

PAST NATIONAL EVENTS 2012

70th Anniversary Year

The Newman Association was founded in May 1942 hence 2012 marked our 70th Anniversary. Council's programme included the Durham conference and the AGM in Oxford. A pilgrimage and a special issue of the Journal still to come.

Durham Conference 10th March

A Newman conference was held in Durham in March in partnership with the Centre for Catholic Studies at the University. The theme; The Uses of Scripture in Catholic Prayer, Practice and Theology was developed in a series of excellent papers by Professor Lewis Ayres, Professor Mary Mills, Archbishop Bernard Longley, Fr. Sean Maher and Fr. Nick King SJ. There were over 100 delegates and much lively discussion followed the various talks. The conference ended with Dr Richard Briggs and Sr. Dr Patricia McDonald giving their reflections on the day. Later, Archbishop Longley celebrated mass in the magnificent, if cramped, surroundings of the Norman crypt beneath Durham Castle. It is hoped that most of the papers will be published by Durham University.

London Newman Lecture 22nd March

The 2012 London Newman lecture was given by Baroness Sheila Hollins, Professor of Psychiatry of Disability at St George's University of London on the theme [Listening to Victims of Abuse](#). In her excellent talk Baroness Hollins spoke about her role in the apostolic visitation with Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor in Ireland and of the seminar on abuse at the Gregorian University in Rome. Baroness Hollins also spoke about her work over many years with victims of abuse. The subsequent question session was very stimulating. Baroness Hollins's talk can be found in the May issue of the Newman journal and on-line by clicking on the title above.



AGM 2012, 16th June

A well-attended AGM was held in Blackfriars Hall, Oxford. Father Richard Finn OP welcomed us and told us about the work of the Hall. Then there was the formal business of the AGM where the new council, which includes five members, was elected. This was followed by Mass in the chapel. About 80 members and guests enjoyed a celebration lunch at Mansfield College to celebrate the Association's 70th anniversary.

In the afternoon Fr. Peter Cornwell gave an excellent talk on [What happened to Vatican 2?](#) His talk contained some lead-up to the Council, an exposition of what he claims to be the coherent central message of the Council, 'a generous inclusive Catholicism', and then an examination of what hopes have been fulfilled and where they have been disappointed. Fr Peter's talk can be found in the 70th Anniversary Supplement issued with the September journal and on-line by clicking on the title above.



A very successful day was brought to a conclusion when we wished Happy Birthday to Father Owen Hardwicke, a member of long-standing, who was 88 on the day.

Eleventh Newman Pilgrimage 5–11 October 2012

The eleventh Newman Pilgrimage was based on Newman's Rome visiting places such as the English College, the Church of St Philip Neri and the College of Propaganda Fide. After the noise and bustle Rome we moved to the tranquillity of Assisi where we visited sites associated with the lives of St Francis and St Clare. The pilgrimage was very successful but there was a much smaller group of pilgrims than in previous years. There is a full report in the January Journal.



San Damiano, Assisi

Economics Conference 10th November 2012

It's the Economy ... but what can I do? Was the title of a Newman Association Conference held in November in Southwark. The keynote speakers were Ed West, journalist on the Catholic Herald and Daily Telegraph; Francis Davis, formerly Director of the Las Casas Institute Oxford and Government adviser and Dr Peter Davis, Leicester University School of Management. The speakers promoted much lively discussion and the day was very successful. Summaries of the papers will be published in the Journal.