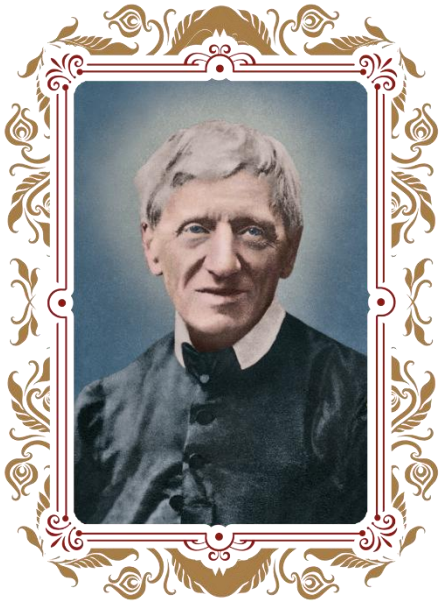


ORATORIAN ✣ CARDINAL ✣ SCHOLAR

SAINT JOHN HENRY NEWMAN

PROPHET ✣ TEACHER ✣ PASTOR

Triduo in honour of Saint John Henry Cardinal Newman, Cong. Orat.

John Henry Newman (1801-1890) was born in London, a teacher and Anglican clergyman at Oxford University. In 1845 he became a Roman Catholic, and two years later was ordained a Priest. In 1848 he established the Oratory of St. Philip Neri in England, and in 1854 founded the Catholic University of Ireland. Father Newman defended the faith by his extensive writing, lectures and preaching; rewarded for this by being created a Cardinal by Pope Leo XIII in 1879. Beatified in 2010, Canonised in 2019, declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Leo XIV in 2025, Newman encourages us to learn the truths of the faith fully, to live them with dedication and confidence, and to teach them to others; his motto, Cor ad Cor loquitur (Heart speaks to Heart), shows us how.

Day One | October 7th

Intention

For an increase in devotion to St. John Henry Newman, that he might be an example of faithful witness and teaching to all Catholics, and that his feast be a day of blessings upon the intentions of the Edinburgh Oratory in Formation: namely for its erection as a Pontifical Oratory of Saint Philip Neri; for His Grace, Archbishop Leo Cushley; for the Procurator General Father Michele Nicolis, Provost of the Verona Oratory; for his Delegate Father Richard Duffield and his community, as Provost of the York Oratory; for vocations to join us here; and our benefactors; also for Saint Patrick's Parish, our Archdiocese, the City of Edinburgh, and our Country of Scotland, as we give thanks for the Declaration of him becoming a Doctor of the Church, that he will lead even more souls to conversion of both mind and heart.

Reading

"His insights into the relationship between faith and reason, into the vital place of revealed religion in civilized society, and into the need for a broadly-based and wide-ranging approach to education were not only of profound importance for Victorian England, but continue today to inspire and enlighten many all over the world. I would like to pay particular tribute to his vision for education, which has done so much to shape the ethos that is the driving force behind Catholic schools and colleges today. Firmly opposed to any reductive or utilitarian approach, he sought to achieve an educational environment in which intellectual training, moral discipline and religious commitment would come together. …I pray that, through his intercession and example, all who are engaged in the task of teaching and catechesis will be inspired to greater effort by the vision he so clearly sets before us."

(Pope Benedict XVI, Homily at the Beatification Mass of Cardinal John Henry Newman, 2010)

Day Two | October 8th

Intention

For protection from sin and scandal, that all Catholics - but young people in particular - might be formed in purity of mind, body, and soul and receive the grace of the Sacraments to live in holiness; that parents, educators, clergy, religious, and all who engage with youth here in Edinburgh might witness to the Truth by their holiness of character and behaviour; that the Church might be preserved from the influence of sinful behaviour, scandal, and dissent from her authentic teachings.

Reading

"Moral character in itself, whether good or bad, as exhibited in thought and conduct, surely cannot be duly represented in words… the silent conduct of a conscientious man secures for him from beholders a feeling different in kind from any which is created by the mere versatile and garrulous Reason."

(St. John Henry Newman, "Personal Influence, the Means of Propagating the Truth," *Oxford University Sermons*)

"It is one great advantage of an age in which unbelief speaks out, that Faith can speak out too; that, if falsehood assails Truth, Truth can assail falsehood. In such an age it is possible to found a University more emphatically Catholic than could be set up in the middle age, because Truth can entrench itself carefully, and define its own profession severely, and display its colours unequivocally, by occasion of that very unbelief which so shamelessly vaunts itself."

