

# WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

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## Wherever he lays his hat...

“AN ADVENTURE is only an inconvenience rightly considered. An inconvenience is only an adventure wrongly considered.” You know without me telling you that this is G. K. Chesterton. It’s from his essay, “On Running After One’s Hat”, an invitation to reimagine an annoying and vaguely humiliating activity as romantic and wonderful.

You can see Chesterton’s own hat – less battered than you might expect – together with several walking sticks, a pince-nez, a well-bashed Corona typewriter, his rosary and a toy-theatre he designed himself in the Chesterton Library. Since 2013 this has been housed at the Oxford Oratory. The Oratory doesn’t have a full-time librarian or archivist to act as a tour guide, and has relied on volunteers to help out. Now the collection has been acquired by the University of Notre Dame, and is being transferred to its London outpost, round the corner from Trafalgar Square, where it will be fully accessible.

The Oratorians are happy to relinquish their treasures. As Fr Michael Ward explains, “Aidan Mackey and the late Stratford Caldecott, both



based in Oxford, established the collection, which is why it has been housed in Oxford for so long, but it is now finding its permanent home in the great man’s native London. It’s a win-win-win situation: good for the Collection, good for Chesterton readers and scholars, and good for the University of Notre Dame.”

Chesterton’s cavalier treatment of his books might not set a good example to other library users. Page after page is covered with his extravagant doodles. “I’m sorry to criticise him,” says Aidan Mackey, “But he was a vandal with books.”

THE AUSTRALIAN theologian Tracey Rowland, the most erudite and punchy defender of Joseph Ratzinger’s theological work, was waiting in line to be introduced to Pope Francis, along with other members of the International Theological Commission. Standing beside the Pope was Cardinal Gerhard Müller, the president of the ITC, so Rowland, a skilled linguist, rattled off a few sentences of greeting to the Pope in German.

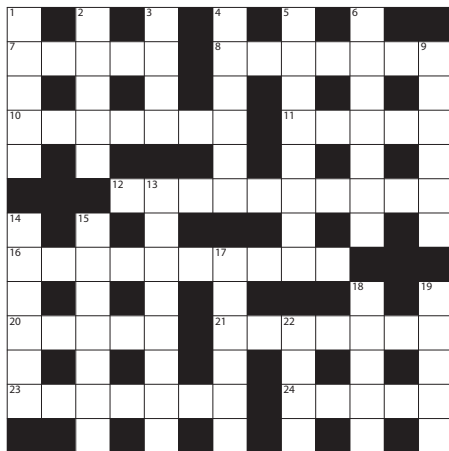
A beaming Müller, who’d done a bit of homework, told Pope Francis that Rowland had two sons. “No”, she corrected him, “I have no sons.” Daughters? “No, I have no children.” Müller was now looking decidedly puzzled. “You are a consecrated virgin?” he offered. “No, I am married but I have no children.”

Standing next to Rowland was Sr Prudence Allen, a Mercy Sister with a long habit and even longer veil. The penny dropped. Sr Prudence had been married and had two sons before entering religious life. “It is Sr Prudence Allen who has the two sons,” Rowland explained helpfully. But before Müller realised that he had muddled up their CVs Francis had moved down the line in search of a female theologian of sounder mind.

Rowland tells the story in a collection of occasional pieces, *Portraits of Spiritual Nobility*, published this month by Angelico Press.

## PUZZLES

### PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 661 | Enigma



#### Across

- 7 The pigeon’s song is interrupted by Bill coming back with a drink (5)
- 8 Ran back and forth in hollow ground in County Longford (7)
- 10 It puts a price on the secret language of the courtroom (7)
- 11 The other suggestion is to bring back a wreath for the window (5)
- 12 It brings the new Pope to scatter coins before canonising a member of the government (10)
- 16 It took two girls about half a day to poison the food (10)
- 20 An amusing soldier gathers mushrooms (5)

- 21 Not quite in a mill, but on the threshold (7)
- 23 Eliot is offended by that ugly sneer (7)
- 24 Not an illusory ending to the film “Kingdom” (5)

#### Down

- 1 See a bus diving (5)
- 2 It is a difficult chore to find colour (5)
- 3 Tell me to depart and get some food (4)
- 4 To find a way out, poor Reg brought the drug to an evil troop (6)
- 5 We see Leo’s car turn at the fairground (8)
- 6 When in Madagascar, I bought an animal (7)
- 9 There are hold-ups when the policeman has the lock-up surrounded (6)

- 13 Vegetables chopped with a kiss for these learned ones (8)
- 14 A task force is what we request (3,3)
- 15 Badly given directions make one sick (7)
- 17 One who doesn’t listen properly could end up in the army (6)
- 18 Must have, the say, to do with the dough (5)
- 19 One who is old might be unhappy at the wedding (5)
- 22 A spacecraft has nothing to do with an artist (4)

Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 8 June, The Tablet, 1 King Street Cloisters, Clifton Walk, London W6 0GY. Email: [thetablet@thetablet.co.uk](mailto: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 21 June. The answers to this week’s puzzles and the crossword winner’s name will appear in the 29 June issue.

### SUDOKU | Challenging

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

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

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

Solution to the 18 May puzzle

#### Solution to the 18 May crossword No. 658

Across: 7 Pound; 8 Azimuth; 10 Theorb; 11 Newel; 12 Vernacular; 16 Travesties; 20 Motet; 21 Rozerot; 23 Spartan; 24 Lorca. Down: 1 Spats; 2 Pusey; 3 Oder; 4 Baboon; 5 Pinnacle; 6 Gunwale; 9 Hilary; 13 Edentate; 14 Stamps; 15 Dantean; 17 Tyrone; 18 Truro; 19 Attar; 22 Zola.

Winner: Gerard McFadden, of Romsey, Hampshire.

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