

St Thomas, Fifth Avenue, New York

Sunday 13th October 2024

Newman: Doctor of the Church?

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Introduction

In Sunday 13th October 2019, five years ago, John Henry Newman was canonized at a wonderful celebration at St Peter's in Rome. His feast day is October 9th. Newman had been the Vicar of the University Church in Oxford from 1828 – 1843. From the summer of 1833, he had become one of the leaders of the Oxford Movement, animating the Catholic Revival of the Church of England. On October 9th 1845, he became a Roman Catholic. This shocked his friends and electrified the public. In this session, we will explore Newman's ministry as both an Anglican and a Roman Catholic. We will explore why he came to be beatified, then canonized, and why there are current moves to have him declared as 'a doctor of the church'. What does this mean for Roman Catholics? As we mark the 200th anniversary of the beginning of his public ministry, what does this mean for Anglicans and Episcopalians?

Key Dates

1801	Newman born in London
1817	Newman goes up to Oxford: undergraduate at Trinity College, Oxford
1822	Elected to Fellowship at Oriel College, Oxford
1824	Ordained Deacon in Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford: curate of St Clement's
1825	Ordained Priest in Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford
1828	Appointed Vicar of the University Church of St Mary the Virgin, Oxford
1833	July 14 th – John Keble's Assize Sermon: Tracts for the Times
1833	Publication of <i>Arians of the Fourth Century</i>
1834	Publication of <i>Parochial and Plain Sermons</i>
1837	Publication of <i>On the Prophetical Office of the Church</i>
1838	Publication of <i>Lectures on Justification</i>
1841	Tract XC
1843	Publication of <i>University Sermons</i>
1843	Newman resigns as Vicar of St Mary's. Withdraws to Littlemore.
1845	Publication of <i>The Development of Christian Doctrine</i>
1845	Newman received into the Roman Catholic Church. Resigns Fellowship of Oriel
1847	Ordained Roman Catholic priest: establishes Birmingham Oratory
1851	Appointed Rector of Catholic University of Ireland: <i>Idea of a University</i> (1852)
1859	Article in <i>The Rambler</i> 'On Consulting the Faithful in Matters of Doctrine'
1864	Publication of <i>Apologia Pro Vita Sua</i>
1865	Publication of <i>Dream of Gerontius</i>
1870	Publication of <i>The Grammar of Assent</i>
1875	Publication of <i>Letter to the Duke of Norfolk</i>
1879	Appointed Cardinal by Leo XIII
1890	August 11 th : death of Cardinal Newman
2010	Newman beatified by Pope Benedict XVI
2019	Newman canonized by Pope Francis

1 On Conscience

'Certainly, if I am obliged to bring religion into after-dinner toasts, (which indeed does not seem quite the thing) I shall drink—to the Pope, if you please,—still, to Conscience first, and to the Pope afterwards.'

2 On Consulting the Faithful

'...the voice of tradition may in certain cases express itself, not by Councils, nor Fathers, nor Bishops, but the "communis fidelium sensus".'

3 On the Development of Doctrine

'a germination and maturation of some truth or apparent truth'

4 On Higher Education

'A university training is the great ordinary means to a great but ordinary end; it aims at raising the intellectual tone of society...It is the education which gives a man a clear conscious view of his own opinions and judgments, a truth in developing them, an eloquence in expressing them and a force in urging them.'