

DEARLY LOVED

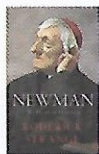
And the same was true in his parish ministry. One friend has told me that her aunt, a Poor Clare nun, had related how, when

their extern Sisters went questing, that is, begging, on the streets of Birmingham in the mid-nineteenth century, it was Father Newman who had brought them food. And another friend who lived near Wolverhampton has written to me about her own childhood memories. "I wish I could remember the details," she began, "although I was of course very young and completely ignorant." She would have been perhaps four or five at the time, shortly after the Second World War. She had gone with her father, visiting the bargee community. She was remembering "elderly Birmingham people who had known 'Mr Newman' and loved him dearly, especially for his fearless visits to the slums of the cholera epidemic".

She was recalling people in their seventies, or perhaps their eighties, who may not even have met Newman themselves; and Birmingham was largely untouched by cholera. But these men were certainly relaying the memory in their community of Newman's reputation, not as a remote academic, but someone who was ready to serve people whom he knew were in crisis.

Praise to the Holiest in the height. It is a moment engraved on my memory for ever.

Mgr Roderick Strange's book *Newman The Heart of Holiness* is available from Redemptorist Publications. Visit www.rpbooks.co.uk to order. CODE: 103585 ISBN:9780852362619 Price: £14.99



Mass text

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
But with you is found forgiveness,
O God of Israel.

FIRST READING Isaiah 25:6-10

PSALM Psalm 22

RESPONSE In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever.

1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. R.
2. He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. R.
3. You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. R.

4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. R.

SECOND READING Philippians 4:12-14. 19-20

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our mind,
so that we can see what hope his call holds for us.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 22:1-14

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

When the Lord appears, we shall be like him,
for we shall see him as he is.

Next Sunday's Readings:

Isaiah 45:1. 4-6
1 Thessalonians 1:1-5
Matthew 22:15-21



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SUNDAY BULLETIN

PASTORAL MINISTRY

With more than forty books to his name and thirty-two large volumes of letters published, it may seem odd to refer to John Henry Newman as an occasional writer. What else, people may ask themselves, can he have been doing, except writing? Yet that is how he has often been described. And the description is in fact accurate, because it does not mean that he was writing "occasionally", from time to time, but that when he wrote, his writing was prompted by occasions, by particular needs. Brilliant scholar that he was, he was not sitting in his study, dreaming up fresh ideas for new books. What he wrote was triggered by questions that he recognised needed to be addressed. It would be all too easy to overlook his pastoral instinct.

His experience of conversion in 1816, when he was only fifteen years old, had an evangelical character. It wasn't a classic evangelical conversion and its influence gradually faded as other influences, Anglican and Catholic, made their mark on him. But he remained grateful for what it had taught him till the end of his life. In a letter to an evangelical correspondent in 1887 he spoke of "the great and burning truths" that he had learned as a boy from evangelical teaching and found impressed on his heart "with fresh and ever increasing force by the Holy Roman Church".

Nevertheless, when he was ordained as an Anglican deacon in 1824, that evangelical influence was still significant. It showed itself in particular in his severe view that more people were damned than were saved. However, by the time he was ordained as a priest the following year, his view had changed. How had that change come about? By parish visiting. During that year as a deacon Newman had worked in the parish of St Clement's in Oxford and found that those he met, though far from perfect, were not "altogether without grace". Contact with people had had its effect on him. It was a feature throughout his life.

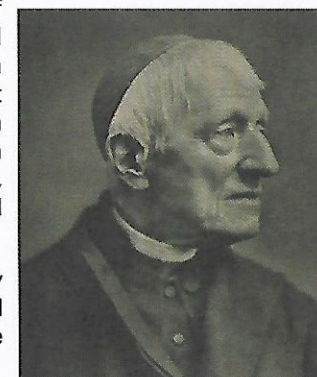
When Newman preached, and his sermons were greatly admired, he sought always simply to be clear. He wanted people to be able to understand him. He went over what he wanted to say time and time again.

As a tutor at Oxford, he believed that students should not be taught indiscriminately, but that attention should be given to their particular needs. As he was to write, while he was Rector of the University in Dublin, "An academical system without the personal influence of teachers upon pupils, is an arctic winter; it will create an ice-bound, petrified, cast-iron University, and nothing else." Personal influence, he believed, was indispensable.

Canonising John Henry Newman



To mark the first anniversary of the canonisation of St John Henry Newman, which falls this week, Mgr Roderick Strange reflects on the life and teachings of the saint.



11 OCTOBER 2020

28TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK IV