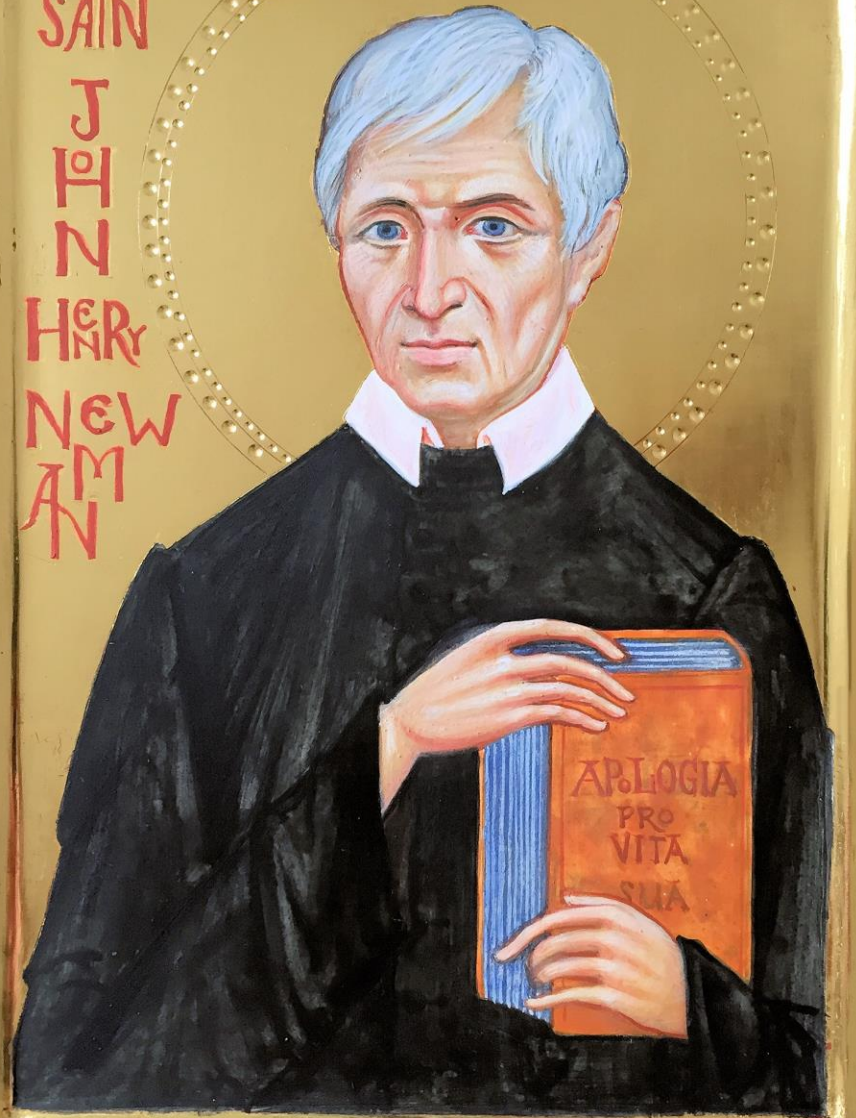


“Lead, Kindly Light”

Saint John Henry Newman,
an old Victorian Titan,
a new Doctor of the Church,
and a forerunner of Vatican II.

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King Charles III visits Birmingham Oratory

Ruth Gledhill / 03 September 2025, The Tablet / [Prev](#) / [Next](#)



King Charles III and Reverend Ignatius Harrison talk with the Fathers of the

3
September
2025

King at Duchess of Kent's funeral but ill Queen did not attend

5 days ago

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Sean Coughlan Royal correspondent



Meditations of trust in God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W66pfJSWE7A>

St John Henry Newman set to become newest Doctor of the Church

Pope Leo paves the way for St John Henry Newman to be formally declared a “Doctor of the Church”.

