

Assembly: St John Henry Newman

LEADER'S NOTES & HOLDING SLIDE

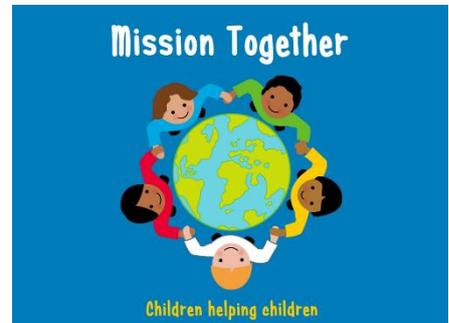
As Christians, we all have a mission: to share God's love with the whole world. No one is too young or too small to take part. Through Mission Together, children everywhere pray for and share with one another in a unique exchange of love and friendship.

By praying for one another and sharing what we have, we belong to God's worldwide family.

This assembly focuses on Saint John Henry Newman, who fulfilled his mission to love God and serve others during his lifetime.

By following the example of Saint John Henry Newman, children can become missionaries of God's love, too.

This assembly contains animations. It is advisable you 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 made him a saint. He was 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.

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

But he surprised everyone by choosing to become a Catholic as 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 means that 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. And so 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, 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?

Inviting someone to join a game, give them a smile or say 'hello' can make them feel welcomed.



Mission Together

FACT ONE

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

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

missio

The slide features a blue header with the title 'Mission Together'. Below the title, there is a portrait of Saint John Henry Newman on the left. To the right of the portrait is a small illustration of a family of three (a man, a woman, and a child) sitting together. Further right is a cartoon character of a boy in a white shirt and red pants, pointing towards the text. The text includes 'FACT ONE', a description of Saint John Henry Newman's work, and a question. The 'missio' logo is in the bottom left, and a small circular logo is in the bottom right.

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?

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



Mission Together

FACT TWO

People came from miles around to hear Saint John Henry Newman speak about God.

Who will you talk to about God today?

missio

The slide features a blue header with the title 'Mission Together'. Below the title, there is a portrait of Saint John Henry Newman on the left. To the right of the portrait is a small illustration of a church interior with a statue. Further right is a cartoon character of a boy in a red shirt and yellow shorts, pointing upwards. The text includes 'FACT TWO', a description of Saint John Henry Newman's popularity, and a question. The 'missio' logo is in the bottom left, and a small circular logo is in the bottom right.

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* as it 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 title 'Mission Together'. Below the title, there is a 'FACT THREE' section with a text box containing the fact about Saint John Henry Newman. To the left is an illustration of Saint John Henry Newman in a red cassock, and below him is a small image of the Titanic. To the right is an illustration of a young girl in a blue dress with her hands clasped in prayer. The 'missio' logo is in the bottom left, and a circular logo is in the bottom right.

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?

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 title 'Mission Together'. Below the title, there is a 'FACT FOUR' section with a text box containing the fact about Saint John Henry Newman. To the left is an illustration of Saint John Henry Newman in a red cassock, and above him is a small image of him reading a book. To the right is an illustration of a teacher sitting on the floor with a group of children. The 'missio' logo is in the bottom left, and a circular logo is in the bottom right.

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.

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.

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 title 'Mission Together'. Below the title, there is a 'FACT FIVE' section with a text box containing the fact about Saint John Henry Newman. To the left is an illustration of Saint John Henry Newman in a red cassock with a speech bubble that says 'I have my mission.'. Below him is a large illustration of a diverse group of children of various ages and abilities, including one in a wheelchair. The 'missio' logo is in the bottom left, and a circular logo is in the bottom right.

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:

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 of Johannes.](#)

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 Sr Eulie to set up the Lindalva Centre. At the centre Sr 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 [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.

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

Saint John Henry Newman, pray for us.

