

NOVENA TO OBTAIN FAVOURS  
THROUGH THE INTERCESSION OF

**ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN**

## **ST JOHN HENRY CARDINAL NEWMAN** **(1801–90)**

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John Henry Newman was born on 21st February 1801, in London, and baptised in the Church of England. He attended Great Ealing School, where in the autumn of 1816, he experienced a profound conversion to Faith.

In 1817 he went up to Trinity College, Oxford. It was at Oxford, “led on by God’s hand”, that as a Fellow of Oriel College, Vicar of the University Church of St Mary’s, and a leading member of the Oxford Movement, he realised the importance of a revealed religion, taught by Christ Himself and preserved and handed on through the Church. His preaching and way of life had a profound effect on the Church of England.

Through his study of the writings of the early Fathers of the Church, he came to believe that the Roman Catholic Church was the “One Fold of Christ”. He was received into the Church on 9th October 1845 by Fr. Dominic Barberi at Littlemore, Oxford. Newman suffered much opposition and misunderstanding in

the Catholic Church but was eventually vindicated when he was made a cardinal by Pope Leo XIII in 1879.

His great interest was always to bring people to the fullness of faith in Christ and sustain them in it. He brought the Congregation of The Oratory of St Philip Neri to England in 1848. Its first parish was in Alcester Street, Birmingham, and moved to Edgbaston in 1852. Newman was the founding Rector of the Catholic University in Ireland (1854–58) and in 1859 established the Oratory School.

He wrote countless letters and books. His theological writings, especially on the development of doctrine and on conscience, have had a wide influence. He died in Birmingham on 11th August 1890 and was buried in the Oratory graveyard at Rednal, Birmingham.

Newman was beatified by Pope Benedict XVI on 19th September 2010 in Birmingham and canonized by Pope Francis on 13th October 2019 in Rome.

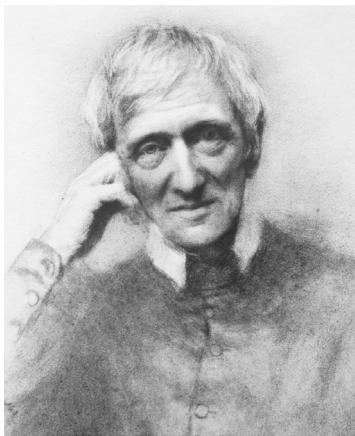
The title of Doctor of the Church was conferred on St John Henry Newman by Pope Leo XIV on 1st November 2025.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE NOVENA

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Below are meditations for the nine days, taken from the writings of St John Henry Newman, to help you make a Novena of prayer through his intercession.

During the nine days it is suggested that you read and reflect on the extract for the day, pray one Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, and conclude with the Novena Prayer on the back page.



*St John Henry Newman 1874. Original sketch by Lady Coleridge.*

## **FIRST DAY**

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### **THE WORLD OF FAITH CHRISTIANITY IS CHRIST**

This is what it is to be one of Christ's little ones... to be possessed by His presence as our life, our strength, our merit, our hope, our crown; to become in a wonderful way His members, the instruments, or visible form, or sacramental sign, of the One Invisible Ever-Present Son of God, mystically reiterating in each of us all the acts of His earthly life, His birth, consecration, fasting, temptation, conflicts, victories, sufferings, agony, passion, death, resurrection, and ascension; He being all in all, we, with as little power in ourselves, as little excellence or merit, as the water in Baptism, or the bread and wine in Holy Communion; yet strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

### **PRAYERS**

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be, and the  
Novena Prayer on the back page.

## **SECOND DAY**

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### **GOD THE INCOMPREHENSIBLE MADE MANIFEST IN CHRIST**

When we confess God as Omnipotent only, we have gained but a half-knowledge of Him: His is an Omnipotence which can at the same time swathe Itself in infirmity and can become the captive of Its own creatures. He has, if I may so speak, the incomprehensible power of even making Himself weak. We must know Him by His names, Emmanuel and Jesus, to know Him perfectly.

#### **PRAYERS**

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be, and the  
Novena Prayer on the back page.

## THIRD DAY

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### GOD OUR ONLY GUIDE

I believe, O my Saviour, that You know just what is best for me. I believe that You love me better than I love myself, that You are all-wise in Your Providence, and all-powerful in Your protection. I am as ignorant as Peter was what is to happen to me in time to come; but I resign myself entirely to my ignorance, and thank You with all my heart that You have taken me out of my own keeping, and, instead of putting such a serious charge upon me, have bidden me put myself into Your hands. I can ask nothing better than this, to be Your care, not my own.

