

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

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A real life force

HUGH O'Shaughnessy, who died peacefully on 1 March, aged 87, was one of the most courageous journalists to have covered Latin America in recent decades; he was also terrific if sometimes unpredictable company, acerbic observations alternating with kindness, curiosity and encouragement.

His parents, first-generation immigrants from Ireland, scrimped and saved to put him through St Benedict's, Ealing. O'Shaughnessy had a knack for being in the right place at the right time. He covered Augusto Pinochet's military coup in Chile in 1973; he was one of the few journalists to stay on to document the murder and torture of dissidents that followed, and later he exposed the "disappearance" of victims of the Argentina military. He denounced Catholic leaders who cosied up to dictators, and honoured the courage of the priests and bishops who faced up to them, often at the cost of their lives. He played a discreet role in campaigning for the release of journalists detained by military regimes. Jimmy Burns, who served as the Buenos Aires correspondent of the *Financial Times* during the 1980s, was among them. "I and my wife



Kidge owe our release from detention by the Argentine military junta during the Falklands War to Hugh," Jimmy tells us.

O'Shaughnessy leaves three children and seven grandchildren. "He would invariably ask people where they were from and listen to their stories, from the senior statesmen who he often interviewed to the care workers who looked after him in his old age," his son Matthew remembers. As his eldest daughter Frances put it, Hugh "was a real life force".

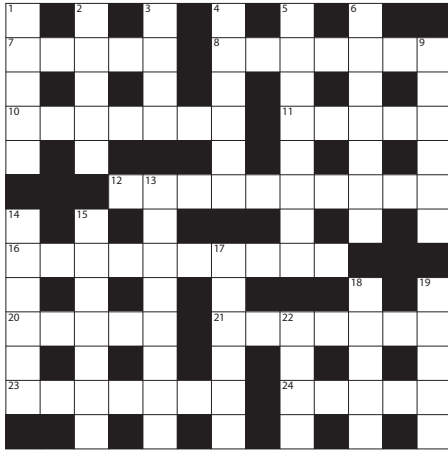
IN MANY parishes, the synodal process has yet to stutter into life. One reader tells us he

offered to help his parish priest, who was struggling with the paperwork and the fuff of arranging meetings. So he and his polling-savvy grandson devised an online survey. To their surprise, responses from parishioners came rolling in. The grandfather-grandson team have now decided to "go national", and you can complete their survey here: bit.ly/parishsynod. You have till 31 March; it only takes ten minutes or so. Some of the questions might grate with the theological purist but it covers the ground. The results will be sent to the Bishops' Conference; they will also be published.

The synodal process is about more than questionnaires, of course. It's precisely in listening to others that there is life and movement, and the "synodal church" becomes real. That's the ideal – but, as our reader's parish priest found, it isn't easy to get people to come to meetings, and we don't all thrive in small groups. Already more than a thousand people have completed the survey. Many of them are the Catholics who Pope Francis is particularly keen to get involved: those who rarely go to Mass. And, as our amateur pollster tells us, "an online survey is anonymous, so respondents can be completely honest, and not have to worry about offending other parishioners or the parish priest".

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 796 Enigma



Across

- 7 Headgear the chaplain starts to produce from eggs (5)
- 8 Spirit of a quiet Chinese cat (7)
- 10 Food on a plate (7)
- 11 I accompany her to the entrance to rentals, and I'm the one who pays (5)
- 12 Old man's drug use ended by Leeds association of healers (10)
- 16 In the church, an architectural feature which the rabbi finally finds terribly posh (10)
- 20 One contribution backs up the return of the damaged tin (5)
- 21 A fan a flapping dove might find on the golf course (7)
- 23 A struggle in a ship on a stormy German

- river results in facial injuries (7)
- 24 Hair found in the canal (5)

Down

- 1 Fellows, there's a chapter on the health resort coming up (5)
- 2 Our finest ale is past its best (5)
- 3 At what time should we point to the poultry? (4)
- 4 Say nothing up the mountains about the fallout from that dive (6)
- 5 What I can't stomach is more aggressive masculinity! (8)
- 6 After a disturbed rest, Eli gets up germ-free (7)
- 9 It is the nature of wetlands to injure the timid (6)

- 13 Bring me up to be resentful (8)
- 14 They bring news of a bungled raid by the overweight (6)
- 15 Thus, about most of the concepts, one is not inclined to believe (7)
- 17 A cruel person was miserable to begin with (6)
- 18 Pile up a thousand cats (5)
- 19 A flustered Irish poet causes an uprising (5)
- 22 A rodent madly in love (4)

Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 12 March 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 Augustine, Christianity and Thomas Aquinas – 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

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

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

Solution to the 19 February puzzle

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

Solution to the 19 February crossword No. 793

Across: 7 Boffin; 8 Dublin; 10 The rear; 11 Iliad; 12 Item; 13 Datum; 17 Clubs; 18 Vein; 22 Colon; 23 Niftier; 24 Priest; 25 Dearth. **Down:** 1 Abstain; 2 Offener; 3 River; 4 Furious; 5 Elgin; 6 Snide; 9 Broadband; 14 Illness; 15 Seniors; 16 Anarchy; 19 Scope; 20 Fluid; 21 Offer.

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