



**Holy Cross Catholic  
Multi-Academy Company**

**September 2019**

## Newsletter



**John Teahan, Chair**

**Welcome** everyone to The Holy Cross Catholic MAC. It gives me great pleasure and pride to be writing to you to mark the start of our first academic year as part of The Holy Cross Catholic Multi Academy Company (HCCMAC).

As summer holidays are fast becoming a distant (hopefully wonderful) memory. We look forward to a new academic year which always feels like a fresh beginning and a blank canvas offering endless possibilities.

Those of you that have been involved either directly or indirectly with the conversion process to establish the MAC will understand the “massive” effort that has been needed across so many different functions to get us to this current position. I would like to thank everyone who has been involved – there are simply too many to mention but I want to specifically thank Head Teachers, Admin, Business and ICT staff, our Local Governing Bodies, Directors and our Project Manager. Thank you all for your time and efforts.

This is just the start of the MAC as we continue to ensure that, by working in partnership, we offer a safe Catholic learning experience for all our students, where they can learn and develop their God given talents and achieve their full potential through us all “*Achieving together in Faith*”.

What better way to start the new term and academic year than by celebrating successful outcomes at Key Stage 2 in our Primary Schools and GCSE and A-level exam successes in both of our Secondary Schools.

In addition, Cardinal Newman Catholic Secondary School has had a particularly busy start to the academic year celebrating it’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 3rd September. It is also looking forward to the canonisation of the Blessed John Henry Newman on the 13<sup>th</sup> October in Rome.

We pray for a successful year ahead and please don’t hesitate to contact us using the contact details provided in this newsletter.



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## Blessed John Henry Newman Canonisation

**13 October 2019**

It is wonderful that the opening of the Holy Cross Multi Academy Company coincides with the canonisation of Blessed John Henry Newman. Blessed John Henry Newman and four other blessed will be canonised together on Sunday 13 October in St Peter's Square, Vatican City during mass celebrated by Pope Francis. This is a cause for celebration as Cardinal Newman will be Britain's first new saint since the canonisation of St. John Ogilvie in 1976.

The process for being declared a saint includes evidence to persuade Church officials that the person lived a holy life, had faith, and had the support and help of God. The person must also perform at least two miracles. The Church looks at miracles as evidence that God is working through that person.

The first miracle attributed to Newman involved the inexplicable healing of a deacon from a disabling spinal condition. His second miracle concerned the healing of a pregnant American woman. The woman prayed for the intercession of Cardinal Newman at the time of a life-threatening diagnosis, and her doctors have been unable to explain how or why she was able to suddenly recover.

Newman was one of the greatest religious leaders and scholars of his age and although originally an Anglican priest, he converted to Catholicism in 1845 and his writings are considered among some of the most important Church-writings in recent centuries.

Following time in Rome, Newman was inspired to introduce an Oratory of St Philip Neri in England. He established the first English Oratory, a community of secular priests following the life of the 16th century Italian saint, at Maryvale in 1847. This Birmingham Oratory, which subsequently moved to the city centre and then to Edgbaston, was Newman's home from 1852 until 1890, and the focus of his ministry. Newman was particularly dedicated to education and he founded two schools for boys.



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Newman was so loved in Birmingham for his work as a pastoral priest that 15,000 people lined the streets for his funeral procession when he died in 1890.

As the eagerly-awaited canonisation approaches, Cardinal Newman Catholic School will celebrate this momentous occasion with a Mission Week on the theme “Called to be Saints.” Pope Francis has also announced that October 2019 is an ‘Extraordinary Missionary Month’ to be marked and celebrated in the whole Church throughout the world. This special month of prayer and action calls us all to renew our missionary commitment and we are called to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with all peoples.

**Prayer by Saint 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 shall 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 nothing. 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, wherever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve him; in perplexity, my perplexity may serve him; if I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve him. He does nothing in vain. He knows what he is about. He may take away my friends. He may throw me among strangers. He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide my future from me – still he knows what he is about.”**



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**The Life of Cardinal Newman.**

