

# 21 MARCH

- 1 From 1948 until 1990, “apartheid” was the system in South Africa. The word “apartheid” means “separateness”, and the laws enforced a very firm separation of people according to race and colour. On this day in 1960 about 15,000 black people formed a peaceful demonstration against the “pass laws” which forced blacks to carry identification and travel permits with them all the time. The police opened fire in the black township of Sharpeville. 56 black people were killed, and a further 162 were wounded. It is known as the ‘Sharpeville Massacre’.
- 2 We remind ourselves of the evils of all systems that declare some people to be inferior because they are “different” in some way. We think of apartheid in South Africa, Nazi rule throughout Europe, Pol Pot in Cambodia, and Stalin in the Soviet Union.
3. *Let us pray:*

**Father,**  
you have made all people  
in your own likeness,  
and you love all that you have made.  
Your Son was born  
as a member of a Jewish family,  
and was recognised  
by wise men from the east.  
He rejoiced in the faith  
of a Roman soldier  
and a Syrian woman,  
and he praised Samaritans  
for their attitude and good works.  
He welcomed the Greeks  
who searched for him,  
and he was helped to carry his cross  
by an African.

- 4 **Father, may our human family  
not become separated from you  
by building barriers  
of race and colour,  
of class and belief.  
Inspire us to recognise  
that we are all made  
in your image and likeness,  
so that we may grow  
in appreciation of all people,  
and encourage each other  
to grow in pride  
in who we are  
and who we are called to be.  
May we recognise your Son in our midst,  
and live truly as brothers and sisters.  
Amen.**



 (3): Gen 1<sup>27</sup>, Wis 2<sup>23</sup>, Wis 11<sup>24</sup>;  
Lk 2, Mt 2<sup>1-12</sup>  
Lk 7<sup>10</sup>, Mk 7<sup>26</sup>, Lk 17<sup>19</sup>, Lk 10<sup>56</sup>  
Jn 12<sup>20</sup>, Lk 23<sup>26</sup>

 (4): Jn 11<sup>52</sup>  
Gen 1<sup>27</sup>, Wis 2<sup>23</sup>, Lk 1<sup>48</sup>, Jn 15<sup>15</sup>  
Lk 24<sup>31</sup>, 1 Pet 3<sup>8</sup>, 1 Jn 4<sup>20</sup>.

 Acts 10<sup>1-35</sup> - God has no favourites: anyone of any nationality is acceptable to him.

 Amazing grace; Christ is our king; Come let us go up to the Lord

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)