By Alessandro De Carolis

One of the great modern thinkers of Christianity, a key figure in a spiritual and human journey that left a profound mark on the Church and 19th-century ecumenism, and the author of writings that show how living the faith is a daily “heart-to-heart” dialogue with Christ. A life spent with energy and passion for the Gospel—culminating in his canonization in 2019—that will soon lead to the English cardinal John Henry Newman being proclaimed a Doctor of the Church.

**31
July
2025,
12:08
(Local
time)**

Some Biographical notes (1)

21 February 1801 – Born in London.

14 December 1816 – Entered Trinity College, Oxford.

13 June 1824 – Ordained deacon in the Church of England.

2 February 1828 – Became Vicar of the University Church of St Mary the Virgin, Oxford.

14 July 1833 – Beginning of the Oxford Movement (Assize Sermon by Keble).

9 September 1833 – Published the first of the “Tracts for the Times.”

9 October 1845 – Received into the Roman Catholic Church by Blessed Dominic Barberi.

30 May 1847 – Ordained Catholic priest in Rome.

12 May 1879 – Created Cardinal by Pope Leo XIII.

11 August 1890 – Died in Birmingham.

Some Biographical notes (2)

1908 – Exhumation of Newman's grave; his remains were moved to a new tomb at the Birmingham Oratory.

19 September 2010 – Beatified by Pope Benedict XVI at Cofton Park, Birmingham.

13 October 2019 – Canonized as a saint by Pope Francis in St. Peter's Square, Vatican City.

9 October – His liturgical feast day is celebrated in the Catholic Church (established after his canonization).

31 July 2025 – Proclaimed Doctor of the Church by Pope Leo XIV (announcement and formal decree).



What is a Doctor of the Church?

- A 'Doctor of the Church' is a man or woman of great holiness and learning whose teaching and wisdom not only resonated with their own contemporaries, but still illuminates, instructs and inspires today
- Declared by the Pope
- We have 25 Doctors of the Church.



Others include: Saint Augustine, Saint Thomas Aquinas, Saint John of the Cross, Saint Jerome, Saint Robert Bellarmine, Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, etc.



Newman on the Development of Doctrine

- **Organic Growth:** Doctrine develops like a living idea, deepening over time without losing its original essence.
- **Continuity:** Authentic development preserves the core truths and principles of the apostolic faith.
- **Clarification:** Development brings greater clarity and understanding, not contradiction or reversal.
- **Criteria for Authenticity:** Newman outlined tests (such as continuity, preservation, and harmony) to distinguish true development from corruption.
- **Historical Examples:** He used doctrines like the Trinity and Marian dogmas to show how teachings can unfold while remaining faithful to Christian revelation.

