

Witness to the Risen Christ

FOR MORE than fifty years, Our Lady of the Wayside parish in Shirley in the west Midlands has had a tradition of practical action to promote justice, peace and human rights. The work was initiated by a remarkable parish priest – a man of action who galvanized the gifts of the laity, turning an ordinary parish into a fighting force against hunger, disease, illiteracy and the plight of prisoners of conscience.

Fr Patrick (Paddy) O'Mahony, parish priest from 1962 until his death thirty years ago this year, also oversaw the building of one of those remarkable post-Vatican II churches that people either love or hate, though you'd have to be stubbornly anti-modern not to admire the bronze figure of the Risen Christ by Elisabeth Frink.

Sean Loone, a deacon in the parish, tells us that the Justice and Peace group Fr O'Mahony established is in operation to this day. "For Fr Paddy, the Church, as the Body of Christ on earth, does not exist purely for its own sake but rather to recognise and respond to suffering humanity," he told us.



Fr O'Mahony could do the big, audacious lobbying campaigns, but he could also personally place collection boxes at the doors of the church to remind people, as they entered and left, that to serve the poor and needy is to serve Christ himself. These collection boxes remain in place and last year the Trust set up in Fr O'Mahony's name raised over £30,000.

"IT'S DEFINITELY my last book," 91-year-old Michael Winter assured us when we called to ask him about *Is Catholicism Reformable?*, a veteran surveyor's sprightly insistence that

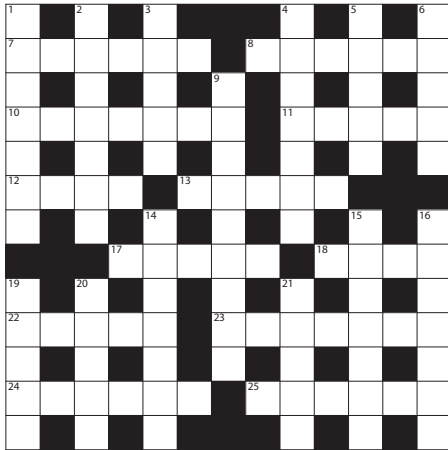
a crumbling institution can be saved (available from the usual online suppliers at £8.99).

Winter was ordained as a priest in 1955. He was dismissed from a teaching post at the Beda College after refusing to knuckle down to *Humanae Vitae*. On Ash Wednesday 1985, when he was Dean of St Edmund's, Cambridge, he and Rowan Williams, then a youthful Dean of Clare College, clambered over a razor-wire fence with a handful of students and put a cross of ashes on the runway of an RAF base in Cambridgeshire where cruise missiles were about to be stored. They were quickly arrested by MoD police, armed with sub-machineguns and pistols. He resigned from the clergy in 1986, and turned to university teaching and writing.

"You should create a Loyalty Prize for the reader who has chalked up the longest span of reading *The Tablet*," he tells us. He candidly admits to having a dog in the race. "I started reading *The Tablet* in 1948. Throughout my whole life I have been blessed with a retentive memory. I have clear recollections of how we celebrated the Silver Jubilee of King George V in 1935. Actually I always evaluate events in their long-term context. That is why I am convinced that, in spite of the recent horrific scandals, in the long run, Catholicism *is* reformable!"

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 766 Enigma



Across

- 7 Christian name of first person to conduct a spacewalk (6)
- 8 French philosopher who suggested a "wager" for those without faith (6)
- 10 A Japanese massage therapy (7)
- 11 Christian name of British prime minister, in office 1922-23 (5)
- 12 Estate held on condition of feudal service (4)
- 13 German Romantic poet (5)
- 17 (See 14 Down) (5)
- 18 Nainsook is commonly known as ---- (4)
- 22 Surname of author of *Unsafe at Any Speed* (5)

- 23 The theory that abstract ideas have their own independent existence (7)
- 24 Describes elaborately ornate eighteenth-century European furniture (6)
- 25 James -----, theologian author of *Undergoing God* (2006) (6)

Down

- 1 Common name of biennial *Tragopogon porrifolius* (7)
- 2 Point at which moon is nearest to earth (7)
- 3 Fourth letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
- 4 Samson's weapon from a donkey's body (7)
- 5 Raymond Damadian's invention made it possible to carry out very accurate ----- (5)

- 6 ----- Island, ancestral home of Ireland's legendary pirate queen (5)
- 9 Ancient writing of Mesopotamia and Persia (9)
- 14 English ceramic artist (see 17 Across) (7,5)
- 15 St Peregrine -----, died 1345 (7)
- 16 A sea ----- is a toxic sponge (7)
- 19 When hunted, it proved to be a boojum (5)
- 20 The ----- of Nantes was signed in 1598 (5)
- 21 The colour black in heraldry (5)

Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 24 July, 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 Paul, Theology and Christian Ethics – 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.

Prizes kindly donated by

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SUDOKU | Moderate

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

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

Solution to the 3 July puzzle

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

Solution to the 3 July crossword No. 763

- Across:** 7 Grasp; 8 Grocers; 10 Othello; 11 Cabin; 12 Antecedent; 16 Multiplied; 20 Trash; 21 Abalone; 23 Yellows; 24 Least.
- Down:** 1 Igloo; 2 Lathe; 3 Opal; 4 Ignore; 5 Concrete; 6 Feebler; 9 Sanity; 13 Neighbor; 14 Smutty; 15 Clearly; 17 Liaise; 18 Polar; 19 Celts; 22 Axle.