



NCC Chaplains Report

Sept 2019
to
Dec 2019

Pilgrimages

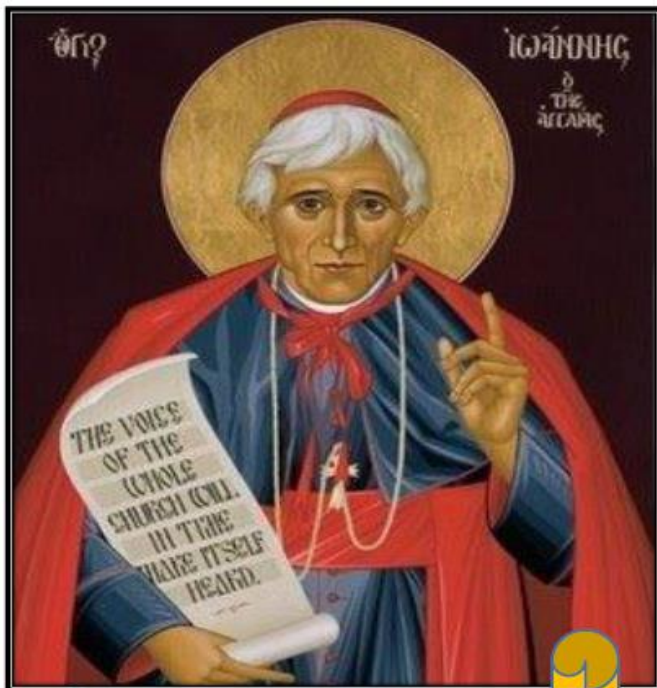
The Chaplain organised an educational trip to Rome for a group of Y10 pupils. They travelled out on the 14th Nov and returning on the 18th. The trip involves numerous churches especially the major cathedrals and basilicas. Pilgrimage according to GCSE topic, is very important in some religious traditions. Christians believe pilgrimage can help them develop spiritually and bring them closer to God. Rome is a very important place of pilgrimage, particularly for Roman Catholics. The Vatican is the home of the Pope, the spiritual head of the Catholic Church. They believe that Jesus appointed St Peter as the leader of his disciples. Some people go on pilgrimages simply because it is an opportunity for them to enjoy the feeling of connection with God and all His creations. ... On a pilgrimage, there is a feeling that all are equal in the eyes of God, regardless of their status in the everyday world.

The visits are linked to the RE curriculum e.g. the creation and the last judgment in the Sistine chapel, the tree of life in San Clemente. The complications of Brexit adds a challenge.



Start of the New Year

The staff return in September and new staff welcomed. The new academic year was started with prayer and reflection. The Chaplain led the prayer session with staff participation. We reflected on the upcoming canonisation of Blessed John Henry Newman. "God has created me to do Him some definite service. I have my mission. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good; I shall do His mission? What is the labours? We asked our staff, pupils and parents.



St John Henry Newman
1801 – 1880
Canonised 13th October 2019

"God has created me to do Him some definite service. I have my mission. He has committed to me some work which He has not committed to another. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between people. He has not created me for nothing. I shall do good; I shall do His work."



Prayer of Cardinal Newman

May the Almighty support me all day long,
Till the shadows lengthen and the evening comes,
Till the busy world is hushed,
The fever of life is over, and my work is done.
Then in His loving mercy may He give us
a safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at
that lasts. Amen.



St John Henry
Newman,
Pray for us.



John Henry Newman, (21st Feb 1801-11 Aug 1890) was a priest, poet and theologian and later a cardinal, who was an important and controversial figure in the religious history of England in the 19th century.

Originally an Oxford University academic and priest in the Church of England. In 1845 Newman, joined by some of his followers, left the Church of England and his teaching post at Oxford University and became a member of the Catholic Church. He was ordained as a priest and continued as an influential religious leader, based in Birmingham.

In 1879, he was created a cardinal by Pope Leo XIII in recognition of his services to the cause of the Catholic Church in England. Newman founded the school for boys in Dublin which evolved into University College Dublin, today the largest university in Ireland.

