

# WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

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## Social climbers

CROSS FELL, at 2,930 feet, is the highest mountain in England outside the Lake District. Undeterred by cold winds and boggy plateaus, last Saturday the Bishop of Lancaster, Paul Swarbrick, led prayers and reflections on the life of John Bradburne as a motley group of thirty pilgrims, including a South African Franciscan priest in his habit and a black labrador called Megan, scaled the Pennine escarpment.

Bradburne, born in 1921 in the nearby village of Skirwith, where his father was the rector, ascended Cross Fell regularly in his childhood. He served with the Gurkhas and Chindits in the Second World War and converted to Catholicism in 1947, going on to serve victims of leprosy in a settlement at Mutemwa, Zimbabwe. He was brutally murdered in 1979 as the civil war reached its bloody climax.

On scaling the mound of rocks next to the trig point at the summit, Bishop Swarbrick reached under a pile of stones and produced a rosary. It had been found there last September, when the group had made its first assault on the mountain peak, and had been carefully placed back in the same spot. "John was very dedicated to Mary our mother," the



bishop told us. "Let us take this as a moment of communion with her and with him."

In 2019 the Congregation for the Causes of Saints formally opened the case for Bradburne's beatification.

THE SYRO-MALABAR Church, knocking in at roughly four million members, is one of the largest of the 23 Eastern Catholic Churches in full communion with Rome. They have a long lineage. St Thomas, known to most of us as the most doubtful (or least credulous) apostle, has a different repute for the Syro-Malabars: they believe that he, evangelising

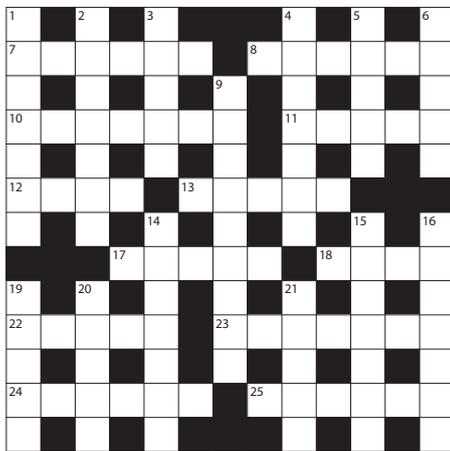
India, founded their Church 2,000 years ago. But few Catholics, at least in this country, are likely to have heard of them.

Corpus Christi Church in Maiden Lane – in London's Covent Garden – hoped to change that a few weeks ago, when they asked Mar Joseph Srampickal, Bishop of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy in Britain, to celebrate Holy Mass there. Or, as Srampickal would call it, Holy Qurbana: the two liturgies are related but distinct. Inviting the bishop to participate in Corpus Christi's "Eucharistic Octave" – an eight-day celebration of the diverse fruits of the Church's liturgies – was part of an effort, as one of the organisers told us, to encourage Catholics to work together. Something, they noted wryly, we're not always good at.

Holy Qurbana went off without a hitch – or seemed to – with packed pews, a full choir, and a sanctuary packed with clerics and servers. Particular highlights for scions of the more austere Latin rite included the *maksaneethsa*, clattering fan bells on long sticks used to announce the entrance of the Lord, and the magnificent vestments tied with neon-pink bows. Cribbing from the Psalmist, Aquinas called it *circumdada varietate*: "clothed round with variety". We left Covent Garden refreshed by the glory of the Church.

## PUZZLES

### PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 811 Enigma



Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 25 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 Jesus, Christian Art and Catholicism – 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.**

#### Across

- 7 Shed a tear on line for the highway (6)
- 8 A kidnapper on the hill (6)
- 10 I care about tea spilled by this animal (7)
- 11 A dance performed badly in old Myanmar (5)
- 12 Stories we never want to hear (4)
- 13 Engagement for a musician to return and get the chop (5)
- 17 Where one may be trapped without hope in a slim body (5)
- 18 Flow back to the big and bad (4)
- 22 Returning, cite the first high moral principle (5)
- 23 A pariah is heard dismissing the actors (7)

- 24 Dead bodies have no right to be in thickets (6)
- 25 Almost half the customs surrounding the city find rare objects (6)

#### Down

- 1 Catholic surrounded by desperate pleas for wrapped items (7)
- 2 A sailor, in a departure from Retsina, supplies this for dinner (7)
- 3 Shameful payment for an existential command about a bone (5)
- 4 We are told to go ahead to feed the vultures (7)
- 5 Tree remains to baffle us (5)

- 6 Songs sung in a sari (5)
- 9 This speaks volumes (9)
- 14 Chef's in, cooking birds (7)
- 15 A star with a heart of gold in Paris (7)
- 16 Sea fete for Melanesian people in New Hebrides (7)
- 19 This American politician contributed very little to President Trump's economy (5)
- 20 Be quiet, you monkey! It's only an outline (5)
- 21 Walk proudly in support of bridge (5)

### SUDOKU | Hard

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

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

#### Solution to the 4 June puzzle

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

#### Solution to the 4 June crossword No. 808

**Across:** 7 Aghori; 8 Agatha; 9 Star; 10 Rabelais; 11 Statins; 13 Annan; 15 Pence; 17 Shrouds; 20 Perigons; 21 Iago; 23 Filial; 24 Nettle.  
**Down:** 1 Agit; 2 Dorrit; 3 Citrine; 4 Rabbi; 5 Marlin; 6 Thailand; 12 Theremin; 14 Chasing; 16 Clinic; 18 Opiate; 19 Boils; 22 Gale.

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