Holy Innocents' Parish Pilgrimage to Oxford 10th October 2019



Blessed Cardinal John Henry Newman began his Christian Ministry as an Anglican Minister. His thirst for further knowledge led him to study the writings of the early Church Fathers, and it was these that led him to the Catholic Church, as he said "The Church Fathers made me Catholic."

Pope Francis will canonise

Blessed Cardinal John Henry Newman in Rome on Sunday 13th October 2019.

Thursday 10th October Father Victor and 32 parishioners set off for Oxford to follow in Cardinal John Henry Newman's footsteps. Prayers on our journey put us into thoughtful mode about the day ahead. We arrived for Mass at the Oxford Oratory Church of St Aloysius Gonzaga.





<<<<< There is a cabinet with artefacts and letters from John Henry Newman



Father Victor gives us a history of events.

Trinity College>>>>>>

John Henry Newman was an undergraduate and scholar of Trinity from 1816–22, and the college's first Honorary Fellow, elected in 1877. Newman is a significant figure in the

religious history of 19th century England; a theologian and poet, his role in the Oxford Movement of Anglicans (who hoped to return many pre-Reformation Catholic beliefs and rituals to the Church of England) and eventual reception into the Catholic Church made him a nationally-known figure by the mid-1830s. He is remembered as a preacher, pastor, controversialist, educational visionary, and one of the most significant modern



theologians of the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches.



<<<<< Reflection in the Chapel.



In 1828 John Henry Newman became vicar of the University Church of St Mary the Virgin and his sermons became popular with undergraduates. From the present pulpit John Keble preached the assize sermon of 14 July 1833, which is considered to have started the Oxford Movement, an attempt to revive catholic spirituality in the church and university. The influence of the movement spread and affected

the practice and spirituality of the Church of England.

There is a memorial plaque to both the Anglican and Catholic Martyrs. Unity in dying for Christ. Lunch followed in the vault Café. We then walked on to Oriel College.

Cardinal Newman served as Chaplain of Oriel (1826-31, 1833-35) and as Vicar of the University Church (1828-1843). In 1836, discovering that the people of the nearby village of Littlemore, nominally part of his parish, had never had their own church, he built a chapel and a school in the village and served as its vicar until 1843.





<< Restful Chapel area to pray and contemplate



<<< The coach then took us to Littlemore where John Henry Newman lived at The College at



Littlemore from 1842 – 1846, making it a place of quiet prayer and study for himself and some friends. It was at the College on 9th October, 1845 that Newman, the famous Anglican preacher, Fellow of Oriel College, and leading figure of the Oxford Movement was received into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church by Blessed Dominic Barberi, an Italian missionary priest, making his profession of faith in his own room. He said he was received into the 'one true fold of the Redeemer.'

In 1987 the Fathers of the Birmingham

Oratory entrusted The College in Littlemore Oxford to the care of The Work. As with the other Newman Centres in Rome, Bregenz (Austria), and Budapest (Hungary), this centre in Littlemore aims at making the life and work of Blessed John Henry Newman known.

A registered Charity, The Society of The Work, was established and an International Centre of Newman Friends set up in 1988. The Spiritual Family The Work (FSO) began in 1938 in Belgium. The foundress, Mother Julia Verhaeghe (1910 – 1997), served the Church with her special gifts of generosity and discernment, inspiring and helping many to share in the Charism that she had received from God. The Work consists of a Priests' Community and a Sisters' Community and has houses in many European countries, in the United States and in the Holy Land.





<<< The gardens of Littlemore remain peaceful



<<<<< John Henry Newman's writing desk at Littlemore at the International Centre of Newman Friends.







This meditation and devotion is seen at Littlemore.

"It is Mary's prerogative to be the Morning Star, which heralds in the sun. She does not shine for herself, or from herself, but she is the reflection of her and our Redeemer, and she glorifies Him. When she appears in the darkness, we know that He is close at hand."





Now it was time to go to St Mary and St Nicholas Church to meet parishioners and have refreshments. We were made most welcome and a delicious array of cakes was provided for us. Father Victor led us in prayer and spoke of the unity that John Henry Newman has brought to both Catholics and Anglicans through his ministry.



Message from Benjamin in response to an email from Holy Innocents' parishioner.

