

# WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

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## Lashing out at Lash

THE DEATH of Nicholas Lash, the first Catholic to occupy a chair of theology at either Cambridge or Oxford since the Reformation, has triggered a rush of memories. In 1957, after a six-year spell in the Army, he began training for the priesthood at Oscott College, Sutton Coldfield. The writer John Cornwell arrived the following year. "His fellow seminarians, including myself, were in awe of him," Cornwell tells us. "He was one of the few students, or indeed staff, to read outside the potted manuals of the day. On its publication Nicholas immediately read, and even understood, *Insight*, by the Jesuit philosopher, Bernard Lonergan.

"Eventually Nicholas managed to persuade the eminent thinker to come and talk to the seminarians. This was firmly rejected by the Rector, the 89-year-old Mgr Leonard Emery, who, half a century on, was still anxious about Modernism. So, led by Nicholas, a small group of us arranged for the slightly overweight Jesuit to come in secret. Lonergan was to be smuggled in through a ground floor window; unfortunately, it had bars, and the great theologian became stuck."

It wasn't Lash's only scrape with the author-



ities. When he wrote "THIS QUESTION IS NONSENSICAL" across a crucial morals exam, Mgr Emery told him he would have to repeat the whole year. According to Cornwell, "Nicholas proceeded to a public call box outside the college and phoned his bishop, Leo Parker of Northampton, who then phoned Archbishop Grimshaw of Birmingham, who had charge of Oscott. The next day a black limousine arrived at the front door and Emery, escorted by two nuns, was taken to the diocesan clerical care home." Lash was not obliged to repeat the year.

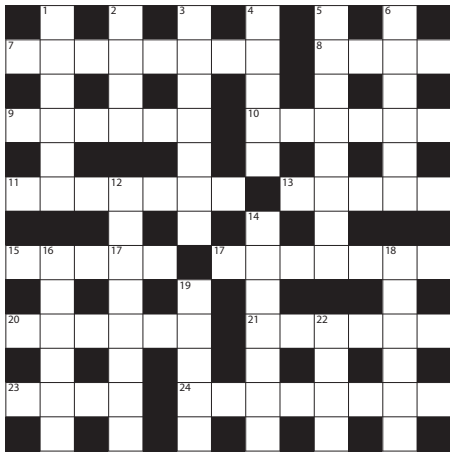
ANNE MERRIMAN is one of the millions who have been moved by the sight of Captain Tom Moore walking outside his home to raise money for NHS charities. "It made me think, I can do that on the balcony of my home in Kampala."

Merriman grew up in Liverpool during the war. When her younger brother Bernard was suddenly taken ill and died of a brain tumour within a fortnight, Anne, 12 years of age, became determined to train as a doctor. At 18, she entered the Medical Missionaries of Mary as a postulant. After qualifying she worked as a doctor in Africa. To pursue her vision of palliative care, she founded Hospice Africa in Uganda, a charitable foundation that has helped to transform end-of-life care in Africa.

Due to Covid-19, funding for Merriman's work has virtually dried up, prompting the idea of a sponsored walk. Despite being interrupted by a fall which fractured her pelvis, and although she has only recently recovered from cancer and a second heart attack, she is now walking again, with the help of a frame. If you follow the link to the website <https://www.hospice-africa.org.uk/> you can see a video of Merriman conducting a local youth choir singing "You'll Never Walk Alone". There are also details of how to make a donation.

## PUZZLES

### PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 717 Axe



Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 25 July, The Tablet, 1 King Street Cloisters, Clifton Walk, London W6 0GY. Email: [thetablet@thetablet.co.uk](mailto: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.**

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### Across

- 7 Joseph was here more reliably than Ezra (8)
- 8 Twenty-four hours cut from Easter, for example, giving way to a Hindu festival (4)
- 9 I hear you French round and about love to party – that's magic (6)
- 10 Son of Levi settled in former arid area (6)
- 11 Man's quiet aura makes a king in the OT one of 5 (7)
- 13 Roundabout pilgrimage into the interior is concerning prophet (5)
- 15 NT servant girl from the valley North Dakota expelled (5)
- 17 Kind of service, alternatively a variation on a Jewish text? (7)
- 20 Roman officer, with bishop, abandoning the Trinity (6)

- 21 This is strange, to live in Elijah's place in Gilead (6)
- 23 Did St Thomas convert Rome? (4)
- 24 British investigating Charlie before meeting American at Utah finale for Jewish festival (8)

### Down

- 1 He got stoned – that does not apply to the pair of them (6)
- 2 Pub date for druid poet (4)
- 3 Judge arranged for clothing within to be completely turned over (7)
- 4 Woman gets to master the Jewish prayer (5)
- 5 Oprah has various heads of state appearing (8)

- 6 Mass part for solo female? (6)
- 12 Jew's unhappy with the French aristocrat getting same directions (8)
- 14 Sly data manipulated to make a judgement at this time? (4,3)
- 16 Summit in the Bible about subordinate Channel Island (6)
- 18 Tease Henry on return to where Jehoahaz was taken (6)
- 19 Compassion Latimer cynically highlighted (5)
- 22 Desert after supporting Ben in an epic performance (4)

### SUDOKU | Tough

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

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

### Solution to the 4 July puzzle

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

### Solution to the 4 July crossword No. 714

**Across:** 7 Eunice; 8 Ephron; 9 Gath; 10 Trappist; 11 Gabriel; 13 Satyr; 15 Demas; 17 Deanery; 20 Potiphar; 21 Cnut; 22 Judges; 23 Wesley. **Down:** 1 Judaea; 2 Aiah; 3 Heathen; 4 Merab; 5 Chaplain; 6 Wolsey; 12 Readings; 14 Hebrews; 16 Exodus; 18 Reuben; 19 Lhasa; 21 Cush.