

## The unmentionable Mahler

THE FUNERAL this week of Georg Ratzinger brought back memories of an awkward encounter with the brother of the Pope Emeritus for an English filmmaker.

Mark Dowd had been commissioned by the BBC to profile Pope Benedict XVI ahead of his 2010 visit to the UK, and was delighted to have secured an interview with Georg. The brothers were close. They had been ordained on the same day in 1951, and after his younger brother was elected pope, a separate apartment had been created for Georg in the papal digs in the Apostolic Palace, where he would stay during visits to Rome from Bavaria.

Dowd turned up at the Ratzinger home in Regensburg for his appointment. "I'd prepared meticulously for the encounter," he told us, "even remembering to address him correctly as 'Herr Domkappellmeister'."

The interview had to traverse tricky territory: the brothers' membership of the Hitler Youth, the clerical sex abuse scandal in the Church, and the continuing dysfunction in the Holy See over reforms to the Curia and the Vatican's finances. "I'd been told to watch



my step, as Georg was very protective of his little brother," Dowd told us. He managed to keep out of trouble. When the camera stopped recording, he relaxed, and made small talk about Georg's role as the director of a boys' choir school. "He asked me if I enjoyed classical music and who my composer of inspiration was. 'Gustav Mahler', I said. A look of horror passed over Georg's face. If we'd started on this before the interview got started," Dowd told us, "I'm not sure we'd have got past the first question."

Herr Domkappellmeister's parting shot

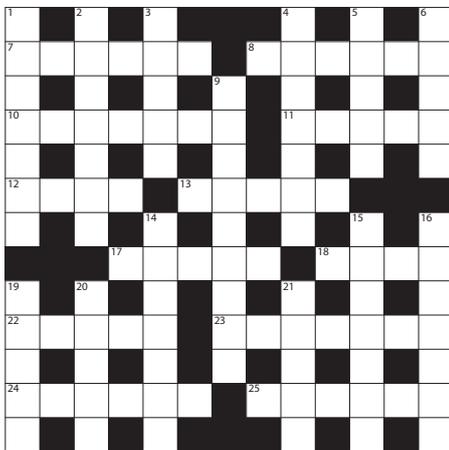
was to quote with approval a music critic who had once said that all serious music stopped at Beethoven. More ammunition, perhaps, for those who insist that the Ratzingers never much liked "modernity".

CHARLES NYAMITI, one of the great pioneers of inculturation and of African theological studies, has died at the age of 89. Ordained a priest in 1962 in his native diocese of Tabora in Tanzania, Nyamiti studied in Louvain and Vienna. He resisted several offers to teach in north America or Europe: he chose instead to spend his career teaching in Africa.

Patrick Strong, a trainer and lecturer in mental health issues and safeguarding who for the past twelve years has given workshops at the Apostles of Jesus Seminary in Nairobi, where Professor Nyamiti lived and taught, told us: "His room was next to mine and we shared many animated exchanges. He regarded himself as part European by virtue of his long association with Louvain and Vienna and was always asking me about the Church in Europe. He was the outstanding African theologian of his generation. My abiding memory of him was sitting in his chair by an open door, drafting the latest edition of one of his many books, but always ready to engage anyone passing by in conversation."

## PUZZLES

### PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 715 Enigma



Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 11 July, 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 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

- 7 Devotion said to have originated with St Dominic (6)
- 8 The fictional Mr ----- was a nobody (6)
- 10 According to Hebrews 13:2 one may be so when entertaining angels (7)
- 11 (& 22 Acr) Words announcing imminent closing of doors at a conclave (5,5)
- 12 Surname of actor whose character's catchphrase was "Just one more thing" (4)
- 13 They provide horizontal access and drainage in mines (5)
- 17 "In which Piglet does a very ----- thing (*Winnie the Pooh*, A.A.Milne) (5)
- 18 His bones are in Durham Cathedral since 1022 (4)
- 22 See 11 Across
- 23 Outer casing of a jet engine (7)
- 24 Otto Lilienthal (late nineteenth century) was the first really successful user of this (6)
- 25 One of those whose wings fill the evening in Yeats' "I will arise and go now" (6)

### Down

- 1 Second name of St Oscar Romero (7)
- 2 Birth nationality of Natalie Portman (7)
- 3 Member of a mendicant order (5)
- 4 Popular name of *Lunaria Annua* (7)
- 5 In the song "Chicago" ----- Street is called "That Great Street" (5)
- 6 It is an aerophone, and the hydraulics is its earliest ancestor (5)

- 9 ----- Magellan; sixteenth-century Portuguese explorer (9)
- 14 Film of Ronald Harwood's play "The -----" starred Anthony Hopkins and Ian McKellen (7)
- 15 Painter brother-in-law of Mantegna (fifteenth/sixteenth century) (7)
- 16 Small musical instrument whose felt hammers strike steel plates (7)
- 19 Term for Maori nose-to-nose greeting (5)
- 20 Surname of actress playing Lady Ludlow in BBC's *Cranford* (5)
- 21 Fabric used in heavy-duty lining or upholstery (5)

### SUDOKU | Challenging

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

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

### Solution to the 20 June puzzle

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

### Solution to the 20 June crossword No. 712

- Across: 7 Upsets; 8 Homily; 10 Trivial; 11 Norse; 12 Roes; 13 Fosts; 17 Pupil; 18 Slur; 22 Right; 23 Harmony; 24 Exeunt; 25 Evader.  
 Down: 1 Mustard; 2 Aspired; 3 Stoic; 4 Hornets; 5 Liars; 6 Byres; 9 Algorithm; 14 Mustang; 15 Almonds; 16 Prayers; 19 Greek; 20 Egret; 21 Bravo.