

ChristmasNightInc.com

The source for Church Nativity sets

Free Catalog



Cardinal Newman's Bones to be Removed for Veneration

By Simon Caldwell
8/15/2008

The Catholic Herald (UK) (www.catholicherald.co.uk/)

These will most likely be bones from his hands which will be shared out between key churches in Britain - as well as one being sent to the Vatican.

Comments
Email this Article
Printer-Friendly
Letters to Editor
SHARE

Ads by Google

[Bereavement Verses](#)
[Bereavement Cards](#)
[Bereavement.com](#)
[Bereavement Messages](#)
[Bereavement Prayers](#)

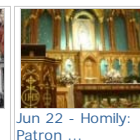
VIDEO »



No Apologies #92 - ...



No Apologies #93 - Infant ...



Jun 22 - Homily: Patron ...



Today's Headlines - News by E-Mail



Sign up for a roundup of the day's top stories. 5 days / wk
[See Sample](#)

Subscribe

DAILY READINGS »

Tue Jun 23, 2009

- ▶ **Reading 1, Gn 13:2, 5-18**
and I shall make you a great nation, I shall bless you and make your name famous; you are to ... [More »](#)
- ▶ **Gospel, Mt 7:6, 12-14**
'Do not give dogs what is holy; and do not throw your pearls in front of pigs, or they may ... [More »](#)

SHARE & BOOKMARK



MORE INTERNATIONAL NEWS »

- ▶ Life Issues to Forefront in the UK Parliament
- ▶ EU: 'Anti-Discrimination' Not to Include 'Sexual Orientation'
- ▶ Bishops Head to Holy Land in Support
- ▶ A 'Street Missionary' Priest on the Outskirts of Seoul

MOST POPULAR »

Emailed Viewed Rated Searched

1. Public Broadcasting Bans Religious Speech
2. Year of the Priest: Pope Benedict Writes a Letter to Every Priest

Advertisement



LONDON (The Catholic Herald) - Bones are to be removed from the body of Cardinal John Henry Newman so that they can be venerated as holy relics.

The Government has granted a licence permitting undertakers to dig up the body of Cardinal Newman more than a century after his death.

Officials from the Ministry of Justice have also given the go-ahead for Catholic experts in holy objects to fly in from Italy and retrieve "major relics" from the corpse after the coffin is opened for the first time.

These will most likely be bones from his hands which will be shared out between key churches in Britain - as well as one being sent to the Vatican.

They will be placed in shrines so Catholic pilgrims can venerate Cardinal Newman and pray for his intercession when he is made a saint.

A selection of minor relics - small fragments of bone and cloth - will also be collected.

The Coroners Unit insists, however, that all soft tissue is reinterred with the cardinal's body in a tomb in the Birmingham Oratory church later this year.

The licence for exhumation was granted on the 118th anniversary of the cardinal's death in 1890.

It will allow a team from Birmingham-based AB Taylors undertakers to move Cardinal Newman's remains from a small grave in Rednal, near Birmingham, which he shares with his close friend, Fr Ambrose St John, to the oratory in Edgebaston ahead of a likely announcement that he will be beatified.

The undertakers will open the lead-lined coffin at the graveside and Newman's corpse,

wearing the vestments of a Catholic priest, will be photographed before it is placed in a new coffin and taken away.

Peter Jennings, spokesman for the Archdiocese of Birmingham, said the condition of the cardinal's body was a mystery but said it could be well-preserved.

"For about 10 minutes or so you will see Cardinal Newman's face as he was when he was buried, if no air has got in," he said.

The body will then be transferred to a morgue where the relics will be removed in strict accordance with health and safety regulations.

Mr Jennings said: "Specialist people from Rome and Milan will be coming out to take relics from his body. A 'major relic' could be the bones from one of his fingers."

Newman's remains will be transferred to a new coffin that will be put on show to the public before it is placed in a marble sarcophagus after a celebratory Mass in the Birmingham Oratory.

Plans for Newman's tomb have already been agreed. It will be engraved with his motto: "Ex umbris et imaginibus in veritatem" ("from shadows and images into the truth").

The date of the exhumation will be kept secret but will take place before December when Pope Benedict is expected to announce Newman's beatification, the final stage before he is declared a saint.

However, Newman was buried on Monday August 18, 1890 - a week after his death - and Catholic officials may be tempted to dig him up on that anniversary.

The decision by the Government to allow the exhumation brings to an end months of wrangling over a 19th-century law which forbids the transfer of bodies from graves to church tombs.

It also represents a triumph for the Vatican which wanted Newman to be moved into a setting that befits a new status as a saint.

The Pope has been an admirer of Newman, a philosopher and theologian, since 1946 and is especially keen to canonise him.