(St. John Henry Newman, "A Form of Infidelity of the Day," *The Idea of a University*)

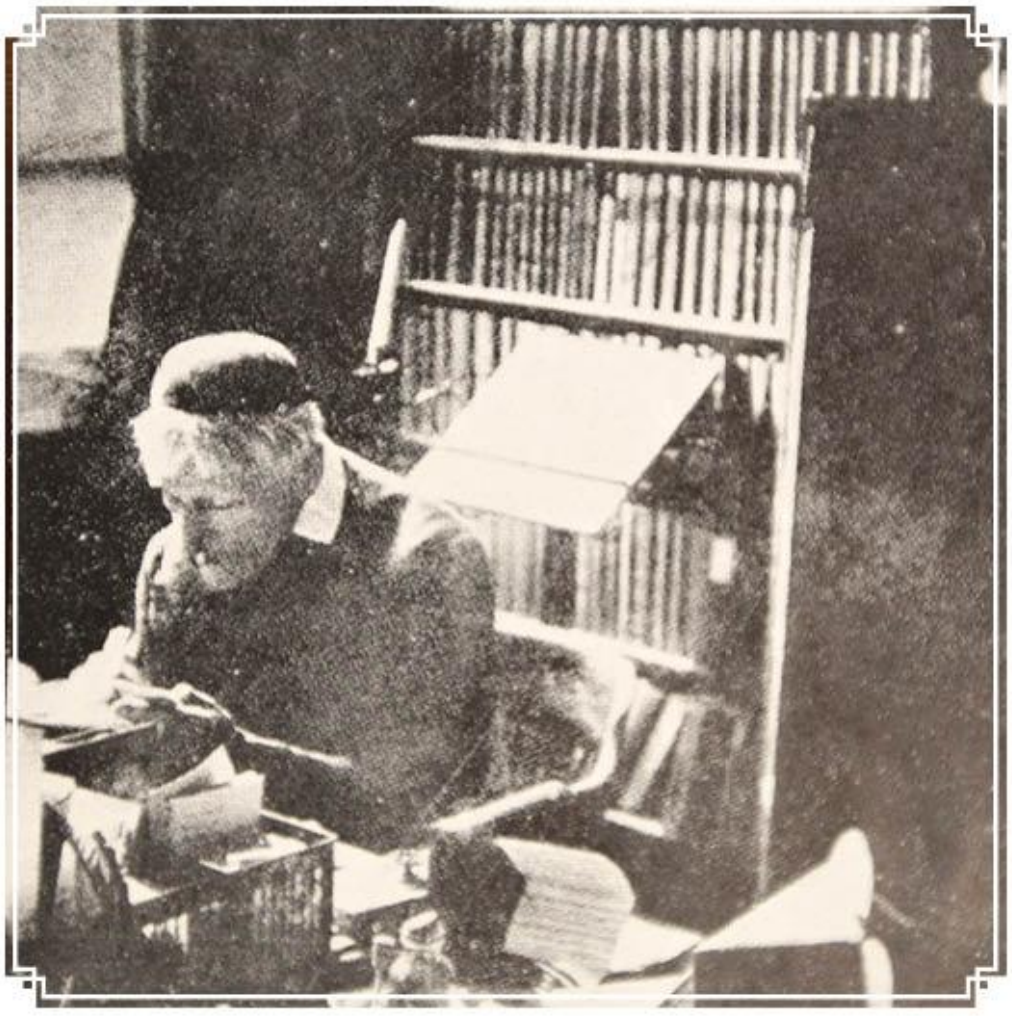


Photo of St. John Henry Newman in the Birmingham Oratory

Day Three | October 9th

For Oratorians worldwide and those entrusted to their care, that all souls might be formed in mind, body, and soul to apprehend the Truth of God and His creation; that new generations of wise and virtuous Catholics might become witnesses to Truth in a world torn apart by false ideologies, selfish ambition, lust, and strife; that Catholic educators and their graduates might answer the call of Jesus Christ to guide others to the Truth with patience, generosity, and reason. Finally, for all the personal intentions of everyone during this Triduo, that their prayers may be answered, even to the granting of a miracle.

Reading

"I want a laity, not arrogant, not rash in speech, not disputatious, but men who know their religion, who enter into it, who know just where they stand, who know what they hold, and what they do not, who know their creed so well, that they can give an account of it, who know so much of history that they can defend it. I want an intelligent, well-instructed laity… I wish you to enlarge your knowledge, to cultivate your reason, to get an insight into the relation of truth to truth, to learn to view things as they are, to understand how faith and reason stand to each other, what are the bases and principles of Catholicism, and where lie the main inconsistences and absurdities of the Protestant theory."

