

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

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An interesting life

PREACHING at his sister Maev's funeral Mass on 29 July, the biblical scholar and theologian Gerald O'Collins recalled flying down to visit her when she was studying in New York and he was spending a sabbatical in Boston. The fiercely independent-minded and indefatigable Maev would rope her younger brother in to lend support to her various causes. One weekend, she was minding five Australian aborigines visiting the United Nations; another, the FBI raided her church and arrested Philip Berrigan for his protests against the war in Vietnam. "I have never known a Christian who practised more faithfully what St James wrote in his letter: 'Faith without works is dead,'" her brother said.

Maev was born in 1929, and grew up near the Melbourne seaside town of Frankston with her two older sisters and three younger brothers, of whom Gerald is, as he told us, "the last man standing". Her mother said to Maev: "If you don't plan to marry, have an interesting life." She spent 16 years as a social worker in Melbourne, counselling families, and later taught for 20 years in Papua New Guinea, where she became



Professor of the Department of Anthropology and Sociology, before retiring to Canberra.

A colleague described her as "a champion for vulnerable people, a person of extraordinary warmth, welcome, and conscience"; in the words of one of her nephews, "Maev embraced life with open arms. She transformed the mundane into the magical and the everyday into a great adventure."

WHEN, five years ago, Timothy Radcliffe OP, Master of the Dominicans from 1992-

2001, had two operations for cancer of the mouth and was threatened with death, he resolved to muster his thoughts about what it means to be fully alive. The result was *Alive in God: A Christian Imagination*. It is his most ambitious book so far, and it embodies the message at the heart of Timothy's life and work: as Christians we can make the hearts of non-believers burn within them if we can communicate the truth that our religion is "not just a moral code designed to keep us in order, but a vibrant way of life".

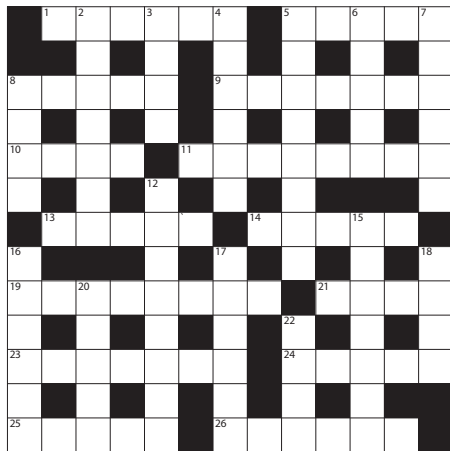
Timothy learnt a few weeks ago that he has cancer again. "This time", he said, "it is in the jaw." A few days before he underwent surgery on Monday, he told us: "It's a rather grisly operation. They remove a few inches of jaw bone and replace it with bone and tissue from my leg. I have often put my foot in it, but not until now my leg!"

Readers won't need to be asked to keep Timothy in their prayers.

THERE IS no *Tablet* next week, though I hope this week's extended edition and the second issue of *Inspire* – our new magazine aimed at younger readers – that comes with it, will help bide you over. Forgive us, but we need a holiday.

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 770 Alanus



Across

- 1 Convert sixth-century king and saint who united the Frankish nations (6)
- 5 Son of King Owain Gwynedd believed in Welsh legend to have sailed to America (5)
- 8 Bishopric of North Africa once held by Doctor of the Church St Augustine (5)
- 9 William -----, satirical English painter of such as *The Rake's Progress* (7)
- 10 European city with nominal link to Mozart's 39th symphony (4)
- 11 Notorious prison in US penal history (8)
- 13 John -----, metaphysical poet who became an Anglican priest (5)
- 14 Philosopher famous for his "razor" (5)
- 19 Punning reference to group of Oxford literati including Tolkien and C.S. Lewis (8)
- 21 Saint of Kiev, converted in Constantinople (4)

23 Benedictine abbey in Herefordshire, founded in 1859 (7)

24 Mother of Ishmael whose father was Abraham (5)

25 Girl with whom Laurie Lee shared cider (5)

26 Pierre-Auguste -----, French Impressionist (6)

Down

2 Battle in which Catholic forces organised by St Pius V repulsed invading Turks (7)

3 Popular string instrument in time of 15

Down to eighteenth century (4)

4 Charles M. -----, creator of comic strip *Peanuts* (6)

5 Movement of people to different country for work or asylum (8)

6 Albrecht -----, German Renaissance painter and engraver (5)

7 Corrupt servant of Elisha, punished by the prophet (2 Kings) (6)

8 Type of small oak tree in which Our Lady appeared to the children in Fatima (4)

12 False rival to the true pontiff claiming title himself (8)

15 Composer of a private Vatican "Miserere" made known to the world by Mozart (7)

16 Promoter of equal social and economic rights for a group (6)

17 "Gaudeamus -----", song forming part of Brahms' concerto for the University of Breslau (6)

18 Catherine -----, a Protestant wife of Henry VIII (4)

20 Book of -----, world-famous illustrated manuscript in Dublin (5)

22 Genghis, or the Aga -----, for example (4)

Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 21/28 August, 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.

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SUDOKU | Hard

			3	4				
		3	2			8		
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7				2		6		9
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Each 3x3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9.

Solution to the 31 July puzzle

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

Solution to the 31 July crossword No. 767

Across: 7 Erato; 8 Procris; 10 Spandau; 11 Folio; 12 For-nothing; 16 Cornucopia; 20 Theta; 21 Cedilla; 23 Sitwell; 24 Nonce.

Down: 1 Verse; 2 Marat; 3 Good; 4 Upturn; 5 Confetti; 6 Trellis; 9 Slough; 13 Ovulates; 14 Scotus; 15 Trieste; 17 Occult; 18 Blank; 19 Hades; 22 Duns.