"Thank you for your sense of community that is centred on Christ Jesus. We all in faith must be confident that God knows what God is doing. Your message reflects this position. JHN is at the forefront of your footsteps, but JHN is not the forefront of your faith - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit fuel your words and works; very truly the Godhead are alive in you and those that surround you!

God has placed us together. We must find the purpose. We look forward to building upon the foundation in friendship God has facilitated through JHN."

Excerpt from https://johnhenrynewman.org/newman-church-project/

"The parish church of St Mary & St Nicholas is one of John Henry Newman's most significant legacies in Littlemore and a building of national importance. Commissioned by Newman, and built to his personal design in 1836, its original layout has served as a model for small elegant places of worship throughout the world. His struggle to get it built, in an extremely deprived area of Oxford, reveals much about Newman's compassion and sense of Christian

On becoming vicar of the highly prestigious St. Mary's University Church in Oxford in 1828, Newman discovered that its benefice included Littlemore, a tiny rural hamlet on the outskirts of the city lacking a church or school. Maybe because of his growing fame and celebrity status in the University, Newman became increasingly drawn to the simplicity of its people, mainly poor agricultural workers and tenant farmers. As well as personally funding and overseeing school lessons for local children, he

amen ames The mosting grocher 25 The Mites inuy While of Horry Raclands Jane Orderson . themorely Imith the mark 10 And MATRock with Humork of more, Tow Hartha While Smith Ben John rith selli The Marke of Atthe William Jo atilda bouth the. refo Jor m Belle Clin Saundery -Aitchonary 7 11any Causons therep Betterif show Mit Bunny de Jarah Conday a Martin Anne Hollow & m Polland " John Mastin. ic Manfin Ella Polland X iley vany + Polland & Jover

launched a campaign for a church, putting pressure on the University authorities, who proved extremely reluctant to help. In 1835 he organised a public petition for a church, which all the resident inhabitants signed, many with their 'mark' " (see extract above).



Collage below taken and prepared by Marie Laurent

Photos shown below taken by Benjamin H. Johnson III.

Message from Benjamin.....

"Saint John Henry Newman Ecumenical Service" at St Mary & St Nicholas Church Littlemore on 10 Oct 2019. It was your pilgrimage + open display of our Harvest of Talents. Truly I cannot call it other than a Service of the Word. The church and icons gave a sermon in concert with our words, songs and prayers.

The file will remain active for 60 days so please download the images you wish or complete file. Use the images in places as you feel God leads you to do.

The first two images are an introduction to my wonderful Vicar Revd Margreet Armitstead; one with Philip that greeted the group. I'm certain you have her details, but her contact information is on the visitor sheet you have. Remember at the time of the service she was in Rome for the canonisation that was a part of the celebration we held together.

Your words showed wisdom and your presence was powerful in proclaiming the Good News. Together as one people we of one Christian faith embraced Saint John Henry Newman, but more so glorified God for the gift. The gift of his life to all humanity - those in this Littlemore community that he served so diligently and others in this great nation and those in the wider global community that have grown to love and treasure him.

Regarding the images I am honoured to capture the moments that make memories there are lots of them! I pray for bonding that brings us closer together that we may know and love each other more dearly as Christ Jesus would have us do. That through that love other churches will joint us and grow with us ecumenically as one community in God's church in God's personal care. God Bless.

Benjamin





<<< Rev Margreet & Philip











from *Meditations and Devotions*, "Meditations on Christian Doctrine," "Hope in God—Creator", March 7, 1848

Saint John Henry Newman

God knows me and calls me by my name.... God has created me to do Him some definite service; He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission—I never may know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next.

Somehow I am necessary for His purposes... I have a part in this great work; I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection 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, while not intending it, if I do but keep His commandments and serve Him in my calling.

Therefore I will trust Him. Whatever, wherever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him; In perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him; If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. My sickness, or perplexity, or sorrow may be necessary causes of some great end, which is quite beyond us. He does nothing in vain; He may prolong my life, He may shorten it: He knows what He is about. He may take away my friends, He may throw me among strangers, He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide the future from mestill He knows what He is about.... Let me be Thy blind instrument. I ask not to see-I ask not to know—I ask simply to be used.