




- 1 Florence Nightingale was born in 1820. She felt called to be a nurse and travelled to learn about nursing to many hospitals throughout Britain and Europe.
- 2 In 1854 the Crimean War started. Britain and France and the Ottoman Empire (based on present-day Turkey) sent armies to resist expansion by the Russian Empire into areas like Romania and Serbia and the Black Sea.
- 3 Word reached Britain that conditions for the soldiers were dreadful, with supplies of food and clothing never reaching the soldiers. More died of disease than in battle. 'The Times' newspaper wrote: *"Are there no devoted women among us, able and willing to go forth and minister to the sick and suffering soldiers?"* Florence Nightingale volunteered her services, and set off for the Crimea with 38 nurses. On arrival, they discovered that the wounded soldiers were kept in rat-infested buildings. Much of the money that Florence Nightingale was given, she spent on materials to clean the hospital. It was obvious to her that the wounded and sick soldiers had little chance of remaining alive in infected buildings.
- 4 After 6 months there, Florence Nightingale's efforts greatly reduced the death rate. Before her arrival, 42 out of every 100 patients died; now only 2 out of every 100 died. So grateful were the soldiers for the help and care that Florence Nightingale offered, that many would kiss her shadow as she walked with her lamp through the hospital at night. She became known as *"The Lady with the Lamp"*.
- 5 She was now a national heroine, and the British public raised £50,000 - a vast amount of money in those times. With that money she founded the first-ever training school for nurses. Yesterday,

15th June, is the anniversary in 1860 of her opening that *'Nightingale School and Home for Nurses'*. From that time on, nurses were well-trained in medical care and the responsibilities of nursing. Florence Nightingale's writings about nursing were translated into many languages. She became the first woman to receive the newly-formed *"Order of Merit"* - an award given by the King or Queen, and limited to 24 people at any one time.

- 6 Let us pause for a moment to remember in prayer all who are ill, and all who take care of them, mentioning in silence those people whom we know.

(pause...)



-  *Or could use the prayer of 11 Feb or 28 May.*
 -  *The Crimean War, 1853-1856, centred on resistance mainly by Britain and France to Russia's growing influence in the Balkans [such as Romania and Serbia]. Russia's influence was increasing as the Ottoman Empire [based on Turkey] was collapsing. Russia also wanted to control the straits between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean, giving them influence in the Middle East. The War was named after the Crimean Peninsular - then part of the Russian Empire - where the fighting [e.g. Balaclava] took place. The Crimean War was the first conflict to cost over a million lives.*
 -  *Florence Nightingale: 12/5/1820-13/8/1910. Her first hospital was the converted barracks of Scutari. On her return from the Crimea, she suffered severely from illness herself - thought to be M.E., variously called "Chronic Fatigue Immune Dysfunction Syndrome", which is an incapacitating illness that affects nerve cells, muscle cells, and some of the functions of the brain.*
- Poem: "The Charge of the Light Brigade" by Alfred Lord Tennyson.*

 Lay your hands; Take my hands; There is a world

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
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www.prayingeachday.org