

An invitation to take time and join in spirit with many others in
Personal Prayer.
May is the month for us to pray for those being confirmed as they seek to
find their calling within the Church.



Milling crowds at Birmingham
New Street Station.

Join a parish group planning to
go to the Diocesan pilgrimage to
Walsingham on 9th June

Pentecost Sunday 20th May

May the Holy Spirit fill us with joy.

Blessed John Henry Newman

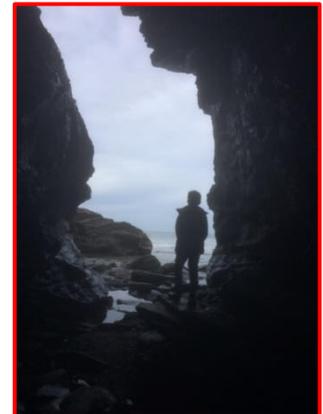
The saint to accompany us in May is Blessed John Henry Newman. He was born in 1801, created cardinal in 1879, died in 1890, and beatified in 2010.

John Henry Newman was a priest, poet, theologian, and educator. He was an inspirational academic leader in Oxford. On becoming a Catholic at the age of 44 years he spent much time in pastoral work in Birmingham and establishing the Catholic University of Ireland in Dublin. All his life he struggled to be true to God's calling.

Out of darkness into light, is a recurring theme of Newman's.

Prayer of Blessed John Henry Newman

*God has created me to do him some definite service; he has committed some work to me which he has not committed to another. I have my mission - I may never know it in this life but I will be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for nought, I shall do good: I shall do his work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place while not intending it, if I do but keep his commandments, Therefore, I will trust him. Whatever I am, I can never be thrown away.....
.....He knows what he is about. Amen*



This month it is suggested that we begin our time of personal prayer by asking for the grace to become more attentive to God's call. A helpful exercise might be to read the prayer above slowly many times selecting a word or phrase that stands out for you and which you could then continue to ponder on over the following days. You might then give thanks to God for always being present in your life even when the future seems unclear.