

(See also 21 January and 29 April)

- 1 The ship called “*The Queen Mary*” was one of the finest of British ships. Shortly before the ship’s launch in 1934, Sir Thomas Royden, one of the directors of the shipping company, Cunard, met King George V (*the 5th*), intending to ask his permission to name the new ship “*The Queen Victoria*”.
- 2 Royden asked the king if the ship could be named “*after the greatest queen this country has ever known.*” King George, presuming the words were being said of his wife (Queen Mary), said: “*That is the greatest compliment ever paid to my wife. I’ll ask her if your ship may be named after her.*” It was only years later that the shipping company mentioned that it had been intending to call the ship “*The Queen Victoria*”!
- 3 Queen Victoria herself died on this day in 1901.
- 4 There is always a great ceremony when ships are named, and a bottle is broken on the bow of the ship. We celebrate when people are given their name at the time of baptism (christening).
- 5 If someone is not bothered to call people by their name, it might reflect a lack of care and respect. We know that Adolf Hitler’s father never called him by his name, but whistled for him (like for a dog) whenever he wanted him. In some countries, prisoners are called by numbers rather than by their names as a way of de-humanising them, of taking away their individuality.
- 6 Let’s think in silence for a moment of one person whom I could value and respect more. In what specific ways can I show respect and appreciation to that person today? (*pause*)

7 *Let us pray:*

**God our Father,
you call each of us by name,
and you treasure each of us
individually
as though no-one else exists.
Inspire us
to respect and value
each person
who comes into our lives this day.
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