

## Reflection Friday Week 27 St John Henry Newman 2020

Saint John Henry Newman was born on 21<sup>st</sup> February 1801 in London. As an Anglican clergyman for over 20 years he won renown as a preacher and theologian. A Fellow of Oriel College, Oxford, he became one of the leaders of the Oxford Movement and a prominent figure in the Church of England. On 9<sup>th</sup> October 1845 he was received into full communion with the Catholic Church by Blessed Dominic Barberi, a Passionist. After a period of study in Rome he was ordained priest on 30<sup>th</sup> May 1847. Returning to England he established the Oratory of Saint Philip Neri in Birmingham. He was an influential writer, most notably on the development of Christian doctrine, the true understanding of conscience, faith and reason, the role of the laity, and university education. In 1879 he was created Cardinal by Pope Leo XIII and given the title of San Giorgio in Velabro. He died in the Birmingham Oratory on 11<sup>th</sup> August 1890. He was beatified by Pope Benedict XVI on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2010 and canonised by Pope Francis on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

Be inspired by his wisdom:

- To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often.
- God has created me to do him some definite service; He has committed some work to me which he has not committed to another. I have my mission; I never may know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I have a part in a great work; I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good, I shall do His work; I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it, if I do but keep His commandments and serve Him in my calling.
- Dear Lord...shine through me, and be so in me that every soul I come in contact with may feel Your presence in my soul...Let me thus praise You in the way You love best, by shining on those around me.
- I sought to hear the voice of God and climbed the topmost steeple, but God declared: "Go down again - I dwell among the people.
- I will trust Him. Whatever, wherever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him; in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him; if I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. My sickness, or perplexity, or sorrow may be necessary causes of some great end, which is quite beyond us. He does nothing in vain.

**Just a thought . . .**

**How would you write "I changed a light bulb" on your resume?**

I single-handedly managed the successful upgrade and deployment of a new environmental illumination system with zero cost overruns and zero safety incidents.