

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

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Generosity embodied

WE BEGAN our readers' appeal this year just as our lives were being turned upside down by the coronavirus. We worried that we were making an unreasonable ask for help when readers had more pressing concerns. You have been extraordinarily generous. It's been a difficult few years for newspapers and magazines and those who make a living working for them, and the pandemic has amplified the problems: readers understand that. But we've found that the relationship between *The Tablet* and its readers has deepened over the past six months in a way we could not have anticipated. Perhaps we've realised we need each other even more than we knew.

"*The Tablet* is my joy of the week. Please keep going," wrote one reader.

We'll be winding down the appeal over the next few weeks, but what a tonic it has been. More details on the online donation portal can be found at www.thetablet.co.uk/developmentfund. Should you have any queries, or wish to donate offline, please contact Sarah Beattie on 0208 222 7374 or at sbeattie@thetablet.co.uk.



IN HER column in June, Melanie McDonagh pointed out that since Carrie Symonds and Boris Johnson are both baptised Catholics, their son should have a Catholic baptism. Two weeks ago, he did. Fr Daniel Humphreys, the acting administrator, christened him in the Lady Chapel of Westminster Cathedral.

Four-month-old Wilfred will be raised as a Catholic. Mum and Dad could ask Fr Humphreys to marry them. There would be some Vatican legal treacle to swim through, but as McDonagh points out, "Johnson's pre-

vious two marriages were to non-Catholics without dispensation. The Prime Minister's home life has been anything but edifying but the sacrament is for all comers."

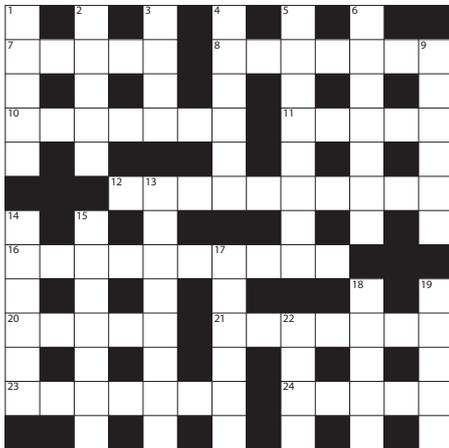
FRENCH-BORN Bernadette Boullier Blayney from Dublin is one of many subscribers to have written to congratulate us on our 180th anniversary issue. Her late husband, John Blayney, served on the Supreme Court in the 1990s, though he remained best known for a forty-yard dash to score a try against Scotland at Lansdowne Road in 1950 when earning his only cap for Ireland.

While in Covid-induced confinement at home Bernadette re-read James Joyce's *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*. She spotted something I hadn't noticed before. In one scene, Stephen, Joyce's alter ego, finds his friend Cranly in the university library, talking chess with a mild-mannered medical student, Dixon. They disturb the concentration of a man nearby who is absorbed in a Catholic magazine.

"Stephen sat down at [Cranly's] right," writes Joyce, "and the priest at the other side of the table closed his copy of *The Tablet* with an angry snap and stood up ... We had better go, Dixon, said Stephen in warning. He has gone to complain."

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 725 Alanus



Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 26 September, *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 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 Leporine adulation at Chicago airport we hear! (5)
- 8 A Protestant sugar baron producing plastic film (7)
- 10 Dismissal in sport insane but priest will wear it (7)
- 11 Surpass tops in performance with fast time (5)
- 12 Work on land takeover? (10)
- 16 Statue is to be broken up of wretch who perpetrated the "Popish Plot" (5,5)
- 20 A retreat for me and national in Yemen (5)
- 21 Legendary friend of Damon in ship on Tay crossing (7)

23 (& 22 Down): Let Noah rant about deadline message (2,5,4)

24 Carroll heroine in journal I censor (5)

Down

- 1 Code of Catholic martyrs shown by Tyburn victim Henry (5)
- 2 Rite of Mass for saint with lily (5)
- 3 Inscribe "*da nobis hodie*" in Roman college (4)
- 4 Attack with water in France a native composer (6)
- 5 Woman in regal reform having ability to manipulate situation (8)
- 6 Graduate in fashion about probable time of Greek god of wine (7)

9 London abbey with curative mission we 'ear! (6)

13 Resolvers of moral issues by reason showing education benefactor around Scottish island (8)

14 Saint is leading the transport filter (6)

15 Aspire to be associated with church feature? (7)

17 Praise conversion with ambition for 15 Down? (6)

18 Puccini heroine with carbon copy (5)

19 Rose and me redelivered basket material (5)

22 See 23 Across

SUDOKU | Challenging

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

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

Solution to the 5 September puzzle

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

Solution to the 5 September crossword No. 722

Across: 1 Major; 4 Talcum; 9 Avignon; 10 Lucan; 11 Arum; 12 Exoteric; 14 Marmion; 19 Ursuline; 20 Raca; 22 Tyler; 23 Ego Eimi; 24 Dismas (or Dysmas); 25 Holst. Down: 1 Maacah; 2 Jairus; 3 Reni; 5 Ablution; 6 Cicero; 7 Monica; 8 Anaximander; 13 Mallorca; 15 Hunted; 16 Psalms; 17 Daniel; 18 Marist; 21 Roch.