From the latter half of 1886, his health began to fail, and he celebrated Mass for the last time on Christmas Day in 1889. On 11 Aug 1890, he died of pneumonia at the Birmingham Oratory. Eight days later his body was buried alongside Ambrose St. John in the cemetery at Rednal Hill, Birmingham.

Walk to Sainthood like Newman

- a. Newman had a deep trust in God and a sense of God's presence.
- b. He listened to God and followed God's call to serve others.
- c. He followed his conscience even when it was difficult.
- d. He struggled with his difficulties and did not give up.
- e. He worked hard for the poor and people in need.
- f. He was humble, gentle and loyal to his friends.



The cause for his sainthood was opened in 1958 and he was declared Venerable by Pope St John Paul II in 1991 after his life of 'heroic virtue' was recognised. Newman's beatification was officially proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI on 19th September 2010 during his visit to the United Kingdom. His canonisation was dependent on the documentation of additional miracles attributed to his intercession. John Henry Newman was canonised in Rome on 13th Oct by Pope Francis.

Newman's Motto is:

"Cor ad cor loquitur"
("Heart speaks unto heart")



Liturgy Group

The chaplain has changed the structure of the Liturgy Group. There will now be year group liturgy groups that meet $\frac{1}{2}$ termly at least. They assist, plan and organise the class and year Liturgy alongside the chaplain. This allows more students to be involved. The members are representing their forms. The Y7,8, 9 & 12 have met already and been involved by writing the bidding prayers for mass, organising the readers, etc. All Masses involve the Liturgy Group. Year group musicians play music with Mr. Osborn and Mr Lawrence from the Music Dept. All pupils attend mass and either receive Holy Communion or a blessing. These are very respectful times and are attended by staff who are available during that time. Thanks to visiting (supply) priests we are able to celebrate Mass every week since the start of the new academic year.



Marian Procession

Sunday 20th Oct was the torchlight procession of Our Lady of Willesden around Harlesden. Even though this was in half term the college was well represented with pupils from various Forms and year groups coming out on a cold dark Sunday, walking the streets of Harlesden reciting the Rosary.



Education Sunday

Sunday 22nd Sept staff and pupils attended Mass to celebrate Education Sunday. It coincided with Harvest Sunday so the congregation were asked to bring packets of food and tinned products. The 3 local Catholic schools were present. A packed church. Pupils were given various roles including reading and part of the offertory procession.



The Yr 7 & 8 form groups are regular members of Our Lady of Willesden's 10:00am congregation as we take an active part in the weekly parish mass. These are celebrated by Fr Stephen or Fr Andrew and each week the boys read the 1st Reading and the Psalm. Then every Friday, whole year groups have regular Mass with Fr Albert or another visiting priest.



JOHN HENRY NEWMAN

A holy man in search of the truth

This Oct we will be celebrating the canonisation of Blessed John Henry Newman. There will be 2 school masses on the 9th Oct at 11:30 that involves the entire school. KS3 will be going to the Shrine while KS4 and 6th Formers will celebrate mass in the school hall.

Bishop John Sherrington will celebrate mass on the 30th Oct at 5.00pm for St John Henry Newman. All clergy & Governors are invited. Various events are organised to mark the event.

October or Newman Month was geared around the canonisation of St John Henry Newman on 3rd Oct (attended by the Head teacher & Fr Stephen). The chaplain organised 2 masses at the same time for Wednesday 9th Oct. One in the Parish Church and another in the school Hall.

KS3 processed to the parish church for the 11:30 mass celebrated by Fr Andrew. Pupils served, read, sang and were involved in the Offertory Procession.



The parish church was full to capacity. There was at times standing room only. It was a very spiritual occasion with Fr Andrew's homily based on the life of John Henry Newman. Meanwhile back in school Fr Marcelin celebrated Mass for KS4. This again was organised by the chaplain and executed in conjunction with the Head of Year and members of SLT. The pupils, with help from the head boy (Shamal) stepped forward to read, serve and to be involved in the offertory procession. They sang and joined-in in the mass. Fr Marceline and staff as well as students were full of compliments and praise after the Mass. Every pupil was issued with tokens of remembrance for the day. The Chaplain had St John Henry Newman Prayer cards printed and distributed as well as commemorative badges, etc. Did you get them? Assemblies were based around the life and teachings of John Henry Newman. Each day in October up to and including the canonisation weekend, the chaplain tweeted quotes and reflections from JHN and his theological insights. Did you follow them?

