

1 The author, Mark Twain, died on this day in 1901. He wrote *The Prince and the Pauper*. His two most famous books - *Tom Sawyer* and *Huckleberry Finn* are set in the southern United States where he was born. His name at birth was Samuel Clemens, but he wanted to choose a different name (a "pen name") under which to write.

2 Samuel Clemens had worked as a river pilot with boatmen along the great River Mississippi, over 2,300 miles (3,700 kilometres) in length. A century ago, when boat captains wanted to know if the water below them was shallow, a sailor would let into the water a length of weighted twain (string), already measured out at two fathoms (12 feet or 3.6 metres). "Mark twain" would be the shout of the sailor when the boat was in shallow water, and so the captain would know to be very careful. Hearing those two words so often, Samuel Clemens decided to adopt them as his pen-name under which to write his books.

3 Mark Twain made many interesting comments throughout his life. On one occasion he said: *"I can live for six months on a compliment."*

4 Let's each think in silence for a moment of **two** occasions when good things were said of us, and how we felt on receiving those compliments.

*(pause...)*

5 Let's each think in silence for a moment of **two** people we can encourage today with a genuine compliment - one person at home, and one person in school or at work. Let's think what we might say to them when the time is right...

*(pause...)*

6 *Let us pray:*

**Father, that I may treat others  
as I would like them to treat me.  
That I may forgive others  
as I would like them to forgive me.  
That I may encourage  
and compliment others  
in the same way  
that I would like them  
to encourage me.  
That I may see and love in others  
what I would like them  
to see and love in me.  
These things I ask  
through Christ our Lord.  
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)