### PRAYERS

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be, and the  
Novena Prayer on the back page.

## **FOURTH DAY**

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### **THE CHRISTIAN: A MAN IN LOVE WITH GOD, LONGING FOR HIM**

We must not only have faith in Him, but must wait on Him; not only must hope, but must watch for Him; not only love Him, but must long for Him; not only obey Him, but must look out, look up earnestly for our reward, which is Himself.

### **PRAYERS**

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be, and the  
Novena Prayer on the back page.



## **FIFTH DAY**

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### **GOD ALONE**

To have a virgin soul is to love nothing on earth in comparison of God, or except for His sake. That soul is virginal which is ever looking for its Beloved who is in heaven, and which sees Him in whatever is lovely upon earth, loving earthly friends very dearly, but in their proper place, as His gifts, and His representatives, but loving Jesus alone with sovereign affection, and bearing to lose all, so that she may keep Him.

### **PRAYERS**

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be, and the  
Novena Prayer on the back page.

## **SIXTH DAY**

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### **THE CHRISTIAN: ACTIVE AND CONTEMPLATIVE**

The while that we are still on earth, and our duties in this world, let us never forget that, while our love must be silent, our faith must be vigorous and lively. Let us never forget that in proportion as our love is “rooted and grounded” in the next world, our faith must branch forth like a fruitful tree into this. The calmer our hearts, the more active be our lives; the more tranquil we are, the more busy; the more resigned, the more zealous; the more unruffled, the more fervent.

### **PRAYERS**

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be, and the  
Novena Prayer on the back page.

## **SEVENTH DAY**

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### **IN CHRIST THE SHATTERED WORLD IS RECONCILED AND RENEWED**

Christ came... to gather together in one all the elements of good dispersed throughout the world, to make them His own, to illuminate them with Himself, to reform and refashion them into Himself. He came to make a new and better beginning of all things than Adam had been, and to be a fountain-head from which all good henceforth might flow.

#### **PRAYERS**

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be, and the  
Novena Prayer on the back page.

## **EIGHTH DAY**

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### **THE CHRISTIAN RESPONSE: BLIND OBEDIENCE TO AN ALL-WISE AND ALL-MERCIFUL GOD**

It was a lesson continually set before the Israelites that they were never to presume to act of themselves, but to wait till God wrought for them, to look on reverently, and then follow His guidance. God was their All-wise King: it was their duty to have no will of their own, distinct from His will, to form no plan of their own, to attempt no work of their own. “Be still, and know that I am God.” Move not, speak not—look to the pillar of the cloud, see how it moves—then follow. Such was the command.

#### **PRAYERS**

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be, and the  
Novena Prayer on the back page.

## **NINTH DAY**

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### **THE POWER OF HIS MOTHER'S PRAYER**

This is why the Blessed Virgin is called Powerful—nay, sometimes, All-powerful, because she has, more than anyone else, more than all Angels and Saints, this great, prevailing gift of prayer. No one has access to the Almighty as His Mother has; none has merit such as hers. Her Son will deny her nothing that she asks; and herein lies her power. While she defends the Church, neither height nor depth, neither men nor evil spirits, neither great monarchs, nor craft of man, nor popular violence, can avail to harm us; for human life is short, but Mary reigns above, a Queen for ever.

#### **PRAYERS**

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be, and the Novena Prayer on the back page.

## LEAD KINDLY LIGHT

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Lead, Kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom

Lead Thou me on!

The night is dark, and I am far from home—

Lead Thou me on!

Keep Thou my feet; I do not ask to see

The distant scene—one step enough for me.

I was not ever thus, nor pray'd that Thou

Shouldst lead me on.

I loved to choose and see my path, but now

Lead Thou me on!

I loved the garish day, and, spite of fears,

Pride ruled my will: remember not past years.

So long Thy power hath blest me, sure it still

Will lead me on,

O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till

The night is gone;

And with the morn those angel faces smile

Which I have loved long since, and lost awhile.

## GOD HAS CREATED ME

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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. Somehow I am necessary for His purposes, as necessary in my place as an Archangel in his.... Yet I have a part in this 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.

## NOVENA PRAYER

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God our Father, You granted to Your servant Saint John Henry Newman wonderful gifts of nature and of grace, that he should be a spiritual light in the darkness of this world, an eloquent herald of the Gospel, and a devoted servant of the Church.

With confidence in his heavenly intercession, we make the following petition: [*here make your petition*].

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



**International Centre of Newman Friends**

**[www.newmanfriendsinternational.org](http://www.newmanfriendsinternational.org)**

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