

- 1 England's first Christian martyr was Saint Alban. He was executed in Roman times (about the year 304 A.D.), and the city of St Albans is named after him. The cathedral there is built on the site where he was beheaded. Today is his feastday. Who was Alban, and why did he die?
- 2 An old man knocked on Alban's door, and he was invited in. The man was a Christian priest who was trying to get away from those who wanted to kill him. Although they had never met before, and even though Alban was not a Christian at that time, he gave food and shelter and protection to the priest, keeping him there in secret. The priest talked about following Christ, and Alban became a Christian although he knew that Christians were being imprisoned or executed.
- 3 Some time later, the local authorities were told that a priest was hiding in Alban's house, and soldiers were sent to arrest the priest. As the soldiers arrived, Alban wrapped the priest's cloak around himself, wanting the priest to escape. The soldiers took Alban away, thinking he was the priest. Alban was sacrificing himself for the sake of his friend.
- 4 The Roman governor was angry that he had been cheated of the death of the priest, but he commanded Alban to sacrifice to the Roman gods. Alban refused to do so. After torture, he was executed by being beheaded - simply because he was a Christian.
- 5 It's unlikely that any of us here will be killed because we are Christians. In other places, people are discriminated against or beaten up or even killed because of their choice to follow Jesus.
- 6 There is a poster that says: "*If you were accused of being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?*"  
Let's pause in silence for a moment.  
(pause...)
- 7 Let us pray for all prisoners of conscience, and also for those who torture and kill.  
Lord, in your mercy - **hear our prayer.**
- 8 Let us pray that, when times are difficult, others may find us to be true friends.  
Lord, in your mercy - **hear our prayer.**
- 9 Let us pray that we may live generously, being prepared to make sacrifices for the benefit of others.  
Lord, in your mercy - **hear our prayer.**

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](http://www.prayingeachday.org)