

## JOHN HENRY NEWMAN – A SAINT FOR OUR TIMES

### *Newman's Life*

John Henry Newman was born in London on 21 February 1801 – more than two hundred years ago. He was the eldest of six children – three boys and three girls. His mother was of French Huguenot stock (we have a Huguenot cemetery across the Green on Merrion Row) and she took a special interest in John Henry's religious education, instilling in him what he was later to describe as 'bible religion'.

At the age of seven John Henry was sent away to boarding school at Ealing, where he received an excellent foundation in Latin and literature. As a young adolescent he began to have religious doubts as a result of his reading Enlightenment authors such as David Hume, Thomas Paine and Voltaire. It was one of his teachers, Reverend Walter Mayers, who saved his faith and converted him to a kind of Calvinistic Evangelicalism by lending him books that would have a lasting effect of his religious attitudes. He began to have a firm conviction of the truth contained in Holy Scripture and in the ancient creeds and the overriding importance of holiness.

In the spring of 1817 John Henry Newman moved to the university, enrolling as a student at Trinity College, Oxford. There he spent the next three years deepening his knowledge of mathematics and the Greek and Latin classics. For recreation he took solitary walks and played the violin, abstaining from rowdy student parties. Although he was expected to pass his examinations in December 1820, with high honours, he suffered a nervous collapse and did poorly. But he continued to read and in 1822 he won a fellowship at Oriel College. One of his tutors, Richard Whately, who in later years was to become Anglican Archbishop of Dublin, trained him to think and to speak with a precision governed by Aristotle's logic and weaned him from his rather emotional Evangelical piety.

In 1825 Newman was ordained a priest in the Church of England. During these years he conducted a long correspondence with his younger brother Charles, who was wrestling with difficulties against faith. In these letters he began to formulate his ideas on faith and reason. The evidence for Christianity, he maintained, "Depends a great deal on moral feeling". The rejection of Christianity therefore arises "from a fault of the heart not of the intellect".

### *Newman as Catholic*

In 1832 Newman had a significant voyage to the Mediterranean, spending time in Malta, Greece, Corfu, Naples and Rome. It was during this journey, becalmed in the Straits of Bonifacio between Corsica and Sardinia, that he wrote "Lead Kindly Light".

On October 9, 1845, the Italian Passionist, Blessed Dominic Barberi received Newman into the Catholic Church. Five years later in 1850 the Catholic hierarchy was re-established in England. This, however, precipitated an outbreak of "no-papery", which Newman felt compelled to address. Many anti-Catholic popular prejudices were inflamed, in particular by an ex-Dominican friar, Dr Giovanni Achilli who went about England with lurid tales of the abuses of Catholicism. Newman wrote trenchantly against Achilli, who in turn sued Newman for Libel.

Because of delays in gathering the necessary evidence, Newman was convicted and sentenced to pay £100. Collections were taken up by Catholics in the United States and elsewhere, which more than sufficed to defray the expenses of the trial and fortunately for us, from the excess Newman was able to finance the unique and beautiful church in Saint Stephen's Green, which he established for the Catholic University of Ireland one hundred and fifty years ago in 1856.

### *Newman in Dublin*

During his time here in Dublin Newman developed his ideas on the scope and nature of university education, which is generally recognised as a masterful presentation of the classical theory of a liberal education reflected in the light of Christian revelation.

Newman looked forward in the 19th century to the formation of a class of mature Christians with a keen sense of faith. He hoped that ordinary Christian men and women would bear witness to the gospel in their homes, their social contacts and in their places of work. "I want a laity", he wrote, "not arrogant, not rash in speech, not disputatious, but men and women who know their religion, who enter into it, who know just where they stand, who know about what they hold and what they do not hold, who know their creed so well that they can give an account of it, who know so much of history

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that they can defend it”.

