

- 1 On this day in 1994 Nelson Mandela was sworn in as the first black President of South Africa. The year before, he and the then President (F.W. de Clerk) jointly received the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts to establish democracy and racial harmony in their country.
- 2 Nelson Mandela was elected President 4 years after being released from 27 years' captivity in prison. Two years after his election, Nelson Mandela made a State Visit to Britain. In her Christmas broadcast that year, Queen Elizabeth commented that President Mandela was an inspiration to many people, showing how we can all accept the facts of the past without bitterness, and learn to see new opportunities as more important than differences and disputes of the past.
- 3 *Let us pray:*

**We know, Lord,  
that throughout our lives  
each of us will experience  
problems and difficulties.  
Give us courage and strength  
at those times  
and prevent us then  
from looking only at ourselves.  
Keep our vision wide  
so that, even in times of difficulty,  
we may still be of help to others.  
Help us not to be bitter  
towards people or situations,  
but empower us  
to take the initiative  
and break the cycle  
of hatred, bitterness,  
and evil actions.  
Help us to transform  
the difficulties that come our way  
into opportunities for  
personal growth  
and service 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)