

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

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Life's rich tapestry

A FEW MONTHS before his brutal death in November 1978 during the final days of Zimbabwe's pre-Independence war, Roger Riddell had invited John Bradburne to his wedding in London. With characteristic aplomb, Bradburne sent his apologies by way of a not entirely successful poem, congratulating his old friend, a former Jesuit scholastic, on taking a Jewish bride:

I have played "Greensleeves" in your
Ely Place,
on a recorder of the Dolmatch brand.
And is Saint Etheldreda's not the space
Wherein a Douglas (Hyde) was made
to stand
upon his swollen communistic head
by Mary Queen of Tumblers?
'Twould be grand to see you being wed,
were Africa nearer to the Strand.

Riddell has many memories of Bradburne, whose cause for sainthood was recently approved by the Vatican: seeing him in his shorts and straw hat walking down an avenue



of trees with his basket of medicines and accompanying him as he tended to the lepers' sores; and sitting with him in his chapel, his face in a trance as he played the organ to accompany madrigals to the Madonna.

Riddell recently completed a novel, *Tapestries of Difference*, a contemporary love story set in London and Zimbabwe, peppered with reflections on faith and atheism, race and racism, and Ignatian discernment.

FR BEN O'ROURKE, long-time member of the Augustinian community at Clare Priory in

Suffolk, died on 25 August. He'd just turned 90. Clare has become known as a place of beauty, repair and refreshment for people whose lives have taken a bit of a pummelling, or who just want to escape the din, and O'Rourke was for many years its gentle heartbeat.

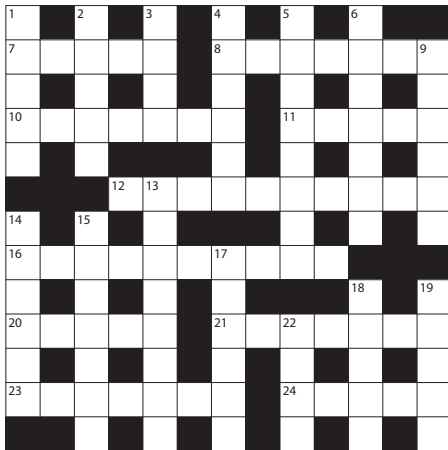
In his thirties, as a young English master at Austin Friars, the Augustinians' boarding school in Carlisle, O'Rourke had been a stern, flinty presence. When former pupils came across him in Clare, years later, they would be astonished to be greeted affectionately by a tender counsellor of bruised souls.

The contemplative side of St Augustine has been neglected. Through his retreats, books and translations, O'Rourke restored and polished this forgotten treasure. "The most important journey in your life", he would tell those who came to his retreats, "is the journey inwards, beyond words and images into silence. The silence allows the restless mind to become still and in the stillness we realise that we are in union with the source of life and love itself."

Alert to the end, a few weeks ago he told a visitor that he'd just finished reading all of Jane Austen for what he thought was the tenth time; he had re-read all of George Eliot the previous year, for what he calculated had been the sixth or seventh time.

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 673 | Enigma



Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 7 September, The Tablet, 1 King Street Cloisters, Clifton Walk, London W6 0GY. Email: thetablet@thetablet.co.uk, with Crossword in the subject field. Please include your full name, telephone number and email address, and a mailing address. Three books – on Augustine, Christianity and Thomas Aquinas – from the OUP's Very Short Introduction series will go to the sender of the first correct entry drawn at random on Friday 20 September. The answers to this week's puzzles and the crossword winner's name will appear in the 28 September issue.

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Across

- 7 (and 3 Down) If you covet soot, say so very quietly (5,4)
8 Instruct supplier to provide breakfast for the congregation, but not for the priest (3,4)
10 It's unprofessional to send half the continent in pursuit of a small rug (7)
11 I write, without hesitation, that this dog does its best (5)
12 Thief's helper mails items for the garden (5,5)
16 We'll all be late for it (3,4,3)
20 Loudly complain about the weak (5)
21 "The first report is almost entirely untrue," he writes as he recovers (7)
23 You can lose your ring at this place (7)
24 Sorry about the exercises; here is some money (5)

Down

- 1 Turn to a playwright to show us an English centre of spirituality (5)
2 Through which one not used to heaven may obtain a drink (5)
3 See 7 Across
4 The top two in the class scatter rice for one ordained (6)
5 Paddy, stop Ian writing about that horrible place! (8)
6 They're opposed to a prophet, they say, on the street (7)
9 Bill left the actress on Saturday, causing her great anxiety (6)
13 If Christianity had begun in our time, we might be reading St Paul's ----- the Romans (6,2)
14 The things of youth are in need of an

airing (6)

- 15 In the south of England, they lost little sleep over atonement for sins (7)
17 Failure to stuff the turkey led to an intemperate speech by the despot (6)
18 The faint-hearted make two points about the devil (5)
19 You and I and that woman all object to one telling us where to go (5)
20 It makes music to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the teaching of religion (4)

Solutions to the 10 August puzzles are on page 26

SUDOKU | Beginner

3			7	5			6
			9	1	4		
	8			3			4
		5		9		3	
1							5
		3		6		7	
	6			2			5
			4	5	8		
4			6	3			8

Each 3x3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9.

1	2	3	4	8	5	6	7	9
9	8	4	2	6	7	1	3	5
5	7	6	9	1	3	8	2	4
4	9	2	8	5	6	7	1	3
3	5	8	1	7	9	2	4	6
6	1	7	3	4	2	9	5	8
2	3	5	6	9	1	4	8	7
7	4	9	5	2	8	3	6	1
8	6	1	7	3	4	5	9	2

Solution to the 17 August puzzle

Solution to the 17 August crossword No. 671

Across: 7 Amice; 8 Gavotte; 10 Debrett; 11 Renal; 12 Manoeuvres;

16 Straighter; 20 Ahura; 21 Walpole; 23 Despair; 24 Monet.

Down: 1 Mazda; 2 Kirby; 3 Nene; 4 Agatho; 5 Overture; 6 Stoners; 9 Eglise;

13 Abinadab; 14 Oswald; 15 Irkutsk; 17 Howard; 18 Donne; 19 Feste 22 Lima.

Winner: Joan Stewart, of Belfast.