

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

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In the bishop's back pocket

THE DISCONCERTING images of an exhausted-looking Pope Francis snatching his hand away from the lips of the faithful bowing to kiss his ring caused a predictable stir. The nearest I've ever got to serious kowtowing was when I was lined up to be introduced to the Obong of Calabar, a former dentist who had risen to become one of Nigeria's traditional rulers. By the time I'd got to the head of the queue, several flunkies had instructed me in the right protocol, and after I gave a little bow, the Obong and I shook hands like old friends. If someone had been whispering the correct drill in the ears of those waiting to meet the Holy Father in Loreto last week, he wouldn't have been left marooned between humility and rudeness.

Perhaps the maverick former Archbishop of Bombay, Thomas Roberts SJ, had the right idea. "Tommy", who enjoyed a long and mischievous semi-retirement in Mayfair, teasing and tormenting his fellow English bishops with his outré views on contraception, nuclear weapons and liturgical reform, was a stickler for informality. When people asked



him if they could kiss his episcopal ring, he would chuckle and say, "Yes of course. It's in my back pocket."

THE WRITER and historian John Cornwell elbowed a riveting account of the sometimes tense relationship between Emeritus Pope Benedict and his successor into *Vanity Fair* – the glossiest of the glossies – last year. His "Pope Versus Pope" appeared beneath a photograph of Benedict emerging from a black limo in ruby-red loafers and cape. Cornwell's skill in telling religious stories for a secular

readership has been recognised by the New York-based Religion Communicators Council. He has been invited to collect his Wilbur Award in Chicago on 12 April.

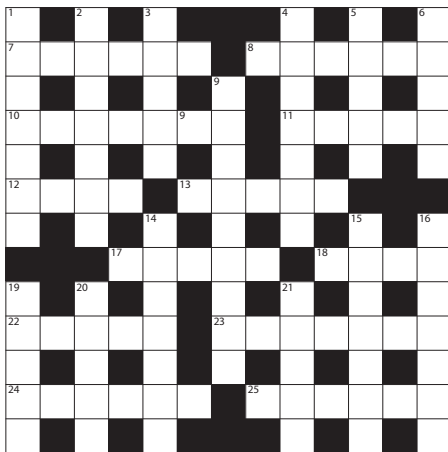
THERE'S MORE to glossy magazines than you might think. I've come across an interview with Seamus Heaney in an old copy of *Harpers & Queen* from 1995. Maggie Fergusson, now *The Tablet's* literary editor, asks Heaney about the legacy of his Catholic childhood.

"Catholicism has given me the right to joy," Heaney says. "People talk about the effects of a Catholic upbringing in sociological terms – repression, guilt, prudery. What isn't sufficiently acknowledged is the radiance of Catholicism. It gave everything in the world a meaning. It brought a tremendous sense of being, of the dimensions of reality, the shimmering edges of things. That never quite vanishes. The older I get, the more I remember the benediction of it all."

Not long afterwards, while on holiday in Greece with his wife Marie, Heaney learnt that he had won the Nobel Prize in Literature. Asked the inevitable question – Which of your poems springs to mind at this time? – Heaney recited: "When all the others were away at Mass", inspired by an early memory of peeling potatoes with his mother.

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 652 | Enigma



Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 6 April, 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 Paul, Theology and Christian Ethics – from the OUP's Very Short Introduction series will go to the sender of the first correct entry drawn at random on Friday 19 April. The answers to this week's puzzles and the crossword winner's name will appear in the 27 April issue.

Across

- 7 Daniel Nathan and E.B. Lepofsky wrote detective fiction under a pen name beginning ----- (6)
- 8 Instruction: "Repeat from the start" (music) (2,4)
- 10 Surname: Author of *The Millstone* (1965) (7)
- 11 Cheltenham and Ashbourne (Ireland) have statues of this great Irish racehorse (5)
- 12 "---- *Agnus Dei*" (Behold the Lamb of God): Latin Mass (4)
- 13 The gillyflower, also called the ----- flower (5)
- 17 Screen name of the late Arthur Marx (5)
- 18 Fibre from outer husk of the coconut -----(4)
- 22 Second son of Japheth (Genesis) (5)

- 23 Plane figure with ten straight sides (7)

- 24 An old term for countries of the Eastern Mediterranean (6)
- 25 Species of ryegrass which an enemy might sow among your crops (Scripture)(6)

Down

- 1 They do not wear plaid, according to the title of a 1982 film (4,3)
- 2 Son of Banquo (*Macbeth*) (7)
- 3 The dabchick is also called the little ----- (5)
- 4 The ----- bike (also called strider bike) is ideal for toddlers (7)
- 5 "What -----, Pip!" Thus Joe promises Pip future good times (*Great Expectations*) (5)

- 6 "*O tempora! O -----!*", lamented Cicero (5)
- 9 The scolopendra is a species of this (9)
- 14 St Gemma -----; feast 11 April (7)
- 15 Steno was one of these three (Greek mythology)(7)
- 16 Canadian Peter ----- is a leading thereminist (7)
- 19 A salmon or trout just after the parr stage (5)
- 20 A cumulative histogram is also called this (5)
- 21 This makes up about 71 per cent of the earth's surface (5)

SUDOKU | Moderate

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

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

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

Solution to the 16 March puzzle

Solution to the 16 March crossword No. 649 Across: 1 Theory; 5 Hoped; 8 Farce; 9 Omnibus; 10 Dais; 11 Lexicons; 13 Egypt; 14 Nadir; 19 Flagrant; 21 Shop; 23 Outlaws; 24 Fable; 25 Darts; 26 Parity. Down: 2 Herring; 3 Open; 4 Yeomen; 5 Handicap; 6 Pablo; 7 Disuse; 8 Fado; 12 Spartans; 15 Inhabit; 16 Afford; 17 Ends up; 18 Apse; 20 Actor; 22 Afar. Winner: Gerard Staunton, of Knocknacarra, Galway, Ireland.

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