



# The Vine

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August 2019  
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Northampton Diocesan News

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**Newman  
a Saint**

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**Walsingham  
pilgrims**

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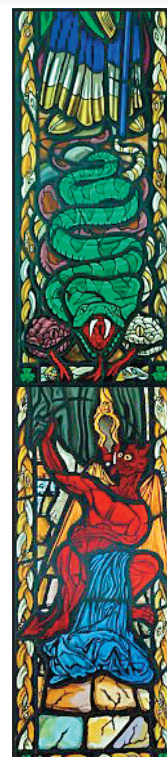


**New  
deacon  
ordained**

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**Walsingham 2019  
The pilgrim walk**



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# News beyond Northampton

## Birmingham

The Fathers of the Birmingham Oratory are delighted to announce that Pope Francis will canonise Blessed John Henry Newman in St Peter's Square on Sunday 13 October 2019 alongside 4 others. This will make Cardinal Newman the first English person who has lived since the 17th century officially recognised as a saint by the Roman Catholic Church.

John Henry Newman (1801-1890) was ordained as a Church of England priest and soon became the leader of the Oxford Movement but converted to Catholicism in 1845. He founded the Oratory in England and was later made a cardinal. When he died at the age of 89, more than 15,000 people lined the streets of Birmingham for his funeral.

Cardinal Newman is widely considered to be one of the most significant figures of the 19th century.

The cause for his sainthood was opened in 1958 and he was declared Venerable by Pope Saint John Paul II in 1991 after his life of 'heroic virtue' was recognised. Pope Benedict XVI declared him Blessed in Cofton Park near Birmingham in September 2010, as part of his historic visit to Britain.

The canonisation was made possible by a



second miracle attributed to the intercession of Blessed John Henry Newman, consisting in the medically inexplicable healing of a pregnant woman with life-threatening complications due to her pregnancy. The cure took place in Chicago, USA, in May 2013. After an initial investigation carried out by the archdiocese of Chicago, it was submitted to the Holy See in 2018, and approved by Pope Francis on 13 February 2019.

During the ceremony for his beatification in 2010, Pope Benedict said that Newman "tells us that our divine Master has assigned a specific task to each one of us, a 'definite service', committed uniquely to every single person."

"The definite service to which Blessed John Henry was called," said the Pope, "involved

## Rome

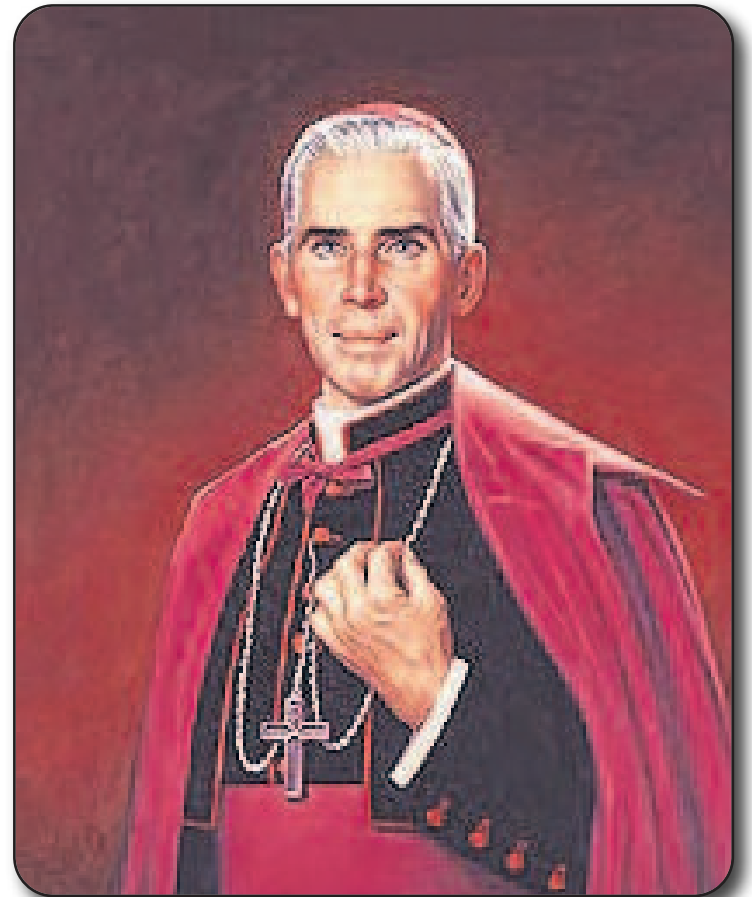
Pope Francis approved the miracle attributed to Archbishop Fulton Sheen, making possible the American television catechist's beatification.

The Vatican Congregation for the Causes of Saints promulgated the decree approving Sheen's miracle on July 6.

