

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

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In the dentist's chair

THE ECUMENICAL monastic community of Bose is named after the tiny local village, at the foot of the Alps. The community has grown steadily since its foundation in the late 1960s, when two young Catholics and two Protestants joined Enzo Bianchi, a Catholic layman (which he still is) who had been living alone in an abandoned dairy farm building.

No-one ever forgets a visit. On one side of the choir are thirty or so men, on the other, thirty women; all are in white habits, the women with the cowls covering their heads. The youthfulness of the brothers and sisters of the community is a shock. During the hour of prayer in the community church each morning the three narrow windows behind the altar gradually turn from pitch black to the colour of chocolate chip-flavoured ice cream, as dawn breaks on the snow and rock of the mountains.

The dominant tone in contemporary spiritual writing is soothing, reassuring; we are encouraged to follow our instincts, be ourselves, trust our inner voice. Enzo's is a crustier voice, mistrustful of mere sincerity and the lure of "being true to oneself". Holiness requires rigorous practice and training, he says. To love God and our neighbour goes against the grain;



we need to learn "unnatural" capacities like prayer and love for our enemies, until they become habitual, instinctive. Enzo orders us to swop the spirituality of the sun lounger for the spirituality of the dentist's chair.

Now there's trouble at Bose, as Christopher Lamb reports in View from Rome (p27). Enzo stepped down as prior three years ago and the community elected a new leader, but it appears there was some difficulty prising his hands away from the steering wheel. It's taken a couple of visits from some Vatican heavyweights and the pressure of friends, but Enzo has finally

agreed to leave the monastery. Nothing goes more against the human grain than obedience.

WELL retired now, and told how "vulnerable" he is at 85, poet Patrick Coldstream's thoughts have been turning to how his modest, efficient father would have said, when the end comes, "For God's sake, don't make a fuss".

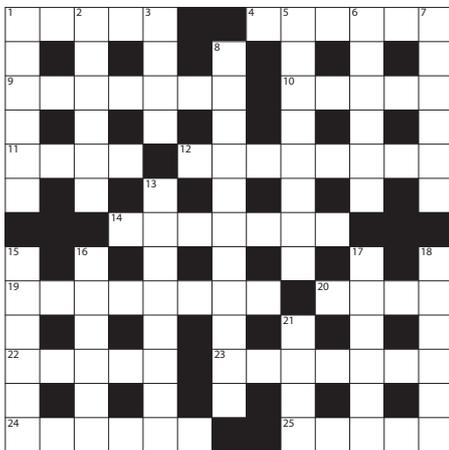
From Intensive Care

Let me not die in a hurry, dearest,
but be grateful, maybe with opiates,
to tidy details like paying the garage,
and last-minute changes to the will.
To say farewells to the others and you,
to make a good death of it and know
when I'm going even if not know where.

Plant me one kiss on the brow, to be an anointing,
and promise that when this "now" has crossed
over
into that "then", you'll cheer my take-off with
a whisper,
Go forth, Christian soul, and get on with your day,
doing the day's business, the clearing,
documentation
and phone calls, maybe humming the tune of
Newman's
old comforter, *Lead, kindly light*.

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 710 Alanus



Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 6 June, 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 God, Miracles and Pilgrimage – from the OUP's Very Short Introduction series will go to the sender of the first correct entry drawn at random. **We cannot process entries or prizes at present. Please keep entering. Winners will be notified and prizes awarded as soon possible.**

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Across

- 1 Handel's "Coronation" priest from the time of David and Solomon (5)
4 One of the Seven Churches John was instructed to send his book to (6)
9 Prophet adviser to Asa, especially against idolatry (2 Chronicles) (7)
10 Former African colony named after its discovery on Christmas Day (5)
11 St Nicholas, master builder of priest holes, martyred in the Tower of London (4)
12 Patron saint of Northumbria, monk and Bishop of Lindisfarne (8)
14 An Eastern Church liturgical and early Christian eucharistic assembly (7)
19 State and city in Mexico whose name means "true Cross" (8)
20 Carpe ----, "seize the day" (4)

- 22 Edith ----, nun and Jewish convert, martyred at Auschwitz (5)
23 Aloysius de ----, young Italian Jesuit saint, died nursing plague victims (7)
24 Saint and pope of the seventh century, link to miracles saw him referred to as an 8 Down (6)
25 The ---- of Kilimanjaro, Hemingway story about dying man reflecting on his life (5)
Down
1 Over-passionate dedicatee of a cause (6)
2 "----- Drum", Newbolt poem about instrument taken on voyages by legendary mariner (6)
3 Evocative first name of the Leader of the Opposition in HM Government (4)
5 German city built where the Neckar joins the Rhine (8)

- 6 John ----, composer, conductor and founder of the Cambridge Singers (6)
7 John ----, legendary cricket commentator and journalist (6)
8 A worker of wonders or one associated with the occurrence of miracles (11)
13 Polish OP saint, patron of Lithuania, received his habit from St Dominic himself (8)
15 Sacred book of Zoroastrianism (6)
16 Daniel ----, president of Nicaragua (6)
17 Nicola ----, medieval Italian sculptor, famed for his work in Pisa, Siena and Bologna (6)
18 On the road to here the risen Jesus appeared to two disciples (6)
21 Son of Seth, father of Kenan (Genesis) (4)

SUDOKU | Hard

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

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

Solution to the 16 May puzzle

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

Solution to the 16 May crossword No. 707

Across: 1 Saxon; 4 Brazil; 9 Russian; 10 Hardy; 11 Clef; 12 Mosaic; 14 Bequest; 19 Ignatius; 20 Kudu; 22 Osman; 23 Liturgy; 24 Millet; 25 Organ. **Down:** 1 Sirach; 2 Xyster; 3 Nell; 5 Rehearse; 6 Zurich; 7 Loyola; 8 Innocuously; 13 Sentence; 15 Simoom; 16 Enamel; 17 Tuareg; 18 Bunyan; 21 Otto.