

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

diary@thetablet.co.uk

The perils of too much information

"I'M NOT SURE I've even told my confessor that," the much loved and occasionally reviled Jesuit priest and writer James Martin would say to his biographer, Jon Sweeney, when he thought he was getting overly intrusive.

At the recent launch of the book that has come from their exchanges at St Francis College in Brooklyn, Sweeney pulled out of the pocket of his tweed jacket a photocopy of the index to a biography of Gerard Manley Hopkins he had been reading. To show just how intrusive biographers can be, he read it out: "Circumcision; colds; death-obsession ... diarrhoea ..." Needless to say, Sweeney assured the audience, he had never thought to ask Fr Martin about all the itmes on this list.

"We need to define what Christian discipleship means in the present moment," Ronald Rolheiser tells us, "and Sweeney's biography will help you do that." *James Martin SJ: In the Company of Jesus* is published by Liturgical Press at £13.99 (*Tablet* price, £12.57). It's also available as an audiobook – narrated with



charm and conviction by actor Max Belz.

We have a handful of free copies for *Tablet* readers – just email diary@thetablet.co.uk and we will send you a personal code: first come, first served. (I'm afraid this code can only be redeemed in the UK.)

Sweeney, as fluent and versatile a writer as Martin himself, contributes an eloquent reflection for Ash Wednesday to this week's paper.

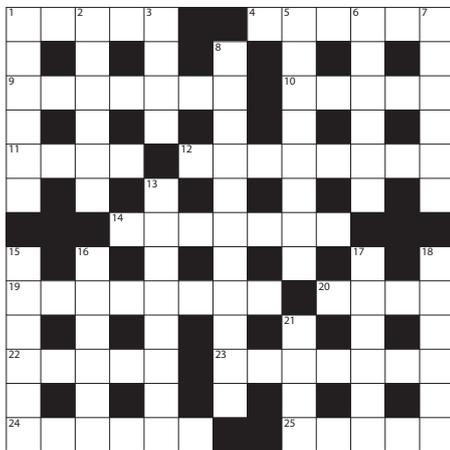
BEAUTY IS FOR everyone, not just for the wealthy. There is a famous story of a donor coming into a Catholic Worker soup kitchen

and giving Dorothy Day a diamond ring. Everyone wondered what she would do with it. Later an old woman came in, one of the more annoying regular visitors. Dorothy took the diamond ring out of her pocket and gave it to her. Someone said to Dorothy: "Wouldn't it have been better if we took the ring to the diamond exchange, sold it, and paid that woman's rent for a year?" Dorothy said the woman could do what she liked with the ring. She could sell it for rent money or take a trip to the Bahamas. Or she could enjoy wearing a diamond ring on her hand like the woman who gave it away. "Do you suppose," she said, "that God created diamonds only for the rich?"

Her granddaughter Kate Hennessy once said of the founder of Catholic Worker, "To have known Dorothy Day means spending the rest of your life wondering what hit you." Hennessy will be speaking about her book *The World Will be Saved by Beauty: An Intimate Portrait of My Grandmother* in Bloomsbury Baptist Church on Shaftesbury Avenue, London, on 4 March, an event hosted by Pax Christi and London Catholic Worker; the following evening, 5 March, *The Tablet* is hosting at Farm Street church the first screening in London of *Revolution of the Heart*, a film portraying Dorothy's extraordinary life (go to journeyfilms.com to see the trailer).

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 695 Alanus



Across

- 1 Martyr Campion biographer has novel scoop (5)
- 4 Part of flower revealed by holy man when ending prayer (6)
- 9 Promoting peace in Ireland south and north last century (7)
- 10 Light cavalryman upfront with hard weapon dropping Protestant (5)
- 11 See 18 Down
- 12 Good for French I confront saint and "Apostle of Germany" (8)
- 14 Functional shelf behind altar in connection with Mensa (7)
- 19 Weapons carried by devotees of the EF Mass? (8)

- 20 Inside Vatican Chester identified in Roman time (4)
- 22 Adjust alb and return it for Indian dish (5)
- 23 Deer transport debt involving first bishop (7)
- 24 See 16 Down
- 25 Usual practice with a work by Bellini (5)

Down

- 1 Seek answer when go wrong inside sailboat (6)
- 2 International body promoting peace but failing it appears (6)
- 3 In matter of the Church answer may be found in Balthasar familiarly (4)
- 5 Incensed item again built by her (8)
- 6 Islamic theologian returns to offer

- wordless tune about everything (6)
- 7 French city established by the reappearance of St Anne (6)
- 8 Stretch material out east in mad chaos as 13 Down sister saint revealed (11)
- 13 Order founder saint partial to eggs? (8)
- 15 Animal painter puts out by the sound of it (6)
- 16 & 24 Across: Notions about Avila evolve into musical composition (6,6)
- 17 North African people come to life before King again (6)
- 18 & 11 Acr: Saul and Arab at varied interpretation of all knowledge coming from experience (6,4)
- 21 Little bird that flies and sails the seas! (4)

Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 22 February, 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 on Friday 6 March. The answers to this week's puzzles and the crossword winner's name will appear in the 14 March issue.

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

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

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

Solution to the 1 February puzzle

Solution to the 1 February crossword No. 692

Across: 1 Nimes; 4 Oviedo; 9 Verbena; 10 Arras; 11 John; 12 Stripped; 14 Tumulus; 19 Cherubim; 20 Lalo; 22 Robin; 23 Norbert; 24 Siesta; 25 Faure. Down: 1 Navajo; 2 Martha; 3 Spem; 5 Viaticum; 6 Europa; 7 Onside; 8 Carthusians; 13 Huguenot; 15 Icarus; 16 Kemble; 17 Rameau; 18 Goethe; 21 Orff. Winner: Kathleen Dalyell, Liniithgow, West Lothian.

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