


October 9, 2020

Happy Friday! Clouds are here with rain to follow tomorrow.  Get your errands done today!

1. Today's Readings: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/100920.cfm>

2. ***The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus:*** St. John Henry Newman
John Henry Newman has been called the “absent Father of Vatican II” because his writings on conscience, religious liberty, Scripture, the vocation of lay people, the relation of Church and State, and other topics were extremely influential in the shaping of the Council’s documents.

Usually the Church picks the date of death (or "birth into heaven") as the feast day for a saint, but for St. John Henry Newman (who died on August 11) his feast will be celebrated on October 9th, the day of his conversion to Catholicism. He was canonized by Pope Francis in 2019.

Formed.org has 3 different CDs of John Henry Newman's works: Excerpts from the Tears of Christ, Parochial and Plain Sermons, and The Idea of a University.

3. Quote(s) of the Day: Another saint who blesses us with writings full of wisdom. Here are a few quotes from St. John Henry Newman

- a. "There are virtues indeed, which the world is not fitted to judge about or to uphold, such as faith, hope and charity; but it can judge about Truthfulness; it can judge about the natural virtues, and truthfulness is one of them. Natural virtues may also become supernatural; Truthfulness is such... " *Apologia Pro Vita Sua* (Part II).
- b. "Let us beg of Christ an increase of faith, a more lively perception of the curse under which the world lies, and of our own personal demerits. Let us beg a more understanding view of the mystery of His Cross, a more devout reliance on the virtue of it, and a more confident persuasion that He will never put upon us more than we can bear, never afflict His brethren with any woe except for their own highest benefit."
- c. "Pray to Jesus to give you what Scripture calls "an honest and good heart," and, without waiting, begin at once to obey Him with the best heart you have. Obedience is the only way of seeking Him. All your duties are obediences. If you are to believe the truths He has revealed, to regulate yourselves by His precepts, to adhere to His Church and people, why is it, except because *He* has bid you?"
- d. "Let us seek the grace of a cheerful heart, an even temper, sweetness, gentleness, and brightness of mind, as well as walking in His light, and by His grace. Let us pray to Him to give us the ever-abundant, ever-springing love, which overpowers and sweeps away the vexations of life by its own richness and strength, and which above all unites

Parish Office Communication

us to Him, Who is the fountain and center of all mercy, loving kindness and joy.” 17,
Religious Joy (Sermon for Christmas Day), 1868.



Many blessings to all. We appreciate you!

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Image: *John Henry Newman* | Sir John Everett Millais

Saint John Henry Newman

John Henry Newman, the 19th-century's most important English-speaking Roman Catholic theologian, spent the first half of his life as an Anglican and the second half as a Roman Catholic. He was a priest, popular preacher, writer, and eminent theologian in both churches.

Born in London, England, he studied at Oxford's Trinity College, was a tutor at Oriel College, and for 17 years was vicar of the university church, St. Mary the Virgin. He eventually published eight volumes of *Parochial and Plain Sermons* as well as two novels. His poem, "Dream of Gerontius," was set to music by Sir Edward Elgar.

After 1833, Newman was a prominent member of the Oxford Movement, which emphasized the Church's debt to the Church Fathers and challenged any tendency to consider truth as completely subjective.

Historical research made Newman suspect that the Roman Catholic Church was in closest continuity with the Church that Jesus established. In 1845, he was received into full communion as a Catholic. Two years later he was ordained a Catholic priest in Rome and joined the Congregation of the Oratory, founded three centuries

earlier by Saint Philip Neri. Returning to England, Newman founded Oratory houses in Birmingham and London and for seven years served as rector of the Catholic University of Ireland.

Before Newman, Catholic theology tended to ignore history, preferring instead to draw deductions from first principles—much as plane geometry does. After Newman, the lived experience of believers was recognized as a key part of theological reflection.

Newman eventually wrote 40 books and 21,000 letters that survive. Most famous are his book-length *Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine*, *On Consulting the Faithful in Matters of Doctrine*, *Apologia Pro Vita Sua*—his spiritual autobiography up to 1864—and *Essay on the Grammar of Assent*. He accepted Vatican I's teaching on papal infallibility while noting its limits, which many people who favored that definition were reluctant to do.

When Newman was named a cardinal in 1879, he took as his motto "*Cor ad cor loquitur*"—"Heart speaks to heart." He was buried in Rednal 11 years later. After his grave was exhumed in 2008, a new tomb was prepared at the Oratory church in Birmingham.

Three years after Newman died, a Newman Club for Catholic students began at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. In time, his name was linked to ministry centers at many public and private colleges and universities in the United States.

In 2010, Pope Benedict XVI beatified Newman in London. Benedict noted Newman's emphasis on the vital place of revealed religion in civilized society, but also praised his pastoral zeal for the sick, the poor, the bereaved, and those in prison. Pope Francis canonized Newman in October 2019. Saint John Henry Newman's liturgical feast is October 9.

Source: fransicanmedia.org