

# 16 NOVEMBER

---

- 1 The Polish scientist, Marie Curie, and her husband (Pierre) discovered 2 new elements which they called “polonium” and “radium”. The elements were radioactive.
- 2 Marie Curie’s work in radioactivity was of great benefit in medicine. It was discovered that cancerous cells could be killed by the use of small amounts of radioactivity (such as from radium), without seriously damaging nearby healthy tissue.
- 3 The Curies refused to “patent” (“to own with the intention of making profit from”) their work and discoveries, saying that *“Physicists should always publish their researches completely. If our discovery has a commercial future, that is a circumstance from which we should not profit. If radium is to be used in the treatment of disease, it is impossible for us to take advantage of that.”*
- 4 Marie Curie - born in November 1867 - became world-famous, and was awarded two Nobel Prizes. Unaware in those days of the dangers of radioactivity. She died from radiation poisoning at the age of 65.

5 *Let us pray:*

**Lord,**

**there is so much that I don’t know,  
and I ask you to inspire me  
with a thirst for knowledge.**

**I pray, too, for wisdom**

**that I may use my knowledge well.**

**I give thanks**

**for many people I have never met  
whose knowledge and understanding  
have been passed on to me.**

**I ask that I may benefit**

**from their work and experience  
and may contribute, in turn,**

**to the well-being of others. 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)