

## Convivial theology

GERARD MANNION, a fine scholar and one of the theological world's great impresarios, died suddenly on 21 September, reportedly suffering a heart attack while jogging in the Washington area. The following day would have been his forty-ninth birthday.

Mannion's dazzling academic career had taken him to a professorship in Catholic Studies at Georgetown; he was also a senior research fellow at the university's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs. He founded Ecclesiological Investigations, a sprawling ecumenical and international research network that convened annual conferences around the globe. Though these were learned gatherings, they were also very convivial affairs. Wherever Gerard found himself, he always ensured there was a party to attend.

Mannion was the author or editor of nearly two dozen books on ecclesiology, ethics, public theology and other fields of systematic theology and philosophy. One of his last books was *Pope Francis and the Future of Catholicism*. He could deftly skip from the academic to the demotic register. In an exco-



riating *Time* magazine piece last year he wrote: "There are deep-seated institutional malaises at the Church's core, of which the abuse crisis is but sadly an acute symptom. This is not simply a series of individual moral failings. It is a crisis of moral corrosion and corruption embedded into the Church."

Born in the west Midlands of Irish parents in 1970, Mannion earned his bachelor's degree from King's College, Cambridge, and his doctorate at New College, Oxford. Before coming to Georgetown, he had taught at Oxford, Leeds, Liverpool, Leuven and San Diego.

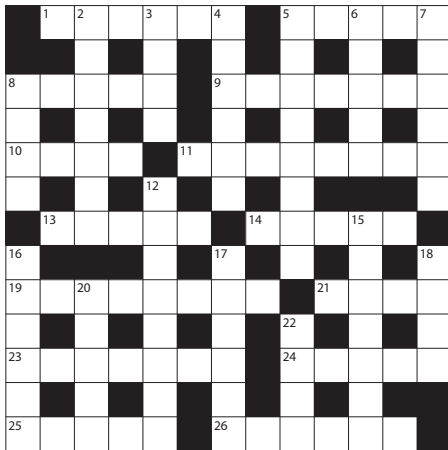
FRIENDS GLIMPSED the hunger for connection behind the bonhomie. One of nature's encouragers, perhaps Mannion's greatest contribution to theology was the spaces he generously created for interesting things to happen. Scott MacDougall, who teaches in an Episcopal Church seminary in California, said: "Mannion set an example not only for what high-level, critical, publicly engaged theology can and should be, but also for what scholarship that nurtures the next generation of thinkers can look like. And he did it all while being gracious, humble, and a whole lot of fun."

His old friend and collaborator on a number of risqué theological ventures, Tina Beattie of the University of Roehampton, told Josh McElwee of the *National Catholic Reporter*: "I owe to Gerard some of my happiest memories of Catholic theological gatherings — and some of my worst hangovers. It's hard to imagine the Catholic theological community without this friend and colleague, with his passionate commitments and convictions, his intensity of life, his laughter and sometimes his fury, and his amazing capacity to bring people together and to bring a gathering alive."

As one colleague at the Berkley Center remembered: "Gerard was a serious scholar, but he never took himself too seriously."

## PUZZLES

### PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 677 | Alanus



#### Across

- 1 In O.T. times returned end letters with the French novelist (6)
- 5 I'm a Latin graduate presenting Aquinas magnum opus (5)
- 8 Sign wheat loss exposes island in Mediterranean (5)
- 9 Drunken tutor of Dionysius ordering quiet when we replace Anglicans (7)
- 10 Don't allow working during daytime (4)
- 11 Idolater at home with a showy virtuoso on the fiddle (8)
- 13 Vessel sailing on the Scottish river returning round church (5)
- 14 Payments imposed when bell in use? (5)
- 19 Problem over head of biblical city with first dog collar (8)

- 21 Little weight backing the French novelist (4)
- 23 Favourite drink of mid-seventh-century pope? (7)
- 24 Not hidden when finished on time (5)
- 25 & 17 Down: Heaped on confounded enemy over solar office (5,2,4)
- 26 Freud idea first one motivated by self-interest (6)

#### Down

- 2 Large vessel for a politician with a bit of time in old Rome (7)
- 3 Signs with ad removed show signs of early life (4)
- 4 King of the Orient with transport bearing snake (6)
- 5 & 6 Down: Astound rival with reference to

- Mary over her Son's role in Leonardo work (8,5)
- 6 See 5 Down
- 7 Favourite car of the OSA friars? (6)
- 8 Able to supply a conclusion at this miraculous place (4)
- 12 Shrine with Knight of the Garter about to present some cucumber (8)
- 15 Evangelist Mark's symbolic mother (7)
- 16 Of first man with a particular furniture style? (6)
- 17 See 25 Across
- 18 Not able to deliver hypocritical speech? (4)
- 20 With a general rule in opera Bellini offers example (5)
- 22 Move after Dominican returns with stick (4)

Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 5 October, 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 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 on Friday 18 October. The answers to this week's puzzles and the crossword winner's name will appear in the 26 October issue.

### SUDOKU | Hard

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

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

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

Solution to the 14 September puzzle

#### Solution to the 14 September crossword No. 674

Across: 1 Obstet; 5 Vaduz; 8 Nihil; 9 Belfast; 10 Alma; 11 Lawrence; 13 Barth; 14 Karas; 19 Perugino; 21 Styx; 23 Indiana; 24 Spoon; 25 Xenia; 26 Agatha. Down: 2 Bohemia; 3 Tull; 4 Tobiah; 5 Valerian; 6 Drain; 7 Zither; 8 Noah; 12 Stigmata; 15 Antioch; 16 Sphinx; 17 In Gaza; 18 Oxen; 20 Rodin; 22 Ossa. Winner: Mike Malone, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria.

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