

opusdei.org

Benedict XVI's Visit to Scotland and England

On Sunday, September 19th, Pope Benedict XVI beatified John Henry Newman at a Mass in Birmingham. With links to photos and videos of the visit, and to some addresses and homilies.

09/16/2010

Photos of main events* *Videos of papal visit* *Pope Tells Students: Be Saints* *Address at Westminster

*Hall to civil authorities Homily at
Mass in Westminster Cathedral*

Address at prayer vigil on eve of
beatification of John Henry Newman
*Homily at Beatification Mass Short
address at Sunday Angelus*

From words of greeting in Edinburgh
to authorities

The name of Holyroodhouse, Your
Majesty's official residence in
Scotland, recalls the "Holy Cross" and
points to the deep Christian roots
that are still present in every layer of
British life. The monarchs of England
and Scotland have been Christians
from very early times and include
outstanding saints like Edward the
Confessor and Margaret of Scotland.

As you know, many of them
consciously exercised their sovereign
duty in the light of the Gospel, and in
this way shaped the nation for good
at the deepest level. As a result, the

Christian message has been an integral part of the language, thought and culture of the peoples of these islands for more than a thousand years. Your forefathers' respect for truth and justice, for mercy and charity come to you from a faith that remains a mighty force for good in your kingdom, to the great benefit of Christians and non-Christians alike.

We find many examples of this force for good throughout Britain's long history. Even in comparatively recent times, due to figures like William Wilberforce and David Livingstone, Britain intervened directly to stop the international slave trade.

Inspired by faith, women like Florence Nightingale served the poor and the sick and set new standards in healthcare that were subsequently copied everywhere. John Henry Newman, whose beatification I will celebrate shortly, was one of many British Christians of his age whose

goodness, eloquence and action were a credit to their countrymen and women. These, and many people like them, were inspired by a deep faith born and nurtured in these islands.

Even in our own lifetime, we can recall how Britain and her leaders stood against a Nazi tyranny that wished to eradicate God from society and denied our common humanity to many, especially the Jews, who were thought unfit to live. I also recall the regime's attitude to Christian pastors and religious who spoke the truth in love, opposed the Nazis and paid for that opposition with their lives. As we reflect on the sobering lessons of the atheist extremism of the twentieth century, let us never forget how the exclusion of God, religion and virtue from public life leads ultimately to a truncated vision of man and of society and thus to a "reductive vision of the person and

his destiny" (*Caritas in Veritate* , no. 29).

pdf | document generated
automatically from [https://opusdei.org/
en-ie/article/benedict-xvis-visit-to-
scotland-and-england/](https://opusdei.org/en-ie/article/benedict-xvis-visit-to-scotland-and-england/) (04/20/2025)