

# WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

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## That they may be one

EVERY DAY this week, after the short Midday Office, the members of the Anglican Community of the Resurrection in Mirfield have gathered as usual round the altar for the Eucharist. And because this has been the week of prayer for Christian Unity, they began by placing a relic of a Trappist sister who was beatified in 1893 below the altar.

The relic was a gift to the community from the Cistercian Benedictine Abbey at Vitorchiano. The Trappist sister was Bl. Maria Gabriella, who died in 1939. Maria Sagheddu was born on the island of Sardinia in 1914, the fifth of eight children of two shepherds. Growing up, she never met a non-Catholic Christian. At the age of 21, she entered the Trappist convent at Grottaferrata and took the name Maria Gabriella.

Her abbess was Mother Maria Pia Gullini, a friend of the great French ecumenist Abbé Paul Couturier, who had helped to get the week of prayer for Christian unity off the ground. In 1938, Sr Maria Gabriella startled her Trappist sisters by offering herself as a spiritual sacrifice for Christian unity. Within



a few months she fell ill with tuberculosis, and died the following year. One page of her Bible was found to be particularly worn: at John 17, which contains Christ's prayer that "they may be one". The sisters believe Sr Maria Gabriella "gave her life for Christian unity".

THE SISTERS of Grottaferrata relocated to the small medieval town of Vitorchiano, about 50 miles north of Rome, in 1957. Last year, the superior of the Mirfield community, Fr Oswin Gartside, and the previous superior, Fr George Guiver, hired a car and drove there.

The postulator of Sr Maria Gabriella's cause is a nun of Vitorchiano, Sister Gabriella Masturzo, who welcomed them and invited them to address the sisters. "We weren't prepared for that," Fr Oswin told me, "but George is very good at that sort of thing."

The nuns are vintners of organic wines and produce delicious jams and preserves. There are around 80 sisters from around the world, many of them young.

Like the Trappist sisters, the Community of the Resurrection embraces a Benedictine rule. The community church is a stupendous slab of Byzantine architecture plonked in the heart of rugby league territory. A few years ago it survived a controversial refurbishment not just unscathed but reinvigorated.

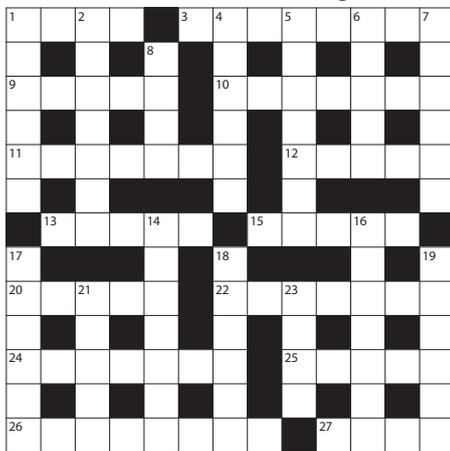
The Mirfield monks became known for their involvement in the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa. A young Desmond Tutu was awestruck when Trevor Huddleston, a member of the community, took off his hat when he was introduced to his mother. "I couldn't believe my eyes – a white man who greeted a black working-class woman."

Before they left to return to Yorkshire, Fr Oswin and Fr George celebrated Mass over the tomb of Sister Gabriella in the special chapel dedicated to Christian unity.

Blessed Maria Gabriella of Unity, pray for us.

## PUZZLES

### PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 691 Enigma



#### Across

- 1 A palindrome addressed to Her Majesty (4)
- 3 Pare it if you want it before dinner (8)
- 9 Physician makes an existential statement partially inspired by 8 Down (5)
- 10 Suggest that no amateur be given the position (7)
- 11 Bill takes in a damaged chair, long outdated (7)
- 12 An MP in Ireland cut up the pie, which was barely warm (5)
- 13 A minor road to the bay on the outskirts of Yarrow (5)
- 15 In favour of an extra helping actors (5)
- 20 Mother isn't quite nice when wildly emotional (5)
- 22 No car crosses the bridge carrying money for the Scots (7)

- 24 A listener in the auditorium may discover where the money went (7)
- 25 Get together when one tune is played (5)
- 26 Reverse the vehicle the youth uses in town (8)
- 27 I urge you to be good, outdoing all others (4)

#### Down

- 1 One would feel perfectly home in (2 Down) (6)
- 2 Any surrounding architectural feature can lead to chaos (7)
- 4 Give money when about to bring up maximum funding for the institution (6)
- 5 There is nothing in the roster about which one can crow in the morning (7)
- 6 Soldiers pass the port back around the circle (5)

- 7 The unconscious self has space to grow in the country (6)
- 8 Religious leader gives publicity to a stage school (4)
- 14 A top policeman gets around a peculiar sect I join, renouncing worldly pleasure (7)
- 16 I put a terrible price on this clue, Piggy! (7)
- 17 Led by Elijah initially, a couple of thousand of us surrounded a holy place (6)
- 18 Steals another's post (6)
- 19 When they say it's to eat, we're told they are saying it jokingly (6)
- 21 Rid an upcoming production of what is worst (5)
- 23 Drink up the round and get down to work (4)

Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 25 January, 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 Saints, Monasticism and Philosophy of Religion – from the OUP's Very Short Introduction series will go to the sender of the first correct entry drawn at random on Friday 7 February. The answers to this week's puzzles and the crossword winner's name will appear in the 15 February issue.

### SUDOKU | Beginner

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

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

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

Solution to the 4 January puzzle

### Solution to the 4 January crossword No. 688

**Across:** 7 Corvo; 8 Aramaic; 10 Linseed; 11 Avila; 12 Immemorial; 16 Madagascar; 20 I weep; 21 Ebonite; 23 Meander; 24 Iliad. **Down:** 1 Oculi; 2 Irene; 3 Hope; 4 Caddie; 5 Parabola; 6 Galicia; 9 Cradle; 13 Megaphone; 14 Omnium; 15 Adrenal; 17 Sherry; 18 Mimic; 19 Herds; 22 Otis.

**Winner:** Dr E. Thrandardottir, Manchester.

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