The miracle involves the unexplained recovery of James Fulton Engstrom, a boy born apparently stillborn in September 2010 to Bonnie and Travis Engstrom of the Peoria-area town of Goodfield. He showed no signs of life as medical professionals tried to revive him. The child's mother and father prayed to Archbishop Sheen to heal their son.

A seven-member panel of medical experts advising the Vatican Congregation for the Causes of Saints gave unanimous approval of the miracle attributed to the famous television personality and evangelist in March 2014.

Archbishop Sheen was a beloved television catechist during the 1950s and 60s in the



United States. His Emmy-award winning television show "Life is Worth Living" reached an audience of millions.

Sheen was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Peoria, Illinois at the age of 24, and was appointed auxiliary bishop of New York in 1951, where he remained until his appointment as Bishop of Rochester, New York in 1966. He retired in 1969 and moved back to New York City until his death in 1979.

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Ministers of Religion

**FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN**

And a great sign appeared in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon was under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars. Apocalypse 12, v 1

You are invited to a **Rosary procession/gathering (11th Anniversary)** to honour the **Immaculate Heart of Mary** **Thursday 15th August 2019 at the Angelus time of 6pm**

Meeting outside  
Christ the Cornerstone church  
300 Saxon Gate West  
Central Milton Keynes MK9 2ES

The above image depicts Our Lady Queen of the Home Help of Christians.

Let him who has eyes to see, and let him who has faith believe. I am the Mediatrix. This is the meaning of the image.

**For more information please phone Monica on 07401 366 330**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world, now and forever.

**Say six times a day for nine days.**

**FEAST OF THE QUEENSHIP OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN**

Thou art the glory of Jerusalem the honour of our people... The hand of the Lord has strengthened thee, and therefore thou shalt be blessed forever. Judith 15, v 9-11

The above image depicts our Lady Queen of Knock.

You are invited to a Rosary **gathering/procession to honour our victorious Queen of the World** **Thursday 22nd August 2019, at the Angelus time of 6pm**

Meeting outside  
Christ the Cornerstone church  
300 Saxon Gate West  
Central Milton Keynes MK9 2ES

**And the Lamb will conquer and the woman clothed in the sun will shine her light on everyone**

**For more information please phone Monica on 07401 366 330**

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Send news reports, photos and other material to the editor, Fr. Paul Hardy, St. Edward's, Burchard Crescent, Shenley Church End, Milton Keynes MK5 6DX (vine01@btopenworld.com).

We promise to print your news as soon as we can find space for it. Material should be emailed whenever possible. If this cannot be done for digital pictures they should be sent to us on disc. Send photographs in jpg format, as separate attachments, and not embedded in Word documents. Urgent and dated items should reach us by the first Sunday of the month before publication.

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Parental permission must be sought before photographs of children are sent for publication. While we accept unsolicited feature articles, we reserve the right to edit the text or not to publish. Letters for publication must include a name and address, which will be omitted on request.

The content of each issue is decided by the editor.

Views expressed in The Vine are not necessarily those of the editor or of the diocese. The publisher of The Vine deals with all advertising. To place an advert ring 01440-730399. For difficulties with distribution contact the editor.

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# Happy birthday

St Paul's school, Milton Keynes has had a big day. On Monday 1st July to mark the 30th anniversary of the school. The Mass (we actually had two on that morning) was conducted by Bishop Peter and was attended by all students and staff at St. Paul's. Also celebrating Mass were Mgr Kevin McGinnell, Fr Francis Higgins, Fr James Cassidy, Fr Pius Amoako and Fr Brendan Seery. Music was provided by St. Paul's choir and band and Bishop Peter was very impressed by the quality of the music. Other special guests included former Headteacher of St. Paul's Catholic School, Michael Manley, the Headteachers of Milton Keynes Catholic Primary Schools and St. Paul's Governors.



*Below: Bishop Peter with Head, Jo-Anne Hoarty, and former Head, Michael Manley.*



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# Image of Our Lady of Guadaloupe visits Slough



*Above: babies born after fervent prayer at the image*





# Luton's cash in hand



Holy Ghost parishioners got their glad rags on for a glamorous evening to raise money for the church and parish centre at their May Ball on Saturday 11th May.

Attendees enjoyed a wonderful meal, danced the night away and raised more than £430 for parish concerns, thanks to some amazing raffle prizes - including a holiday!



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## Congratulations

Congratulations to our newly ordained deacons Andrew Coy, on the left, a student at the Venerable English college, Rome, was ordained by Archbishop Charles Scicluna of Malta. On the right is Albert Lawes of Plymouth.

