

THE MASS OF BEATIFICATION OF THE VENERABLE JOHN HENRY NEWMAN



The Most Reverend Bernard Longley Archbishop of Birmingham - Welcome Address to His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI

*Cofton Park, Birmingham
10:25 am Sunday 19 September 2010*

Most Holy Father,

It is with great joy that I welcome you here to Birmingham on the final morning of your visit. Over recent days, you have been among us as a pilgrim sharing your own search for the truth and goodness of God. As our Supreme Pastor, you have led us closer to Jesus Christ to be refreshed from the 'well-springs of the Trinity'.

In following your Apostolic Journey we have seen you reach out and touch the hearts and minds of many, within our countries and beyond, by being in our midst and by making us more aware of the presence of Christ the Good Shepherd. As the Successor of Saint Peter, you have encouraged us to draw closer to the rock upon which the Church is

built and to recognise it as the true source of living water that can quench our thirst.

Now, Holy Father, we are united with you in prayer in this city which was the chosen and adopted home of the Venerable John Henry Newman. We gather close to the place where his earthly remains were laid to rest and in these hills where he would often come for refreshment and peace. In this place, we thank you for presenting him to us anew – a sure well-spring of goodness and truth where we may find refreshment and strength for our own pilgrimage of faith.

As we come to celebrate his Beatification with you today, we give thanks to God for all those whose influence brought blessings to Cardinal Newman - especially for those who had nurtured his faith within the Church of England and for Blessed Dominic of the Mother of God who first ministered to him sacramentally within the Catholic Church.

We ask you, Holy Father, to draw us again into the eucharistic presence of the Lord, so that we may soon acclaim the Venerable John Henry Newman among the Blessed.



More than 50,000 pilgrims welcome Pope Benedict to Cofton Park



The face of the new Beatus is unveiled electronically – a first

THE DECLARATION OF BEATIFICATION



The Rite of Beatification
The Most Reverend Bernard Longley,
Archbishop of Birmingham requested
that the Venerable John Henry Cardinal
Newman be Beatified

Cofton Park, Birmingham
 10:35 am Sunday 19 September 2010

The Vice-Postulator of the Cause, Father Richard Duffield,
Provost of the Oratory in Birmingham, read a short biography
of Cardinal Newman.

His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI

According to the request of our Brother Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham, of many other Brothers in the episcopate, and many of the faithful, after consultation with the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, by our apostolic authority we declare that the Venerable Servant of God John Henry, Cardinal Newman, priest of the Congregation of the Oratory, shall henceforth be invoked as Blessed and that his feast shall be celebrated every year on the ninth of October, in the places and according to the norms established by Church law. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Everyone present responded - Amen.

The portrait of the new Blessed was unveiled electronically (a first) and his relics placed beside the altar.

THE HOMILY OF THE HOLY FATHER

His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI's
Homily given during the
Beatification Mass

Cofton Park, Birmingham
 11:15 am Sunday 19 September 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

T*his day that has brought us together here in Birmingham is a most auspicious one.* In the first place, it is the Lord's day, Sunday, the day when our Lord Jesus Christ rose from the dead and changed the course of human history for ever, offering new life and hope to all who live in darkness and in the shadow of death. That is why Christians all over the world come together on this day to give praise and thanks to God for the great marvels he has worked for us. This particular Sunday also marks a significant moment in the life of the British nation, as it is the day chosen to commemorate the seventieth anniversary of the Battle of Britain. For me, as one who lived and suffered through the dark days of the Nazi regime in Germany, it is deeply moving to be here with you on this occasion, and to recall how many of your fellow citizens sacrificed their lives, courageously resisting the forces of that evil ideology. My thoughts go in particular to nearby Coventry, which suffered such heavy bombardment and massive loss of life in November 1940. Seventy years later, we recall with shame and horror the dreadful toll of death and destruction that war brings in its wake, and we renew our resolve to work for peace and reconciliation wherever the threat of conflict looms. Yet

there is another, more joyful reason why this is an auspicious day for Great Britain, for the Midlands, for Birmingham. It is the day that sees Cardinal John Henry Newman formally raised to the altars and declared Blessed.

I thank Archbishop Bernard Longley for his gracious welcome at the start of Mass this morning. I pay tribute to all who have worked so hard over many years to promote the cause of Cardinal Newman, including the Fathers of the Birmingham Oratory and the members of the Spiritual Family *Das Werk*. And I greet everyone here from Great Britain, Ireland, and further afield; I thank you for your presence at this celebration, in which we give glory and praise to God for the heroic virtue of a saintly Englishman.