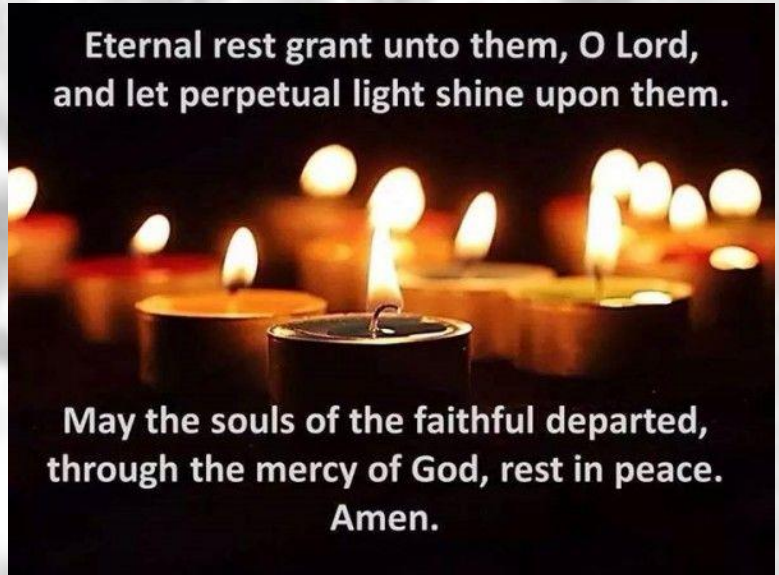


After half term, Bishop John Sherrington celebrated a Mass on Wednesday 30th October in school at 5pm for the canonisation of St JH Newman. The school looked beautiful, bedecked with flowers and banners/flags. The pupils were eager to stay behind to take part in the Mass. They took up roles (some for the 1st time). They read, served, involved in processions. The planning and preparation started months earlier involved writing the bidding prayers within the special Liturgy Group. The Mass was concelebrated by priests for the deanery. There were many ex pupils (those from the Hinsley days) as well as pupils from today. The congregation was joined with local religious and VIPs. The Mass was followed with refreshments where people could meet Bishop John, the leader of the Council Cllr Mo Butt, local Brent politicians and Officers, the local police, Head teachers from other Catholic schools and the Brent Mayor. All were delighted to be in attendance. The pupils ate, drank and mixed with all, being photographed with many. The following day there was a great buzz around the college.



All Saints, All Souls

Friday 1st Nov was the feast of All Saints. This followed a week of assemblies based on the theme of All Saints & All Souls. This holy day, a day of solemnity was celebrated with masses in the Parish church and in the college. Pupils as always were called upon to take active roles in the masses: serving, reading and procession. This also involved singing and responding to the parts of the Mass. Staff and pupils were able to complete list and request for the remembrance book. – those who have passed away who we remember in a special way in November. This book is present during all the masses in school as well as the prayer sessions in the chapel.



Gardening – Enrichment

The chaplain has restarted his enrichment gardening group. The group is comprised of 6th formers who volunteer to work and learn about gardening. This involves harvesting vegetables from the spring planting and preparing the window boxes for the season ahead. Learning that there is a season for everything and that even small acts are caring acts for the school environment.



This **Christmas** may
 we have the **joy** of
 the angels,
 The **wonder** of the
 shepherds
 and the **giving**
 hearts of the wise
 men;
 and may the
blessing of God
 rest on each
 one of us. **Amen.**

This Advent spent

TIME with God

Fri Dec 6th, Fri Dec 13th & Wed
Dec 18th



3.30 until 4.00 - Chapel

Join together to reflect, to
pray, to be in the Presence of



God.



Taize, reading and stillness.

Come along pupils, staff, etc.

Prepare your very self for
Christmas.

Christ with you|

