

Our friend in heaven

SEVERAL DOZEN Vatican correspondents – including *The Tablet's* man in Rome, Christopher Lamb – have petitioned Pope Francis to have Titus Brandsma, canonised in Rome last Sunday, declared a patron saint of journalism (St Francis de Sales is already in post, but few doubt he needs help doing the heavy lifting this particular job requires).

After the German conquest of Holland in 1940, Brandsma – a Carmelite priest, academic, writer and journalist – urged the Dutch bishops to speak out against Nazi human rights violations, including the persecution of Dutch Jews. “The Nazi movement is a black lie,” he wrote. “It is pagan.” At his beatification in 1985, Pope John Paul II described him as a “martyr of freedom of expression against the tyranny of dictatorship”. He was arrested on 19 January 1942 after personally distributing a clandestine letter from the Dutch bishops to newspaper editors, asking them to ignore a new regulation requiring them to reproduce whatever lies the Nazi authorities submitted to them. He was eventually transferred to Dachau, where he was subjected to “medical experiments” before being killed by a lethal injection on 26 July.



Journalists need one of their own as their heavenly protector. One of his biographers found in Brandsma stubbornness, a short fuse and a trace of vanity beside integrity and courage. No better man.

FRANK WILCZEK, a Nobel Prize-winning theoretical physicist, has been announced as the winner of the 2022 Templeton Prize, awarded every year to the most elegant performer on the science-religion tightrope, and worth more than £1 million. Brought up Catholic in Queens, New York City – his grandparents were migrants from Poland and Italy

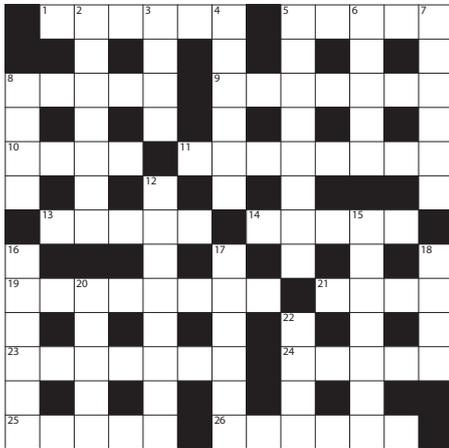
– he says he lost faith in “conventional religion” as a teenager. But it “shaped my thinking” and, he admits, “a big part of my later quest has been trying to regain some of the sense of purpose and meaning that was lost. I’m still trying.”

“YOU TAKE the comfy chair and I’ll sit in the upright one,” Fr Tony Nye SJ sometimes said to the wounded or confused who regularly sought his help. “That’ll make sure I don’t fall asleep,” he would add. Fr Nye, whose funeral took place at Farm Street last week, will be remembered for the gentle humanity with which he accompanied so many through the spiritual life. Baptised an Anglican, he became a Catholic at university, where he took a First in English and began work on a PhD. Realising the world didn’t need another fat book on Wordsworth, he joined the Society of Jesus in 1955 at the ripe old age – for the time – of 23. He was a teacher and headmaster, seminary spiritual father and retreat director, university chaplain and parish priest – about 20 years at Farm Street itself.

“Fr Tony was a great listener, who found the right words at the right moment,” his fellow Jesuit Michael Barnes told us. “St Ignatius expected his men to be adept at ‘spiritual conversation’, able to inject something of God into everyday interaction. That was what Tony did.”

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 806 Alanus



Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 21 May *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 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 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

Across

- 1 Small vessels containing wine and water used in the Offertory of the Mass (6)
- 5 Token of belief in superstition (5)
- 8 William -----, son-in-law and biographer of St Thomas More (5)
- 9 Candelabrum with seven symmetrical branches (7)
- 10 Mercian bishop saint establishing Lichfield as his base (4)
- 11 Canadian city with a Notre Dame basilica (8)
- 13 William -----, cardinal, set up colleges abroad to train priests during the Persecution (5)
- 14 Fairy tale brothers (5)
- 19 Large narrow-necked bottle often used to contain wine (8)
- 21 Vicar of ----, one who changes religious

Down

- 23 Twin identity of the Apostle Thomas (7)
- 24 William of -----, medieval theologian famous for his “Razor” method of resolving problems (5)
- 25 Country where the Garabandal shrine to Our Lady located (5)
- 26 Palace that is the residence of the president of France (6)
- 2 Archangel nominally associated with leading Renaissance artist (7)
- 3 Historical Book of the Old Testament (4)
- 4 Presentation figure who gave us the canticle “Nunc dimittis” (6)
- 5 Cord tied around waist by priest when vesting for Mass (7)

- 6 Founder (sic) of aircraft company that built WWII Lancasters and later Deltas (1,1,3)
- 7 László ----- Nagy, experimental artist with Constructivist background (6)
- 8 Insulting word Jesus was specifically against using in Matthew 22 (4)
- 12 Poet who wrote of the call of bells and fiddleback chasubles (8)
- 15 Our Lord’s first public such supernatural display at Cana (7)
- 16 Largest sports company in Europe named (in brief) after its Bavarian founder (6)
- 17 A gliding step in dance and ballet (6)
- 18 Historic self-sacrificing village in Derbyshire during the Great Plague (4)
- 20 Vengeful woman giving name to ancient Greek play by Euripides (5)
- 22 Mill in Lourdes where St Bernadette born (4)

SUDOKU | Hard

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

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

Solution to the 30 April puzzle

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

Solution to the 30 April crossword No. 803

Across: 1 Haifa, 4 Christm, 9 Japheth, 10 Tokay, 11 Galf, 12 Night Owl, 14 Clement, 19 High Mass, 20 Gaza, 22 Ixion, 23 Empathy, 24 Patmos, 25 Sedan. **Down:** 1 Hijack, 2 Impala, 3 Apex, 5 Hatching, 6 Inkpot, 7 Mayfly, 8 Choirmaster, 13 Flamingo, 15 Shrimp, 16 Egoist, 17 Fatted, 18 Banyan, 21 Opus.