

(See also 10 June.)

- 1 One of England's greatest authors, Charles Dickens, died on this day in 1870.
- 2 He had started school at the age of 9 but had to leave when his father was imprisoned for debt. Charles Dickens was then aged 12 and he had to get a job to support himself. He found work in a shoe-polish factory, but felt humiliated and not in control of his own life. This experience would haunt him for the rest of his life. Later he would write a book called '**David Copperfield**', which reflected his own difficult experiences as a child.
- 3 Dickens used some of his novels to point out that many people suffered greatly at that time in Victorian England. These stories were a good way of encouraging people to look at how they might help make their part of the world a better place.
- 4 His stories were printed as a serial in a London newspaper. Dickens was in great demand as a public reader of his novels, which he tended to act out as he spoke.
- 5 Charles Dickens died in 1870. Queen Victoria wrote of him in her diary: "*He is a very great loss. He had a large loving mind, and the strongest sympathy with the poor.*" He was buried in Westminster Abbey beside the graves of the nation's kings and queens and other famous people.
- 6 We can reflect on some words written by Charles Dickens:
*"Some great people
 make others feel small,
 but the real great people
 are those who make others feel great."*
- 7 Let's pause in silence to think just how I might help someone today to "feel great" about themselves.
(pause...)

8 *Let us pray:*

**Lord our God,
 may I learn
 to treat others generously,
 with respect,
 and with care and understanding,
 that we may all
 bring out the best in one another.
 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