

Cranmer for Catholics

THOMAS CRANMER, the great reformer, was burnt at the stake under Queen Mary. It was moving to hear the Liverpoolian Cardinal Vincent Nichols recite his Prayer of Humble Access (“We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies ...”) with his rolled Rs and fricative Ts. The Archbishop of Westminster was presiding at the ordination of Dr Michael Nazir-Ali as a priest of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham last Saturday.

The three Anglican bishops present were each presented with a copy of what looked like an old-fashioned black breviary with gilt-edged pages. This was *Divine Worship: Daily Office*, and if you want to know what the “Anglican patrimony” the Ordinariate has brought to the Roman Catholic tradition looks and feels like, this is as close as you can get to it.

A few hours after Dr Nazir-Ali’s ordination service finished I spoke to Fr James Bradley, vice-chancellor of the Ordinariate in England and Wales, about *Daily Office*. Surrey-born and a former chorister at Winchester Cathedral, Fr Bradley now teaches canon law



at the Catholic University of America. He was a deacon in the Church of England when Pope Benedict XVI promulgated *Anglicanorum Coetibus* in 2009, creating personal ordinariates – effectively, structures which would enable Anglicans to enter the Catholic Church without shedding their Anglican skin. Fr Bradley came into the Catholic Church as soon as the ordinariate was set up in 2011.

Divine Worship: Daily Office is very similar to the *Book of Common Prayer* (also known as the Prayer Book). The BCP is still used in the Church of England, though it can be lost

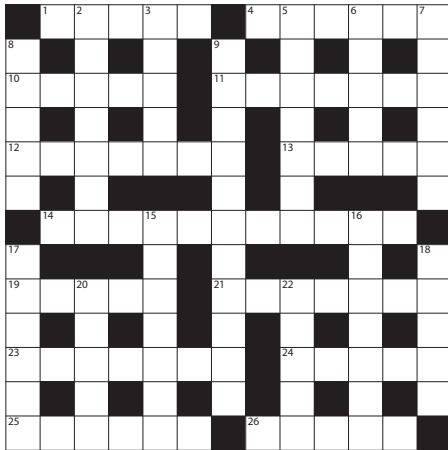
in an expanding thicket of more “accessible” alternatives. It was compiled in the sixteenth century by Cranmer – he borrowed some of the prayers but much of it is his own, magnificent stuff – and modified in 1662. Cranmer concertina’d the monastic Liturgy of the Hours down to Morning Prayer (a combination of Matins, Lauds and Prime) and Evening Prayer (Vespers and Compline).

The softly-spoken Fr Bradley stressed its practicality and simplicity, and its ecumenical value – “It’s for anyone who wants to pray the office”. He gently showed me how to find my place and use the ribbons. It’s all so simple. The Scripture readings are all included ... there’s no faffing around searching for the readings of the day in a Bible. Every year, you read Old Testament once and the New Testament twice (in the fluent Revised Standard Version: Catholic Edition).

It’s splendidly published by the Catholic Truth Society: six satin ribbons, bright red end papers, a two-tone headband, and a very agreeable way of flopping in your lap. It’s £45 but, honestly, it’s a snip. Pierpaolo Finaldi of the CTS tells me dozens of copies have been bought by Anglicans. One of them is Richard Coles, who cheerfully recommends his “illegal prayer book”. “It’s the Prayer Book with red socks” one of his Facebook friends retorted.

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 780 Axe



Across

- 1 Sacrificial site (5)
- 4 Son of King Uzziah in Judah (6)
- 10 Possible NT contributor, as spelt in Philemon (KJV) (5)
- 11 Figurehead of Roman power during the New Testament (7)
- 12 Christian community (7)
- 13 Asian country possibly experiencing Christianity as early as 550 (5)
- 14 Service for the dead (7,4)
- 19 Body of Muslim scholars or religious leaders (variant spelling) (5)
- 21 Russian ruler, the first to dub himself Tsar, who tried to make Moscow the “Third Rome” (4,3)

- 23 Latimer, Ridley and Cranmer in Oxford were these to Protestants? (7)
 - 24 City in Mesopotamia where Abraham’s servant found a wife for Isaac (5)
 - 25 Benjaminite general of Jehoshaphat’s army (6)
 - 26 Last-named of Elioena’s seven sons, descended from the royal line of Judah (5)
- Down**
- 2 Bishop’s grant of dispensation re marriage banns since the fourteenth century (7)
 - 3 Extension of the nave in a church (5)
 - 5 System of an ancient mystic philosophy in Greece (7)
 - 6 One of several Judaeen kings of the same name (5)

- 7 Mountains where the sacrifice of Isaac was to be carried out (6)
- 8 Parish priest’s congregation (5)
- 9 Pope from 440, the “Great” (3,3,5)
- 15 Second of the four major caliphates established after the death of Muhammad (7)
- 16 English saint (c. 800-862); a dubious influence on the weather! (either spelling) (7)
- 17 Medieval Latin compendiums of theology, philosophy, and canon law (6)
- 18 Part of a bishop’s insignia (5)
- 20 Location of the Israelites’ victory over the army of Og (5)
- 22 Son of Rephaiah, of David’s line (5)

Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 6 November, 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 Jesus, Christian Art and Catholicism – 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

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

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

Solution to the 16 October puzzle

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

Solution to the 16 October crossword No. 777

Across: 1 Gath; 3 Elishama; 9 Maenads; 10 Binea; 11 Latimer; 12 Agur; 14 Esdras; 17 Ahihud; 19 Cana; 20 Heshbon; 24 Missa; 25 Beth-Zur; 26 Noah’s Ark; 27 Aram. **Down:** 1 Gamaliel; 2 Trent; 4 Lystra; 5 Sabbath; 6 Anniuth; 7 Agag; 8 Palm; 13 Adoniram; 15 Dead Sea; 16 Avatars; 18 Chebar; 21 Seth; 22 Bezer; 23 Amen.

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