

The image we have of Charbel Makhluf is of a man with his eyes cast down, reminding us that the saint looked not at the world, but only at God. His life was completely uneventful, which is precisely the point.

Charbel guides us not to himself, but to God, and reminds us that silence and contemplation, with all other things set aside, are the royal road to the knowledge of God. It is not about us, and it certainly is not about our activism, which God could probably do without. Contemplation must be at the heart of the Church, and at

**To mark our anniversary, we have invited 50 Catholics to choose a person from the past 175 years whose life has been a personal inspiration to them and an example of their faith at its best**

the heart of every Christian life.

He was born in Bekaa Kafra, a village high in the mountains of north Lebanon, in 1828, the fifth child of a mule driver and his wife. He lost his father at an early age, entered a Maronite monastery at the age of 23, and in 1875, with the permission of his abbot, withdrew to a hermitage, spending the rest of his life in contemplative isolation. During this time, it is said, he did not see a single human being, but only looked at the Blessed Sacrament.

After his death in 1898 there

were various wonders associated with his tomb, and miracles soon followed. These miracles greatly contributed to the popularity of his cult, which spread throughout the Lebanese diaspora. St Charbel's picture or statue is often found in Mexican churches, a focus of intense devotion.

The Maronite Church is an ancient branch of Antiochene Christianity that has never been out of communion with Rome. Pope Paul VI, who beatified and canonised Charbel, hoped this Lebanese Maronite saint would be

a way in for us Westerners to the riches of the East: "May he make us understand, in a world largely fascinated by wealth and comfort, the paramount value of poverty, penance and asceticism, to liberate the soul in its ascent to God."

Charbel also reminds us of the origins of Christianity in the Aramaic world, a world now fast disappearing. And he reminds us that the Catholic Church breathes with two lungs, one Western and one Eastern, to the advantage of both.

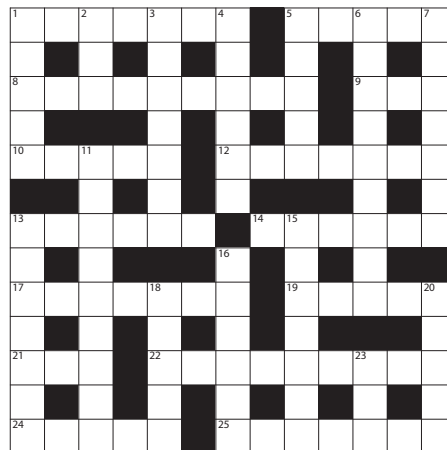
**Fr Alexander Lucie-Smith is a writer and parish priest at the church of St Hugh of Lincoln, Knaphill, Surrey.**

## PUZZLES

### PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 473 | Enigma

#### Across

- 1 Surname of fourth president of the USA (7)
- 5 Thigh bone (5)
- 8 Lake in Siberia into which a large meteorite fell in February 2013 (9)
- 9 --- Dinh; Northern Vietnam municipality 50 miles from Hanoi (3)
- 10 Insurance underwriters of Lloyd's syndicate (5)
- 12 Exchange (land, etc)/Barter (Scottish law) (7)
- 13 --- - --- Moody; professor in Harry Potter stories (3-3)
- 14 Insect which can look as if it is praying (6)
- 17 Solution for diminishing the density of photographic negatives (7)
- 19 Equal to 200 milligrams of gold (5)
- 21 --- Hakananai's Easter Island statue (3)
- 22 The part of grammar dealing with word changes showing case, number, tense etc (9)



24 Religious meal served in Jewish homes on 15th and 16th of the month of Nisan (5)

25 Daughter of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra (7)

#### Down

- 1 Capital of Saône-et-Loire Department (5)
- 2 River; also semi-circular, hollow cylinder of a cyclotron! (3)
- 3 He was Bobby Fischer's opponent in 1972 chess match (7)
- 4 One of the boundaries of the territory given to Hug during the

- reign of Tutankhamen (6)
- 5 Acid of vitamin B complex, found in green leaves and animal tissue (5)
- 6 It measures pressure (e.g. of blood, gas, vapours) (9)
- 7 Egyptian King (1279-1213 BC), known as "The Great" (alternative spelling) (7)
- 11 According to the Second World War phrase, British people --- - --- mended (4,2,3)
- 13 Their plant life is dominated by grasses; this distinguishes them from swamps (9)
- 15 Literary term for listlessness or depression (7)
- 16 Rare plant species *Atriplex glabriuscula* is also known as Babington's - - - - - (6)
- 18 - - - - De Lune; music by Debussy (5)
- 20 Eighth letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
- 23 First word in the poem "To Celia" (Sedley, 1639-1701) (3)

#### Please send your answers to:

#### Crossword Competition 15 August

The Tablet, 1 King Street Cloisters, Clifton Walk, London W6 0GY.

Please include your full name, telephone number and email address, and a mailing address. A copy of *Begat: the King James Bible and the English Language*, by David Crystal, OUP, will go to the sender of the first correct entry drawn at random on Friday 28 August.

● The answers to this week's puzzles and the crossword winner's name will appear in the 5 September issue.

#### Solution to the 25 July crossword No. 470

**Across:** 7 Hardy; 8 Peer out; 10 Perfect; 11 Pitch; 12 Chinchilla; 16 Tridentine; 20 Local; 21 Bigotry; 23 Dead Sea; 24 Roger  
**Down:** 1 Chops; 2 Drury; 3 Hyde; 4 Spot on; 5 Keep a hen; 6 Hostile; 9 To heal; 13 Headless; 14 Stolid; 15 His coat; 17 Tobias; 18 Stage; 19 Ayers; 22 Gory

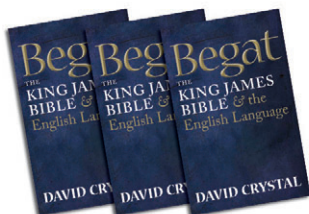
**Winners:** Stephen & Jill Pearce, of Codicote, Hertfordshire.

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

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

Solution to the 25 July puzzle

## Begat: the King James Bible and the English Language



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