

# WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

diary@thetablet.co.uk

## Sign up for Mary

SHE WANTED women to be free to choose their own way of serving God in the religious life, inside or outside the cloister, just as men were. In 1631 the Vatican Inquisition, unimpressed, called her “a heretic, a schismatic, a rebel against holy Church”. She was thrown into a filthy cell. In 1951, Pope Pius XII described her as “that incomparable woman, whom England, in her darkest and most bloodstained hour, gave to the Church”. Now, still a little off the pace, the Church is moving in its stately way towards recognising Yorkshirewoman Mary Ward as a saint.

You need a miracle for each stage of the process: beatification and canonisation. Evidence of popular devotion is also required, and the global response to an online petition launched for Mary Ward Week (23-30 January) shows how deeply her life and personality – curious, dogged, independent-minded, trusting, prayerful – resonates today.

“So many lay persons have signed,” Dr Elizabeth Cotter IBVM, the postulator for her Cause, told us. “Past pupils of the schools she inspired all over the world, Friends of Mary Ward group members, as well as some of our CJ and IBVM Loreto sisters.”



Special events this week will include an ecumenical service on Sunday 28 January, at St Thomas’ Anglican Church, Osbaldwick, outside York, where Mary Ward is buried. The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, will be giving the homily.

You can add your name to the petition by visiting: [chnq.it/6cPLBzPSrP](http://chnq.it/6cPLBzPSrP)

ROBERTO AMOROSINO writes from Rome to tell us he was often sent photocopies of *Tablet* articles by his father-in-law, Canon Thomas New, who died in November, aged 93. Canon New was the vicar at All Saints,

Banstead, Surrey before retiring 30 years ago with his wife Joan to Denbury, in south Devon.

“I always saw copies of *The Tablet* at the vicarage ever since I was welcomed into Tom’s family as his daughter’s fiancé back in the early 1980s. It was his favourite publication, and it was disseminated and discussed among his community in Denbury, an amazing group gathered around the Church of St Mary the Virgin, now left without their reference point, but more than ever inspired by Tom’s faith, his interest in life, in people and in families.”

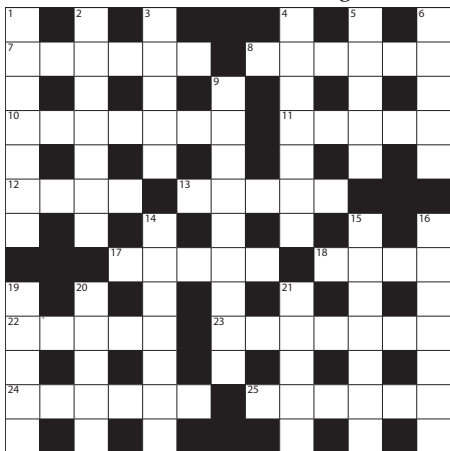
WE HAD a letter recently from Fr John McLean, a 95-year-old retired priest in the Diocese of Galloway. His local postmaster (always sticklers for the rules) had told him she couldn’t make photocopies of a recent article in *The Tablet* he had wanted to send round to friends without our permission – could we help?

We put copies in the post. We had a letter back from Fr McLean this morning. In reading his breviary for the Epiphany, he’d come across these words: “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good tidings, who publishes peace, who brings tidings of good, who publishes salvation ...” (Isaiah 52:7).

“I thought this could so aptly be applied to you and all those engaged in producing *The Tablet*,” he wrote. We were chuffed.

## PUZZLES

### PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 888 Enigma



#### Across

- 7 ----- Pio IV; Renaissance villa in Vatican gardens (6)
- 8 John Henry Newman’s father was one (6)
- 10 Those accompanying a touring band to set up equipment are so-called (7)
- 11 Christian name of singer nicknamed “Rocket Man” after his 1972 hit (5)
- 12 Greek goddess of the rainbow (4)
- 13 “From harmony, heavenly harmony, / This universal frame -----” (Dryden) (5)
- 17 Instrument played by Queen Victoria’s consort (5)
- 18 146 miles long, it rises in the Sauerland (4)
- 22 Self-evident but unprovable rule (mathematics) (5)
- 23 The CN Tower is its tallest building (7)

- 24 Member of the order of reptiles known as testudines (6)
- 25 One of those whose order was founded in Montmartre in 1540 (6)

#### Down

- 1 The villain in *Tosca* (7)
- 2 *Liber* -----; book of Gregorian chants originating in the eleventh century (7)
- 3 It has the world’s highest number of official languages (5)
- 4 This basilica of St John is the most ancient church in the western world (7)
- 5 The softnose and pygmy ----- are cartilaginous fish of the family Rajidae (5)
- 6 Abraham Karem invented it (5)

- 9 In 1887, L. L. Zamenhof had an idea which culminated in this (9)
- 14 -----*veris* is better known as the cowslip (7)
- 15 ----- Fabius Maximus Verrucosus; censor in 230 BC (7)
- 16 Ludovico ----- (1474-1533), author of “*Orlando Furioso*” (7)
- 19 Surname of Pope Pius X (5)
- 20 ----- of a *Madman*; short story by Nikolai Gogol (5)
- 21 Four of these win a bonus point in rugby (5)

#### Prize Acrostic, 23/30 December 2023

The names of the winner and runners-up, together with the solution, are on page 28.

Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 27 January, *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 Anselm, Vatican II and Evangelicalism – from OUP’s Very Short Introduction series will go to the sender of the first correct entry drawn at random.

### SUDOKU | Moderate

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

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

#### Solution to the 6 January puzzle

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

#### Solution to the 6 January crossword No. 885

- Across: 1 Meath; 4 Schism; 9 Gabriel; 10 Alder; 11 Urdu; 12 Suffrage; 14 Duchess; 19 Shepherd; 20 Boro; 22 Irene; 23 Uppsala; 24 Hearth; 25 Siena.
- Down: 1 Magnum; 2 Aubade; 3 Heir; 5 Crayfish; 6 Indian; 7 Muriel; 8 Eleutherius; 13 Cuthbert; 15 Isaiah; 16 Seneca; 17 Pilate; 18 Sonata; 21 Opus.

Prizes kindly donated by  
**OXFORD**  
 UNIVERSITY PRESS  
[www.oup.com](http://www.oup.com)