England has a long tradition of martyr saints, whose courageous witness has sustained and inspired the Catholic community here for centuries. Yet it is right and fitting that we should recognise today the holiness of a confessor, a son of this nation who, while not called to shed his blood for the Lord, nevertheless bore eloquent witness to him in the course of a long life devoted to the



Sr Mary Dechant and Mother Catherine Strolz of the Spiritual Family 'Das Werk'



priestly ministry, and especially to preaching, teaching, and writing. He is worthy to take his place in a long line of saints and scholars from these islands, Saint Bede, Saint Hilda, Saint Aelred, Blessed Duns Scotus, to name but a few. In Blessed John Henry, that tradition of gentle scholarship, deep human wisdom and profound love for the Lord has borne rich fruit, as a sign of the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit deep within the heart of God's people, bringing forth abundant gifts of holiness.

Cardinal Newman's motto, '*Cor ad cor loquitur*', or 'Heart speaks unto heart', gives us an insight into his understanding of the Christian life as a call to holiness, experienced as the profound desire of the human heart to enter into intimate communion with the Heart of God. He reminds us that faithfulness to prayer gradually transforms us into the divine likeness. As he wrote in one of his many fine sermons, 'a habit of prayer, the practice of turning to God and the unseen world in every season, in every place, in every emergency – prayer, I say, has what may be called a natural effect in spiritualising and elevating the soul. A man is no longer what he was before; gradually

... he has imbibed a new set of ideas, and become imbued with fresh principles' (Parochial and Plain Sermons, iv, 230-231). Today's Gospel tells us that no one can be the servant of two masters (cf. Lk 16:13), and Blessed John Henry's teaching on prayer explains how the faithful Christian is definitively taken into the service of the one true Master, who alone has a claim to our unconditional devotion (cf. Mt 23:10). Newman helps us to understand what this means for our daily lives: he tells us that our divine Master has assigned a specific task to each one of us, a 'definite service', committed uniquely to every single person: 'I have my mission', he wrote, 'I am a link in a chain, a bond of connexion between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good, I shall do his work; I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place ... if I do but keep his commandments and serve him in my calling' (Meditations and Devotions, 301-2).

The definite service to which Blessed John Henry was called involved applying his keen intellect and his prolific pen to many of the most pressing 'subjects of the day'. His insights into the relationship between faith and reason, into the

vital place of revealed religion in civilised 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. The project to found a Catholic University in Ireland provided him with an opportunity to develop his ideas on the subject, and the collection of discourses that he published as '*The Idea of a University*' holds up an ideal from which all those engaged in academic formation can continue to learn. And indeed, what better goal could teachers of religion set themselves than Blessed John Henry's famous appeal for an intelligent, well-instructed laity: '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' (The Present Position of Catholics in England, ix, 390). On this day when the author of those words is raised to the altars, I pray that, through his intercession and example,



Pope Benedict receives Father Gregory Winterton of the Birmingham Oratory, tireless servant of the Newman Cause



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.

While it is John Henry Newman's intellectual legacy that has understandably received most attention in the vast literature devoted to his life and work, I prefer on this occasion to conclude with a brief reflection on his life as a priest, a pastor of souls. The warmth and humanity underlying his appreciation of the pastoral ministry is beautifully expressed in another of his famous sermons: 'Had Angels been your priests, my brethren, they could not have consoled with you, sympathised with you, have had compassion on you, felt tenderly for you, and made allowances for you, as we can; they could not have been your patterns and guides, and have led you on from your old selves into a new life, as they can who come from the midst of you' ('Men, not Angels: the Priests of the Gospel', Discourses to Mixed Congregations, 3). He lived out that profoundly human vision of priestly ministry in his devoted care for the people of Birmingham during the years that he spent at the Oratory he founded, visiting the sick and the poor, comforting the bereaved, caring for those in prison. No wonder

that on his death so many thousands of people lined the local streets as his body was taken to its place of burial not half a mile from here. One hundred and twenty years later, great crowds have assembled once again to rejoice in the Church's solemn recognition of the outstanding holiness of this much-loved father of souls. What better way to express the joy of this moment than by turning to our heavenly Father in heartfelt thanksgiving, praying in the words that Blessed John Henry Newman placed on the lips of the choirs of angels in heaven:

*Praise to the Holiest in the height
And in the depth be praise;
In all his words most wonderful,
Most sure in all his ways!
(The Dream of Gerontius)*

The Recitation of the Angelus Domini

*Cofton Park, Birmingham
12:00 pm Sunday 19 September 2010*

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

I am pleased to send my greetings to the people of Seville where, just yesterday, Madre María de la Purísima de la Cruz was Beatified. May Blessed María be an inspiration to young women to follow her example of single-minded love of God and neighbour.

