

# WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

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## Called to be happy

THE TITLE GIVEN to a cantata about Mary Ward, who was locked up in miserable conditions by the Church for alleged heresy and rebellion, might seem puzzling. She saw the congregation of so-called “Jesuitesses” that she had founded declared “suppressed, extinct, rooted out, destroyed and abolished”. After her release she died at Heworth, near York, in 1645, ill and misunderstood, with only a small remnant of followers around her: all that remained of the once-thriving network of schools and religious communities that she had founded across Europe. Yet she never lost her joyful trust in God. Though suffering physical pain, public humiliation and the seeming destruction of her life’s work, she wrote to her sisters from prison: “Be merry, and doubt not our good Master.”

It is this joyful trust, self-confidence in who you are and singing in praise of God that we hear in the brilliantly rhythmic, highly singable and thumpingly joyous “Called To Be Happy”. Created by Peter Rose and Anne Conlon, the award-winning writers of several musicals for children, it is a celebration of how a young woman is called to explore what God wants of her, juxtaposing the life of Mary Ward with



the kind of options and decisions that face a twentieth-century teenager. The cantata, commissioned by Matthias Warzecha of the Maria Ward Schule in Mainz to mark its 300th anniversary, was due to be performed this week in Landau, Mainz and Aschaffenburg by a choir of more than 300, drawn from the pupils of three Mary Ward schools in Germany.

ONE OF OUR most indefatigable correspondents, Elizabeth Price, died peacefully at home just before Christmas, aged 89. Her letters sometimes came with a covering note. “Sorry to have another rant. I have been send-

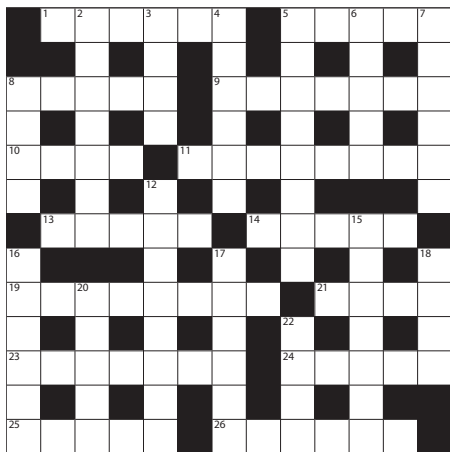
ing this information to several bishops and theologians but have received no reply. Perhaps your letters page will at last give me a voice!”

She was born in London. Her mother died when she was six, and her father when she was a teenager. She became interested in the Church and after her conversion considered joining a religious order, but in the end she trained as a nurse. Her nursing experience was a big driver in her opposition to the Church’s ban on the use of contraception by married couples. She had an unfailing curiosity and interest in people. Her daughter Rachel tells us that her childhood was regularly punctuated by family celebrations and social events. Elizabeth sang in the parish choir and took Communion to the sick and elderly. She befriended theologians who had got into hot water with the authorities. A regular handmaid in Lourdes, she continued going on pilgrimage there into her eighties.

The bishops didn’t always ignore her letters. Rachel tells us that there was often a lively discussion of the replies she had received from various higher-ups in the Church over the kitchen table, and one letter from an Archbishop of Westminster politely taking a different view from Elizabeth on contraception was framed and hung in the downstairs bathroom.

## PUZZLES

### PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 893 Alanus



#### Across

- 1 Sound boost for Apostle (6)
- 5 Destinies of Lachesis, Atropos and Clotho (5)
- 8 Prolific architect at home with dog (5)
- 9 Breaking of oath when agent returns with case assessors (7)
- 10 Unusual way to cook steak (4)
- 11 Come to life with winged creature about male reference to biblical monster (8)
- 13 Card game the beginning of which is with a saint (5)
- 14 Hatton Gardens district link to SSPX main seminary! (5)
- 19 Bird goes in opposite directions after Pacific city means of illumination (8)
- 21 Great Antiphons in the morning for minor prophet (4)

- 23 In South America, US soldier with a link to Italian city (7)
- 24 See 8 Down
- 25 Quiet instruction being point of pretences (5)
- 26 Me being a fool at Franciscan shrine (6)

#### Down

- 2 Cloister enclosure reveals English artist after call for attention (7)
- 3 We leave Peter’s successor with potassium connection (4)
- 4 Balloon bursting philosopher Karl? (6)
- 5 Loud even cry upset intense emotion (8)
- 6 Mostly faithful changing alternative to Cornwall cathedral (5)

- 7 The Grim Reaper presented with his Orcus (6)
- 8 & 24 Across: Father with prayer for the deceased as we turn together (4,5)
- 12 Agents back in plenty of time for pre-Mass blessing (8)
- 15 See I’m about to go in opposite directions, such is fate (7)
- 16 Devious afterthought about direction for covered passages in cathedral architecture (6)
- 17 Indefinite articles for internal rebuilding of ark in European capital (6)
- 18 Offspring of Isaac inspires author (4)
- 20 Expected behaviour with a Bellini tragic heroine (5)
- 22 Work sung in the plural (4)

Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 2 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 OUP’s Very Short Introduction series will go to the sender of the first correct entry drawn at random.

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### SUDOKU | Moderate

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

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

#### Solution to the 10 February puzzle

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

#### Solution to the 10 February crossword No. 890

- Across: 1 Linnet; 5 Pesto; 8 Sofia; 9 Pro rata; 10 Ours; 11 Bobolink; 13 Molar; 14 Boxes; 19 Empathic; 21 Ices; 23 Observe; 24 Maybe; 25 Creel; 26 Tenets.
- Down: 2 Inferno; 3 Noah; 4 Top job; 5 Protocol; 6 Stasi; 7 Ozarks; 8 Show; 12 Pastoral; 15 Encrypt; 16 Heroic; 17 Direct; 18 Isle; 20 Piste; 22 Omen.