

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

diary@thetablet.co.uk

Cake with the general

NO ONE has done more to bring the troubles of persecuted Christians to our attention than Benedict Rogers, a tireless reporter of human rights violations and a senior analyst for Christian Solidarity Worldwide. In his travels to North Korea, China, Pakistan, Indonesia, East Timor and beyond he was inspired by Catholics who held fast to their faith under extraordinary pressure. But it was Myanmar's champion of human rights, Cardinal Charles Maung Bo, who was his greatest mentor, and who, on Palm Sunday 2013, in the cathedral in Yangon, received him into the Church.

Rogers is critical of the Vatican's reluctance to speak out against Chinese repression but his bafflement and frustration at Pope Francis' deal-making with Beijing never turns into a sour attack; he recognises that when a tyrant's stiletto rests on a victim's neck, the urge to trumpet your disapproval is natural – yet is unlikely to alter the situation to the victim's advantage. But Rogers was disturbed when photographs emerged of a smiling Cardinal Bo cutting a Christmas cake with an equally cheerful Min Aung Hlaing, head of Myanmar's military. A few hours later, villagers in Kayah state awoke to the appalling horror of the



burned, charred remains of 35 victims in the latest massacre by the general's troops.

Cardinal Bo described the massacre as “an horrific atrocity which I condemn with all my heart”. As Rogers wrote on the UCA News website last week, combining the roles of defender of human dignity with voice for reconciliation is never easy. He believes that was the agonising balancing act the cardinal was attempting when he met Min Aung Hlaing. Rogers is too honest to hide his distaste for the cake-cutting episode. “But as someone who knows Cardinal Bo well,” he pleads, “look beyond the cake, into his heart.”

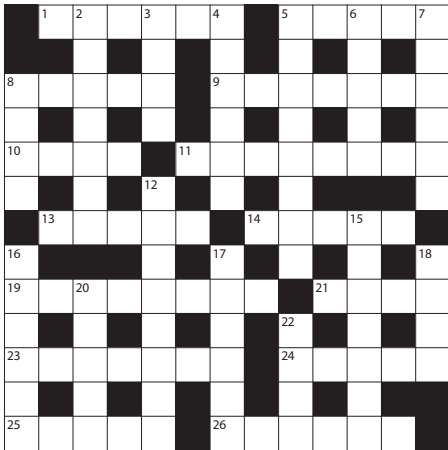
JOHN HUMPHRYS was well-known for his scepticism about the “Thought for the Day” slot long before he retired from the BBC's *Today* programme. So his old mucker Denis Tuohy was chancing his arm asking him for an endorsement for the back cover of *Streets and Secret Places* (Messenger Publications, £11.95), a collection of some of the “Thoughts for the Day” that Tuohy has recorded for BBC Radio Ulster.

Tuohy needn't have worried. Humphrys assured him that what he objected to was not the slot's existence, “but the boring contributors”. He liked Denis's book very much. “I may not share his religious beliefs, but I have always admired his commitment to journalism. Denis is a hack of the old school – and in my book there is no higher praise,” enthuses Humphrys in his generous puff on the back cover. “And he writes like a dream.”

Tuohy began his broadcasting career as BBC Northern Ireland's first Catholic news presenter, before moving to London in 1964, where he helped launch BBC2. After three decades he moved back to Ireland, where he picked up his acting career. Every reflection in *Streets and Secret Places* strikes home. “Being grateful for the moment while it's here, that's what matters,” he reminds us.

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 787 Enigma



Across

- 1 A place where 5 Down may be detected (6)
- 5 Those disturbed by the moral atmosphere (5)
- 8 Behold, in a triumphant cry of discovery, a Pacific greeting (5)
- 9 You, uncle, are really becoming less incomprehensible (7)
- 10 I try to buy a lot, all the same (4)
- 11 Delights a headless bird with liturgical singing (8)
- 13 I trap an animal (5)
- 14 These directions are a trap (5)
- 19 Go away from the garage door and cause a frenzy on the highway (4,4)

- 21 The twenty-sixth American company to find metal (4)
- 23 Use two rings on the range to cook spice (7)
- 24 It pours on a Wimbledon favourite (5)
- 25 Run tests to find badgers (5)
- 26 If I say I haven't seen a rat in an age, list that among my mistakes! (6)

Down

- 2 Found unconscious among the flowers here (7)
- 3 Play an air at the head of the queue here (4)
- 4 Care terribly about an intruder, secret and mysterious (6)

- 5 Surprisingly seldom detected in a room (8)
- 6 The brave point to the bird (5)
- 7 Superlatively confident (6)
- 8 Half a dozen come up with a means of putting a spin on things (4)
- 12 Young lady, about to eye the words, interprets things incorrectly (8)
- 15 Train me to make clothing (7)
- 16 Pre-publication soft covers (6)
- 17 Take no notice when a soldier comes up an Irish river (6)
- 18 Coming up with fake raincoats (4)
- 20 You are skilled these days, poor pet (5)
- 22 Result of injury by a heavenly vehicle (4)

Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 8 January 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 are processing entries but there may be a delay in notifying winners and sending out prizes. Please keep entering.

SUDOKU | Hard

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

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

Solution to the 11 December puzzle

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

Solution to the 11 December crossword No. 785

Across: 1 Upsets; 5 Mayne; 8 Herod; 9 Rattler; 10 Peel 11 Hallmark; 13 Baker; 14 Liszt; 19 Seraphim; 21 Ossa; 23 Agnates; 24 Humps; 25 Dachau; 26 Locust. Down: 2 Porsena; 3 Eddy; 4 Syriac; 5 Metallic; 6 Yalta; 7 Eureka; 8 Hope; 12 Perpetua; 15 Zosimus; 16 Oswald; 17 Tinsel; 18 Lars; 20 Runic; 22 Chic.

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