

AFR Cryptic (Saturday 14/10/2023) Solution

¹ P	O	² P	E	³ D	O	⁴ M		⁵ D	E	⁶ B	A	⁷ T	E	⁸ S
R		O		A		E		A		A		E		T
⁹ I	S	L	A	M		¹⁰ T	I	M	E	S	H	A	R	E
E		A		P		H		N		M		S		E
¹¹ S	U	R	V	I	V	O	R		¹² E	A	S	E	U	P
T		B		S		D		¹³ C		T				I
	¹⁴ T	E	C	H	N	I	C	A	L	I	T	¹⁵ I	E	S
¹⁶ A		A				C		N				T		H
¹⁷ C	A	R	D	¹⁸ I	N	A	L	N	U	¹⁹ M	B	E	R	
C				C		L		O		A		R		²⁰ B
²¹ E	R	²² A	S	E	D		²³ I	N	I	T	I	A	T	E
P		P		L		²⁴ C		B		T		T		G
²⁵ T	O	P	B	A	N	A	N	A		²⁶ E	L	I	T	E
E		A		N		N		L		R		V		T
²⁷ D	E	L	U	D	E	S		²⁸ L	E	S	S	E	E	S

Across	Clue	Explanation
1 POPEDOM	Catholic leader's office procedure Father knocked back (7)	(MODE + POP) reversed
5 DEBATES	Top performer turned around club's formal discussions (7)	SEED reversed outside BAT
9 ISLAM	Religion is liturgy, primarily, and a mass (5)	IS + (L)iturgy + A + M
10 TIMESHARE	Drain containing mesh adjoining a jointly owned property (9)	TIRE outside (MESH + A)
11 SURVIVOR	Virus affected three characters in the middle of "Divorce", a reality TV show (8)	Anagram of VIRUS + di(VOR)ce
12 EASE UP	Slow down vehicle finally, and pause for a change (4,2)	vehicl(E) + anagram of PAUSE
14 TECHNICALITIES	At clinic he varied restrictions and literal rule interpretations (14)	Anagram of AT CLINIC HE + TIES
17 CARDINAL NUMBER	Eccentric Melburnian maligned a valued figure (8,6)	CARD + anagram of MELBURNIAN
21 ERASED	Letters collected by worker as editor should be removed (6)	workER AS EDitor
23 INITIATE	Enjoying success, I had a meal with new member (8)	IN IT + I + ATE
25 TOP BANANA	Important person to lead a family member back to Australia (3,6)	TO + PB + A + NAN + australi(A)
26 ELITE	Selected "E" letter in Scrabble put down the wrong way (5)	(E + TILE reversed)
27 DELUDES	People generally adopting the Spanish kids (7)	DUDES outside EL
28 LESSEES	Tenants, without notice, returned (7)	LESS + (SEE reversed)

