

(Continued from page 11.)

with prudence and boldness. Frequently, we act as arbiters of grace rather than its facilitators. But the Church is not a toll house; it is the house of the Father, where there is a place for everyone, with all their problems.

Alienation and the pace of modern life

The majority of our contemporaries are barely living from day to day, with dire consequences. A number of diseases are spreading. The hearts of many people are gripped by fear and desperation, even in the so-called rich countries. The joy of living frequently fades, lack of respect for others and violence are on the rise, and inequality is increasingly evident.

This epochal change has been set in motion by the enormous qualitative, quantitative, rapid and cumulative advances occurring in the sciences and in technology, and by their instant application in different areas of nature and of life. We are in an age of knowledge and information, which has led to new, and often anonymous, kinds of power.

Inequality and exclusion

Just as the commandment "Thou shalt not kill" sets a clear limit in order to safeguard the value of human life, today we also have to say "Thou shalt not" to an economy of exclusion and inequality. Such an economy kills. How can it be that it is not a news item when an elderly homeless person dies of exposure, but it is news when the stock market loses two points? This is a case of exclusion. Can we continue to stand by when food is thrown away while people are starving? This is a case of inequality.

Today everything comes under the laws of competition and the survival of the fittest, where the powerful feed upon the powerless. As a consequence, masses of people find themselves excluded and marginalised – without work, without possibilities, without any means of escape. Human beings are themselves considered consumer goods to be used and then discarded. We have created a "disposable" culture, which is now spreading.

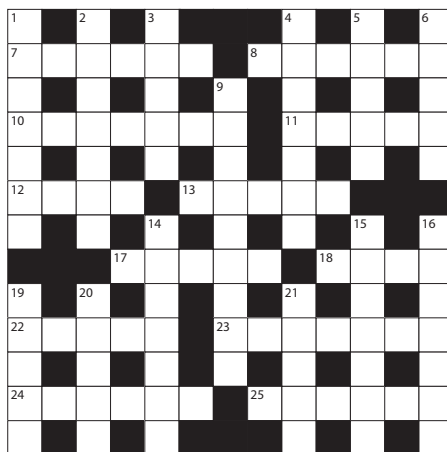
Some people continue to defend trickle-down theories which assume that economic growth, encouraged by a free market, will inevitably succeed in bringing about greater justice and inclusiveness in the world. This opinion, which has never been confirmed by the facts, expresses a crude and naive trust in the goodness of those wielding economic power and in the sacralised workings of the prevailing economic system. Meanwhile, the excluded are still waiting.

We have created new idols. The worship of the ancient Golden Calf has returned in a new and ruthless guise in the idolatry of money and the dictatorship of an impersonal economy lacking a truly human purpose. The worldwide crisis affecting finance and the economy lays bare their imbalances and, above all, their lack of real concern for human beings. Man is reduced to one of his needs alone: consumption.

(To read the complete document, visit www.thetablet.co.uk)

PUZZLES

Prize Crossword No. 388 | Enigma



Across

- 7 ----- acid also called ethanoic acid (6)
- 8 André-Marie ----- (1775-1836); French physicist after whom a unit of current is named (6)
- 10 Surname of Oscar winner (best supporting actor) for *Unforgiven*, 1992 (7)
- 11 Cabinet crisis was caused for US President Jackson in 1829 by marriage of Margaret (Peggy) ----- to a Democrat (5)
- 12 Northern European river (source in Hrubý Jeseník range), known in ancient times as the Viadua (4)
- 13 This word described the orders of porter, lector, exorcist and acolyte (5)
- 17 Jean Joseph Marie -----; French Jesuit (1718-1795), astronomer, mathematician, grammarian, missionary (5)
- 18 His "new look" transported women's fashions in 1949 (4)

Please send your answers to:

Crossword Competition
30 November, 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 copy of York Courses' "Build on the Rock: faith, doubt – and Jesus" will go to the sender of the first correct entry drawn at random on Friday 13 December.

● The answers to this week's puzzles and the crossword winner's name will appear in the 21 December issue.

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22 One of those heavenly objects for which Aedh wishes in a poem by Yeats (5)

23 St ----- Syrus (c. 306-373); exegete and Doctor of the Church, feast 9 June (7)

24 Admitted as 33rd US state in 1859 (6)

25 "-----, ye waters" (From the hymn "Soul of my Saviour") (4,2)

Down

- 1 Ophelia described Hamlet as the "Glass" of this (Act 3, Sc.1) (7)
- 2 The fictional A.J. Wentworth was this by profession (7)
- 3 The largest geographic biotic unit, also called major life zone (5)
- 4 One who, "in ancient days", heard the nightingale's song ("Ode to a Nightingale"; Keats) (7)
- 5 Surname of news editor of *Church Times*, late 1940s, who later became a prominent politician (5)
- 6 ----- the hunter, said to haunt Windsor Great Park, impersonated by Falstaff in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (5)
- 9 The Great Schism produced five of these (9)
- 14 One of the twin sons of Zeus by Antiope (7)
- 15 Also known as "The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles"; dates from mid-second century (7)
- 16 In Revelation 1, John heard behind him "a loud voice like a -----" (7)
- 19 Cardinal ----- (1803-47) interpreted at the 1845 meeting between Gregory XVI and Czar Nicholas I (5)
- 20 John ----- (1549-1583), Winchester; martyred for his Catholic faith (5)
- 21 Submerged sandbank visible at low tide (5)

■ In last week's puzzle the clue to 21 down is missing. It is:

21 ... one from the first of Greece's archers-in-arms (4)
Apologies to readers unable to complete the puzzle.

Solution to the 9 November crossword No. 385

Across: Across: 1 Contact; 5 Soren; 8 Hatchment; 9 Chi; 10 Norma; 12 Challah; 13 Sacasa; 14 Acheer; 17 Quintal; 19 Dutch; 21 Obi; 22 Valentino; 24 Agree; 25 Moabite. **Down:** 1 Cohen; 2 Nut; 3 Ashrams; 4 Trench; 5 Sutra; 6 Recollect; 7 Neither; 11 Rectifier; 13 Sequoia; 15 Cadenza; 16 Slalom; 18 Tewye; 20 Hooke; 23 Idi.

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

Sudoku | Beginner

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

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

▼ Solution to the 9 November puzzle

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