

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

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Real presents

“PRINCE PHILIP: A Celebration”, an exhibition just opened at Windsor Castle, displays some of the presents he and the then Princess Elizabeth received when they married in 1947. There’s not a toaster or a kettle in sight. The government of Greece – once ruled by Philip’s grandfather – went for a Grecian urn with an image of Eros. Pope Pius XII opted for something more decorous – a pair of his and hers gilded chocolate cups with handles, lids, saucers and floral decoration.

Perhaps the Meissen porcelain prompted a warming of relations: Princess Elizabeth visited Pius XII in Rome four years after her wedding; as Queen, she went on to meet John XXIII and John Paul II. In 2010, when she and Prince Philip met Benedict XVI at Holyroodhouse at the start of his state visit, they presented him with a facsimile of a drawing by Hans Holbein the Younger of Catholic martyrs who had been executed on the orders of previous English monarchs. When they met Pope Francis in 2014, the Queen tried a more diplomatic tack, offering a basket of goodies from the royal estates including eggs, honey and whisky. Francis gave the couple a present for their newly born great-grandson,



Prince George. No, not a rattle or a baby-grow, but a lapis lazuli orb topped with a cross. The Queen told Francis that George would be thrilled – “when he’s a little older”.

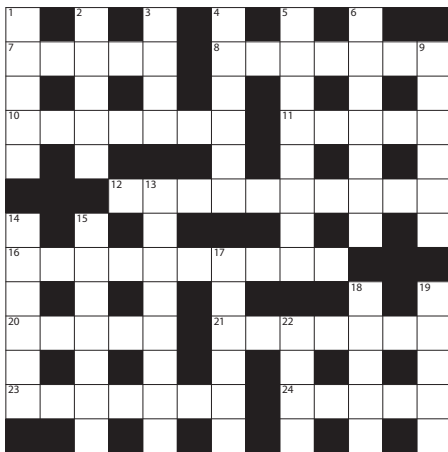
CLASHING THREADS have always added lustre to the Dominican tapestry. In the current issue of *The Lamp*, a handsome Catholic quarterly published in Three Rivers, Michigan (www.thelampmagazine.com), Fr Aidan Nichols OP shares his personal recollections of Herbert McCabe OP, who was buried in Wolvercote cemetery 20 years ago this week.

They met in the autumn of 1970, when 22-year-old Nichols was beginning his novitiate at Blackfriars, Oxford, and Fr McCabe had just been reinstated as the editor of *New Blackfriars* after a hiatus of three years prompted by his declaration that the Church was “plainly corrupt” (though that was no reason to leave it). In 2019 Fr Nichols caused ructions of his own when he signed an open letter to the bishops of the world calling on them “to take the steps necessary to deal with the grave situation of a heretical pope”.

Nichols writes with candid distaste for McCabe’s unreconstructed Marxism and deep-green Irish republicanism. Their theology, too, ran on different tracks. As Nichols ruefully observes: “Herbert’s distinctive approach to Saint Thomas, and his admiration for Wittgenstein, equipped him to speak to modern philosophers in the Anglo-American tradition in a way that I could never do.” But in McCabe’s sermons, “The dogmas of Holy Mother Church were magically reconfigured as the most exciting of original ideas.” And Nichols admires the elegant doctrinal purity of McCabe’s *A New Catechism of Christian Doctrine*, an old-fashioned question-and-answer summary of the Christian faith published in 1985 by the printers of the “penny catechism”, the Catholic Truth Society.

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 763 Enigma



Across

- 7 Get a grip on the king’s snake (5)
- 8 They could increase their business by telling men to put on weight (7)
- 10 Shakespearean character is too confused about this dreadful place (7)
- 11 The taxi is not outside the hut (5)
- 12 Going ahead to provide tea at the teen dance (10)
- 16 On the first of May, the tulip was divided. He said it wasn’t, but quite the opposite (10)
- 20 To begin with, Trump was imprudent? That’s rubbish (5)
- 21 One sailor, all by himself, provided the seafood (7)

23 Scream with pain, as old paper does (7)

24 Steal! It’s bad, but it’s the smallest of crimes (5)

Down

- 1 This dwelling would never survive if 10 Across took it to heart (5)
- 2 Articles in French and English might be helpful to a carpenter (5)
- 3 Having jewellery can leave one friendless (4)
- 4 Gin spilled on the mineral? Take no notice! (6)
- 5 It is a hard thing to commit a scam on a Greek island (8)
- 6 After the feud began, a dangerous rebel grew less powerful (7)
- 9 The mental health of the injured do-gooder; one-third of you write of it (6)
- 13 The American living next door (8)
- 14 Vulgar Sally loses everything while embracing the mongrel (6)
- 15 Not how one sees through St Paul’s glass (7)
- 17 You act as go-between? That is a lie! (6)
- 18 Bear with me when in this region (5)
- 19 We’re in a race; 150 set out (5)
- 22 A kiss with your drink helps the wheels turn smoothly (4)

Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 3 July, 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 God, Miracles and Pilgrimage – from the OUP’s Very Short Introduction series will go to the sender of the first correct entry drawn at random. **■ We are processing entries but there may be a delay in notifying winners and sending out prizes. Please keep entering.**

SUDOKU | Hard

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

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

Solution to the 12 June puzzle

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

Solution to the 12 June crossword No. 760

Across: 7 Tiara; 8 Aramaic; 10 Giacomo; 11 Idiot; 12 Steam train; 16 Outer rings; 20 Brede; 21 Oblates; 23 Yeshiva; 24 Irene.
Down: 1 Stage; 2 Japan; 3 Caro; 4 Yaqona; 5 Latin tag; 6 Vatican; 9 Catena; 13 Turmeric; 14 Torbay; 15 Atheist; 17 Isobar; 18 Otter; 19 Essen; 22 Lois.

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