

## CATCHING UP! SOME PAST EVENTS

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### **Association AGM Lecture 2008**

#### **Saturday 21 June, Ealing Abbey Parish Hall**

The lecture was given by John Cornwell (Director of the Science and Human Dimension Project at Jesus College Cambridge). The lecture was entitled **Richard Dawkins and the Politics of Atheism** but John decided to discard his notes and to speak freely of his own journey to faith. This approach illustrated the fact that we can argue as much as we like with Dawkins and others of his persuasion about 'science' but at the end of the day faith comes down to our personal experience of God.

### **Catholic Migrants – Opportunities and Challenges**

This *National Conference*, organised by Manchester and North Cheshire Circle at St Ambrose on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2008, was extremely successful. The speakers were Bishop Patrick O'Donoghue from Lancaster and Francis Davis from the Von Hugel Institute, Cambridge. There were workshops held in the afternoon which were very rewarding.

### **London Newman Lecture, 16th April 2008**

Paul Vallely spoke *On being an English Catholic: from minority to mainstream – and back again* at the St Albans Centre, in High Holborn. Paul spoke of his personal experience growing up as a Catholic in a Catholic community in this country and related this to the experience that Muslim communities are currently undergoing. He pointed out the similarities and suggested that Muslims in this country may be able to benefit from our experiences. This talk is printed in the May 2008 issue of *The Newman* journal.

### **Newman Pilgrimage 2007**

The eighth Newman pilgrimage (**8th to 17th October 2007**) *From Egypt to the Promised Land* was based on the Old Testament theme of the Exodus. It began in Egypt crossed the Red Sea (by boat in our case), travelled through the desert and, like Moses, saw the Promised Land from Mount Nebo. There are several photos of the trip on the Pilgrimages web page.

### **Christians, Evolution and Creation: Exploring the theological and scientific accounts**

*Conference held on 2 June 2007 at University of Hertfordshire*

Over 140 people came to the Conference, co-sponsored by the Newman Association, St Albans Centre for Christian Studies and the University of Hertfordshire Chaplaincy. Four distinguished speakers, the Revd Dr David Wilkinson from St John's College Durham, Fr Peter Hunter OP from Blackfriars Oxford, Professor Bob White FRS from Cambridge and Professor Celia Deane-Drummond from the University of Chester, gave powerful insights from their own varied scientific and philosophical disciplines, joining together in a panel session at the end, chaired by Fr David Williamson. The speakers' papers will be published in forthcoming editions of the Newman Journal.



Fr David Williamson chairs the panel session (David Wilkinson, Bob White and Celia Deane- Drummond) at the Christians, Evolution and Creation Conference in June 2007.



Left. Dr Wilkinson makes a telling point.

Right. Fr Peter Hunter OP with Dr Ian Jessiman

Photos by courtesy of Michael Vadon



### London Newman Lecture 2007

Dr Tina Beattie gave the 2007 London Newman Lecture on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at the St Albans Centre, Baldwin Gardens, High Holborn, London EC1. Dr Beattie gave an illuminating talk on *The Catholic Church and Human Rights*, showing early development of human rights concepts from biblical origins through medieval philosophical reinforcement, to its re-basis in enlightenment thought, and contrasting modern philosophical approaches. The lecture is printed in the May 2007 issue of *The Newman* journal.



Dr Tina Beattie with Dr Ian Jessiman (2006-7 President) at the 2007 London lecture

### Spirituality, the Church, the Future

Conference held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2006 at Wrexham

Speakers

Dr Mandy Robbins (University of Wales- Bangor)

Matthew Curtis (former parliamentary intern, Catholic Bishops Conference)

Fr Chris McCoy (coordinator of University Catholic chaplains)

Bishop Edwin Regan (Bishop of Wrexham)

The papers have now been published in *The Newman* Journal