

- 1 Mount Everest is part of the Himalayas mountain range in south-east Asia, on the frontier of Nepal and Tibet. It is the highest peak in the world - over 8,800 metres (over 29,000 feet) above sea level.
- 2 After many unsuccessful and sometimes fatal attempts to reach the top, Mount Everest was finally “conquered” on this day in 1953 by two members of a British expedition - Edmund Hillary from New Zealand, and Tenzing Norkay, a local guide from Nepal. They stayed at the summit for only 15 minutes, and there planted the flags of Britain, Nepal, India, and the United Nations.
- 3 This was a very great achievement. No-one we know is likely to achieve so much, but each of us has “*Mount Everests*” in our own lives - various difficulties that need effort and maybe team work to conquer.
- 4 We can think, too, that a walk of 20 metres for a person with a physical disability or serious illness may be one of the greatest achievements of that individual’s life. Such a short walk would be taken for granted by most people. What one person may achieve with very little effort may be a **great** achievement for someone with different abilities.
- 5 What really counts is the effort we put into something to make it our own best. My “*success*” and “*achievement*” can only be measured against my own potential.

6 *Let us pray:*

**Lord, I ask that you inspire me  
 always to do my best  
 - not comparing myself with others,  
 but only with myself.  
 Lead me, Lord,  
 to discover and use  
 my own talents to the full.**

**May I live in such a way  
 that I help others  
 to experience success.  
 Inspire me to be generous  
 in praising others  
 for the good use of their abilities  
 - looking not so much  
 at the degree of achievement  
 but at the effort put in. 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)