

Assembly: John Henry Newman

LEADER'S NOTES & HOLDING SLIDE

As Christians, we all have a mission: to share God's love with the whole world. No one is too young or too small to take part. Through Mission Together, children everywhere pray for and share with one another in a unique exchange of love and friendship. By praying for one another and sharing what we have, we belong to God's worldwide family.



Pope Francis has designated October 2019 an

Extraordinary Month of Mission. Its objective is to renew the efforts of the entire Church to share God's love around the world.

This assembly focuses on John Henry Newman, who fulfilled his mission to love God and serve others during his lifetime, which has led him to be canonised on 13th October 2019. By following his example children can become missionaries of God's love, too.

Visit our website to download resources and find out more about the

Extraordinary Month of Mission.

This assembly contains animations. It is advisable to run through the presentation, using the slides, before delivering the assembly.

SLIDE TWO

Does anyone recognise the photograph of the man on the right of the slide?

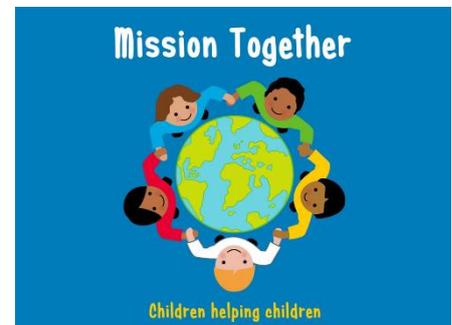
Answer: it is Pope Francis.

The man on the left of the slide is John Henry Newman.

John lived in England over 100 years ago (between 1801 and 1890) and in October 2019 Pope Francis is making him a saint. He will be the first English person to be canonised (made a saint) in nearly 50 years.

A saint is someone who devoted their life to loving God and serving others. Someone is called a saint when the Church officially recognises that after they died, that person went to heaven and are especially close to God.

Saint John Henry Newman lived during the Victorian age. There were very few Catholics in England then and Newman was a famous vicar in the Church of England.



But he surprised everyone by choosing to become a Catholic when he was a grown up. Eventually, he was made a cardinal in the Catholic Church – that is a senior leader. The cartoon shows him in his red cardinal's robes.

Now we will find out five facts about him that can help us to love God and serve other people, too.

SLIDE THREE

FACT ONE: 'Saint John Henry Newman cared for the poor Irish families who had fled the famine in Ireland.'

Does anyone know what a famine is?

Answer: a famine is when there is an extreme shortage of food. It affects many people.

When Saint John Henry Newman was alive the potato was the staple food in Ireland for poor people. Disaster struck when, for four years, potatoes failed to grow there. One million Irish people died from starvation or from sickness. Many had no choice but to travel to new countries to find work, and some travelled to England. When they arrived, they were hungry, sick or weak and had to live in very poor conditions.

Saint John Henry Newman respected them and loved them and showed other people how to welcome them into the local community.

[Click for question.](#)

How will you show God's love to people who have fled their homes?

Possible answers: inviting someone to join a game or giving them a smile or saying 'hello' can make them feel welcomed.



SLIDE FOUR

FACT TWO: 'People came from miles around to hear Saint John Henry Newman speak about God.'

When Saint John Henry Newman spoke, he spoke from his heart. He was well known for following his conscience – that means saying and doing what is right – even when it sometimes made him unpopular.

Because Saint John Henry Newman spoke honestly and from the heart, people trusted what he said. Sometimes the church was so full of people who wanted to hear him, crowds had to be turned away at the door!

[Click for question.](#)

Who will you talk to about God today?



Possible answers: a school friend, a family member or a teacher may like to hear about God's love for them.

SLIDE FIVE

FACT THREE: 'Saint John Henry Newman wrote beautiful poems, prayers and hymns, which are still used today.'

Saint John Henry Newman wrote poems about God. Some were put to music and turned into hymns. He often wrote about how much he trusted in God's goodness. He knew God would never let him down.

Passengers onboard the ship Titanic sang one of his hymns* before the ship sunk at sea in 1912. *'Lead Kindly Light'

[Click for question.](#)

Can you write a prayer or poem for God?

Suggest the children write a poem about God's care for them.



Mission Together

FACT THREE

Saint John Henry Newman wrote beautiful poems, prayers and hymns, which are still used today.

Can you write a prayer or poem for God?

missio

The slide features a blue header with the text 'Mission Together'. Below the header, on the left, is a cartoon illustration of Saint John Henry Newman in a red cassock, holding a book. To his right is a black and white photograph of the Titanic. On the far right is a cartoon illustration of a young girl in a blue dress with her hands clasped in prayer. The 'missio' logo is in the bottom left corner, and a circular logo is in the bottom right corner.