The application for the exhumation was made in April, at the request of the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Sainthood, but Ministers gave it the green light only after a meeting between Church and Government officials in late July.

Sir Suma Chakrabarti, the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Justice, agreed to make a special exception to the law after hearing arguments about the significance of Newman's sainthood for Britain and for the Church.

The licence was confirmed in a letter sent last week by Robert Clifford, head of the burials team of the Coroners Unit of the Ministry of Justice, to Mr Jennings, who led negotiations on behalf of the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

Mr Jennings said yesterday that he was "most grateful" to Sir Suma and his officials for granting the licence in "exceptional circumstances". He added: "The Ministry of Justice has recognised the importance of Newman as a national figure and as a figure of great importance to the country, the Church and to dialogue between faiths."

3. [Change is Possible for Gays Says Catholic Psychologist](#)
4. [Beware the New Compassion](#)
5. [Fr. Jeffrey Steel Comes Home: 'I Have Jumped into the Tiber to Swim Across'](#)

[More Most Popular](#)

FEATURED BOOK »

Yes, I Can Believe

By Rev. Frank DeSiano, CSP



Many people today are searching for answers to life's questions, looking for community, or wondering what the Catholic Church has ...

FEATURED PRODUCT »

Soft Saints Dolls



These collectible dolls are made to spend more time off the shelf than on it! Soft & huggable saint dolls are here to encourage ...



[AmazinglyBlessed.com](#)

Heartwarming Stories & E-Blessings. Free Subscription
www.AmazinglyBlessed.com

[Breaking Catholic News](#)

Watch the Culture War Live READ it Now. Root for the Good Guys
www.CultureWarNotes.com/

[End Of Life Transitions](#)

To Assist Those On The Journey, From One Who Passed This Way.
www.rp-Author.com/Diehl

Ads by Google

Comments

The Cardinal was, is, an inspiration to many. His beatification will make him and his faith known to many. Indeed, theology goes in the reverse order of history.

Peter-Mbuchi Methu | 9/9/2008

This is in NO WAY a biblical practice... in fact this makes my stomach crawl!

Vee | 8/27/2008

I agree with Janet and the others. Please please read your Bible, (not a Catholic one either) Isn't it interesting that we all agree? This is so sad!

Tracey | 8/26/2008

[View all Comments »](#)

Post your Comment

Comments that include profanity, personal attacks, antisocial behavior such as "spamming" and "trolling," or other inappropriate comments or material will not be posted on Catholic Online. Comments are moderated and generally will be posted if they are on-topic and not abusive. We will take steps to block users who violate any of our [terms of service](#). While Catholic Online invites robust discussion, we maintain the right to not print material that is patently false in its claims concerning the teaching of the Magisterium of the Catholic Church, overtly anti-Catholic or which, in the opinion of the moderator, are intended to mislead readers as to what the Catholic Church teaches. Comments DO NOT necessarily reflect the opinion or views of Catholic Online.

Name:

Email:

Comments:

RATE THIS

Was this helpful to you?

- Very Helpful
 Somewhat Helpful
 Not Helpful at All

Would you like to see more on this subject?

- Yes, I am Interested
 No, I am not Interested

[NEWSLETTERS »](#)

E-mail Address: Gender: Zip Code: (ex. 90001)



Today's Headlines

Sign up for a roundup of the day's top stories. 5 days / week. [See Sample](#)

MORE NEWS

[President Obama Acknowledges Fatherhood Begins at Conception.](#)
[Pope Benedict Visits Tomb of St. 'Padre' Pio](#)
[Faithful Line Up to Support Priests](#)
[Latest Miracle Attributed to Cardinal Newman Verified](#)
[Washington, DC Metro Accident Causes Fatalities, Serious Injuries](#)
[Bishop Murphy Corrects Catholic Politician on Same-Sex 'Marriage'](#)
[Prayer Campaign for Conversion of Catholic Politicians](#)
[Fired Inspector General Wants Congressional Hearing](#)

[News](#) | [Featured](#) | [Finance](#) | [A & E](#) | [Home & Family](#) | [PRWire](#) | [Encyclopedia](#) | [Bible](#) | [Prayers](#) | [Vocations](#) | [Saints & Angels](#) | [Life](#) | [Books](#) | [Directory](#) | [Services](#)

[Place an Ad](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Service](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [About](#) | [Forum](#) |  [RSS](#) | [Make Catholic Online Your Homepage](#)

Copyright 2009 Catholic Online. All materials contained on this site, whether written, audible or visual are the exclusive property of Catholic Online and are protected under U.S. and International copyright laws, © Copyright 2009 Catholic Online. Any unauthorized use, without prior written consent of Catholic Online is strictly forbidden and prohibited.
