



**The Friends of The College  
at Newman's Littlemore**

c/o The Society of The Work  
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Reg. Charity No. 802099

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022

On this Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord we send you our regards and best wishes. It was on the eve of this Feast, which was much loved by St John Henry Newman, that he and his first Oratorian brothers made their vows in the chapel of Maryvale (Old Oscott) in 1848, and so started The Oratory in England.

In 1849 he wrote the following hymn for Candlemas, as the Feast was called then:

The Angel-lights of Christmas morn,  
Which shot across the sky,  
Away they pass at Candlemas,  
They sparkle and they die.

Comfort of earth is brief at best,  
Although it be divine;  
Like funeral lights for Christmas gone,  
Old Simeon's tapers shine.

And then for eight long weeks and more,  
We wait in twilight grey,  
Till the high candle sheds a beam  
On Holy Saturday.

We wait along the penance-tide  
Of solemn fast and prayer;  
While song is hush'd, and lights grow dim  
In the sin-laden air.

And while the sword in Mary's soul  
Is driven home, we hide  
In our own hearts, and count the wounds  
Of passion and of pride.

And still, though Candlemas be spent  
And Alleluias o'er,  
Mary is music in our need,  
And Jesus light in store.

(Verses on Various Occasions, p. 279 f.)

Not all the words of this hymn are fitting for us today, as they were written at a time when the preparations for Lent followed immediately after Candlemas, but it remains meaningful.

As we think today of the moment when Jesus was presented in the temple by Mary and Joseph, we think of Jesus as the light of our lives. We pray for you that your faith in the Lord may enlighten your paths day by day, also amidst the many challenges which we are facing as a society and in the Church. We thank you for the support you give us so that we can continue to live our consecrated life here at The College, striving to be witnesses of God's light and life.



It was particularly a joy for us that we were able to hold the 40 Hours Devotion from **12<sup>th</sup>**

to **14<sup>th</sup> February 2021**. Due to Covid restrictions we could invite only the parishioners of Bl. Dominic Barberi, Littlemore; only one person or household could be in the Newman chapel at a time. We were happy that many parishioners were ready to watch with the Lord for half an hour or more and many said that they felt privileged to be alone in adoration before the Lord in the chapel.

It was not possible to have a **May Devotion** with a procession, but on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021 we were able to pray the rosary with the parish community in the church of Bl. Dominic Barberi and to have Benediction at the end of the service.



This year's Garden Party had to be cancelled once again because of Covid restrictions, however thankfully the **Newman Night Walk** could take place on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021. A very good number of people participated, young adults were especially well represented. We were pleased that His Grace Leo Cushley, Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh, came all the way from Scotland to make the Walk, preside at the Holy Hour and address some words to us after the procession arrived at the library.



Looking back on 2021, there is much for which we are grateful, as we again experienced in countless ways God's providence; only he knows all that he has worked through the intercession of St John Henry Newman, his life and witness and our mission at The College.

In 2022 our Spiritual Family The Work commemorates the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Mother Julia Verhaeghe, our foundress, and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Fr Cyriel Hillewaere, the first priest of The Work. We will thank God for their lives during the parish Masses at Bl. Dominic Barberi Church, Littlemore, on Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> September. Further details will be sent to you in due course.

Please, find enclosed the list of our usual annual events in 2022. We will be delighted to see you at some of these.

Be assured of our prayers, which are the primary expression of our gratitude towards you. Your intentions as well as the souls of all the deceased Friends of The College are remembered monthly in a mass in Newman's chapel. May God continue to bless and keep you!

With regards from The Spiritual Family The Work at Littlemore,

Sr. Mary - Birgit

Sr. Ingrid