

- 1 From the 10th to the 12th July 1996, President Nelson Mandela - the first democratically-elected President of multi-racial South Africa - made a State Visit to Britain. Anyone who makes a State Visit is met by government officials and by the Queen, and banquets are given in that person's honour.
- 2 In South Africa's days of apartheid - the separation of people according to colour - Nelson Mandela spent many years in prison. After his release and his election, he found himself with very little time for himself. He spoke these words:
- 3 *"Although it was a tragedy to spend 27 years in prison, one of the advantages was the ability to sit down and think. This is one of the things I miss most."*
- 4 *Let us pray:*

Lord,

**I want to be responsible
for my own life,
and I want to make positive choices
each day.**

Inspire me

**to get my priorities right
and be generous
in my care and concern for others.**

In busy days and casual days

**remind me, too,
of my basic human need
for personal time
and quiet and space,
and lead me to respect
the personal needs
that others also have.**

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