

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

diary@thetablet.co.uk

Mater Dolorosa

“THE PAINTING shows us Mary clearly in distress at what she sees,” Bishop Nicholas Hudson, an auxiliary in the Diocese of Westminster, said in his homily at the Mass marking the unveiling of *Our Lady of Sorrows* by Alexander Talbot Rice at the church of St Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows in Archway, north London, on 15 September (see page 29). “Alex has captured magnificently what we find written in the Passion of Luke, how, ‘The sun’s light failed, so that darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour.’ More striking still is the way the darkness and light above her head actually seem to divide, as if to recapture what Luke then goes on to say, how, ‘the veil of the sanctuary was torn right down the middle.’”

Talbot Rice tells us that he began the painting only months after his own mother died in September 2018. His model was a Russian ballerina, Zinaida Gagaraskaia. “She was able to convey some of the emotional feelings I described when contemplating *Our Lady of Sorrows*. She sees her only son suffering and dying upon the Cross. I think we can all relate to the selfless love of a mother but we are inspired by her faith.



While painting the picture I felt a powerful sense of cathartic empathy.”

He asked Cardinal Vincent Nichols to choose the most suitable place for it to be hung. “I felt it was not ‘mine’ to sell,” Talbot Rice told us. The cardinal suggested the church of St Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows. Talbot Rice – whose paintings have included portraits of the Queen, Margaret Thatcher and Pope Benedict XVI, as well as dancers from Russia’s Mariinsky Ballet and Afghan tribal leaders – hopes his work will bring parishioners strength and comfort, espe-

cially those who have lost loved ones in the pandemic. “Of all my paintings, this one gives me faith that my vocation as an artist has meaning.”

THE SIMPLEST of lives sometimes leaves the greatest impression.

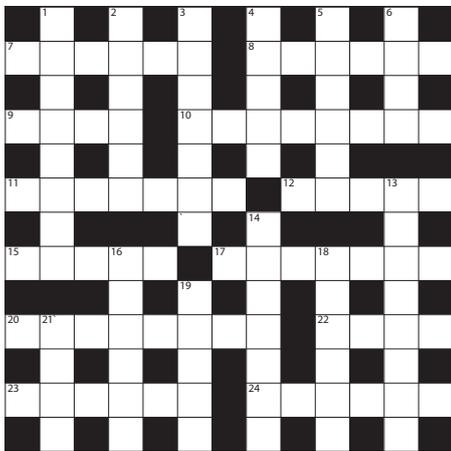
As a girl Ann Hamilton lived in Oxford with her mother and attended Mass at Blackfriars. She read English at St Anne’s, and was tutored by both C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien. She joined the Foreign Office, and in Nigeria became godmother to the daughter of a British diplomat. When the child was two years old, her mother died of cancer. Hamilton gave up her career to help look after her and her brother.

She moved to Rye in the mid 1970s, and immersed herself in the life of the parish of St Anthony of Padua. Noticing that the vicar of Rye was saying daily evensong in the parish church by himself, she decided to join him. She became a devoted member of Churches Together in Rye. She was a lay Dominican, a volunteer for Cafod and, well into her eighties, could be found joining marches for climate justice.

After a life of prayer, simplicity, friendship, service and joy, Ann Hamilton died peacefully on 1 September, aged 90.

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 774 Axe



Across

- 7 Great Father of the early Church (6)
- 8 Sea of -----: the Dead Sea (6)
- 9 Main artery through the public part of a typical church (4)
- 10 Ark of the Covenant custodian before it was moved to the Temple (8)
- 11 (& 12 Across) Composer of Masses, but has a more famous brother (7,5)
- 15 Writer attributed to several Psalms (5)
- 17 John -----, prolific composer of church music (1944-2013) (7)
- 20 Andrea and Giovanni -----, uncle and nephew, known for their Renaissance liturgical music (8)

- 22 Branch of Islam that recognises Ali and his successors as the true imams (4)
- 23 Apply oil in a sacred rite as a sign of consecration or sanctification (6)
- 24 Loose translation of “Torah” (3,3)

Down

- 1 Pope, 492-496 (8)
- 2 Name shared by two prominent biblical figures; one of the OT, the other NT (6)
- 3 Builder of the Tabernacle in Exodus (7)
- 4 St ----- the Great, one of the three Cappadocian Fathers (5)
- 5 Palace and fort built on the shores of 8 Across by Herod the Great (6)
- 6 Troubled city of Palestine, then and now (4)
- 13 Part of the Mass, “Day of Wrath” (4,4)
- 14 Followers of the religious aspect of a Chinese philosophy, often as monks (7)
- 16 Country in southern Asia created by Cyrus the Great in the sixth century BC (6)
- 18 Oldest Christian feast (6)
- 19 Actual words and sentences from the Holy Scriptures (5)
- 21 Wife of Tobit (4)

Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 25 September, 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 Saints, Monasticism and Philosophy of Religion – 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 | Tough

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

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

Solution to the 4 September puzzle

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

Solution to the 4 September crossword No. 771

Across: 7 Cephas; 8 Huldah; 9 Anne; 10 Immortal; 11 Athenian; 14 Amen; 15 Sees; 17 Colossae; 20 Lollards; 21 Nile; 23 Lammas; 24 Ordain. Down: 1 Dean; 2 Phoebe; 3 Assisi; 4 Shaman; 5 Gloria; 6 Samaveda; 12 The Koran; 13 Ado; 16 Salome; 17 Christm; 18 Lesson; 19 Synods; 22 Lois.

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