

## PAST NATIONAL EVENTS

### 2014

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#### **London Newman Lecture Thursday 6 March**

The 2014 London Newman Lecture was given by **Dr. Gemma Simmonds CJ** on the theme ***Sacraments: Doing the Joined-Up Living?*** at Heythrop College. This was the second year at the College and the venue once again proved to be very comfortable and attracted a good number.

Dr Gemma Simmonds, a senior lecturer in pastoral theology at Heythrop College, University of London, explained that 'being Christians in the Catholic tradition requires us to live sacramentally, to understand that the ordinary tasks within our ordinary lives are signs that signify that life matters and that being human makes a difference'. She asked us to consider what it means to 'live' the sacraments and not just to 'receive' them. The full text of Sr Gemma's talk can be found in the May 2014 issue of *The Newman* or click on the title above.

#### **Durham Study Day on Saturday 15 March**

A joint Study Day was held at Ushaw College Durham on the theme *The Theology and Practice of Prayer in Catholic Tradition*.

Speakers included **Professors Eamon Duffy, Karen Kilby and Paul Murray, Katharine Turner and Sr Avril O'Regan RLR**. Eamon Duffy's book *The Heart of Pilgrimage: A Prayer Book for Catholic Christians* was launched at the Study Day. For a review of this book see the May 2014 journal.

#### **The 2014 National AGM Saturday 14 June**

The 2014 Annual General Meeting of the Association was held in Wimbledon on Saturday 14 June. After an excellent lunch, **Quentin de la Bedoyere** spoke on *The Natural Law and the Catholic Conscience*. His talk was so stimulating and provoked so many questions that he has produced a further paper on the subject which appears in the September 2014 Journal.

#### **Josh Furnal's Summer Tour**

The Newman Association Fellow, Dr Joshua Furnal, talked to a number of circles on the theme of Receptive Ecumenism.

**Tuesday 6 May** – Charlton Kings, Cheltenham

**Sunday 25 May** - The Crypt, St Albans Cathedral, *Ecumenism: Old Hat or New Approach?*

**Thursday 29 May** - St Andrew's Building, University of Glasgow, *Receptive Ecumenism and Catholic Learning*

**Monday 30 June** –The Bar Convent, York

**Monday 1 September** - Friends Meeting House, Manchester.

**Tuesday 2 September** - St Thomas More, Watercall Avenue, Coventry.

Brian Hamill, as a participant member of the recent Fairfield International Conference on Receptive Ecumenism, has offered to carry on Josh's role post-September. A

report on the Fairfield Conference by Josh Furnal and a reflection on the conference by Brian Hamill appear in the September 2014 Journal

### **Arts Conference Saturday 4 October**

A very successful conference entitled *Modern Visual Art - an Expression of Faith?* was held on Saturday 4 October at the Focolare Centre, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire. Organised by the Association in partnership with the St Albans Cathedral Study Centre, the day included talks by **Lord Harries of Pentregarth (formerly Bishop of Oxford), Professor Tina Beattie, Charles Pickstone and Paul Bayley.**

### **Glasgow Lecture 27 October**

**Professor Sir Tom Devine** (University of Edinburgh) gave an inspiring public lecture entitled *Scotland before the Reformation and the Origins of the Scottish Enlightenment* on 27 October 2014.

The Association co-sponsored this lecture which was well attended.

### **SE Circles Day of Recollection**

The South East Circles day of recollection was held on Saturday 29 November at Newman House, 111 Gower Street. The day was led by **Fr Hilary Crewe.**