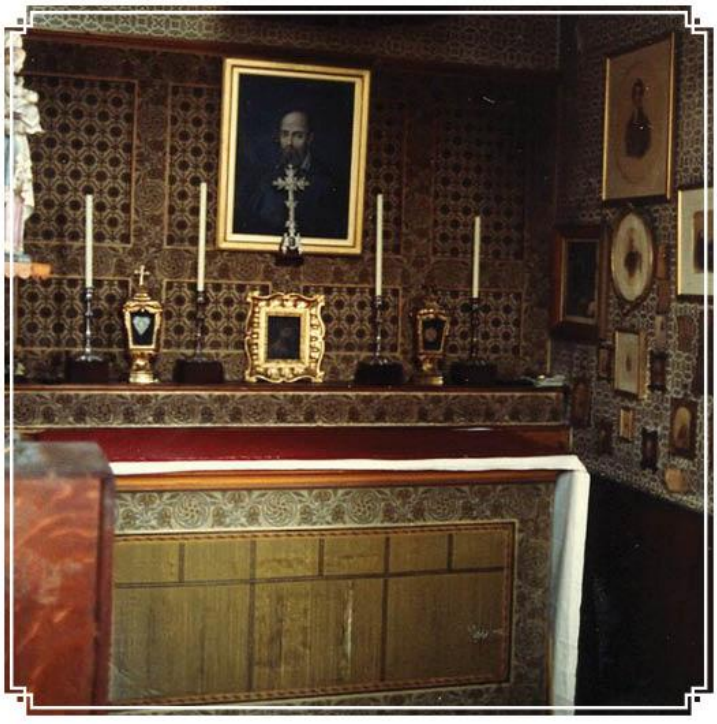
(St. John Henry Newman, "Duties of Catholics Towards the Protestant View," *Lectures on the Present Position of Catholics in England*)

"Blessed are they who give the flower of their days, and their strength of soul and body to Him; blessed are they who in their youth turn to Him who gave His life for them, and would fain give it to them and implant it in them, that they may live for ever."

(St. John Henry Newman, "The State of Innocence," *Parochial and Plain Sermons*)

https://cardinalnewmansociety.org/novena/ and

https://www.cardinaljohnhenrynewman.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Blessed-Newman-Novena.pdf were used to put this Triduo together.



St John Henry Newman's private chapel in the Birmingham Oratory, a necessity once created a Cardinal, with St Francis de Sales - also an Oratorian - as centre piece.

Daily Hymn and Concluding Prayer

Sanctus fortis, Sanctus Deus,
De profundis oro te,
Miserere, Judex meus,
Parce mihi, Domine.
Firmly I believe and truly
God is three, and God is One;
And I next acknowledge duly
Manhood taken by the Son.
And I trust and hope most fully
In that Manhood crucified;
And each thought and deed unruly
Do to death, as He has died.
Simply to His grace and wholly
Light and life and strength belong,
And I love, supremely, solely,
Him the holy, Him the strong.
Sanctus fortis, Sanctus Deus,
De profundis oro te,
Miserere, Judex meus,
Parce mihi, Domine.
And I hold in veneration,
For the love of Him alone,
Holy Church, as His creation,
And her teachings, as His own.
And I take with joy whatever
Now besets me, pain or fear,
And with a strong will I sever
All the ties which bind me here.
Adoration aye be given,
With and through the angelic host,
To the God of earth and heaven,
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Sanctus fortis, Sanctus Deus,
De profundis oro te,
Miserere, Judex meus,
Mortis in discrimine.

Prayer

Almighty God and Father, we give Thee thanks for blessing the Church with the witness of Saint John Henry Newman, through whom shines Thy Fatherly care, the Truth of Jesus Christ, and the Spirit of conversion.

In him Thou hast given us an example of trust in Thy Divine Providence and the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of the Oratory. In him Thou hast raised up a holy example of fidelity to the timeless teachings of our Holy Mother, the Church.

With a special love for Catholic education, and due warning against the errors of relativism, Thy Servant John Henry Newman is a shining example for our times; grant us, we beseech Thee, through his intercession, and according to Thy Most Holy Will , the renewal of faithful Catholic education and fidelity to the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be… *Saint John Henry Newman, pray for us!*