

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

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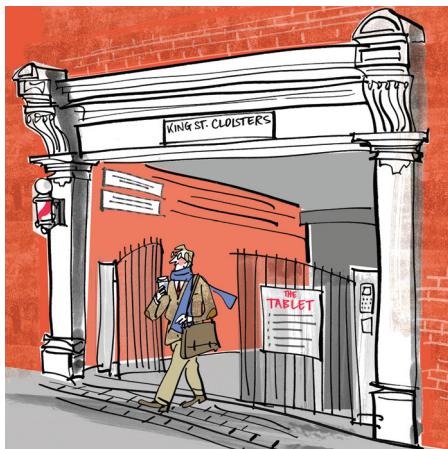
Poet and priest

"I THINK it's harder to weather this strange time as a priest than it is as a poet," Malcolm Guite, poet, theologian, songwriter and chaplain of Girton College, Cambridge, tells us. "The priest in me feels strongly called to be out there holding hands with the very people from whom I must be distanced, but the poet in me knows that if the muse is kind and I am faithful to her, then my words will do the touching for me."

The thought of Good Friday and Easter Sunday with no gathering in church hit Malcolm hard. He started to sketch out a poem but got stuck. "I tried again on Holy Saturday morning and it all came together very swiftly, opening out from the unloosed linen wrappings in the empty tomb." Here it is:

And where is Jesus, this strange Easter day?
Not lost in our locked churches, anymore
Than he was sealed in that dark sepulchre.
The locks are loosed; the stone is rolled away,
And he is up and risen, long before,
Alive, at large, and making his strong way
Into the world he gave his life to save,
No need to seek him in his empty grave.

He might have been a wafer in the hands



Of priests this day, or music from the lips
Of red-robed choristers, instead he slips
Away from church, shakes off our linen bands
To don his apron with a nurse: he grips
And lifts a stretcher, soothes with gentle hands
The frail flesh of the dying, gives them hope,
Breathes with the breathless, lends them strength
to cope.

On Thursday we applauded, for he came
And served us in a thousand names and faces
Mopping our sickroom floors and catching traces
Of that corona which was death to him:

Good Friday happened in a thousand places
Where Jesus held the helpless, died with them
That they might share his Easter in their need,
Now they are risen with him, risen indeed.

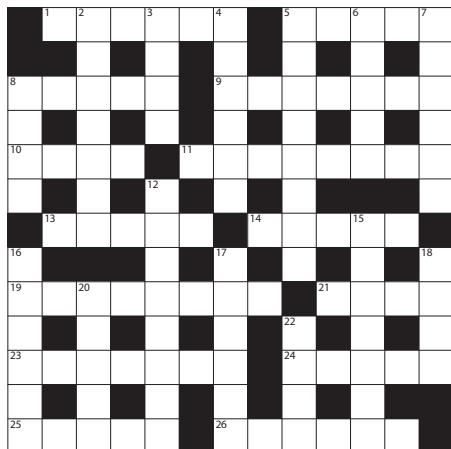
You can hear Malcolm read his poem if you go to the blog page on his website: www.malcolmguite.wordpress.com/blog

THE ARTICLES in last week's issue by Madoc Cairns (our Newman Intern: he is working with us for a year thanks to funds raised by last summer's development appeal) and Pat Jones, who had helped to plan the 1980 National Pastoral Congress, brought back warm memories of the event for many readers. In his column this week, Clifford Longley tells the story of what happened when Cardinal Hume and Archbishop Derek Worlock took the final report of the congress to Rome and proudly presented it to Pope John Paul II. He was less than enthusiastic.

Pat gently points out that in our brief biography at the end of her piece we have her down as still completing a doctorate on Catholic homelessness charities at the Centre for Catholic Studies at Durham University. Actually, she finished it last summer, and is now doing post-doctoral work with women@thewell on prostitution and Catholic social teaching.

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 706 Enigma



Across

- 1 I don't know if she'll marry me, but I'll mention this region (6)
5 Exercise among golf equipment for Native American (5)
8 This is where Bill had his car accident (5)
9 Quit the Ashton Canal Authority because it's water-related (7)
10 They say these letters will bring relief (4)
11 One diocese I enter is losing direction and doing stupid things (8)
13 Told one would be prosecuted as a fraudster (5)
14 He'll show you, me and the lady to our places (5)
19 See the first Pope Leo point to poor Simon, who is not guilty, not culpable, but innocent (8)

21 Singers write articles about accommodation (4)

- 23 Offence taken when rumba danced before General Election began (7)
25 In Ireland a wren was injured at the start of the year (5)
26 Docked from bovine speech by socialist (6)

Across

- 2 Meals flown in for John the Baptist (7)
3 Have a go at bringing back the fly-by-nights (4)
4 A chap, father, can really be a woman! (6)
5 Their rugby team has a strange ambition (8)
6 They're seen in medieval paintings? Bring it up around the beginning of term (5)
7 Wrap it up so they cease to point (6)

8 To get to the top, imitate the mysterious one (4)

- 12 And, in the quarry, the first rock is missing. What a dilemma! (8)
15 It's me, back before two! Give me a hug! (7)
16 Express support for the act that brings improvement (6)
17 At the end of classes, meet up to show respect and admiration (6)
18 A fish in the choir (4)
20 This English bowl can bend! (5)
22 The energy you have, Brother Moon! (4)

SUDOKU | Moderate

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

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

Solution to the 18 April puzzle

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

Solution to the 18 April crossword No. 703

- Across:** 7 Enigma; 8 Europa; 9 Leni; 10 Anaphora; 11 Pig skin; 12 Croft; 15 Malmo; 17 Narthex; 20 Palatine; 22 Esca; 23 Passim; 24 Irenic. **Down:** 1 Angelica; 2 Oggies; 3 Paladin; 4 Pecan; 5 Archer; 6 Spur; 13 Frenchie; 14 Valeria; 16 Mbaise; 18 Thebes; 19 Films; 21 Ajax.

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