

- 1 2,000 years ago, some wealthy people would have a statue (or just a head) carved of themselves from marble or stone. It would take a long time and a lot of effort to finish a statue by chipping away with a chisel at the marble or stone. It took only one slip of the chisel for damage to be done. Rather than throw away a damaged statue that had taken so long to produce, some sculptors would melt wax and then mould a little of it into the place where the damage had been.
- 2 In the sculptor's shop, the customer would not be able to see the wax without looking very closely. In the warmth of a house or the sunshine, the wax might melt. A genuine statue would be **without wax**. The Latin words for "without wax" are "*sine cera*" - giving us the English word "sincere". A statue that was "the real thing", genuine, would be "*without wax*" - sincere.
- 3 And so, if we say that individuals are **not** "sincere", then they are false, not the real thing, not genuine: pretending to be what they are not.
- 4 *Let us pray:*

**Lord, we are conscious  
of the image that people give  
- whether it's the clothes we wear,  
how we look,  
what we say,  
or who we choose to go with.  
Sometimes the image doesn't match  
who we really are.  
Lead each of us to live sincerely  
as we are called to be. 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](http://www.prayingeachday.org)