

- 1 In the summer of 1620, a group of 120 people set sail from Plymouth on the south coast of Devon. They had experienced persecution in England because of their religious beliefs. In their ship, the *'Mayflower'*, these "*Pilgrims*" (or "Pilgrim Fathers") crossed the Atlantic. They called their place of landing "*New Plymouth*", and the area became known as "*New England*", which is on the north-east coast of what we now call "the United States".
- 2 Half of the small colony's number died during their first winter. Then they received help from the Native Americans. Joining together, both groups celebrated a day of thanksgiving for the harvest in the autumn of 1621.
- 3 "Thanksgiving Day" in the United States is an important national holiday which is celebrated in family groups. It is held on the fourth Thursday each November.
- 4 **Let's pause**
to remember and give thanks
for what has been good in our lives:
- for people who have given us
love and care,
friendship and support...
- 5 **Let's pause**
to remember and give thanks
- for our health and talents,
and for the opportunities
that come to us...
- 6 **Let's pause**
to remember and give thanks
- for the beauty that we can see
and for the inspiration we receive...
- 7 **Let's pause**
to remember and give thanks
- for the happy memories we treasure
and for all that has been good
over the years...

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