

2 JUNE

- 1 When a football match or another sports match is held between two local teams, it is called a “derby”. How did we get the name?
- 2 In 1780, Edward Stanley, the 12th Earl of Derby, decided to have a bet with his neighbour. There would be a race of just their two horses. First of all they tossed a coin to decide what they should call the race; whoever won the toss would have the race called by his name.
- 3 Every year since then “the Derby” has been held, and it is the most famous of horse races held on the flat. It is usually run on the first Wednesday of every June, and has been held on the Epsom Downs in Surrey for over 200 years. Only three-year old horses can run in the Derby, and so no horse can ever win twice, although jockeys and owners can.
- 4 That first Derby was a competition between two neighbours, and so we often refer to a sports match between two local teams as a “derby”.
- 5 That first Derby in 1780 was literally a “two horse race”, giving us a phrase that we sometimes use in speech. If there are a few people in a competition - but only two strong runners - we might say “it’s a two horse race”.

6 *Let us pray:*

**Lord, you have given skills and talents
to each of us,
and you are pleased
when we use them well.**

I ask

**that I may work well with others
and bring out the best in them
as well as in myself.**

Lead me to live in such a way

**that I show appreciation
for the achievements
of all who use their talents well.**

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