When Blessed John Henry Newman came to live in Birmingham, he gave the name 'Maryvale' to his first home here. The Oratory that he founded is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin and the Catholic University of Ireland he placed under the patronage of Mary, *Sedes Sapientiae*. In so many ways, he lived his priestly ministry in a spirit of filial devotion to the Mother of God. Meditating upon her role in the unfolding of God's plan for our salvation, he was moved to exclaim: 'Who can estimate the holiness and perfection of her, who was chosen to be the Mother of Christ? What must have been her gifts, who was chosen to be the only near earthly relative of the Son of God, the only one whom He was bound by nature to revere and look up to; the one appointed to train and educate Him, to instruct Him day by day, as He grew in wisdom and in



A drawing of Cardinal Newman at Rednal during 1881

stature?' (Parochial and Plain Sermons, ii, 131-2). It is on account of those abundant gifts of grace that we honour her, and it is on account of that intimacy with her divine Son, that we naturally seek her intercession for our own needs and the needs of the whole world. In the words of the Angelus, we turn now to our Blessed Mother and commend to her the intentions that we hold in our hearts.





Joyful crowds celebrate with the Holy Father at Cofton Park, Birmingham



Moments of thoughtful prayer during the Beatification ceremony at Cofton Park, Birmingham



REFLECTIONS ON THE BEATIFICATION OF BLESSED JOHN HENRY NEWMAN



Deacon Jack Sullivan, from Marshfield, Massachusetts

A Reflection on the Beatification of Blessed John Henry Newman written following the Beatification Mass in Coston Park

Cardinal Newman often expressed the view that divine providence guided his steps in his quest for that kindly light of truth. A journey towards sublime truth, but often marked by obstacles and trials. When immersed in darkness he often longed for the light which would mark his steps, as he travelled on the path marked out for him. Cardinal Newman was denied the view he longed for, a view of that distant scene, but one step on this path was enough for him.

Indeed, struggles merely add to one's desire to embrace that quick glimpse of the ultimate beauty of God as we travel toward it. Trials and struggles cause us to exercise our faith and trust in God's

benevolent providence. By its practice, we indeed advance one step at a time. Cardinal Newman would say that we cannot embrace the beautiful side of our faith while casting aside what is severe. It is by persevering through struggles and trials, that which is severe, that we ultimately attain that which is beautiful.

Nine years ago, on 15 August 2001 on our Lady's Feast Day of the Assumption, I prayed to this unique and saintly man that I might be ordained a Deacon of the Church. I prayed that he might intercede with our loving Lord to enable me to serve his Church, the people of God. Cardinal Newman said 'Yes' to me, but with the condition that I travel the same path as he had; a test of my mettle and commitment if you will; an opportunity to grow and mature; an opportunity to test the degree of self-giving that I would need in order to serve his people.

So I was brought low in the pain of my confusion, uncertainty and darkness. My healing at first took the form of stamina; always trusting in God's

loving providence. Through excruciating pain I travelled to attain that same ultimate beauty which Newman sought. If by God's grace I was permitted to be ordained a Deacon of the Church, I prayed that I would be a good one.

For nine long years I struggled and hoped to be empowered to see that distant scene, one agonising step at a time; and through the prayers of he who is always with me, I was led to my heart's goal. That distant scene was made vivid for me when I asked the Holy Father for his blessing that I might worthily proclaim Christ's gospel.

The distant scene was made even more vivid when I stood at the lectern during Cardinal Newman's Mass of Beatification and looked out on thousands of England's faithful, as I proclaimed that kindly light of truth. This view, this scene will stay with me always. All of my trials and struggles had prepared me for this moment. I was not nervous at all, but was in fact strengthened and reassured that Cardinal Newman was with me, and his countrymen were with me. All that I had previously endured was capsulated in that one mysterious moment of joy.

