

# WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

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## The chains that must not be broken

FRANK COTTRELL-BOYCE argues in *The Guardian* that the casual sacking of 800 P&O workers was not “an aberration” but “the economy going to plan” – as outlined in a booklet by five Tory MPs, *Britannia Unchained*. “It’s a short book,” he writes, “but a decent editor could have got it down to one sentence: ‘When we seek to protect the vulnerable we limit the freedom of the rich and the privileged – and that’s a disgrace.’”

Cottrell-Boyce points out that at every turn we are bound to one another by chains that must not be broken: “We too are involved in catastrophes like Ukraine.” In our editorial meeting last week, Alban McCoy reminded us that war doesn’t come out of nowhere, but is a horrific manifestation of the violence that is in each one of us. While she was held in the concentration camp at Westerbork, Etty Hillesum wrote: “I really see no other solution than to turn inwards and to root out all the rottenness there. I no longer believe that we can change anything in the world until we first change



ourselves. And that seems to me the only lesson to be learned.”

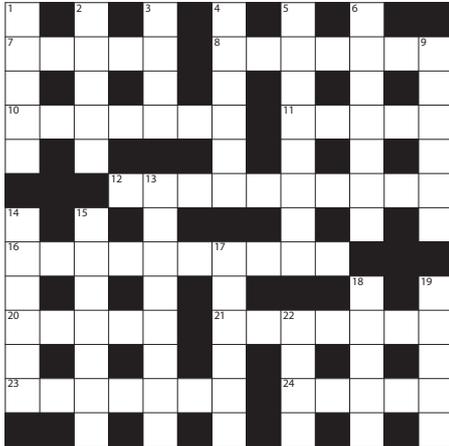
MODELS OF the Church go in and out of favour, and no one image can quite capture the reality. In our editorial comment on Pope Francis’ bold curial reforms last week, we observed that the metaphor of the Church as the “Mystical Body of Christ ... a perfect society” has been superseded. I don’t think there are many readers who needed reminding that the Church has abandoned whatever claim it might once have made to perfection. The centre of attention shifted away from

the image of Christ’s mystical body towards the relatively prosaic if more convivial model of the Church as “the People of God” in the documents of the second Vatican Council. Part of the reason is that the view – found in Pius XII’s *Mystici Corporis* and hammered home in *Humani Generis* – that the mystical body of Christ and the Catholic Church are one and the same thing, with no blurriness at the edges, is ecumenically problematic. The Council fathers famously rejected a draft document rehearsing this proposition, before endorsing the richer and more subtle ecclesiology of *Lumen Gentium*. But the beautiful and humbling image of the Church as Christ’s body keeps its honoured place on the gallery wall.

WE MANAGED to insert a misprint into Melanie McDonagh’s column last week: Melanie is eschewing meat, dairy and eggs for Lent, making her “terrifically keen on saints’ days, as days of abstinence”. Though actually of course she wrote “days *off* abstinence”. We then chose to trumpet our error by repeating it in the headline. On the inside back cover there’s an advert we’ve been running for the past few weeks for a Chief Subeditor. If you know an ecclesiologist who is good at spelling, do encourage them to apply.

## PUZZLES

### PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 799 Enigma



#### Across

- 7 Mantra, for example a Greek letter (5)
- 8 Inconsistent Eric is a pest at heart (7)
- 10 I did it myself! No, you didn’t! The organization helped! (7)
- 11 One is told to live as a former champion (5)
- 12 They always get the blame for losing right to scrap, for example, cereal (10)
- 16 Distribute food sparingly around the damaged oven for renewal (10)
- 20 Cook for an old monarch who is sick (5)
- 21 Church equipment, I see, makes the healthiest food (7)
- 23 To Janet, ballet is a game (7)
- 24 A professor has a right to decorate (5)

#### Down

- 1 It was good, in Rome, to have my work appreciated! (5)
- 2 This is permitted, for example, though bad all round! (5)
- 3 Gave money to discover who Dad really was (4)
- 4 Dispatch to a height in satire (4,2)
- 5 A rotten pear for a horse on the moon playing a musical chord (8)
- 6 Uncomplaining, start slavish toil around California (7)
- 9 Sever connection with the wrong set, at their most appealing (6)
- 13 A polite chap doesn’t join the army (8)

- 14 In America, metal almost completely disappeared (6)
- 15 Worry over tiny axe (7)
- 17 Tea and bread cause trouble online (6)
- 18 Foolishly tossing out an evil force for a piece of gold (5)
- 19 Part of the play, we hear, has been watched (5)
- 22 Up with the perfume! Down with the insect! (4)

Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 2 April 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 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 are processing entries but there may be a delay in notifying winners and sending out prizes. Please keep entering.**

### SUDOKU | Challenging

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

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

#### Solution to the 12 March puzzle

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

#### Solution to the 12 March crossword No. 796

**Across:** 7 Hatch; 8 Phantom; 10 Polenta; 11 Hirer; 12 Methuselah; 16 Archbishop; 20 Input; 21 Devotee; 23 Shiners; 24 Locks.  
**Down:** 1 Chaps; 2 Stale; 3 When; 4 Splash; 5 Machismo; 6 Sterile; 9 Marshy; 13 Embitter; 14 Radios; 15 Sceptic; 17 Sadist; 18 Stack; 19 Yeast; 22 Vole.

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