

PAST NATIONAL EVENTS

2019

London Newman Lecture, Thursday 9 May

Melanie McDonagh spoke about Newman's letters to women. She observed that while Newman was a man of his times – in no sense a feminist – he had a great respect for women and their gifts. Perhaps because he felt them no threat to his ministry, he confided much more to women friends in his difficulties as well as giving guidance in their spiritual lives. Melanie illustrated her theme with some delightful stories. While the number attending the London lecture was disappointing it has had some immediate effect in that a group from the Hertfordshire Circle plans to study Newman's letters in more detail, using *John Henry Newman - A Portrait in Letters* edited by Roderick Strange. (A shortened version of the talk is printed in the October Newman Journal pp 3 -7)

Manchester Newman Lecture, Wednesday 15 May

An audience of about 70 attended the Manchester Newman Lecture at the Friends Meeting House in central Manchester in May. The speaker was the Reverend Dr Malcolm Guite and his topic was *Laudato Si and Samuel Taylor Coleridge - a Voyage with Coleridge and Pope Francis*. His lecture was very well received. Malcolm in an email said it was lovely speaking to "a full and enthusiastic audience". An edited version of the lecture is printed in the October journal (pp 25-32). However, an audio recording of the lecture is available on application. Contact Chris Quirke by email (dcq@mac.com)

Newman Association AGM, Saturday 9 June

The 2019 AGM was held in Gower Street, London. After the AGM Ian Jessiman outlined the benefits of becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and also explained that 'direct conversion' from a Charitable Company (as at present) to a CIO had become possible provided there was no change in the 'objects' of the Association. It was agreed we should proceed by this route. The more contentious issue of whether membership should be restricted to Catholics, or open to Christians or to all, provoked much more debate. It was suggested that the best policy was to proceed to a CIO and to leave this issue to be debated in the future. (A short account of the AGM is given in the October Newman Journal pp 22 -24)

Newman Association Conference, Saturday 13 – Sunday 14 July

In July the Newman Association Conference at the Bar Convent in York, held jointly with Living Theology, was a great success with 38 delegates. The courses given by Fr Damian Howard, the Jesuit provincial, were very well received: he is an expert on Islam and relations between Christians and Moslems. Dr George Herring's course on John Henry Newman was both timely, in view of the imminent canonisation, and most informative. We had Student Rabbi Gabriel Webber enlightening us on Jews and Judaism today, and separate talks on the Psalms (with Dr Geoffrey Turner) and Islamic Architecture in Spain (an illustrated talk with Ms Frances Smith). We enjoyed the welcome at the Bar Convent and appreciated all the facilities there, which added to the social success of the occasion.

(An edited version of Dr Herring's talk on Newman is printed in the October Newman Journal pp 7 – 9)

Newman Association Pilgrimage, Monday 2 – Monday 9 September

Twenty five members arrived in Rome on a pilgrimage to delve into the early history of Jewish and Christian life in Rome. Our base was the lovely Hotel Lancelot, near the Coliseum where we dined each evening together as a group after daily excellent guided visits to these historic sites. We had daily Mass in significant churches, including Newman's titular church, San Giorgio in Velabro where the liturgy ended with a few verses of *Praise to the Holiest*. The pilgrimage was accompanied throughout by our chaplain, Mgr Pat Kilgarriff and tour organiser, Anthony Coles, who both went the extra mile to make the trip a resounding success. Pilgrims agreed that they departed Rome after their week's pilgrimage a lot fitter than when they arrived and were both intellectually and spiritually refreshed and stimulated by the experience.

(A fuller account of the pilgrimage is contained in the October Newman Journal pp 12 – 16)

Canonisation of St John Henry Newman, Sunday 13 October

The individual Newman circles celebrated the canonization of Blessed John Henry Newman in different ways. The following list is incomplete;

Holiness in the world" A reflection on the life of John Henry Newman - David McLaughlin – **Birmingham**

Newman – A Journey to Sainthood - Revd Douglas Lamb –**Worcester**

Newman Book Club - **Herts**

A Harp of Many Chords - Rev Fr. Peter Conley – **Coventry**

Morning Prayer at the Chapel of Unity, Coventry Cathedral to celebrate the feast of Blessed John Henry Newman – **Coventry**

Mass & Lunch to celebrate the Canonization of John Henry Newman - **Herts**

Newman: a Saint for our Time? - Fr. Andrew Downie, Professor Terry Wright and Dr Sheridan Gilley – **Tyneside**

Mass in honour of the canonisation of Blessed John Henry Newman - **Eastbourne & Bexhill**

Film *John Henry Newman* – **Edinburgh**

AGM & Mass to celebrate the canonization of Blessed John Henry Newman - **Manchester & N Cheshire**

Lunch to celebrate the canonization of Blessed John Henry Newman speaker Rev Dr Canon Rod Gardiner - **N Merseyside**

Ecumenical service and reception to celebrate the Canonization of St John Henry Newman - **Ealing**

A short report on these activities together with comments from Rome appears in the January 2020 Newman Journal (pp 2 -5)