Mrs Carol Sullivan

A Reflection on Jack's healing and the Beatification of Cardinal Newman

Little did I know how much my life would change when Jack asked me for my 'OK', the night before the deadline for filing his application to enter the Diaconate Formation Program. Jack threw himself completely into the programme despite the obstacles he encountered. He persevered through many trials, but it was because of these trials that Jack experienced his miraculous recovery leading to Cardinal Newman's Beatification.

Since his Ordination, Jack has immersed himself in his parish and prison ministry, which he loves so much. Our story since my 'OK' to his application can only be described as a unique adventure in life. Something you've read about in a novel, unbelievable, but true. Through it all, we remain very ordinary.



Deacon Jack Sullivan and his wife Carol

The Beatification of Cardinal Newman is the end of a long road that Jack and I have travelled. We have met many wonderful people along the way. Most people have been supportive, but there have still been many sceptics. We can only tell you what happened and let you know that we believe that Cardinal Newman answered Jack's prayers.

Taking part in the Papal Mass was an incredibly moving moment for me. Pope Benedict has honoured Cardinal Newman by presiding personally, at the Mass of Beatification. I look forward in the future to the Canonisation of Cardinal Newman. I know that he is listening to our prayers.

Mr Brian Sullivan, Deacon Jack Sullivan's son

A Reflection on the healing of his father and the Beatification of Cardinal Newman

My father and Cardinal Newman were an integral part of two of the greatest days of my life. Thanks to the miracle bestowed upon my father through the intercession of Cardinal Newman, my Dad was able to continue with his diaconate. As a deacon, Dad performed the marriage ceremony for Lauren and me.

The second major event has to do with the birth of our daughter, Nora Elizabeth. Nora's birth coincided with Mom and Dad's visit to Birmingham last November, 2009, to recount the story of his miracle of healing. When I called to share the news of the birth of their first grandchild, Mom and Dad were at the Birmingham Oratory and had just visited Newman's chapel.

Another meaningful day for all of us was the day that my father baptised Nora and welcomed Nora into the faith that he loves so much. There was so much joy in my father's eyes as he performed the baptism.

That is the same joy that I saw in my Dad's eyes during our recent trip to Birmingham. The Beatification of Cardinal Newman on Sunday 19 September was an important event for me and my family. To be able to share in this day with my father and to share in his love of the Church and Cardinal Newman has been a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Lauren, Nora and myself. I know Dad's faith and devotion will continue to be an integral part of our lives.



A REFLECTION

The Very Reverend Canon Patrick Browne, Administrator of the Metropolitan Cathedral of Saint Chad, Birmingham, and Local Co-ordinator for the Papal Visit to the Archdiocese of Birmingham

A Reflection on the Mass of Beatification at Cofton Park

The arrival of the first truck-load of building material at Cofton Park was proof that the Beatification of John Henry Newman was to take place during Mass, on Sunday 19 September 2010. This was the start of the transformation of the park into a place of worship and the focus of the world, as Pope Benedict XVI declared 'Blessed' the 19th-century parish priest and intellectual.

Hundreds of people use the park daily as a place of leisure, relaxation and sport. Many people admire its peace and tranquillity while reflecting on the beauty and mystery of God's creation. Now work was underway to accommodate tens of thousands of pilgrims from near and far.

The world waited!

Long before dawn, the pilgrims came from afar, disembarking from the coaches in good humour, anticipating what was to be a memorable experience. As they entered the park the sight of

the sanctuary array in light, beauty and character heightened their enthusiasm.

The pilgrims would wait!

The sight of the Holy Father's helicopter roused them from their slumbers and weariness to cheer, to wave flags and to welcome. The warmth and sincerity of the welcome was overwhelming.

The wait was over!

Pope Benedict XVI was here!

As the Holy Father stood before me in his sacristy, I thought of my father and mother, and what they had given me. Later, as I stood on the sanctuary looking across the park at the tens of thousands of pilgrims, I tried to imagine what roads were followed to be here - not just the way to the Pilgrim Points. What Pilgrim Packs opened the doors of Christ for them? What Pilgrim Passports had accompanied them on the faith journey that led them to this place?

We came, we prayed, now the world is waiting!

Cofton Park has been returned to its normal use, the people are strolling through the trees, admiring the beauty of God's creation, the football teams are competing for points and trophies and dog-walkers are stopping for a moment or two. For the residents nearby, life is back to normal. However for them, for all who visit that park, and for us, it will never be the same again.

