

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

diary@thetablet.co.uk

The gift of reading

THE NEW Rector of the English College in Rome, Fr Stephen Wang, has just published *Sycamore: The Catholic Faith Explained* (The Catholic Truth Society). It stands alone or can be read by the groups who use Fr Wang's popular films and other catechetical resources. The Sycamore programme developed from Fr Wang's previous job as a university chaplain, and combines sturdy doctrinal purity with the savvy register you'd expect from a regular broadcaster who has been living with students in Newman House in Gower Street for the past eight years.

"When we had the manuscript ready I decided to add a few pictures to break up the text," Fr Wang says. "I thought this would be an afternoon's work, but it took a month of blood, sweat and tears. There are now over a hundred colour illustrations. How do you mix classical religious art with contemporary culture? How do you represent the incredible diversity of global Catholicism with a small selection of photographs? It's impossible. And let's face it," he adds ruefully, "when someone gives us a book, even



if we never actually read it, we all look at the pictures."

Two readers Fr Wang is hoping will at least pause to read a few paragraphs are Pope Francis and Pope Emeritus Benedict. At the General Audience last week, Francis spoke to each of the new seminarians at the English College in turn, and then greeted their new Rector, who smartly passed the Holy Father a copy of his new book. The following morning, the Pope Emeritus was presented with a copy by Cardinal Vincent Nichols – when the Cardinal had visited the English College earlier

in the week, after Fr Wang had given him a copy of the book he had asked him, "Have you got another copy?" Cardinal Nichols was shortly to make his first visit to the Pope Emeritus for many years, and was happy to give him a copy of *Sycamore*.

"You can't plan this kind of thing!" said a beaming Fr Wang.

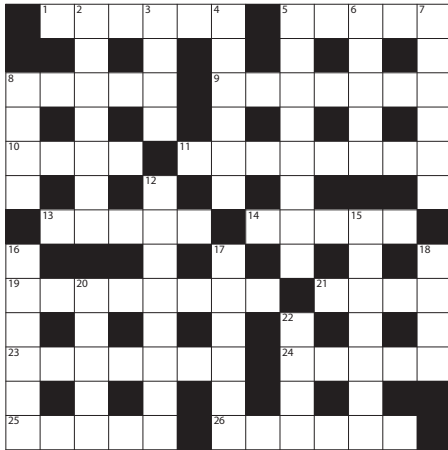
If you want to see what the Pope Emeritus and Pope Francis are reading (or just looking at the pictures), follow this link: www.ctsbooks.org/product/sycamore

THE TABLET came through my letter box last Friday, as it usually does. But it was not arriving a day before the date printed on the cover; it was six days late. My second-favourite weekly arrived in the same post – also a week late. Subscribers can access a PDF, but most readers like to have their *Tablet* in their hands.

It's a HGV driver thing, as you've probably guessed. Despite the sometimes awkward circumstances over the past 18 months we've never failed to get the paper to bed on time. But it takes lorries to transport the printed copies to the Royal Mail and more lorries to transport them around the country. It's infuriating, I know. But we're doing everything we can to address the problem.

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 775 Enigma



Across

- 1 (& 5 Across) Coal is aimed at those trying to communicate (6,5)
- 5 See 1 Across
- 8 Crops post-4 Down (5)
- 9 Love brings cheer back into the city (7)
- 10 Old South American found in Canada (4)
- 11 Godot's great son (8)
- 13 Initially, Belfast and Lurgan conclude they should merge (5)
- 14 Joy rhymes with this (5)
- 19 To see a peaceful organisation heading in that direction is unpleasantly surprising (8)
- 21 The Head of History has another name for a ceremonial dance (4)

- 23 "Cat in a torn coat"; musical piece (7)
- 24 Nita's back in glamorous clothing (5)
- 25 "Nosy" is a word not applicable to little Sally (5)
- 26 Laughter is infrequent in Zimbabwe (6)

Down

- 2 A difficult topic, almost sight-related (7)
- 3 I claim to be proprietor of an island (4)
- 4 A deadly sin engulfs a superior officer, bringing a harbinger of plague (6)
- 5 Roma Tell cooked dinner (4,4)
- 6 During the bell-ringing, I am active (5)
- 7 It doesn't matter who fills in the solution (6)

- 8 It used to be a thing that helped you get away (4)
- 12 It might strike one as a chilly beginning to a formal dance (8)
- 15 Break Lewis Carroll's holy madman (7)
- 16 Provides closure, coming back to say that it isn't an American bath (6)
- 17 Proclaim from the altar that the rite begins among the fruit (6)
- 18 Repair with a mild expletive (4)
- 20 They say nasty little creatures come from clocks (5)
- 22 Potentate drops a dollar into a coal derivative (4)

Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 2 October, 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 Jesus, Christian Art and Catholicism – 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.**

SUDOKU | Challenging

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

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

Solution to the 11 September puzzle

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

Solution to the 11 September crossword No. 772

Across: 1 Craig; 4 Everly; 9 Senegal; 10 Rider; 11 Abba; 12 Via Trevi; 14 Parents; 19 Eulogist; 20 Gaul; 22 Tango; 23 Anthony; 24 Excess; 25 Minor. **Down:** 1 Caspar; 2 Arnold; 3 Gigi; 5 Veritate; 6 Rudder; 7 Yardie; 8 Albigensian; 13 Pangloss; 15 Gentle; 16 Clinic; 17 Baboon; 18 Player; 21 Atom.

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