with those  
 who become part of my life.**

**Show me, too,  
 how best to encourage others  
 to reach their potential.**

**Amen.**

5 *"True greatness  
 consists in being great  
 in little things."*

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)