Pope Benedict XVI was there!



Pope Benedict arrived by helicopter near Cofton Park for the Mass of Beatification

A REFLECTION



Midland Sculptor Tim Tolkien and artist-blacksmith Chris Yeomans with the half made statue

Tim Tolkien, Metal Sculptor

A Reflection on the commission to create a full-size statue of Blessed John Henry Newman to commemorate his Beatification in Cofton Park

I received a phone call at around lunchtime on 13 July from Birmingham City Councillor Peter Douglas Osborn, asking was I still a Catholic. It was unusual for my religion and not my illustrious ancestor (J R R Tolkien) to be of interest when being short-listed for a job. And what a job! To produce a full-size statue of John Henry Cardinal Newman for Cofton Park, Birmingham, in time for the Papal Visit, some two months hence. Was I interested?

Early meetings included advice from the editor of this book, which was helpful in guiding me towards the true metal of my subject. My first thoughts had been the Grand Cardinal (after Millais), crucifix-adorned in robe and cap. I began to discover the hard-working, learned priest of firm conviction who gave up his cardinal's seat in Rome, to stay amongst the sick and poor of his adopted Birmingham.

This was the John Henry Newman that I hoped to portray; the only deference to his cardinalship being the inclusion of his *zucchetto*, designed to be detachable to allow the molten zinc used in the galvanising process to pass through the statue, ensuring long-term corrosion resistance.

Although the short timescale suggested minimal detail, we needed to include enough information to tell Newman's story authentically. Peter Jennings was lucky enough to have his own bound copy of Newman's *Apologia*, first published in seven weekly parts and perhaps the Cardinal's best-known work. We have been able to reproduce this faithfully and set it at his side on a small table. Blessed John Henry Newman is shown seated, reading glasses in hand, as if he has just finished re-appraising his own writings. The chunky 'carved' chair and small circular table are heavily draped, evoking the late Victorian era, and the flowing cassock with precise buttons and cummerbund are all correct in detail and make up the solid yet fluid forms of the sculpture.

All this is constructed from 2 mm steel plate. Each section was plasma cut out, heated on the forge, shaped by hammers and tongs, welded into place and all joints were ground smooth. I usually work metal cold but this was a project that strongly suggested the need for heat and so I enlisted the skills of a long-term colleague and friend, artist-blacksmith Chris Yeomans.

We didn't actually start cutting and shaping steel until 18 August, 31 days before His Holiness was due to visit the Midlands. Somehow we were

John Henry Newman is worthy to take his place in a long line of saints and scholars from these islands, Saint Bede, Saint Hilda, Saint Aelred, Blessed Duns Scotus, to name but a few.

- Pope Benedict XVI



Sculptor Tim Tolkien shows the Pope the statue of Blessed John Henry Newman

able to put in the uninterrupted 10-16 hours a day necessary to complete the commission in such a short space of time, working 630 hours between us in just four weeks. As the sculpture grew, so did the sense of occasion.

About half-way through the project I was contacted by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, who had got to hear of our intention to commemorate Newman with a statue, and they wanted to ensure this was included in Pope Benedict's official schedule. I was asked to fax over copies of the drawings, so that they could go to Rome for approval. Four days later, not only had His Holiness agreed to bless our statue but it was requested that I meet with him also, a great and unexpected honour.

The week prior to the Papal Visit to Birmingham we were working feverishly. There was a distinct and growing possibility, that despite our best endeavours, we might not get it finished in time. I had been struggling with the face, on and off for three weeks, searching for something beyond his exaggerated features. Chris, during the same

time, had forged most of the bodice to his cassock, arms, collar and skull cap. Even on the Saturday morning, poor John Henry still had no hair nor had I any idea as to how it should be made. Chris built the temporary plinth and painted everything, and somehow I was inspired, so by 4.30 pm the statue was complete and an hour later loaded and on its way to Birmingham.

The next morning grey skies hung over Cofton Park to welcome Pope Benedict. I stood next to two members of Newman's family who share some of his facial characteristics. They were pleased to see the likeness that I had achieved. Then the Pope walked calmly towards our statue, smiling a broad smile, as if recognising an old friend before turning and grasping my hands.

At some time in the near future the statue will be permanently sited in the park and will serve not only as a memorial to the best-known clergyman and religious thinker of his day, the now-Blessed John Henry Newman, but also to the very special and uplifting day that Pope Benedict XVI spent with us in Birmingham.