*Lord,  
 You renew the Church in every age by  
 raising up priests outstanding in  
 holiness, living witnesses of Your  
 unchanging love.*

*In Your plan of salvation You provide  
 shepherds for Your people.*

*Fill the hearts of young men with the  
 spirit of courage and love that they  
 may answer Your call generously.*

*Give parents, families, friends and  
 communities the grace to encourage  
 vocations by prayer and good  
 example.*

*Raise up worthy priests for Your altars  
 and ardent but gentle servants of the  
 Gospel.*



# Southwark bound



The Holy See has announced that Pope Francis has appointed Bishop John Wilson as Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Southwark.

Archbishop-elect Wilson succeeds The Most Reverend Peter Smith, who has been Archbishop of Southwark since 2010. Archbishop-elect Wilson, Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster since 2015 and previously a priest in the Diocese of Leeds, will be the 11th Archbishop of Southwark and his Episcopal Installation will be celebrated in St George's Cathedral, Southwark, on 25 July.

Archbishop Elect John Wilson was born on 4 July 1968 in Sheffield. He studied for a Bachelor of Arts degree in theology and religious studies at the University of Leeds and began formation for the priesthood for the Diocese of Leeds at the Venerable English College, Rome in 1989. During his seminary training he completed a Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University and a Licence in Moral Theology at the Accademia Alfonsiana. He was ordained a deacon on 13 July 1994 by Bishop Cyril Restieux.

He was ordained to the priesthood on 29 July 1995 by Bishop David Konstant. He was appointed Assistant Priest at St Joseph's, Pontefract in 1995, as well as hospital, hospice and school chaplain. He was appointed Assistant Priest at St Joseph's, Bradford in 1998, and also served as a school chaplain.

In 1999, he was appointed Lecturer in moral theology at St Cuthbert's Seminary, Ushaw College, Durham. He also completed a PhD at Durham University and latterly served as Vice Rector. In 2005, he was appointed Episcopal Vicar for Evangelisation in the Diocese of Leeds, a role he held until 2012.

On 24 November 2015 he was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster and Titular Bishop of Lindisfarne by Pope Francis. He was ordained to the episcopate by Cardinal Vincent Nichols on the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul, 25 January 2016. He had pastoral care of the deaneries in the western area of the diocese. He was also Chair of the Education Commission and had oversight of ecumenical work and inter-religious dialogue at diocesan level. He was also responsible for Liturgy, Art and Architecture, as well as the Historic Churches Commission.

On 10 June 2019 he was appointed Archbishop of Southwark by Pope Francis on the retirement of Archbishop Peter Smith. His installation will take place in St George's Cathedral, Southwark, on 25 July 2019, the Feast of St James the Apostle.



# New waves hit South Bucks

A wave of joy and energy swept through South Bucks in June, as the parishes of St Columba's in Chesham and Immaculate Heart of Mary in Great Missenden welcomed an exchange group from Ecuador.

The group visited from the Archdiocese of PortoViejo in Ecuador at the invitation of the Parish Priest, Fr Alessandro Renò. Led by their own priest, Fr Giovanni Mera, the group are staying with host families from

both parishes. Whilst in England they are helping to build a shrine to Our Lady at St Columba's and ministering in the local primary schools as well as visiting the charity 'Work Aid'.

Fr Alessandro was delighted by their visit saying "They bring joy and hope. This joy pushes away any discouragement we may feel, and the hope keeps us strong in our faith. We have been blessed". The joy was

evident at a Mass and BBQ hosted by St Joseph's parish in Gerrards Cross. During the evening there was joy filled conversation and even some impressive dancing!

Last year 35 parishioners from both parishes visited Ecuador helping to build wooden kit houses after earthquake damage had destroyed many homes. The parishes had raised £30,000 to make this return mission possible, a tremendous achievement.



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# Seeing the seaside ceiling

The St. Vincent de Paul conference at St. Teresa's Beaconsfield arranged an outing to Worthing for the attendees of their Tuesday Coffee & Company mornings. 41 went by coach to enjoy a lovely sunny day on 11th June. After lunch the coach took them to the English Martyrs Church in Goring-on-Sea. This church is famous for its replica of the Sistine Chapel ceiling which one of their parishioners Gary Bevans took five and a half years to paint. A talk was given on the history of the church and other work Gary had painted. This was followed by Mass celebrated by Mgr. Sean Healy from St. Teresa's.





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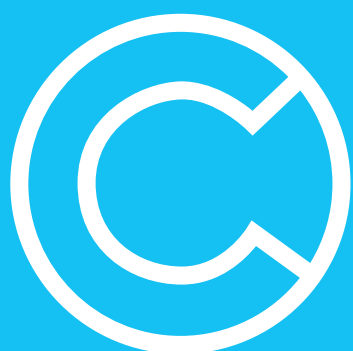
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# Faith in action

Year 10 students representing schools across the Northampton Diocese gathered with Bishop Peter at St. Paul's Catholic School for the third annual Schools' Faith in Action Day.

