

# Blessed by Pope Benedict XVI as Cardinal John Henry Newman becomes Blessed

Many words have been used to describe Pope Benedict XVI's State Visit to England and Scotland - historical, controversial, expensive ... As we warm to the after-glow of this genuinely memorable event, one word stands out, *blessed*.

Blessed to have four days of **undiluted Catholic pride**.

Blessed to have experienced the **humility of our Shepherd in Rome**.

Blessed to have had the opportunity to be one with hundreds of thousands of our fellow **Faithful, in prayer and celebration**.

"Blessed", the title conveyed to **Cardinal John Henry Newman** whose modern experience is relevant and an inspiration to us today.

On September 18th and 19th, over 100 Morden parishioners travelled as pilgrims to the Hyde Park Vigil and Cofton Park Mass of Beatification. Hundreds more from St. Teresa's joined in spirit. Their experiences, younger and older, able and with wheelchairs or walking aids, speak for themselves;



'The policeman asked me if I was here for the protest, so I showed him my pilgrim bag and replied *what do you think?*'

'... with over 1000 other banner carriers, the procession made its way through the crowds passing a united, noisy and enthusiastic St Teresa's party, to the altar with our banner held high, and greeting of the bishops. By this time I was feeling very emotional. Our Archbishop Peter Smith had some kind words to say about Fr John'

'Oh my God, there he is!'

'... as Adoration began there were a few minutes of almost-total silence; it was beautiful. During the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Pope Benedict knelt and prayed with 80,000 pilgrims, an unbelievable experience'

'I watched it on TV ... wishing I was there'

'You didn't know what to expect from the way the press were going on - this was inspirational.'

'Three rows back, having the Pope pass so close to you, you could feel something coming off him'



The light during the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at Hyde Park spread from the Paschal Candle to each parish representative, and on to us all here today.

**What shall we do with it?**

*Receive the Light of Christ ... it is entrusted to **YOU** to be kept burning brightly ...*

*... Take it to those who need it most, and make them **Blessed** ...*

