

(See also 24 June.)

- 1 Blaise Pascal was born in France on this day in 1623. He is one of the world's greatest mathematicians and scientists. His scientific contributions included work on pressure, and he invented the syringe and the hydraulic press. In tribute to him, the unit of pressure is now called "The Pascal".
- 2 He made the world's first calculating machine in 1642. He realised that such a machine would help people like his father, who was a tax official. Numbers were dialled on connecting metal wheels, and the result appeared in little windows.
- 3 Blaise Pascal had an experience that changed the course of his life. Because the experience was so important to him, he wrote about it on a piece of paper, and he sewed that piece of paper into his clothing. There it was found, within his clothing, when he died, nine years later. This is what the paper reads:
- 4 *"The Year of the Lord, 1654.
Monday 23rd November,
from about half-past ten in the evening
until about twelve at night: fire.*

*God of Abraham,
God of Isaac,
God of Jacob
- not the God
of philosophers and scholars.*

*Certainty, joy, peace.
God of Jesus Christ.
He is only found along the ways
that are taught in the gospel.*

*Tears of joy.
I had parted from him.
Let me never be separated from him.
Surrender to Jesus Christ."*

5 *Let us pray:*

**Lord Jesus, you promised
that when two or three
would get together in your name
then you would be present with them.
May your Spirit
lead us to grow more aware
of your presence in our lives
today and every 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