

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

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Pilgrims' progress

ARCHBISHOP Michael Fitzgerald has travelled the world as part of his work to promote understanding between people of different faiths. Now, the Walsall-born former head of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, who lived in Jerusalem after his retirement as papal nuncio in Egypt in 2012, has settled in Liverpool.

Archbishop Fitzgerald is one of a community of White Fathers based at the church of St Vincent de Paul, the magnificent Edward Pugin pile in a run-down part of the city. The Archbishop of Liverpool, Malcolm McMahon, invited them to conduct a mission to Africans and migrants from other parts of the world. "Michael Fitzgerald is an Arabic speaker and scholar so we're very lucky," Archbishop McMahon told us.

ANOTHER TIRELESS pilgrim on the potholed road to interfaith reconciliation is Rabbi Abraham Skorka from Buenos Aires. He was in Milwaukee recently talking about what he'd learned from his old friend, Pope Francis, about the importance of dialogue.



Over dinner, he told the publisher and noted Thomas Merton scholar, Jon M. Sweeney, that he too was a Merton devotee. "When Francis mentioned Merton in his speech to Congress, I was ecstatic," Sweeney told him. Skorka replied: "You know, I'm not sure if this was the reason why he mentioned him in his speech, but a couple of months before he travelled to the United States I emailed him some Merton poems."

"Might you and the Pope write another book together?" Sweeney asked him. Skorka shook his head sadly. "I'd love to. But when

I asked the Pope, he replied: 'Perhaps – when we've both retired.'"

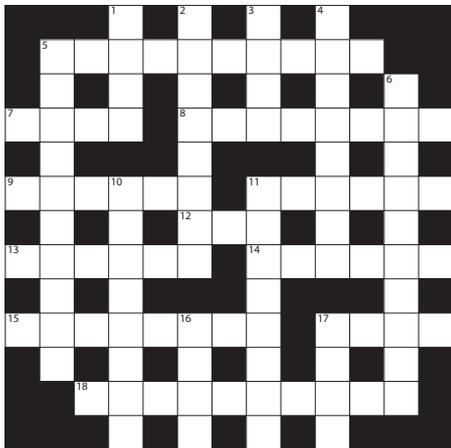
EDWARD STOURTON, the velvet-voiced current affairs presenter and writer, has brought his quiet determination and considerable charm to the creation of a development fund that has enabled *The Tablet* to finance several projects which have increased its reach internationally. It's also enabled us to overhaul our online platform: there's been a huge increase in traffic to our website, it has travelled further and it parks there for longer.

We hear every day from readers who tell us that *The Tablet* is more than just a magazine. As a reader in Australia told us this week: "I have been a subscriber for many years. It's been a lifeline." Ed writes next week about what has been achieved so far with the current appeal, and over the next few weeks we will introduce a further series of initiatives which we hope will strengthen our engagement with a new generation of readers.

"*The Tablet* is a kind of publishing miracle," Ed writes. "It is as vigorous and as loved as ever – despite all the changing tastes and social trends that could have silenced it." With the help of our friends, we're going to do all we can to ensure our voice continues to increase its reach.

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 654 | Axe



Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 20 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. A copy of *The Saints: A Short History*, by Simon Yarrow, OUP, will go to the sender of the first correct entry drawn at random on Friday 3 May. The answers to this week's puzzles and the crossword winner's name will appear in the 11 May issue.

Across

- 5 Native of a Mesopotamian country in the O.T. (10)
- 7 Modern-day Turkish city, the crusader state of Edessa in the twelfth century (4)
- 8 Sea in which Paul's ship to Rome was caught in a storm for 14 days (8)
- 9 Father of Tibni who unsuccessfully led an Israelite faction against Omri (6)
- 11 Father of the "scoundrel" Sheba who rebelled against David (6)
- 12 Head of a family of descendants of Gad (3)
- 13 Judaeen king, sometimes, perhaps erroneously, named Azariah (6)
- 14 Along with Ziha, the overseer of the temple slaves during the restoration of Jerusalem (6)

15 Judith's husband (8)

- 17 One of the gifts of the Magi (4)
- 18 Inhabitants of the Promised Land before the Israelites (10)

Down

- 1 Aramaic word for "Father", as used by Jesus, praying in Gethsemane (4)
- 2 Son of Heman whose name was given to the twentieth class of temple singers in 1 Chronicles (8)
- 3 One of three Amorite confederates of Abram in the Hebron area (4)
- 4 Biblical city, walled since the second millennium BC, made important by the arrival of the Aramaeans (8)
- 5 Initiation ceremony marking the 13th birthday of a Jewish boy (3,7)

- 6 City, mentioned in Colossians, adjacent to the waterfalls of stone at Pamukkale (10)
- 10 Custodian of the Ark of the Covenant for 20 years (8)
- 11 K.J.V. variant spelling of one of the two eunuch Guards of the Threshold denounced by Mordecai (8)
- 16 Navigation aid used by the Magi (4)
- 17 One of the five traditional Philistine cities (4)

SUDOKU | Moderate

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

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

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

Solution to the 30 March puzzle

Solution to the 30 March crossword No. 651

Across: 5 Baal-Berith; 8 Lord; 9 Apostles; 10 Asajah; 11 Atarah; 12 Achaia; 15 Eshton; 17 Caiaphas; 18 Adin; 19 Ezion-Geber.

Down: 1 Gandhi; 2 Eldaah; 3 Beroea; 4 Bigtha; 6 Hierapolis; 7 Consecrate; 13 Adalia; 14 Athens; 15 Easter; 16 Heaven.

Winner: Antony Sisley, of Beckenham, south-east London.

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