

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

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The Trappist way

BACK IN MARCH, Brendan O'Dea decided to escape from the racket and bustle of his job in an assisted-living facility for the elderly for a few days of quiet reflection and retreat at Mount St Bernard's Trappist monastery in Leicestershire. "A sense of tranquillity pervaded," he told us. "I observed the black-and-white-robed monks praying silently in the semi-darkness of their chapel; I was in awe of the single-mindedness of their vocation. I felt refreshed and re-energised."

When he returned to work, everyone was in lockdown. "All the shared facilities such as the library, cinema, art room and dining-hall – and of course the hairdresser's – were off-limits. Our elderly tenants were asked to remain in their self-contained flats indefinitely. Individual lunches were delivered to them in their rooms rather than eaten communally. Relatives and friends were no longer allowed to visit. A few older tenants, perhaps remembering wartime restrictions, were unperturbed; many were bored and lonely.

"We tried to stay positive and healthy for the sake of those we cared for, even if wearing facemasks made everything more difficult. We remained Covid-free, but some tenants



died due to other causes, and there was a noticeable nervousness whenever paramedics were on the premises. What took us all by surprise was the level of support we received from members of the public."

For O'Dea, his short brush with the Trappists transformed the experience of lockdown. "It made me recognise the importance of making time for reflection. I was also reminded of the extent to which monastic values such as simplicity, kindness and service to others are embedded in the rhythms of the daily working life of carers like me."

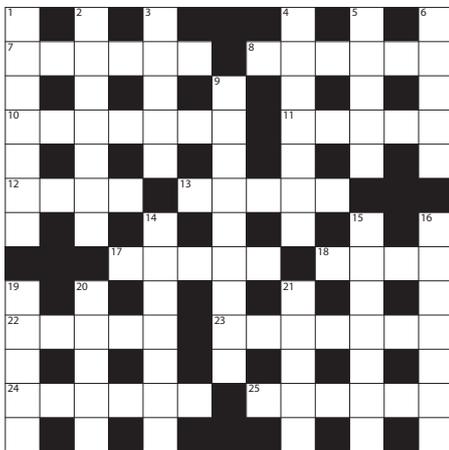
AFTER WE REPORTED the death on 18 May of Vincent Malone, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Liverpool, Kathryn Burke, who had first met him when he was the chaplain at Liverpool University, wrote to us from Stratford upon Avon.

"It seems typical that such a humble man such as Bishop Malone would pass away with no pomp or circumstance," she told us. "I was in my first year at university when I first encountered him. He exercised his role with warmth and care to everyone who wandered into the chaplaincy, not just the Catholic students. He organised social activities and simple lunches. He provided a listening ear and sound advice. After leaving the chaplaincy he worked in the cathedral in a quiet and understated way, making everything run smoothly but never in a way which would draw attention to his own contribution.

"After the Hillsborough tragedy in 1989, he organised an open-air Mass for the people of Liverpool and beyond, using a megaphone to make sure that all could participate. He was both a faithful priest and bishop and a devoted family man, protective and proud both of his own family and of a wider family he 'adopted': the former students of Liverpool with whom he kept in touch and who now grieve for him."

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 712 Enigma



Across

- 7 Causes distress by unleashing pests on the capital of Uruguay (6)
- 8 I'm back in sacred surroundings to hear one (6)
- 10 It hardly matters if it goes viral (7)
- 11 The language evolved after Eli fled Elsinore (5)
- 12 "It sounds like a flower, my dears," I said (4)
- 13 Used in printing prayers for Baptisms? (5)
- 17 The little dog is slightly sick, one learns (5)
- 18 It's calumny to say he'll bring back the rules on drug withdrawal (4)
- 22 It cannot be left here (5)

- 23 It's hard to lose a penny and a fraction of a Euro from the cash, but it brings peace (7)
- 24 The actors are leaving (6)
- 25 The revenue authorities do not like to see a tax on this (6)

Down

- 1 Hot stuff! Celebrity found in dirty surroundings! (7)
- 2 Had ambitions to get to the top in the Church, surrounded by publicity (7)
- 3 Thus to be embraced, without emotion! (5)
- 4 Honest and right, but dangerous (7)
- 5 They say the first lady puts on ridiculous airs, but don't believe them! (5)
- 6 Turn away from those purchasing cowsheds (5)
- 9 Unseemly mirth following dubious goal, caught on computer (9)
- 14 Has to be a useless horse (7)
- 15 Shalom, Sandra! Sarah has left some nuts (7)
- 16 Religious practice not sent up by atheists (7)
- 19 The king expressed fear of one bearing gifts (5)
- 20 One has no right to be sorry for this bird (5)
- 21 Got the sabra vote? Well done! (5)

Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 20 June, 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 cannot process entries or prizes at present. Please keep entering. Winners will be notified and prizes awarded as soon possible.**

SUDOKU | Challenging

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

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

Solution to the 30 May puzzle

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

Solution to the 30 May crossword No. 709

Across: 7 Thorn; 8 Isobars; 10 Ferment; 11 Oscar; 12 Gordievsky; 16 Gnosticism; 20 Imaal; 21 Respite; 23 Nosegay; 24 Vatican. Down: 1 Staff; 2 Sorry; 3 Anne; 4 Jilted; 5 Coronets; 6 Facism; 9 Soraya; 13 Ontology; 14 Agnion; 15 Bonasse; 17 Corby; 18 Misty; 19 Perch; 22 Save.

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