

Thank you Now here's 'Day by Day', in full for a change, for those of you who've been wanting to hear it all in one piece MUSIC [RHK-CBS: Ray, Coniff]

— The Ray Coniff singers' version of the song from the show & the film "Jodhpur"; Day by Day.

Many of you must have seen the TV show of the wedding of Princess Anne recently, and reacted in your own way to the spectacle, the colour, the dignity of the occasion. Much has already been written & said about the wedding as a distraction and temporary relief from the crises and woes of the economic situation in Britain at present; how the newspapers have gone to town for months in describing and speculating about every little detail. Many countries and societies don't have anything like this to give relief from the day to day anxiety of a time of trouble — like the comment already made about how President Nixon could do with such a state occasion. There are of course others who've attacked the whole business of the royal wedding, from various points of view, including the one that the country can't afford such pageantry and the cost of it all the money wd. better be given to the poor. But then, this does overlook something about man, about human needs, about the psychology of people or a country for whom such occasions are a real benefit which can't be measured in pounds and pence or welfare schemes. The same is true in its own way of our current Festival of HK. — there have been critics already complaining about the wasteful cost, about the waste of electricity for instance in all the gay lighting at night. Similar criticisms were made 15 years or so ago when the City Hall was being built — how there were greater priorities for the spending of public funds. Yet the benefits of the City Hall now, the facilities and opportunities it gives to the people of HK can't be equated with the few million dollars it cost to build. The fact is, people need to

celebrate sometimes, in some way. The origins of the Festival of HK may not have consciously included this, but it is a very important and real aspect of it: it is valuable and successful in as much as it does allow as many people as possible to participate and enjoy what's going on. And especially if we are in for a period of shortages, oil economies and so on, it is worth while for the community to ^{be able to} enjoy the festival lights for a while now — the saving to be made without them wd. make little other contribution to the spiritual life of HK. So let us enjoy this occasion, and pray that it will benefit people's deeper needs. It's a reminder that life isn't only dollars and cents, ~~and~~ business profits, what to eat and somewhere to live, basic needs as these last two certainly are. People have other needs, without necessarily being able to express clearly just what these are: and one is the need of the spirit, the need to celebrate life. The Church has been always aware of this, in its practice at least — that else is Sunday, all the feast-days through the year, many of them a direct response to what people wanted to celebrate and make an occasion of. In today's urban and industrial societies many of those Christian festival-days now pass unmarked, even among active Christians: and it's a loss we've to make up in other ways — perhaps like yesterday's feast of St. the King. That's another festival, wh. we usually now celebrate with a big fluff at the sport shed. As a reminder now of the place of Christ in our lives

RHK
ERA-0-4
1' 3:45

Ps 47 (Deiss)

MUSIC
PRAYERS

..out