

18 JANUARY

(See also 25 January)

- 1 Today sees the start of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.
- 2 Pope John XXIII (*the twenty-third*) was Pope in the early 1960s and he did a lot for world peace at the time of the Cuban Missile Crisis that almost became World War III. He is also well-known for being very keen to bring closer together Christians of different churches. He said:

*“In essential things - unity;
in unimportant things - freedom;
in all things - charity.”*

- 3 The end of Church Unity Week on the 25th is the anniversary (in 1959) of the announcement by Pope John that he would call together all the Catholic bishops across the world to look at bringing the Church up-to-date, *“to let in some air and blow away the dust”*. That meeting would be called “The Second Vatican Council”.
- 4 Pope John wrote a prayer which we will make our own today:

**“Renew in our own days
your miracles
like a second Pentecost.
Grant that the Church,
re-united in prayer,
may extend the kingdom of Jesus
- a kingdom of truth and justice,
of love and peace.
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