

And besides comic writing, there was Newman's dry donnish humour. In 1877 William Copeland who had been one of his Anglican curates and remained a close friend, edited a selection of Newman's Anglican sermons. Their correspondence is revealing as they discuss what to include and what to omit. Newman had doubts about including a sermon in which he had remarked, "the Church has erred", which, he told Copeland, "grates so upon me". Then he observed drily, ironically, in brackets, given the controversy surrounding the Vatican Council, "I should not mind 'the Pope has erred'."

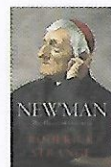


## GIFT FOR HUMOUR

And he could also be self-deprecating. When he was an Anglican, bishops had been wary of his Catholic commitment; after he became a Catholic, bishops had been critical of his approach to education. Forever under suspicion, he had come to take it for granted. And so he observed: "I should be so out of my element if I were without that cold shade on the side of ecclesiastical authority, in which I have dwelt nearly all my life, my eyes would be so dazed, and my limbs so relaxed, were I brought out to bask in the full sun of ecclesiastical favour, that I should not know how to act and should make a fool of myself."

Newman's gift for humour and his joyfulness should never be underestimated. He declared joy in all its forms to be one of the chief graces of early Christianity. St John Henry Newman has much to teach us.

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



## Mass text

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God;  
turn your ear to me; hear my words.  
Guard me as the apple of your eye;  
in the shadow of your wings protect me.

### FIRST READING Isaiah 45:1. 4-6

### PSALM Psalm 95

### RESPONSE Give the Lord glory and power.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,  
sing to the Lord all the earth.  
Tell among the nations his glory  
and his wonders among all the peoples. **R.**
2. The Lord is great and worthy of praise,  
to be feared above all gods;  
the gods of the heathens are naught.  
It was the Lord who made the heavens. **R.**
3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples,  
give the Lord glory and power,  
give the Lord the glory of his name.  
Bring an offering and enter his courts. **R.**

4. Worship the Lord in his temple.  
O earth, tremble before him.  
Proclaim to the nations: "God is king."  
He will judge the peoples in fairness. **R.**

### SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
You will shine in the world like bright stars  
because you are offering it the word of life.  
**Alleluia!**

### GOSPEL Matthew 22:15-21

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**The Son of Man has come  
to give his life as a ransom for many.**

### Next Sunday's Readings:

Exodus 22:20-26  
1 Thessalonians 1:5-10  
Matthew 22:34-40



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# SUNDAY BULLETIN

## JOY

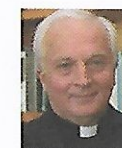
From 13 to 19 June 1876 Baron Friedrich von Hügel, who was to become a distinguished theologian, stayed with John Henry Newman at the Birmingham Oratory. It was to be their only meeting. Although it was a success, von Hügel later described Newman as a puritan depressive, doubting whether he could ever be canonised because he lacked the joy of the Roman saints.

That joy, of course, is not to be identified simply with a sense of humour, although joy without humour is hard to imagine. However, it is worth remembering in this instance that, when von Hügel visited Newman, he was twenty-four years old, while Newman was seventy-five. The age gap may offer a clue to von Hügel's reaction. Perhaps Newman did not find the young man amusing. And although it is true that Newman in his dark days in the 1860s acknowledged that the struggles of his Catholic years had made his face become "grave and forbidding", yet there is also plenty of evidence of humour. His letters home when he was on holiday in the Mediterranean in 1832 display his gift for comic writing.

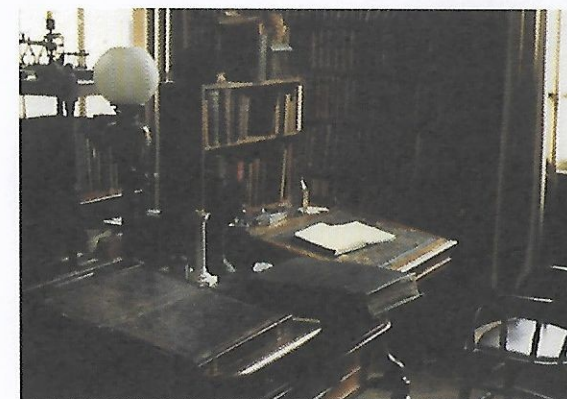
On one occasion, he explained to his mother, "The worst of seasickness is the sympathy which all things on board have with the illness, as if they were seasick too. First of all the chairs, tables, much more the things on them are moving, moving, up and down, up and down – swing, swing – a tumbler turns over, knife and fork run down, wine is spilt – swing, swing. In this condition you go on talking and eating, as fast as you can, hiding your misery." And he continues at length, conjuring up the scene.

This admittedly is from his carefree Anglican days, but even in his dark Catholic days he was sensitive to comedy. In 1861 he visited Cambridge with William Neville, a fellow Oratorian, and describes the way they seemed to be haunted by a little man. He called Neville "a sort of Guardian Angel or Homeric god", trying to protect him, enveloping him "in darkness, rustling with his wings, and flapping about with a vigour which for the time was very successful". "But, alas," Newman continued, "all through the day, wherever we went, this little man haunted us... William was ever saying, whether we were here or there, in garden or cloister – 'Don't look that way – turn this way – there's the little man again'."

## Canonising John Henry Newman



Mgr Roderick Strange concludes this series marking the first anniversary of the canonisation of St John Henry Newman.



18 OCTOBER 2020

29TH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK I