

Notes from the group discussions after Bishop Fintan's presentation on St John Henry Newman in Kilrush on 28/2/202

- How timeless is Newman's message even now nearly 150 years later!
- What stands out is the simplicity of Newman, and he such a learned man
- "He reminds me of my own contrasting of my faith as a Protestant and the riches of what the Catholic faith has to offer"
- The example of his courage in coming to convert to being a Catholic from his significant position in the Anglican Church is very inspiring – it was a very difficult time for him, and conversion was such a hard step to take then
- Newman received so much rejection all through his life – from his family, from his Anglican Church, from many friends, and from many Bishops and Cardinals in the Catholic church when he joined – but he still kept going, kept faithful: his faithfulness as well as his faith was strengthened especially by his being so immersed in and devoted to the Scriptures.
- Bible groups and lectio divina groups could be very good to enable us to get some direction and guidance in reading the Bible.
- It is very good to see lay people reading the scriptures at Mass, and very important – we do share a special link when we hear them reading.
- Mention was made of a programme on ZOOM in which Fr Pat Collins, CM, gives bible guidance (I don't have any contact reference for this and maybe we could get it next week)
- The diocesan changes are challenging us to ensure that parish links are improved so that if there are parishes joined together or working together the unity will be sincere and not superficial.
- When people make contributions at meetings like this, it is important that effective discernment takes place so that all contributions are given their due consideration.
- Group members appreciated Bishop Fintan giving of his time and his wonderful knowledge on St. John Henry Newman and on the Scripture. They totally enjoyed his Presentation.
- Vatican II: - "Newman was ahead of his time – he set the stage for change – he was searching for Truth. Love of God – from the Heart" Unfortunately his family rejected him.
- A number of members of the Group had lived in England and found that the changes of Vatican II were put into practice. They had great respect for the English Catholic and Irish Catholic living in England.
- On their return to Ireland – they were disappointed that the changes made with Vatican II were ignored, they were not put into practice in Ireland – (Bishop John Charles Mc Quaid – was happy to carry on as before! – he didn't buy into the changes).

- Newman was steeped in the Scripture – lived out his experience of the scripture.
- A number of the group are great believers in Newman's 'Fragrance Prayer' – they would say it daily. Others had great faith in Newman's Death / Night Prayer. Others loved his 'simple Guidelines for life'.
- Another – shared her Prayer from her school days: 'Good morning, Dear Jesus – guide me on my path this day.
- Another – was impressed with Newman's Prayer – 'If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve him' et.
- Young people – like to reflect on the Scriptures. (Youth Ministry in Kilrush)
- Overall – the Group now want to learn more about St. John Henry Newman and the Scriptures. Their Eyes and Ears are opened!
- Morning and evening prayers mean more when said from the heart.
- Jesus was tempted in the desert and the angels supported him. When we are tempted our friends can be the angels
- Besides keeping the commandments, there is a lot of other good deeds we can do
- When we understand the scriptures, we come closer to God.
- Planting seeds of prayer in our families, can take root in our children.