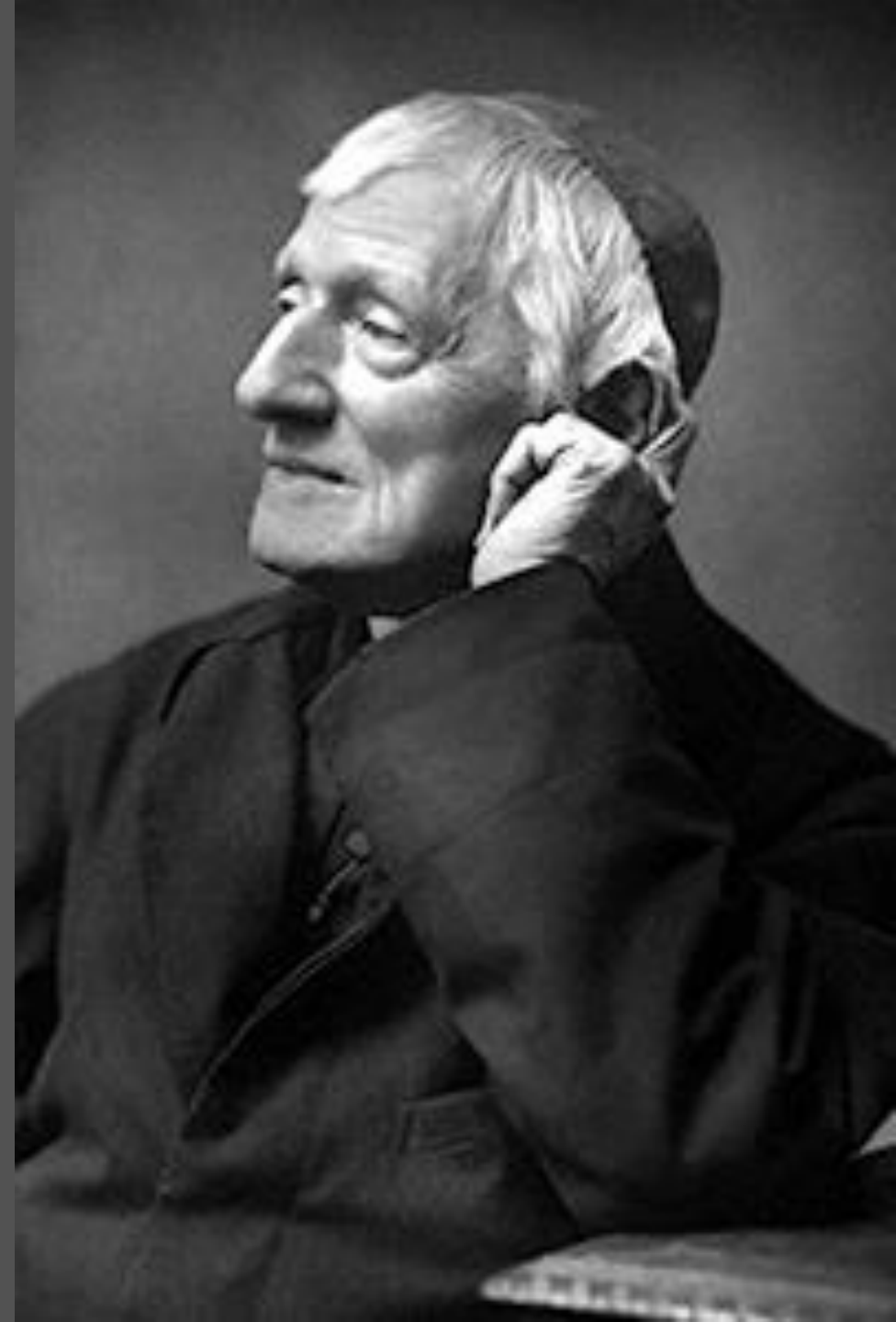
Newman and the understanding of the Human mind

- **Faith involves the whole person:** Newman saw faith as engaging reason, conscience, and will—not just emotion or blind trust.
- **Reason seeks truth:** The human mind naturally searches for truth and can recognize the credibility of religious claims.
- **Illative sense:** Newman introduced this concept to describe the mind's ability to make personal judgments and assent to faith based on converging evidence.
- **Faith is reasonable:** While faith goes beyond strict proof, it is not irrational; it harmonizes reason and trust in God's revelation.
- **Personal commitment:** Faith is a free, personal response to God's invitation, requiring openness to truth and a willingness to believe.



Newman on Biological Evolution

- **Open to Development:** Newman believed in the possibility of development in both doctrine and nature.
- **God's Providence:** He saw God as able to work through natural processes, including evolution, to achieve creation.
- **No Conflict with Faith:** Newman argued that scientific discoveries, like evolution, do not contradict faith, as "truth cannot contradict truth."
- **Gradual Change Accepted:** He accepted the idea of gradual change and adaptation in the natural world, as long as God's creative purpose is recognized.
- **Compatibility:** Newman viewed evolutionary theory as potentially compatible with Christian belief, provided it acknowledges God as Creator.



Lead, Kindly light

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZYbs0Vi1W_Y&list=RDZYbs0Vi1W_Y&start_radio=1