

Front Cover Illustration: The Young Rector by the artist MAGAR, 2009 with kind permission from The Newman Foundation of Ireland

Photograph of Adare Manor Hotel with kind permission from Adare Manor Hotel and Golf Resort, Adare, Co Limerick

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Photographs (except of Adare Manor Hotel) and text by Breda Stewart



The historic doorway where on 24th September, 1838 Catherine McAuley and her founding sisters first met with the Poor Clare Sisters who were awaiting their coming. The memorial can be glimpsed at from Bishop's Street.

The Newman Society of Ireland

In October 1996, a group of interested people got together to give a formal structure and recognition to their interests and activities concerning John Henry Newman in Ireland.

They formed the Society on an ecumenical basis. Since then Newman cultural activities and regular monthly meetings of the society have been held in Newman House, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin.

Ireland is a country that Newman came to know, to work for, and to appreciate deeply. From 1851, when he first came to Ireland, until 1858, when he left for good, he spent great energies in assisting the country with the development of intellectual culture through higher education. Newman has left us with a magnificent legacy in buildings, learned institutions, writings, ideals of social culture, and an example of personal excellence. A renewed recognition, preservation and development of this legacy seemed to members of the society a task worthy of its undertaking.

With this aim in view the society seeks anew "to encounter the life and work of John Henry Newman".

Blessed John Henry Newman

IN LIMERICK

Introduction

John Henry Newman was born in London in 1801. He entered Trinity College, Oxford in 1817. He was elected a fellow at Oriel College Oxford where he became a tutor in 1826. He was ordained in the Church of England in 1825. In 1828, he became Vicar of St Mary's Oxford where his spiritual guidance was substantial. In the 1830s, he wrote many tracts on religious controversies of the day which had immense influence. His research and studies into the early church fathers and doctrines of the church led him to many years of prayer for guidance. He was received into the Roman Catholic Church in 1845 and was ordained in Rome in 1846. In 1847, he founded the Oratory at Edgbaston, Birmingham which was his home until his death in 1890.

He visited Limerick twice throughout his life, in 1852 and 1854. He gave a charity sermon at St Michael's Church, Denmark Street after which he spent a week alone at William Monsell's house at Tervoe, Clarina where he completed Discourses 7 and 8 of "The Idea of a University". He visited St. Munchin's College and Lord Dunraven at Adare Manor House. He said Mass and preached at Laurel Hill Convent. Dr John Ryan, Bishop of Limerick proclaimed him Vicar-General of the Diocese of Limerick at Park House, Corbally where Newman stayed on his visits to Limerick City. Limerick people may well be proud of the fact that Bishop John Ryan, William Monsell, Aubrey de Vere and Lord Dunraven understood and appreciated Newman and stood by him in his difficulties throughout his life.

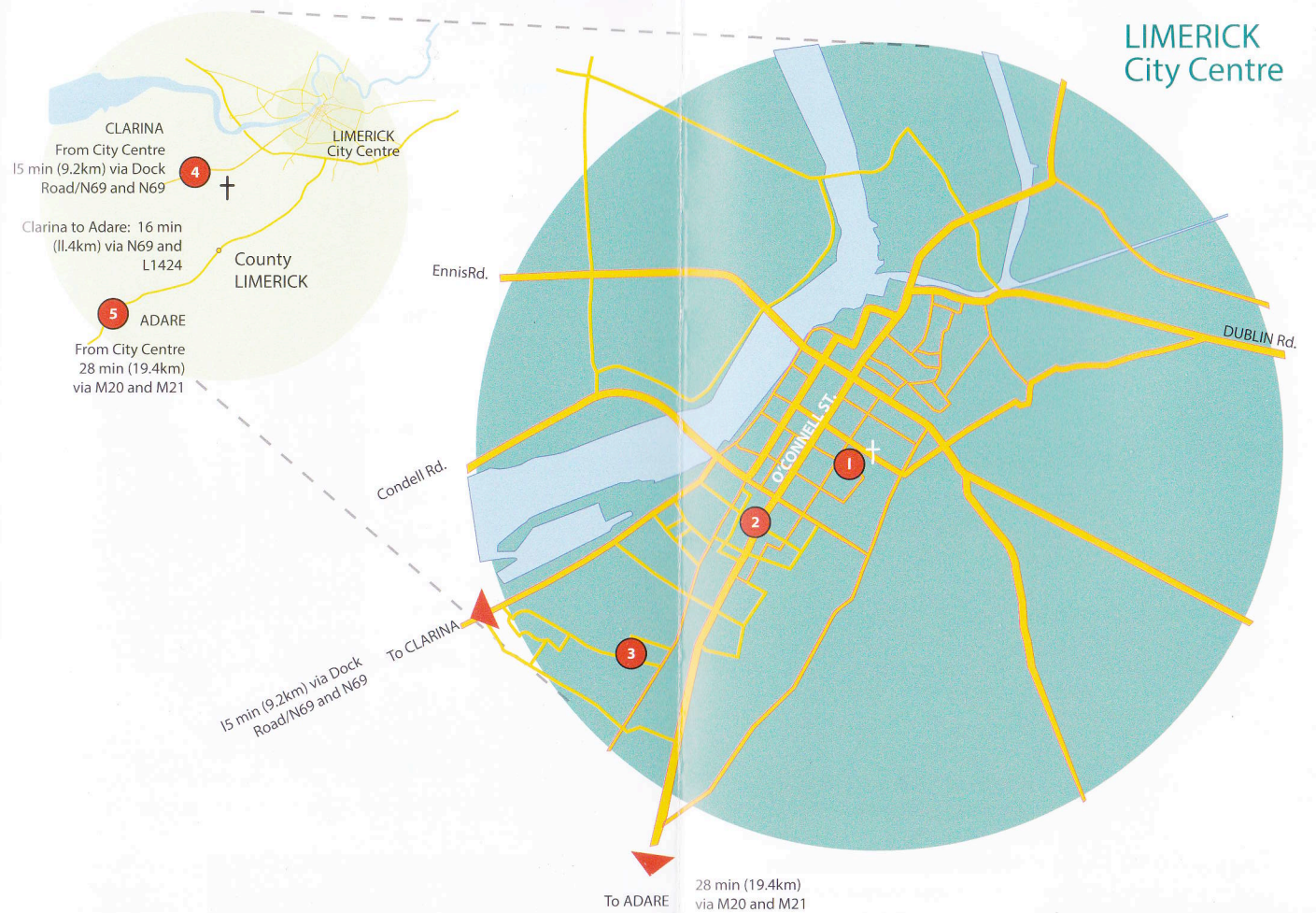
Pope Leo XIII elevated him to the Cardinalate in 1879.

John Henry Newman was declared Blessed by Pope Benedict XVI on 19th September 2010.

¹ William Monsell M.P. for Limerick County 1847-1874, First Baron Emlý of Tervoe

² Aubrey de Vere, Curraghchase House, Co. Limerick, Irish poet and Professor of Political and Social Science, Catholic University of Ireland 1855-1858

³ Lord Dunraven (1812-1871). A catholic convert, in the 1850s engaged an architect to renovate and enlarge The Holy Trinity Abbey Church, Adare and paid for the conversion of the residential friary buildings into a convent and girls school for The Sisters of Mercy



† **1 ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH**
DENMARK STREET
LIMERICK CITY

2 ST. MUNCHIN'S COLLEGE AND MERCANTILE SEMINARY
20 THE CRESCENT
LIMERICK CITY

3 LAUREL HILL SECONDARY SCHOOL AND COLAISTE
SOUTH CIRCULAR ROAD
LIMERICK CITY

Locations 1 to 3 are within walking distance of the city centre.

