

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

diary@thetablet.co.uk

Preachers of truth

THERE WAS a concert of radiant sacred music at the Jesuit church of the Immaculate Conception in Mayfair last week, a first hearing for peppery and velvety new settings by James MacMillan and Will Todd of one of John Henry Newman's best-loved meditations together with more familiar works.

It was made possible by the stupendous generosity and good taste of the Genesis Foundation, which has donated over £20 million to the arts since it was founded by John Studzinski, who has created a tradition of church music that is both unabashedly sacred and comfortably modern. The concert was simultaneously broadcast by Classic FM and will be available on demand for the next few weeks.

At the end, we cheered and clapped till our hands were sore and tumbled out into Farm Street, whipping off our masks and shyly resuscitating our rusty social skills after being stuck indoors for 15 months. Cardinal Vincent Nichols and William Cash, editor of the *Catholic Herald*, were there, exchanging notes on the sad demise – unless a white knight is found – of the *Catholic Universe*. The Newman meditation was the one that begins,



“God has created me to do Him some definite service”, and when Harry Christophers and the Sixteen got to “I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth”, we had been reminded of the Catholic newspaper editor's tricky remit.

GETTING TO MASS last Sunday proved tricky for the parishioners of Sacred Heart and St Ia in St Ives, Cornwall. With the nearby seaside village of Carbis Bay hosting the G7 summit, roads and car parks were closed. One person who did make it through the road blocs, though, was Joe Biden. Together with

his wife Jill, the President of the United States slipped in a few minutes after the start of the 9 a.m. Mass to join the astonished regulars.

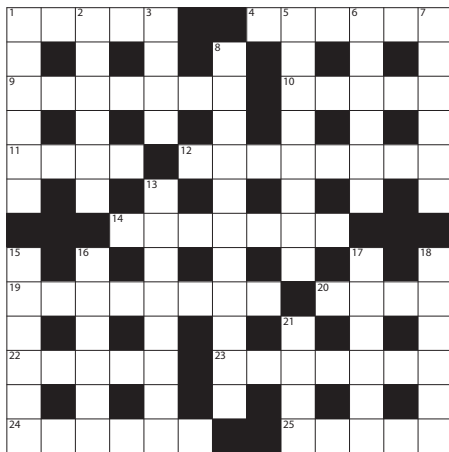
It was 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time, and after the Gospel reading – the parable of the mustard seed – Biden listened intently as parish priest Canon Philip Dyson preached about the Sunday being the first “green” Sunday since Lent – a reference to the colour of his vestments – and how appropriate this was, given the lush Cornish countryside, the importance of climate change and caring for God's creation – what Pope Francis calls “our common home”. “What we learn is that growth takes time ... The focus of G7 is now, but the implementation, the growing, does need time,” he said.

“We didn't know the president was coming; we only got a few minutes' notice,” Canon Dyson tells us. “But the president liked it being just an ordinary parish Mass. He spoke to me afterwards and thanked me and said how beautiful Cornwall is.”

Five of the G7 leaders are baptised Catholics – Biden, Justin Trudeau of Canada, Emmanuel Macron of France, Mario Draghi of Italy and their host, newly married Boris Johnson – but only Biden was able to make Mass. Johnson, instead, communed with nature, taking a dip in the sea.

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 761 Alanus



Across

- 1 Religious groups within life forms (5)
- 4 German Shepherds once associated with French region (6)
- 9 Artist following sound of bell emerged a monster (7)
- 10 Article about an aristocrat of old Scotland (5)
- 11 Denial in East of early West Country saint (4)
- 12 Opposed to short call for “Regina Caeli”, for example (8)
- 14 Body of soldiers with cross following strategy round a half-sunken fence (7)
- 19 Friends holding promotion in Charlemagne's court of twelve peers (8)
- 20 Redirected mail for home of St Rose (4)

- 22 Iconic Orthodox saint revealed by me in bad weather (5)
- 23 They are on the crest of a wave and roam the internet or both! (7)
- 24 Leave direction with the poet of doomed soul seller (6)
- 25 Wild subject of hopeless endeavour (5)

Down

- 1 (& 15 Down): Brief time to leap joyously at Newman's message of revival (6,6)
- 2 In church in one's own Castle where Joan of Arc met the Dauphin (6)
- 3 An ancestor of Abraham, in Genesis he manages to survive the Flood (4)
- 5 Novice with Satnav I used to locate European people (8)

- 6 Single father left with your religious indifference (6)
- 7 Leave direction for actors (6)
- 8 Assist with linen changing having character of one canonised (11)
- 13 Persian ruler holds back card for survivor of Nebuchadnezzar's furnace (8)
- 15 See 1 Down
- 16 Physician saint is able again to be invoked for throat problems (6)
- 17 Cake dresser found in company with Roman senator and philosopher (6)
- 18 Seer upset after Father follows Zoroaster in India (6)
- 21 Ten Reasons for card game with Campion? (4)

Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 19 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 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.

Prizes kindly donated by

OXFORD

UNIVERSITY PRESS

www.oup.com

SUDOKU | Challenging

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

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

Solution to the 29 May puzzle

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

Solution to the 29 May crossword No. 758

Across: 1 Micah; 4 Ataxia; 9 Zebedee; 10 Ravel; 11 Rara; 12 Coliseum; 14 Cadbury; 19 Apostasy; 20 Dali; 22 Sepal; 23 Ephesus; 24 Merton; 25 Delft. **Down:** 1 Mozart; 2 Coburg; 3 Hyde; 5 Tertiary; 6 Xavier; 7 Aplomb; 8 Le Corbusier; 13 Castello; 15 Hansom; 16 Cowper; 17 Hansel; 18 Tissot; 21 Chad.