

Four across answers are clued by wordplay only and are thematic puns. Four down clues contain an extra word to be removed to enable solving, and these will reportedly indicate the theme.

metagloria's S&B cryptic

Across

- 1 Jerome put road in complex (5,3,7)
- 9 Endure time in church after first half of mass (9)
- 10 Suave, turning away most of rubbish (4)
- 11 Quickly make women fashionable at university (4,2)
- 12 Breathtaking chasm principally overlooking entrances to underground sanctuary (8)
- 13 In our car, travelling America (10)
- 16 Type of pudding served at finales of *As You Like It*? (4)
- 17 Walthamstow nunnery showcasing large-scale adaptation of *Hamlet*? (4)
- 18 Putting on coat, miss something Saturn has, reportedly? (10)

- 20 Reconfiguring part of extremely experimental metric of processing speed (8)
- 23 Heartless pedant chasing limits of remorse to show sorrow (6)
- 25 Pest from Manhattan graciously rebuffed (4)
- 26 Fine to knock back Vichy endlessly with actor anyone can be? (9)
- 27 Republican slogan old fellow opposing initiation of egalitarianism slipped

Down

- 2 Energy level of intense acid containing oxygen and trace of mercury (5)
- 3 Former company hiding record and note on Neptune's foremost irregularity (9)
- 4 Had politician spoken outside the usual flow of events? (9)
- 5 Abruptly trade up sheikh's weapon for tranquilizer (4,3)

- 6 Pier attendant, one selling drugs when head of police is absent (5)
- 7 Source of warmth found in *King Lear* (5)
- 8 Luxurious treatment European quietly covers, leaving out nothing (9)
- 14 How to propose joke about working inns, keen to change (2,3,4)
- 15 Perhaps four or five fighters initially prepare for combat? (6,3)
- 16 Expedition pace on surface of Mars with

- function surrounding excavation site (5,4)
- 19 Relative to Juliet covering universal grant (7)
- 21 Briefly quote *Titus Andronicus* at first, climbing upstairs? (5)
- 22 Proposition in meadow around mid-summer (5)
- 24 Stately jacket that man aboard vessel returned (5)

