

- 1 Often shown as a film at Christmas is Charles Dickens' story, '*A Christmas Carol*'. The rich and miserly Scrooge is known to be selfish and uncaring towards everyone. When asked to donate some money for the poor, he says:

"I don't make merry myself at Christmas, and I can't afford to make idle people merry."
- 2 His partner in business had been Jacob Marley, but he had died and now sends three messengers to Ebenezer Scrooge. The first is called the '*Ghost of Christmas Past*'. He shows Scrooge the happiness that he **could** have had, if he had made different choices in his life.
- 3 The second messenger is the "*Ghost of Christmas Present*". He shows Scrooge how happy his married nephew is, despite not having his uncle's great wealth. He is also shown the family of one of his employees, Bob Cratchit, who is very poor yet has a very happy life at home. One of his children is called 'Tiny Tim', who is disabled. Tiny Tim says that he hopes that those who have seen him in church (with his disability)

*"might recall on Christmas Day
who it was
who made lame beggars walk
and the blind see."*
- 4 Scrooge's third visitor is the '*Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come*'. He shows Scrooge that, in the future, he will sack Bob Cratchit. With no income for the family, Tiny Tim will die. The Ghost then takes Scrooge to a tomb - it is his own - and no-one will mourn his passing. Yet Scrooge learns that, if he changes, life will be different, and the negative things he has seen will not then take place.
- 5 The next day is Christmas Day. As he awakes, Ebenezer Scrooge is a changed person. He gives a pay-rise to Bob Cratchit and visits his family, meeting Tiny Tim, who says,

"God bless us everyone."
- 6 Scrooge now chooses to live in a positive and cheerful way, and so discovers happiness himself.
- 7 '*A Christmas Carol*' is one of many books by Charles Dickens, and it was published on this day in 1843.
- 8 Our prayer today is simply those words of Tiny Tim. So let us pray for all whom we love and all who share our lives:
- 9 **"God bless us everyone."**

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
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www.prayingeachday.org