

A hymn for Ukraine

JOHN RUTTER wrote his “Shepherd’s Pipe Carol” when he was 18, and he’s composed a couple of dozen more carols which we hum on our way home from church every Christmas. He’s written some heavyweight works – a Gloria, a Requiem and a Magnificat – and pretty well everyone has heard his tender “The Lord bless you and keep you” sung at a wedding or a funeral, but “the carols are my calling cards”, as he cheerfully admits.

Last week he wrote a piece of music which is likely to join his popular hymns in the collective imagination. “I went to a late night service in my old college chapel, where they sang a setting of a lovely Ukrainian prayer,” he says. “So, having encountered the text in another musical setting on Wednesday night, on Thursday I wrote my own music. I hope the meaning of the text will resonate in people’s hearts.”

A literal translation of the anonymous Ukrainian prayer Rutter has set for a cappella choir is: “Good Lord, protect Ukraine. Give her strength, courage, faith, hope. Amen.” St Mary Magdalene, Wandsworth Common, played host to the premiere of “A Prayer for Ukraine”; there’s a moving YouTube video of



the occasion. Rutter has made the score available for free (contact info@collegium.co.uk); all he asks in return is that choirs make a donation to the Disasters Emergency Fund Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. Choirs are already sharing the music and performing it, including in Ukraine.

Haunting and beautiful, there’s more than a hint of John Tavener in “A Ukrainian Prayer”. Rutter and Tavener were choristers together at Highgate School in London. “I have no personal connection with Ukraine or Russia,” Rutter told us, “but of course I have absorbed something of the tradition of Orthodox litur-

gical music, as did my old school friend, though in his case more profoundly. I just wanted to offer something musical that would reflect everyone’s concern about the terrible events in Ukraine.”

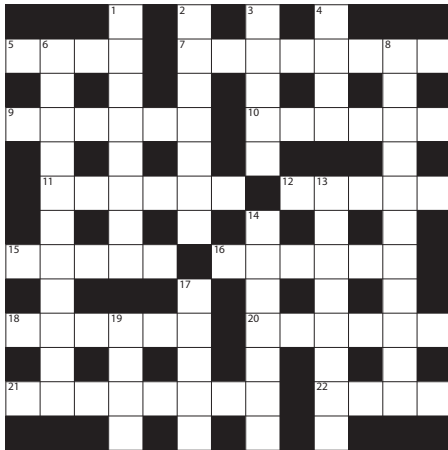
FOR A WELSHMAN to be Catholic, Anthony Weaver, a former languages teacher and retreat leader, tells us, is about as likely as Long John Silver winning the 500 metres. Welsh Protestantism is so engrained that – until very recently – the word for “Catholic” in some rural areas remained *pabydd*, “papist”.

The disconnect goes the other way, too. Out of 4,000 priests in England and Wales, only three can celebrate Mass in Welsh. The annual St David’s Day Mass in London is usually a low-key affair. But next week, on 30 March, Weaver has organised a celebration at St James’ Church in Spanish Place that’s anything but: four choirs, five bishops, three ambassadors and a minister of state. The nuncio will be there, papal blessing in tow – and the band of the Welsh Guards.

The service – from the hymns to the homily – will be entirely Welsh-language. Among those fumbling for a translation will be the event’s English organiser. Welsh is a beautiful language, Weaver tells us – but he doesn’t know a word of it.

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 798 Axe



Across

- 5 Home city of Nabal (4)
7 Husband of Judith (8)
9 Religious teacher (6)
10 Charm; totem (6)
11 Leader of Benjamin under Moses (6)
12 Sarcistically, a sanctimonious person (5)
15 Historical book presented in two parts (5)
16 Variant name for the devil in the New Testament (KJV spelling) (6)
18 Nation named after the alternative name for the patriarch, Jacob (6)
20 Son of Haman killed by the Jews (6)
21 David’s headquarters during Absalom’s rebellion (8)

- 22 Town of northern 18 Across to where Joab pursued Sheba (4)

Down

- 1 Adding an item to the Librorum Prohibitorum (8)
2 Father of Jonah the Prophet (7)
3 Jewish high priest, father-in-law of Caiaphas (5)
4 Genesis birthright seller (4)
6 Where Paul was shipwrecked, according to Acts (8,3)
8 Essence of John 3:16 (7,4)
13 Man in whose house the Ark of the Covenant was temporarily stored (8)

- 14 Ancestor of the Ammonites, half-brother to Moab (3-4)
17 Table used in the Mass or other religious rites (5)
19 King of Judah who sacrificed his son (4)

Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 26 March 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 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. **■ We are processing entries but there may be a delay in notifying winners and sending out prizes. Please keep entering.**

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SUDOKU | Hard

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

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

Solution to the 5 March puzzle

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

Solution to the 5 March crossword No. 795

Across: 3 Babylonians; 7 Anna; 8 Mahanaim; 9 Pashto; 10 Melita; 12 Kidron; 14 Becket; 15 Dionysus; 17 Omri; 18 Eternal Life.
Down: 1 Abiathar; 2 Maon; 3 Benjaminites; 4 Limbo; 5 Nahum; 6 Saint George; 11 Lycaonia; 13 Nisan; 14 Basil; 16 Noel.