

PAST NATIONAL EVENTS 2017

75th Anniversary Year

Newman Reading Group, Saturday 28 January

The second meeting of this group was held in Birmingham with twelve Newman members present from Birmingham, Coventry, N Staffs and Rainham Circles. Their subject was a discussion of Newman's letters, using *John Henry Newman. A Portrait in Letters*, edited by Roderick Strange (OUP, 2015).

London Newman Lecture, Thursday 2 March

The 2017 London Newman Lecture was given by Frank Field MP earlier in March his topic was *From Poverty to Life Chances*. His excellent talk concerned the life chances of children and the need for intervention at a very early stage. Reception teachers all said that a child's life chances are determined pre-school and the home learning environment is crucial. He made a plea for the support of mothers, pre and after birth, and placed particular emphasis on the mental health of the mother. A short edited version of parts of his talk appeared in the May 2017 Newman Journal.

Pax Romana, 23 – 26 March

Over 30 delegates attended European Assembly in Paris in March; the programme included a day at UNESCO. A brief report of the Assembly will appear in the September 2017 Journal.

Manchester Newman Lecture, Monday 3 April

Almost 100 members and friends attended the 2017 Manchester Newman Lecture which was given by Dr Damian Howard SJ on *Christians and Muslims in Tomorrow's Europe*. Dr Howard emphasised that Muslims expect religious guidance to be found directly in the scriptures. An edited version of Dr Howard's talk appeared in the May 2017 Newman Journal.

Andante, 3-8 May

The Andante Study-Days took place in May in Durres, Albania on the theme: *What to do Against Human Trafficking? An Old Crime in a New Form*.

Newman Reading Group, Saturday 20 May

The third meeting of this group took place in May. The group continued its discussion of Newman's letters, using *John Henry Newman. A Portrait in Letters*, edited by Roderick Strange (OUP, 2015).

2017 AGM Saturday 10 June

The 2017 AGM was held at the Birmingham Oratory. At the AGM a proposal was made to update the Instruments and Articles of the Association. Council agreed to

prepare a detailed schedule of proposals for the 2018 AGM. A 75th anniversary celebration lunch followed at the adjacent Plough & Harrow Hotel which was enjoyed by all. David McLoughlin then gave an excellent talk entitled; *The challenge of Pope Francis' teaching and practice to Newman's "intelligent, well instructed laity"*. David's talk was printed in the September 2017 Newman Journal.

Newman Reading Group, Saturday 7 October

The fourth meeting of the reading group took place on Saturday 7 October. The group discussed *The Fathers of the Church* (Mike Aquilina, Our Sunday Visitor).

Pax Romana 6 – 8 October

Members from the UK, Ukraine, Poland, France, Germany, Austria, Luxemburg, The Basque Country and Catalonia attended the European Assembly of Pax Romana held at the Catholic University in Lviv, Ukraine hosted by their national association OBNOVA. The theme of the Assembly was *Human Dignity, Security and the Future of Europe: A Christian Contribution*. Speakers were asked to deliver short papers and make presentations on Human Dignity and the future of Europe, Christianity and the future of Europe and Security and the future of Europe.

It was suggested that the next meeting be held in the UK and Council plan to consider this at their April 2018 meeting

St Albans Conference, Saturday 28 October

A Newman conference in partnership with St Albans Cathedral Study Centre was held at the end of October to mark the 500th Anniversary of the events which led to the Reformation. About 100 people were present to hear four excellent speakers from different Christian traditions, chaired by Newman Vice-President Sir Anthony Holland, and ending with Evening Prayer in St Albans Cathedral. Edited versions of the talks will appear starting in the January 2018 Journal