

- 1 One of the best-known landmarks in the world is that of the Statue of Liberty on an island in New York Harbour. The famous statue is over 46 metres (*152 feet*) high and is of a woman with a spiked crown, with a book in her left hand, and a torch held high in her outstretched right hand. That light shines as a beacon at night and through mists.
- 2 At the feet of the statue are broken chains, representing release from oppression, persecution and poverty - left behind by many of the immigrants arriving on ships in New York Harbour.
- 3 France had helped the United States to gain independence from Britain in 1776. 100 years later, French people raised money to build the Statue of Liberty as a gift to the U.S.A.
- 4 The people of Paris saw the huge statue rising above the housetops. 32 tons of copper were made into the 'skin' of the statue. Once completed, the statue was taken apart and crated to New York. As intended the copper would eventually corrode, giving the statue a blue-green colour.
- 5 Tomorrow, the 28th October, is the anniversary of the dedication of the Statue of Liberty by President Cleveland in 1886.
- 6 Let us pray for all refugees and exiles who are far from their homeland.  
Lord, in your mercy - **hear our prayer.**
- 7 Let us pray for a greater understanding between people, in places where there is civil unrest and war.  
Lord, in your mercy - **hear our prayer.**
- 8 Let us pray for all who are experiencing persecution and oppression.  
Lord, in your mercy - **hear our prayer.**
- 9 Let us pray for all who would like to make a new start in their lives.  
Lord, in your mercy - **hear our prayer.**



 *Could use the prayer about freedom on 12 October.*

 *The sculptor, Frédéric Bartholdi, called on Gustave Eiffel (who built Paris' metal tower) to design the iron support structure around which the figure would be built.*

 *The following words are from a poem entitled 'The New Colossus' by Emma Lazarus, and were placed on a plaque by the huge statue in 1903. "The golden door" is a name for New York Harbour.*

"Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses  
yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse  
of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless,  
tempest-tossed to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

 *The statue has since become an international symbol of liberty itself. During the pro-democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square in Beijing, China, from April to June 1989, a rough copy of the Statue of Liberty was built in the Square beneath the large portrait of Mao-Tse-Tung, China's first Communist leader. That demonstration was crushed ruthlessly with the deaths of hundreds of students on 3rd/4th June 1989.*

 *When carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) dissolves in rain water (H<sub>2</sub>O), carbonic acid (H<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>) is produced. This reacts slowly with copper to produce the blue-green copper carbonate that we see on roofs and statues and water fountains etc made of copper itself or brass (copper-zinc alloy) or bronze (copper-tin alloy). Blue-green corrosion products are often called 'patinas' or 'verdigris'.*

 *Christ is our king ("freedom is waiting; all one day will be free"); Follow me; God's Spirit is in my heart ("set the down-trodden free"); Lay your hands ("sent to free the broken-hearted")*

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)