SLIDE SIX

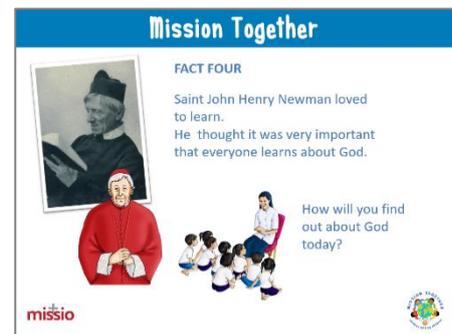
FACT FOUR: 'Saint John Henry Newman loved to learn. He thought it was very important that everyone learns about God.'

Most children in Victorian times never went to school and struggled to read and write. Saint John Henry Newman encouraged everyone to learn and to think for themselves. If people can read, they can read the Bible and discover more about God.

[Click for question.](#)

How will you find out about God today?

Possible answers: we can find out about God by reading Bible stories, saying our prayers, and listening to stories about Jesus from our teachers, parents, grandparents and priests.



Mission Together

FACT FOUR

Saint John Henry Newman loved to learn. He thought it was very important that everyone learns about God.

How will you find out about God today?

missio

The slide features a blue header with the text 'Mission Together'. Below the header, on the left, is a black and white photograph of Saint John Henry Newman reading a book. To his right is a cartoon illustration of a young girl in a red dress sitting on a chair, reading a book to a group of children sitting on the floor. The 'missio' logo is in the bottom left corner, and a circular logo is in the bottom right corner.

SLIDE SEVEN

'Saint John Henry Newman believed God has a special mission for us all.'

Saint John Henry Newman understood that God has made us all to do a special job – to do good and bring God's love to people near to us and those who live far away.



Mission Together

FACT FIVE

Saint John Henry Newman believed God has a special mission for us all.

What is your mission?

missio

The slide features a blue header with the text 'Mission Together'. Below the header, on the left, is a cartoon illustration of Saint John Henry Newman in a red cassock with a speech bubble that says 'I have my mission!'. To his right is a cartoon illustration of a diverse group of children of various ethnicities and abilities, including one child in a wheelchair. The 'missio' logo is in the bottom left corner, and a circular logo is in the bottom right corner.

He understood this by spending time in prayer, talking and listening to God. No one is too young or too small to play their part in fulfilling their mission.

[Click for question.](#)

What is your mission?

Suggest the children can pray for children around the world to be safe, happy and healthy. Prayer is not just talking to God. It also involves listening. Perhaps the class can have a regular moment of silence to get into the habit of listening to God. That way the children will better understand what their mission is. Tell them not to expect to hear a voice, but, rather to have a sense of God's presence.

Many children around the world follow in Saint John Henry Newman's footsteps. They are fulfilling their mission to love God and serve others by being part of Mission Together.

Through Mission Together they pray for, and share with, other children living in poverty overseas. Children like these: *(next slide)*.

SLIDE EIGHT

Eight-year-old Sandra had to leave her home in Iraq because there was fighting there. Now she lives in Jordan while she waits to find a new home in a country that is safe and peaceful.

Mission Together helped to buy her a daily drink and snack and school books.

[Click to show photo and cartoon.](#)



Johannes lives in South Africa. He needs special care, so he lives in a care centre with other children.

Thanks to Mission Together, Johannes is looked after by three religious Sisters. The Sisters make sure the children stay healthy and teach them about God's love for the world and all the people in it.

[Click to show cartoon and photo.](#)

Eunice lives on a remote coffee plantation in Kenya. In the past she often didn't get to school because she had to work with her mum, picking coffee beans, to earn money to buy food for the family.

Now that Mission Together has helped to set up a feeding programme at school, Eunice can go to school and learn how to read and write.

[Click to show cartoon and photo.](#)

In Cambodia, some parents are too poor to send their children to school. This means that while their parents are at work, children are locked in their homes or left to wander the streets. This puts the children at risk.

Mission Together helped Sister Eulie to set up the Lindalva Centre. At the centre Sister Eulie gives the children lunch and teaches them how to read and write. She also tells them about God's love for them and for us all!

[Click to show photo.](#)

There are many children like you in England and Wales, who live out their mission to love God and serve others by praying and by sharing what they have through Mission Together to help children living in poverty overseas.

SLIDE NINE

Let's follow in the footsteps of Saint John Henry Newman now by finishing our time together by saying a prayer.

It is the Mission Together Prayer that children all over England and Wales say for children everywhere.

Mission Together

Mission Together Prayer:

May all children
In the world
Share love,
Share friendship and live
In the peace
Of God's love,
Now and forever.
Amen



missio

