

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

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Fathers and sons

THERE WAS a cracking review in last week's issue by Amanda Hopkinson of *Tazmamart*, Moroccan author Aziz BineBine's poignant account of his incarceration in the dungeon of a secret prison, immaculately translated from the French by Lulu Norman.

Unfortunately, a howler crept in between Amanda's original and the print version. Instead of saying that BineBine's father "publicly denied his son as a traitor", we managed to reverse the meaning so it read, his father "denied his son was a traitor".

The father's disowning of his son is key to BineBine's suffering. It is at the heart of what became his philosophy of life: take responsibility for our own existence, however tortured, and do not put the blame on others. In an interview filmed on his release in 2009, BineBine said that at the start of his imprisonment he told himself: "I no longer possess friends or family, nor even my own past." During 18 years of imprisonment, he said, "I never begged God for my freedom."

When the attempted *coup d'état* erupted in 1971, BineBine's father was so close a courtier and confidant of King Hassan II that they hid together in a sealed room. When he



heard of Aziz's supposed involvement, King Hassan demanded: "Did your son do what was good?" BineBine's father replied: "*Majesté*, a traitor to his King cannot be a good man."

"If I put myself in my father's shoes, given his education, formation and position, how else could he have responded?" BineBine said afterwards. "When we finally met, I paid him every respect. I did so to demonstrate that I held no resentment towards him. We never mentioned what had happened but resumed living exactly as before. I never wanted to be a victim and have never become a victim."

BineBine's mother's loyalty never wavered. "She cried for the 18 years I was in jail and, although ill, stayed alive only to see me again. When I emerged, she died within eight months."

ONE OF the more intriguing exhibitions to remain in packing cases due to the lockdown is "Relics" by the Mark Fairington, a painter who has shown his work extensively in the United States and in Europe.

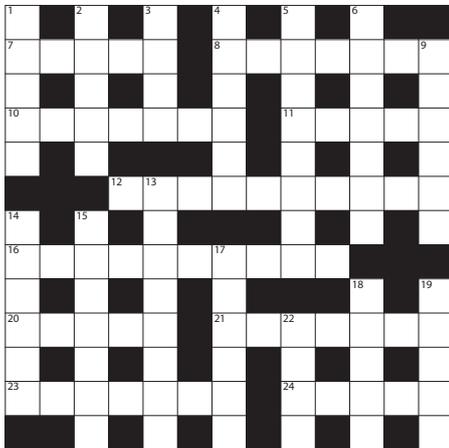
The exhibition was to have been staged at Ushaw, the former seminary outside Durham, from 27 March. It promised "the figures of Saints, Martyrs, Sinners, Birds of Paradise, Beasts and Plants". Fairington's 36 paintings arrived three days before Ushaw was obliged to close its doors. Fairington's work had been due to appear alongside items from Ushaw's fabulous permanent collection.

Ushaw's operations director, Peter Seed, is hoping to re-open Ushaw with the Fairington exhibition, Covid-permitting, in July. They are fortunate in having spacious premises but will still have to control numbers in their galleries and chapels to maintain social distancing.

"Unfortunately we won't be able to let people wander around freely so we will be directing them on a route," Seed tells us. "We're in the process of working it out."

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 709 Enigma



Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 30 May, 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 Augustine, Christianity and Thomas Aquinas – 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 The snail is on this in Browning's "Pippa Passes" (5)
 8 They can be used to map atmospheric pressure (7)
 10 If you ----- food or drink, the sugar in it changes to alcohol (7)
 11 Christian name of famous person (nineteenth century) whose half-brother was Henry Wilson (5)
 12 KGB man who defected to Britain in the second half of the twentieth century (10)
 16 Second-century heretical belief which involved the demiurge (10)
 20 Glen of -----; valley in western Wicklow Mountains, Ireland (5)

- 21 ----- *finem*; Latin tag "look to the end/consider the end" (7)
 23 Small, round, sweet-scented bunch of flowers (7)
 24 Pertaining to prophecy (5)
Down
 1 Final word in describing Warwickshire's symbol (5)
 2 One of three words Pope Francis urges members of families to use (5)
 3 Saint whose feast is on 26 July (4)
 4 Dickens' Miss Havisham had been this (6)
 5 Final word in the title of 1949 comedy in which Alec Guinness played many parts (8)
 6 Political movement; title derives from a bound bundle of sticks containing an axe (7)

- 9 Princess ----- of Iran had acted in the film *She* in 1965 (6)
 13 Branch of metaphysics dealing with the nature of being (8)
 14 Cretan city Ayia Sozou was called ----- by the Romans (6)
 15 Town on Cedros peninsula in Siparia, Trinidad and Tobago (7)
 17 Surname of MP first elected for Islington North in 1983 (6)
 18 Neurotic fan demands the DJ play this for her in 1971 drama (5)
 19 Passerine birds are those which can ----- (5)
 22 "... men were born to pray and ----" ("September 1913", Years) (4)

SUDOKU | Challenging

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

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

Solution to the 9 May puzzle

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

Solution to the 9 May crossword No. 706

Across: 1 Alaska; 5 Tepee; 8 Accra; 9 Aquatic; 10 Ease; 11 Idiocy; 13 Pseud; 14 Usher; 19 Pleonasm; 21 Abba; 23 Umbrage; 24 Reams; 25 Newry; 26 Moored. **Down:** 2 Locusts; 3 Stab; 4 Amanda; 5 Toulouse; 6 Putti; 7 Encase; 8 Apex; 12 Quandary; 15 Embrace; 16 upturn; 17 Esteem; 18 Bass; 20 Elbow; 22 Brio.