

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

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Easter mercy

THE WRITER and lecturer Kathleen Murphy, a Sister of Mercy living in London's East End, remembers the Maundy Thursday when she set out to a local nursing home to visit an elderly parishioner. As she walked through the streets of Whitechapel she tried to think about what it might have been like to have been one of the disciples with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Arriving at the home, she noticed an unfamiliar face. George had only recently arrived for respite, following an operation for cancer, which he had been told was likely to be terminal. His wife, he told Sr Kathleen, was Catholic but not a Mass-goer. He was not baptised. "I would love to be able to drive myself and my wife to church on Sundays," he explained. Having unburdened himself, George looked refreshed. On Easter Sunday, Sr Kathleen went to see George again. He was determined to become a Catholic. "Anyone listening to him might have thought he had won the lottery," she says. A priest visited George to give him instruction, and in view of his prognosis decided to receive him into the Church after a couple of weeks. At his baptism, the Gospel reading was the story of



Jesus in Gethsemane. George had been offered and accepted suffering like Jesus, and through it he had found faith.

Kathleen tells the story in her latest book, *The Splendour of Caring*, published by St Pauls. Six years later, George is still driving to Mass.

EVERY PRIEST brings a unique history and experience to his ministry. Rosemary Chambers of Alresford, Hampshire, writes to tell us about the late Fr Louis Beasley-Suffolk, a dearly beloved father, grandfather, brother, uncle, friend – and the parish priest

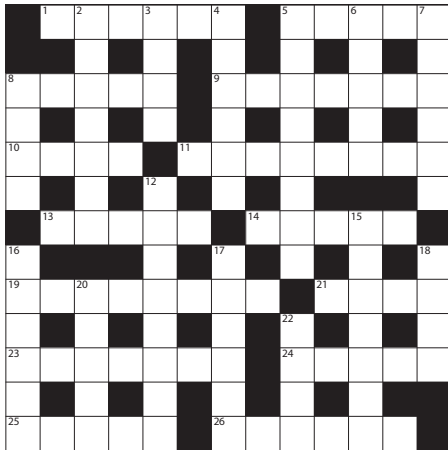
at St Luke and Teresa's Church, Wincanton, for many years.

"The Church has lost an exceptional priest," she tells us. In his funeral address, Declan Lang, the Bishop of Clifden, spoke of Fr Louis' kindness and wonderful sense of humour. Others spoke of his close-knit family, who looked after him in his final illness. Celibate priests are often canny observers of the fair-ground ride of family life, but Fr Louis, who decided to seek ordination to the priesthood after his wife Mary's death, brought an insider's perspective to his ministry. "He was a family man, with all the experience and understanding of the joys and occasional trials of being the father of seven," Mrs Chambers recalled.

Fr Louis once openly criticised the Church's prohibition of artificial contraception in a sermon. He told his congregation that the teaching that it was a grave sin for a married couple to use the Pill had done untold damage to the Church, and that many Catholics felt they could no longer support an institution which still had its head in the sand on the subject of birth control. Perhaps startled at the mention of *Humanae Vitae* in a sermon, Mrs Chambers reports that when Fr Louis finished speaking, "the entire congregation clapped".

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 800 Alanus



Across

- 1 Admiral, briefly succeeded Hitler as leader of the Nazi Party (6)
- 5 'Chanson de -----', morning song by Elgar (5)
- 8 The Revelation of the Lord with the Omega (5)
- 9 Stephen, cardinal instrumental in the signing of Magna Carta by King John (7)
- 10 Liturgical calendar for each day of the year (4)
- 11 'Jesus the -----', proclaimed on the *Titulus Crucis* (8)
- 13 & 14: Eminent historian, author of *The Stripping of the Altars* (5,5)
- 14 See 13 Across
- 19 Eastern Christian Church (8)
- 21 & 24: Empire restored by Charlemagne

- when crowned in 800 by Pope Leo III (4,5)
- 23 State of the US, over 20 per cent Catholic (7)
- 24 See 21 Across
- 25 Robert, Catholic-educated Prime Minister of Malta (5)
- 26 Native of country of the Arabian Peninsula (6)

Down

- 2 St Anthony -- -----, Lisbon-born Doctor of the Church (2,5)
- 3 Country of site and ruins of Babylon (4)
- 4 & 17: Twentieth-century Hungarian composer, works include *Háry János*, a *Missa Brevis* and *Te Deum* (6,6)
- 5 Latin word for commandment from which Thursday of Holy Week derives name (7)
- 6 Former produce tax for the support

- of the Church and local clergy (5)
- 7 Edict of -----, granting rights to Protestants, revoked by Louis XIV (6)
- 8 Sea of ----, linked to the Black Sea to its south (4)
- 12 'Stabat Mater -----', hymn and many musical compositions' first line (8)
- 15 Royal servant in the Queen's household (7)
- 16 Beethoven's No. 23 for piano known as the *Appassionata* (6)
- 17 See 4 Down
- 18 Name of stunningly embroidered English cope in the V&A, title from medieval abbey where it was made (4)
- 20 Ecumenical monastic community in Burgundy founded by Frère Roger (5)
- 22 Short walk in the footsteps of Henry Wood? (4)

Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 9 April 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 Paul, Theology and Christian Ethics – 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 | Easy

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

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

Solution to the 19 March puzzle

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

Solution to the 19 March crossword No. 797

Across: 1 Oujja; 4 Tree Of; 9 Molokai; 10 Jesse; 11 Last; 12 Ad Limina; 14 Ulysses; 19 Alabaman; 20 Luke; 22 Khaki; 23 Nabucco; 24 Things; 25 Azoic.

Down: 1 Ormolu; 2 Idlest; 3 Ankh; 5 Rejoices; 6 Eastie; 7 Foetal; 8 Lindisfarne; 13 Bleating; 15 Basket; 16 Malawi; 17 Duccio; 18 Heroic; 21 Abba.

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