

4 JANUARY

(See 2 January for Louis Braille)

(See also 20 March for Isaac Newton)

- 1 Isaac Newton was born on January 4th 1643. What is Newton remembered for?
- 2 He developed Calculus, a branch of mathematics.
- 3 In studies of light, he showed via a prism that sunlight is made of a spectrum of colours - red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet.
- 4 Newton formulated Three Laws of Motion, which led to his theory of Universal Gravitation (often remembered in the incident of the falling apple).
- 5 Newton's work was a turning point in science, but he acknowledged that his progress and success were built on the hard work and achievements of people before him:

"If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants."

- 6 *Let us pray:*

Lord,

**there is so much that I don't know,
and I ask you to inspire me
with a thirst for knowledge.**

I pray, too,

**for wisdom and understanding
that I may use my knowledge well.**

I give thanks

**for many people I have never met
whose knowledge
and understanding
have been passed on to me.**

I ask that I may benefit

**from their work and experience
and may contribute, in turn,
to the well-being of others. 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