



Saint John Henry Newman

St. John Henry Newman, born in London in 1801, was Britain's leading 19th-century Catholic and is still widely revered to this day. He was beatified by Pope Benedict XVI during his visit to the UK in 2010 and on October 13th, 2019, became a saint, the first British individual to be canonised in more than three decades, and the first to have lived in the last 300 years.

How did John Henry Newman become a Saint?

Born in 1801, baptised in the Church of England, Newman became a Fellow of Oriel College, Oxford in 1822, an Anglican clergyman in 1825 and Vicar of the Oxford University Church in 1828.

In 1845 Newman converted to Catholicism, a very controversial move at the time, and was ordained as a Catholic priest in Rome in 1847. Pope Leo XIII made Newman a Cardinal in 1879, when he was aged 78, and a year before he died.

In 2001 Jack Sullivan, who was studying to become a Deacon, a level below priesthood in the Catholic ministry, was suffering from a crippling spinal disease. Praying to Newman, Jack asked if he could help him walk again so that he could return to classes and be ordained. The next morning the pain had disappeared, allowing him to complete his religious education. On 3 July 2009, Pope Benedict XVI recognised this healing as a miracle resulting from the intercession of Newman, paving the way to beatification, the first step towards sainthood.

To become a Saint, Newman had to have another Vatican authenticated miracle attributed to him. In May 2013 a pregnant Chicago woman, Melissa Villalobos, was suffering from life threatening internal bleeding when she prayed to Newman to make the bleeding stop. According to Melissa the healing was immediate and permanent. The miracle was finally approved by Pope Francis on 13 February 2019, paving the way for the canonisation of the Blessed Cardinal John Henry Newman to St John Henry Newman.

His life and writings continue to inspire people, and he is considered an exemplary figure for his courageous pastoral care and intellectual depth.

He was Canonised on October 13th 2019.