

# WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

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## Not all Gloom and Zoom

THE PANDEMIC hasn't been gloom and doom for all businesses. Every day, around 300 million people participate in a Zoom conference – and it was the app we chose for our first webinar last week, when over a hundred *Tablet* readers joined Edward Stourton and Christopher Lamb for a lively discussion of Chris' new book on Pope Francis, *The Outsider*.

Zoom's founder and chief executive, Eric Yuan, is having a good war, as they say. The value of his personal stake in the business has just passed \$10bn. He seems a good sort: his personal motto is "Work hard and stay humble". And we were amused to learn that Mr Yuan is just like the rest of us, reduced recently in a conference with investors to gawping and waving at the screen while colleagues tried to signal that he needed to unmute himself.

IT CAME as no surprise to Rosemary Keenan, chief executive of the Catholic Children's Society (Westminster), the former adoption agency that now provides social care and support services to vulnerable children and their families, that at the start of the Covid pandemic online searches for prayer using Google increased by half. When there is uncertainty



and stress, people often turn to prayer to soothe their nerves and help them to make sense of what is happening – and children, too, need stillness and calm at times of turbulence.

With this in mind, Dr Keenan and the CCS have been looking at ways of introducing the practice of meditation to schools. In partnership with the World Community for Christian Meditation they have created a YouTube channel that broadcasts videos aimed at introducing children to the way of contemplative prayer popularised by the late John Main OSB.

Dr Keenan explains, "this method of prayer

helps to reduce stress and anxiety and we are keen post COVID-19 to share the gift of meditation by visiting and training educationalists and pupils in schools". The videos are at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=bEsXju95XQQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bEsXju95XQQ)

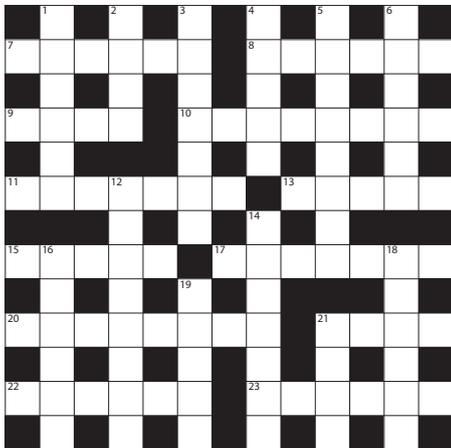
THE DISTINGUISHED Jesuit theologian and biblical scholar Gerald O'Collins writes from Melbourne to check that we've received a review copy of his latest book from Oxford University Press: *The Beauty of Jesus Christ*. Gerry is 89 this week and is approaching the midpoint of a distinguished academic career.

Gerry tells us that a grand-nephew, Billy Peters, has been working in London as a paramedic since January, just in time for the arrival of the coronavirus. Last week he lost his wallet in a London park. The woman who picked it up found a credit card and his driver's licence inside, but no contact details. The wallet contained, however, the card of Billy's father, a Melbourne barrister. Her e-mail to Dad produced instant results. Billy went at once, with enormous relief and gratitude, to retrieve his precious wallet from a London stranger.

Billy had already been touched by the way ordinary people in Britain demonstrated their gratitude to health-care workers. He is now more dedicated than ever to his work in London.

## PUZZLES

### PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 711 Axe



Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 13 June, 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 Saints, Monasticism and Philosophy of Religion – 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 Eastern paper review leads with defining relationship of the Arab and the Jew (6)
- 8 American church to address at first the book of Ecclesiasticus (6)
- 9 Setting off point, of course, when describing husband you found in the KJV (4)
- 10 Fellow captured by a returning pilgrim is an issue for David (8)
- 11 US government department reviewed a drive to promote Bible talk (7)
- 13 Son of Japheth's an Indian Ocean islander (5)
- 15 Noah's lad, back in charge, dives in to book before Nahum (5)
- 17 By sort of tiny steps, maybe, half the capital's ripped off, the city corrupted (7)

- 20 New Zealander, troublesome and lewd, banned one from a NT site (8)
- 21 Dodgy head man in the NT? (4)
- 22 Welcome articles investing Jerusalem's governor (6)
- 23 Virtuous pagan, one who ruled in India during New Testament volte-face (6)

### Down

- 1 Ahasuerus' official Nazareth trip's dropped, not applicable (6)
- 2 River gets one line early on in Nehemiah (4)
- 3 Roman capital in eastern Persia's overthrown, besieged by a princess (7)
- 4 Port Paul steered away from, seeing request for aid (5)

- 5 Yankee gold and money, raised as a rule for the masses (8)
- 6 Old Greek region where a church's temperance movement smothers one (6)
- 12 With Master seaman aboard, capsized sailor gains the high ground in the OT (2,6)
- 14 Abilities of Jesus are evident in this parable! (7)
- 16 Book investment one has with almost 100 per cent return (6)
- 18 Judges place in Marx's uprising to trap him, the leader (6)
- 19 Died leaving a mangled diadem in an old part of Iran (5)
- 21 David's nephew has injection to curb the onset of osteoarthritis (4)

### SUDOKU | Hard

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

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

### Solution to the 23 May puzzle

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

### Solution to the 23 May crossword No. 708

**Across:** 7 Simon the leper; 8 Parmenas; 9 Lois; 10 Moonies; 12 Ittai; 14 Naomi; 16 Zebedee; 19 Zoar; 20 Benedict; 22 Vicar of Christ.  
**Down:** 1 Ziba; 2 Mormon; 3 Othniel; 4 Verse; 5 Zealot; 6 Celibate; 11 Oratorio; 13 Bernice; 15 Miriam; 17 Elders; 18 Abbot; 21 Cush.