

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

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What a state to be in

“AT 11 PM on 31 January I became technically, temporarily and territorially a non-citizen in Europe and the world,” our former Ireland correspondent, John Cooney, tells us. “Two days earlier, on Wednesday 29 January, my British passport expired. I did not renew it.”

Cooney is protesting against the United Kingdom’s withdrawal from the European Union. “I was among the millions of British citizens who did not believe secession would actually happen.” In the course of his 50-year career, Scotland-born Cooney, 72, has served as religious affairs correspondent of both *The Irish Times* and the *Irish Independent*. Twenty years ago he received death threats after writing an incendiary biography of John Charles McQuaid, Archbishop of Dublin from 1940 to 1972, provocatively subtitled *The Ruler of Catholic Ireland*.

Cooney insists that in spite of no longer having a passport, he does not think of himself any less Scottish, but admits: “It’s uncomfortable to feel Stateless. I’m in a kind of legal limbo.” He is eligible for an Irish passport through his grandfather, John,



from Coalisland, County Tyrone, and his maternal grandmother Sarah Skelton, from Milltown, County Armagh. But there are a lot of people with Irish grandparents with the same idea, so there might be a painful cost to Cooney’s gesture of defiance. His son, also John, plays rugby for Ireland. When he replaced Conor Murray as scrum-half for the second half against Scotland last Saturday, things perked up. There’s talk of him starting against Wales this weekend, and, who knows, against England on 23 February. “As it will take several months to

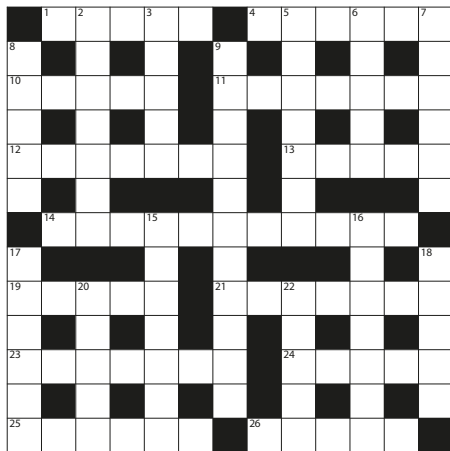
get my Irish passport,” Cooney tells us with wry restraint, “I will be unable to travel to Twickenham to cheer him on.”

AS WE ALL KNOW, Philip Pullman is furious because the slogan on the obverse of the new Brexit 50p coin, “Peace, prosperity and friendship with all nations”, lacks the Oxford (or Harvard) comma. He’d very much like it to come after “prosperity”, though it’s a bit late now. The Royal Mint says three million coins are in circulation already. *The Tablet’s* style is not to use the Oxford comma unless it is needed for clarity. Pullman is obviously right in the case of the Brexit coin, since the word “prosperity” is not intended to link to the phrase “with all nations”.

The doxology tacked on at the end of the Lord’s prayer is sometimes written “For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory.” Should there be a comma after “power”? Most scholars do not consider the doxology part of the original text of Matthew 6:13, and new Bible translations generally omit it. Since 1970 it has been included in the Roman Rite Mass, though not appended to the Lord’s Prayer. That doesn’t stop Catholics politely trying to blurt it out in ecumenical services just at the moment Protestants are politely keeping their lips closed.

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 693 Axe



Across

- 1 Utter change is required in this area of the church (5)
- 4 Cricketer’s key dismissal opening with Jack, Prince of Judah (6)
- 10 Gospel writer when in Rome, recoiled from massacres, a cull ... (5)
- 11 ... rep Rome organised, being ruler in Judaea and elsewhere (7)
- 12 Christian community to take it out against in the beginning (7)
- 13 Hindus here like a pale ale? (5)
- 14 Hemidemisemiquavers? Not me, I hived off these for the last service (7,4)
- 19 Savings account he’s nearly sacrificed (5)
- 21 He wrote masses in an old Scottish county, in the centre of Nairn (7)

- 23 Get into a jam heading for port in the Crusades (7)
- 24 Mesopotamian city, Tolkien’s place in retirement (5)
- 25 Church music baroque chap, one that’s after a shroud here (6)
- 26 Mark symbols seen in medallion sets (5)

Down

- 2 Marriage, for instance, bugs new church ... (7)
- 3 ... it’s the bridal path that divides the church (5)
- 5 Mysterious religion with duck and shrimp involved (7)
- 6 What jockey did almost made him a biblical king (5)
- 7 Ring chap’s address about individual

- Azariah marginalised, where 19 almost died (6)
- 8 The congregation is usually a bit woolly! (5)
- 9 The alter ego of this pope? (3,3,5)
- 15 Anointing part of a motorway exit to avoid jams beginning (7)
- 16 Saint’s day maybe soggy after possessing an all-round tan? (7)
- 17 Doctrine English knight embraced, being the will of Allah ... (6)
- 18 ... on the bishop’s head be it! (5)
- 20 Is Assyrian capital a beastly old place? (5)
- 22 Message I hear to desert (5)

Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 1 February, *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 Paul, Theology and Christian Ethics – from the OUP’s Very Short Introduction series will go to the sender of the first correct entry drawn at random on Friday 21 February. The answers to this week’s puzzles and the crossword winner’s name will appear in the 29 February issue.

SUDOKU | Tough

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

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

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

Solution to the 18 January puzzle

Solution to the 18 January crossword No. 690

Across: 1 Lysias; 4 Cedars; 9 Verdi; 10 Abishai; 11 Topheth; 12 Tekoa; 13 Mantelletta; 18 Achan; 20 Cecilia; 22 Syrians; 23 Linus; 24 Samue; 25 Samson. Down: 1 Levite; 2 Sarepta; 3 Amice; 5 Epistle; 6 Aphek; 7 Shibah; 8 Catholicism; 14 Tyndale; 15 Talents; 16 Tarsus; 17 Parson; 19 Hiram; 21 Cilea. Winner: Nicholas J.P. Weaver, of Whalley Range, Manchester.

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