

(See also 26/27 January)

- 1 Those who have been on holiday to Malta, may know that one of the bays is called Saint Paul's Bay, in the north of the island. It bears that name because Saint Paul was shipwrecked there on his way to prison in Rome.
- 2 Today is the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul. Originally he was known as "Saul", a Jewish leader who worked hard for the total destruction of the Christian Church, going from house to house to arrest people and put them in prison. This persecution was taking place after the Resurrection of Jesus, as more and more people became Christians.
- 3 On a journey to Damascus, though, Saul was struck blind by a bright light suddenly shining around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice: "*Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?*" Saul asked: "*Who are you?*" The voice replied: "*I am Jesus of Nazareth, and you are persecuting me.*"
- 4 Saul asked: "*What am I to do, Lord?*" The voice replied: "*Stand up and go into Damascus. There you will be told what to do.*"
- 5 Blind as he now was, Saul's companions had to lead him by the hand into Damascus. After three days, a man called Ananias had a vision, telling him to visit the blind Saul. At first he resisted, knowing that Saul had set out to imprison Christians, not to become one of them! He wondered if this was a trap, but the Lord told him: "*You must go all the same, because Saul is the one I have chosen to bring the Gospel to many people.*"
- 6 And so Ananias visited Saul and said to him: "*Saul, I have been sent by the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on your jour-*

ney here. Be filled with the Holy Spirit, and receive back your sight." Saul's sight was restored, and he was baptised a Christian.

- 7 From having persecuted Christians, he himself followed Christ and helped to spread the Gospel throughout various parts of the world.
- 8 *Let us pray, using some words of blessing that Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth:*

**May the life of the Lord Jesus,
and the love of God the Father,
and the companionship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all. Amen.** *(2 Cor 13¹³)*

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