† **4 ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH**
BALLYBROWN
CLARINA
CO. LIMERICK

5 ADARE MANOR HOUSE
ADARE MANOR HOTEL AND GOLF RESORT
ADARE
CO. LIMERICK

St. Joseph's Church, Ballybrown, Clarina, Co Limerick



The altar at the Oratory at Tervoe House, Clarina used by John Henry Newman to celebrate Mass was donated by the Monsell Family to St. Joseph's Church, Ballybrown. It is cherished as an altar of repose at the Church by local residents. In 1852, Newman stayed for a week at Tervoe House. In a letter

written by Newman at Tervoe to Ambrose St. John, he said "here I am at peace and in great quiet, and I doubt not I shall get well ... I shall try to finish Discourses 7 and 8". Tervoe House was situated a short distance from the Church. It is now sadly demolished and the site is privately owned.

St. Joseph's Church, built in the period 1829-40 has a nave, chancel and transepts and is near a crossroads. Its west and north sides, facing both roads, are constructed of limestone. The main door and some of the windows have good hood mouldings. The marble altar has been sensitively adapted for modern liturgical use and its fine reredos is surmounted by a three-light stained-glass window set high in the back wall depicting the death of St. Joseph among other scenes. The well-carved limestone baptismal font has an octagonal bowl and shaft rising from a rectangular base; the large, mahogany framed Stations of the Cross are also of note.

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Adare Manor House (Now Adare Manor Hotel and Golf Resort), Adare, Co Limerick

In 1854, John Henry Newman visited Lord Dunraven at Adare Manor. He was a friend of Newman and supported him in his difficulties. Lord Dunraven converted to Catholicism in 1855. Newman said of Adare, "I was extremely pleased to see Lord Dunraven in his own place and what a fine place it is ... a splendid place ... a beautiful day."

Adare Manor is situated on beautiful grounds in the heart of the picturesque village of Adare. First built in the 1830s and replaced by a neo Gothic Manor in 1850, the original towers, bays and steep roofs still stand today.

The Minstrels' Gallery, a magnificent room, runs 132 feet



long from east to west so that it is filled at alternate ends with morning and evening light. One of the doors leading into the Gallery dates from the 15th century and is made of richly-carved oak. Panels of the door depict scenes from the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Nicholas. Placed at the west end of the gallery are beautifully carved 17th century Flemish choir stalls. The north wall is panelled with wainscot, and is hand carved with biblical episodes.

Fr. John Stanislaus Flanagan, an Oratorian priest and friend of Newman and Lord Dunraven served as Parish Priest of Adare until his death in 1906 when he was buried within The Holy Trinity Abbey Church, Main Street, Adare. A commemorative plaque can be seen on the right hand side aisle of the Church.

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Extracts from the Letters and Diaries of John Henry Newman Connected to his Limerick Visits

"Henry will tell you of my success at Limerick - which by the favour of our dear Mother and St. Philip was complete."

L&D.VolIX,142

"I lose not a moment in returning by you my most respectful and heartfelt thanks to your excellent Bishop, to the clergy and to your good Catholics throughout the diocese of Limerick, rich and poor who have taken part in so noble an act of Christian charity."