- 1801 John Henry Newman was born at Old Broad Street, London.
- 1816 Newman underwent his first Conversion. Entered Trinity College, Oxford, as a commoner.
- 1817 First communion in the Church of England.
- 1820 Took his degree at Trinity College.
- 1822 Decided to take Orders in the Church of England.
- 1824 Began his pastoral ministry as a curate in the parish of St Clement, Oxford.
- 1825 Ordained priest in the Church of England.
- 1828 Appointed Vicar of St Mary's, the Oxford University Church.
- 1833 Wrote poem later set to music as the hymn "Lead, kindly light".
- 1839 First doubts about the position of the Anglican church.
- 1845 Received into the Catholic Church at Littlemore by Father Dominic Barberi. Confirmed at Oscott.
- 1846 Settled at Old Oscott, renamed Maryvale. Set off to Rome to study.
- 1847 Pope approved Newman's decision to start an Oratory in England. Ordained as a Catholic priest.
- 1848 The English Congregation of the Oratory set up at Maryvale.
- 1852 Oratory moved to new house in Edgbaston (after brief intermediary time in Alcester Street, Birmingham). Preached famous "Second Spring" sermon at Oscott.
- 1854 Installed as Rector of the Catholic University in Dublin.
- 1859 The Oratory School opened in Edgbaston.
- 1865 Newman's poem "The Dream of Gerontius" published.
- 1879 Newman is made Cardinal in Rome.
- 1890 Died of pneumonia and was buried in the Oratorian cemetery at Rednal near Birmingham.
- 2019 Pope Francis announced the date of the canonisation of Cardinal Newman in Rome on 13 October



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## Welcome to our new Director



Martin Gallagher is Managing Director for the Coventry-based construction firm Deeley Construction where he has worked for 31 years. As a Chartered Quantity Surveyor, he has been involved in a number of prestigious construction projects some of which include Catholic schools and churches within the city.

Martin's role has developed to require a broad range of skills with regards to financial management, procurement, human resources management, legal services and strategic planning.

He is a director of Midlands Builders Federation Trustee Company, a charity that distributes grants and support to individuals and companies looking to train and develop young people within the construction industry.

Martin is also Chairman for the Midlands region of the National Federation of Builders which involves representing and promoting the members within the region and bringing areas of concern to the National Board. The National Federation of Builder's role includes lobbying to parliament and other key organisations that affect the construction industry.

Martin was educated at St Thomas More RC Primary School (where his mother taught for over 30 years) and Princethorpe College.



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## Meet our New Finance Manager

### Debbie Hetherington



I am so pleased to be joining the Holy Cross Catholic MAC as Finance Manager this month and look forward to delivering high quality, central finance support to the seven schools as we continue to optimise our resources and work collaboratively.

I have been the School Business Manager at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School for almost 3 years and have enjoyed working on the MAC Operations Group for the past 18 months as we moved towards the conversion to academy status. I have always worked within the public sector in finance and business roles and spent 12 years working for West Midlands Police, where I was responsible for managing multi-million pound budgets and helping to develop and implement new processes and systems as a result of their ongoing budget cuts; experience which has been invaluable as schools continue to face similar challenges. I have spent the last 5 years working in education and prior to joining St Thomas More, worked for another large Multi Academy Trust within Warwickshire.

My role as Finance Manager will be to work with the Chief Finance and Operating Officer, Martyn Alcott, to provide efficient financial support to the MAC by assisting with budget planning and financial control, whilst looking for innovation both in the finance function and in the activities of the MAC as a whole. This is such an exciting time for the schools within Holy Cross Catholic MAC and I am very much looking forward to being a part of the central team.



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## MAC Head Office Contact Details

From Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September the Holy Cross Catholic  
MAC central team will be located at:

**Holy Cross Catholic MAC  
c/o St Augustine Catholic Primary School  
Heathcote Street  
Radford  
Coventry CV6 3BL**

The phone numbers may look a little strange because the prefix has changed to 02475 rather than the more familiar 76 ending. If someone is not available to take your call, please leave a message and we will get back to you.

Name	Role	Email	Phone
<b>Marina Kelly</b>	Catholic Senior Executive Leader	marina.kelly@hcmac.co.uk	<b>02475 186511</b>
<b>Martyn Alcott</b>	Chief Finance and Operating Officer	martyn.alcott@hcmac.co.uk	<b>02475 186512</b>
<b>Debbie Hetherington</b>	Finance Manager	debbie.hetherington@hcmac.co.uk	<b>02475 186513</b>
<b>Jos Parry</b>	Project Manager	jocelyn.parry@hcmac.co.uk	<b>02475 186515</b>
<b>John Teahan</b>	Chair, MAC Board	john.teahan@hcmac.co.uk	<b>02475 186516</b>
<b>Main Line MAC Office</b>			<b>02475 186555</b>



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## Meet the MAC Head Office Team



From left to right:

Debbie Hetherington, Finance Manager

Jos Parry, Project Manager

Martyn Alcott, Chief Finance and Operating Officer

Marina Kelly, Catholic Senior Executive Leader



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