

1 This is the birthday of the author, Kenneth Grahame, who wrote the book *"The Wind in the Willows"* In that book, two of the characters, Rat and Mole, paddle the boat upriver very early one morning. As the sun rises, they sense that they are in the Presence of some Divine Being, and they feel called to worship:

2 *'Slowly, but with no doubt or hesitation whatever, and in something of a solemn expectancy, the two animals passed through the broken, tumultuous water, and moored their boat at the flowery margin of the island. In silence they landed, and pushed through the blossom and scented herbage and undergrowth that led up to the level ground, till they stood on a little lawn of a marvellous green, set round with Nature's own orchard-trees: crab-apple, wild cherry, and sloe.*

3 "This is the place of my song-dream, the place the music played to me," *whispered Rat, as if in a trance.* "Here, in this holy place, here if anywhere, surely we shall find Him!"

4 *Then suddenly Mole felt a great Awe fall upon him, an awe that turned his muscles to water, bowed his head, and rooted his feet to the ground. It was no panic terror - indeed, he felt wonderfully at peace, and happy - but it was an awe that smote and held him and, without seeing, he knew it could only mean that some PRESENCE was very, very near. With difficulty he turned to look for his friend, and saw him at his side, cowed, stricken, and trembling violently. And still there was utter silence in the populous bird-haunted branches around them; and still the light grew and grew.*

5 "Rat!" *he found breath to whisper, shaking.* "Are you afraid?" "Afraid?" *murmured*

the Rat, his eyes shining with unutterable love. "Afraid! Of Him? O, never, never! And yet - and yet - O Mole, I am afraid!" *Then the two animals, crouching to the earth, bowed their heads, and did worship.'*

6 Let's remind ourselves in silence that God is with us and we are in his presence...

(pause...)

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