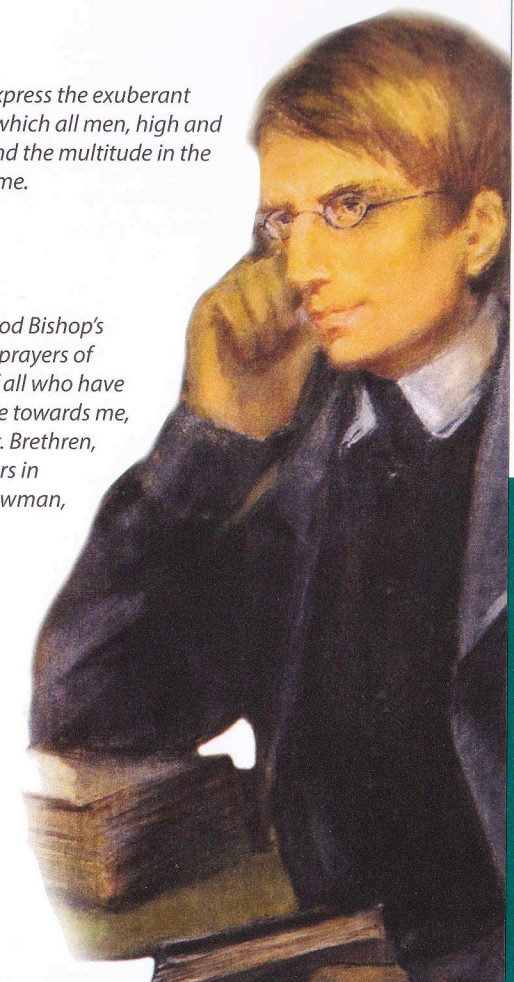
L&D.VolIX,192

"Words cannot express the exuberant hearty affection which all men, high and low, the priests and the multitude in the streets, embrace me.

L&D.VolIX,140

"Begging your good Bishop's blessing, and the prayers of yourselves and of all who have been so charitable towards me, I am, my dear Rev. Brethren, very sincerely yours in Christ, John H. Newman, of the Oratory"

L&D.VolIX,193





St. Michael's Church, Denmark Street, Limerick City

In August 1852, John Henry Newman gave a charity sermon at St. Michael's Church. A commemorative plaque can be seen on the right side aisle of the Church near the entrance door from Denmark Street.

St. Michael's Church was originally built in 1779 and is a fine limestone structure designed in an Italianate style with Romanesque features. It has a nave, side aisles, transepts, a side porch and on the northern face, three projecting porches. The double height nave is separated from the side aisles by Aberdeen granite with Corinthian columns and, from the sanctuary, by limestone piers. The nave and aisles terminate in three apses while the former is lit by tall clerestory windows with plain glass. At the side entrance to the Church there are two distinctive holy water fonts representing St. Michael slaying the dragon and St. Christopher. The square-plan, four stage bell tower surmounted by a gilt representation of St. Michael the Archangel can be seen when the Church is viewed from Chapel Lane, William Street.

St. Michael's parish was one of the five original medieval parishes in Limerick City and its parish records are among the oldest in the diocese of Limerick.



St Munchin's College and Mercantile Seminary 1853 (Now 20 The Crescent) Limerick City

In 1854, John Henry Newman visited St Munchin's College and took a deep interest in its success. In 1857, the College became affiliated to The Catholic University Dublin of which he was Rector. The College catered for both lay and clerical students and was open to pupils from all localities. Evening classes were established for the benefit of all the youth of Limerick.



The College was situated in Limerick's elegant Georgian Crescent with a double terrace of houses, a unique feature of Georgian architecture. Restoration work of exterior features in the Crescent by the Limerick Civic Trust won a European Architectural Heritage Award in 1992. The building has been completely refurbished, keeping its distinctive Georgian façade and is now owned by a private company and can be seen from the street.

St. Munchin's College is now situated at Corbally, Limerick City providing continued academic excellence and sporting

Laurel Hill Secondary School and Colaiste, South Circular Road, Limerick City

On his second visit to Limerick City in February 1854, John Henry Newman presided at Mass and preached a sermon at Laurel Hill Convent on the South Circular Road, Limerick City. After a short stay at Oughterard, Co. Galway, the first convent of the Society of the Faithful Companions of Jesus in Ireland was established in Limerick City at Laurel Hill in 1845 by the Foundress of the Society Marie Madeleine Victoire de Bengy de Bonnault d'Houet (1781 - 1858). In October 1845, construction of the large central building, sixty feet high and fifty four feet in length in design began under the personal supervision of Madame d'Houet. The Foundation Stone was solemnly blessed by Rev. Dr. John Ryan, Bishop of Limerick on the 12th November 1845.

At this time, the elegant façade of the four storey building overlooked fine grounds, splendid gardens and a beautiful panorama of the River Shannon. A chapel dedicated to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary was built in 1863.

Laurel Hill FCJ Secondary School was opened in 1845 and Laurel Hill FCJ Colaiste was established in 1935. Both schools are recognised as leading educational establishments for young women, both Irish and English speaking. A view of the schools can be glimpsed from the South Circular Road.

