



Within the first five minutes of the Gifford Lectures that Lord (Rowan) Williams delivered in November 2013, he cited “the seminal and condensed work of the Dominican theologian Cornelius Ernst”: how many even of the handful of Catholics present recognised the name?

William Henry Ernst died on 17 November 1977. He was born in Ceylon on 16 October 1924, and was sent to boarding school in England but, caught at home when war broke out in 1939, he completed his schooling in

To mark our anniversary, we have invited 50 Catholics to choose a person from the past 175 years whose life has been a personal inspiration to them and an example of their faith at its best

Colombo. In 1944 he returned to England to read philosophy as at Magdalene College, Cambridge.

After a rebellious adolescence as an atheist he reverted to the family’s Anglicanism, but Newman’s *Apologia* led to his decision to become a Catholic. His Cambridge friends were the Lienhardt brothers, Godfrey and Peter, also Catholic converts, who introduced him later to social anthropology, as represented at Oxford by E.E. Evans-Pritchard and Mary Douglas. As soon as he could he joined the Dominicans,

taking Cornelius as his religious name. Ordained priest in 1954, he set himself to translating Karl Rahner’s essays, supported by the publisher John Todd, though repeatedly harassed by his superiors in the order (Dominicans did not like German theology, especially by a Jesuit).

In 1966 he moved to Oxford as regent at Blackfriars, teaching theology, and becoming a member of the theological faculty. He became well known in academic circles for adventurous thinking, especially in the light of the

work of Thomas Aquinas.

Dismayed by what he regarded as “liberalism” in the Oxford priory, he went in 1975 as chaplain to the enclosed Dominican nuns then on the Isle of Wight, planning to write *Multiple Echo*, a selection of articles, appeared posthumously in 1979, on John Todd’s initiative and prefaced by Donald MacKinnon. Fragmentary and tentative, Cornelius Ernst’s essays bear witness to how Catholic theology opened up in the aftermath of the Second Vatican Council.

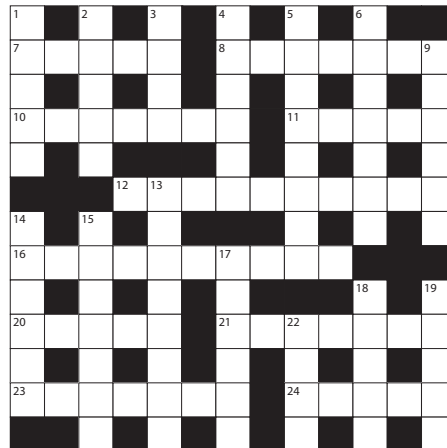
Fr Fergus Kerr OP is a member of the Dominican community in Edinburgh, where he teaches theology.

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD
No. 453 | Alanus

Across

- 7 Bed with thanks goes over a cassock (5)
- 8 Entreaty to God with letter we hear in vast open space (7)
- 10 Appalling Oates and sailor involved in betrayal (7)
- 11 Unusual bloke who was an exceptional wartime martyr (7)
- 12 My being very punctilious with a pointless turn means approval for publication (10)
- 16 Overcome with mirth Pugin seen to be victorious (10)
- 20 Musician led by Philip before the Queen (5)
- 21 Ointment that may be of extreme benefit at last (7)
- 23 Transparent material in a church gallery (7)
- 24 USA Cardinal with published link to UK peerage? (5)



Down

- 1 National time for Gothic revivalist (5)
- 2 An extraordinarily tense Dutch painter (5)
- 3 Dutch painter who is seen in North Alsace (4)
- 4 Dominican Rene returns to bat at one (6)
- 5 Good shot being valet to Evangelist? (8)
- 6 Before and after time for clergyman to be revealed (7)

- 9 Former partner read about semi-circular recess common in Rome (6)
- 13 Note with old coin such as a cenotaph (8)
- 14 More perfect place (6)
- 15 West End politician with the French nuns’ apparel (7)
- 17 Dwelling with Latin name for the Eucharist (6)
- 18 Intermixing results in production of saltpetre (8)
- 19 Take permanent possession of cross following Line martyr Saint (5)
- 22 Old boy in church in Irish port (4)

Please send your answers to:

Crossword Competition 28 March
The Tablet, 1 King Street Cloisters, Clifton Walk, London W6 0GY.

Please include your full name, telephone number and email address, and a mailing address. A bottle of wine courtesy of J. Chandler & Co. Ltd will go to the sender of the first correct entry drawn at random on Friday 10 April.

● The answers to this week’s puzzles and the crossword winner’s name will appear in the 18 April issue.

Solution to the 7 March crossword No. 450

Across: 1 Wright; 5 Tonga; 8 Assur; 9 Exupery; 10 Soit; 11 European; 13 Rises; 14 Minim; 19 Prudence; 21 Zita; 23 Rhizome; 24 Azoic; 25 Sylph; 26 Aachen. Down: 2 Rossini; 3 Guru; 4 The Sun; 5 Teutonic; 6 Niece; 7 Aryans; 8 Also; 12 Behemoth; 15 Isidore; 16 Spires; 17 Eczema; 18 Saic; 20 Uriel; 22 Hanc.

Winner: Alan Lloyd, of Blackheath, south-east London.

SUDOKU | Beginner

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

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

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

Solution to the 7 March puzzle

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