

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

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Diet of worms

THE SISTERS of St Joseph of Peace, who last autumn opened a House of Hospitality for asylum seekers and refugees in Nottingham, have now welcomed 500 worms under their roof.

“Why worms?”, tweeted novice Sr Liz Dodds, our much-missed former home news editor. “Because they compost kitchen waste for our veg garden! And because the sisters in the community are so open to the new that a novice saying she’d discerned a worm farm shocked literally no one.”

The Urban Worm, a local social enterprise dedicated to organic waste management, were more than happy to help. “We are all about Peace,” they explained, “so you can imagine our excitement when we had a wheelie bin worm farm order from the Sisters of St Joseph of Peace.” Worms can eat up to half their body weight in organic waste a day. As far as natural waste managers and fertiliser-producers go, worms are without peer.

“We are forever beginning, and the best we can do is be very grateful that each new beginning is one more chance to grow,” Sr Margaret Byrne CSJP said after the worms had been safely delivered.



MICHAEL IGNATIEFF told Peter Stanford when he was interviewed for *The Tablet* a few weeks ago that his youthful faith had been “blown away” by the “detonating force” of David Hume’s arguments. The historian and occasional actor and singer Michael T.R.B. Turnbull tells us that there were some surprising twists in the story of the Scottish Enlightenment philosopher’s relationship with the Catholic Church.

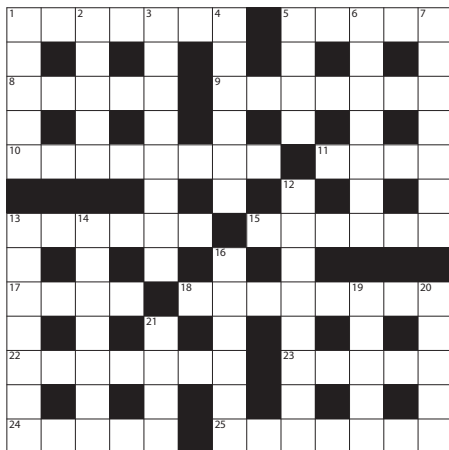
Brought up in Edinburgh in an atmosphere of strict and starchy Calvinism, Hume condemned the theatrical liturgy of Catholicism, “that strange superstition”, and his works were

placed on the Index of Prohibited Books. But in spite of his repeated rejection of its “mummies”, he once seems to have drifted towards the Church, albeit in a raging delirium. In 1748 on a secret military mission to Vienna and Turin, Hume (by now portly but ever amorously inclined) was tricked into believing that he might successfully woo a beautiful Countess. Things didn’t work out. Inconsolable, Hume developed a violent fever and in his nightmare he gabbled wildly about the devil, Hell and damnation. Priests were sent for and Hume was hastily given Extreme Unction by a local Jesuit. Afterwards, he dismissed his “conversion”. He assured his friends he had not been himself.

In 1763, while serving as Secretary at the British Embassy in Paris, Hume visited the Scots College several times to research the book that would make him famous, his *History of England*, consulting the 14 volumes of King James VII’s memoirs, written in the King’s own handwriting. Is there anything I can do for you in return? Hume later asked the head of the college. There was something, as it happened. Hume gleefully agreed at once. And so it was that the great sceptical philosopher arranged for a papal bull creating a new Scottish bishop to be delivered to London via the diplomatic bag.

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 792 Axe



Across

- 1 Christian from Damascus who cured Saul’s blindness (7)
- 5 Concubine of Darius I (5)
- 8 Originally one O.T. Book which ends in the fall of Jerusalem, c. 586 BC (5)
- 9 Grandson of Esau (variant spelling) (7)
- 10 Buzite father of Elihu (8)
- 11 Home of Nathanael the disciple and scene of an early miracle (4)
- 13 First-born Benjaminite son of Shelah, among the first to return to Jerusalem from Babylon (6)
- 15 How the Canaanites addressed God (Yahweh) (6)
- 17 “You will make sheets of goats’ ---- to form a tent over the Dwelling ...” (Exodus/NJB) (4)

- 18 Companion of Paul, a missionary in Galatia (8)
- 22 Threshing floor owner, alternatively named Ornan (7)
- 23 Buddhist who has attained Nirvana (5)
- 24 Canaanite city, along with Megiddo and Gezer and other buildings, built by Solomon (5)
- 25 Hebrew version of 20 Down (7)

Down

- 1 Ancestor of Levite gatekeepers (5)
- 2 Saul’s commander, killed by Joab (5)
- 3 Son of Jacob and Leah (8)
- 4 Member of a US Christian commune practising celibacy (6)
- 5 King of Judah who sacrificed his son (4)
- 6 Egyptian wife of Joseph ... (7)

- 7 ... their son – Jacob’s favourite grandson ... (7)
- 12 ... and the leader of the land named after him under Moses (8)
- 13 Clan leader in Asher, the son of Japheth (7)
- 14 Son of the High Priest Zadok, loyal to David (7)
- 16 First god of the Hindu triad (6)
- 19 O.T. liturgical vestment, maybe apron-style with shoulder straps (5)
- 20 Tempter of mankind, as named in the KJV (5)
- 21 Amorite ally of Abram (4)

Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 12 February *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 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.**

SUDOKU | Challenging

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

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

Solution to the 22 January puzzle

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

Solution to the 22 January crossword No. 789

Across: 1 Arabah; 4 Jabbok; 8 Ituraea; 10 Harod; 11 Caleb; 12 Gorgias; 13 Elizabeth; 17 Ephesus; 19 Hagar; 21 Tract; 22 Ananias; 23 Athens; 24 Amasai. **Down:** 1 Arioch; 2 Aduel; 3 Ahasbai; 5 Achor; 6 Beraiah; 7 Kedesh; 9 Aegean Sea; 13 Ephrath; 14 Ephraim; 15 Hestia; 16 Arisai; 18 Satan; 20 Gaius.

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