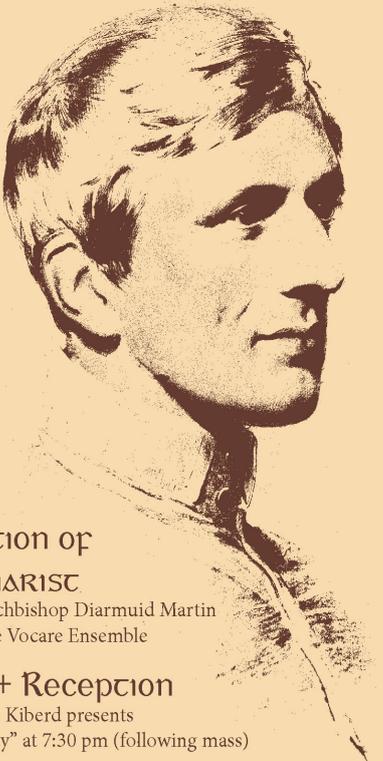
In 1859 Newman approached Patrick Leahy, Archbishop of Cashel and one of the trustees of the university, with a proposal that he and the other trustees should purchase the University Church.

The trustees had a number of reservations and it was not until 1864 that the matter was resolved and Newman received £2,400. Almost from the beginning the running costs of the church exceeded its income and the university trustees became anxious about this draw on university funds. Following negotiations with the Archdiocese of Dublin, the church was given to the parish of St Kevin, Harrington Street.

The university continued to have full access to the church but it was no longer considered responsible for its financial liabilities. In 1974 University Church became the church of a newly constituted parish hived off from St Kevin's. In 1908 University College Dublin, was established. For many years UCD availed of the facilities of the former Catholic University prior to its relocation to Belfield, Dublin 4.

Cardinal Newman was beatified by Pope Benedict XVI on Sunday 19th September 2010 in Birmingham.

Source: <http://newman.nd.edu/university-church/history/6/>



# The Canonisation Year

## Saint John Henry Newman

**Celebration of the Eucharist**  
6:15 pm with Archbishop Diarmuid Martin and Music by the Vocare Ensemble

**Lecture + Reception**  
Professor Declan Kiberd presents  
“A Saint for Today” at 7:30 pm (following mass)

**20 October 2019**  
Newman University Church  
Saint Stephen's Green

Notre Dame - Newman Centre  
for Faith and Reason



# World Mission Sunday 2019

Sunday 20 October 2019

@catholicbishops

“A Church that presses forward to the farthest frontiers requires a constant and ongoing missionary conversion. How many saints, how many men and women of faith, witness to the fact that this unlimited openness, this going forth in mercy, is indeed possible and realistic, for it is driven by love and its deepest meaning as gift, sacrifice and gratuitousness (cf. 2 Cor 5:14-21))

(Excerpt from Pope Francis Message for this day)

*Collection for Missions will replace Share Collection*

**NEXT Sunday 20 October at all Masses**

## Patrick Finn Memorial Lectures Haddington Road

**Professor Margaret Kelleher:**  
*“The Right to be Heard: then and now”*

**THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER, 7.15pm**

**All Welcome—Admission Free**

### IN MEMORIAM

6pm: Richard Kelly (Anniversary)  
5pm: Colette Connor (Anniversary)

### Masses on 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> October 2019

6pm: Mary Kennedy and Family (Anniversary)  
Anne and Michael Shortt

### Masses and Confession

**Sundays:** Vigil, 6pm (Saturday), 9.30am, 11am, 5pm

Croatian Community Mass 6.30pm

Messe en français 12.30 (2<sup>e</sup> et 4<sup>e</sup> dimanche du mois)

Daily masses 10am and 12.40pm, Saturday 10am only

-Rosary daily after 10am mass

**Adoration Blessed Sacrament, Weds 10.30-12.40**

### LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

1<sup>st</sup> Collection: €1,140

Share Collection: €785

Weekday collections: €400

**THANK YOU**