The day, organised by St. Paul's and Columbans, gave 45 students the opportunity to 'welcome the stranger', challenge injustice and make a difference to the lives of refugees and asylum seekers. In the morning pupils attended workshops from Columbans, CAFOD, St Chads and Pax Christi to learn about some of the issues that affect refugees. They were also able to hear the stories of two refugees and ask them questions about why they had to leave their countries and what life was like in England.

In the afternoon pupils from St. Paul's, St. Thomas More and St. Thomas Becket spent time undertaking practical tasks such as writing to MPs, creating signs for protest banners and other activities which helped them to really put their faith into action!

A St. Paul's student said 'I felt like it was a great, fun experience and it was amazing to actually speak to people who are dealing with these issues.'

Shaneen Digby, RE teacher at St. Paul's, said: "It was fantastic to see so many young people from across the diocese coming together to share their faith and to learn from one another."



## Scripture notes:

*Fr Jeremy Corley*

The challenging Sunday gospels for August shake us out of our complacency. On the 18th Sunday of the Year (4th August) our first reading from Ecclesiastes reminds us of the vanity of our earthly wealth. However much money we have saved during our lives, we will have to leave it behind when we die. As the saying goes, "You can't take it with you."

We see the same point in Jesus' parable of the Rich Fool. After filling his barns with piles of crops from a bumper harvest, he says to himself: "Take things easy, eat and drink—have a good time!" But God intervenes: "This very night the demand will be made for your soul." What use are all these possessions now? Instead of storing up riches for ourselves on earth, maybe we can think about becoming rich in God's eyes.

All of us will face the end-time judgment when we come before God. But there is another ecological judgment that our planet is now facing. Many of us continue to burn fossil fuels like there is no tomorrow. We may often think we are prosperous and everything will be OK. But perhaps climate change is giving us a wakeup call. Drought or flooding, heatwave or storms—maybe we will not be able to enjoy all our treasures. Instead of selfishly storing up riches for ourselves, perhaps we can think about preserving the rich natural resources of our planet for future generations.

The gospel on the 19th Sunday of the Year (11th August) continues the theme of seeking treasure in heaven, where it will be immune from damage by thieves or corrosion. Generosity to those in need will bring a sure heavenly reward, without the vagaries of stock market swings or company insolvencies.

We have not yet reached heaven. Instead, we are like servants waiting for our Master to return. We can easily be side-tracked from our prayers and our action for God's kingdom. The loud noises of the media can distract us from cultivating a listening heart, able to pray, reflect, and hear God's voice.

A special warning exists for those entrusted with a steward's role within the church. It is easy for such persons to misuse their power to take advantage of others. Clerical abuse of the vulnerable has hurt many victims and caused untold damage to communities. Instead, all the Lord's servants are encouraged to carry out their Master's wishes. We know what God wants of us; let us just do it.

During the summer, we often hear of wild fires devastating wooded areas. In these cases, we can see the destructive power of fire. Hence we are startled by Jesus' statement in the gospel for the 20th Sunday of the Year (18th August): "I have come to bring fire to the earth." In the New Testament context, we think of the Holy Spirit, who came upon the first apostles at Pentecost like tongues of fire. The Holy Spirit warmed their hearts and gave them energy to be Christ's witnesses to the people around them. We can ask the Holy Spirit to fill us with the same fire.

We are also startled by Jesus' declaration that he has come, not to bring peace, but rather division. While his message is one of love for all, it can cause divisions, even within families, by upsetting the comfortable status quo. Ultimately the family of Israel was divided about whether to accept or reject his message. Whereas the apostles accepted it, the religious leadership rejected it and even brought Jesus before Pilate to be condemned to death. The coming of God's kingdom is not cost-free or painless.

The challenge of Jesus' message is restated in the gospel for the 21st Sunday of the Year (25th August): "Try your best to enter by the narrow door." Our salvation is not something automatic. We cannot just drift into heaven. Instead, we need to put in some effort ourselves, before it is too late. It is not enough just to have been familiar with Christ: "We once ate and drank in your company." Relying on past acquaintance is not sufficient to guarantee entry into heaven. In our generation, it is sad to see churches half-empty, because people have drifted away from their faith. A church building is of little use if people do not regularly come inside to pray.

Jesus promises that people from east and west, north and south, will take their places at the heavenly banquet, while his hearers run the danger of being left outside. In much of Europe, many people have drifted away from the Christian faith, whereas many communities in Africa have wholeheartedly embraced the faith. Increasingly, many dioceses are seeking priests from Africa or India because there are not enough European priests to meet the needs. Let us ask God to renew our faith, so that we may redouble our efforts to enter by the narrow gate.

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