



# Newman Catholic College, Smithfield – Naming and Charism

## College Name

After a comprehensive process of community consultation and discernment, the name of the new college – Newman Catholic College - was officially announced by Bishop James Foley on 13 December 2019.

## Why “Newman” Catholic College?

St John Henry Newman was canonised by Pope Francis in October 2019. He is the first English saint in 300 years. John Henry Newman is recognised as one of the most influential figures of 19th century England. He was an educator, theologian, scholar and poet who was first an Anglican priest, then later a Catholic priest and cardinal.



One of his most influential works ‘The Idea of a University’ outlined his philosophy of education and the role of a university in education ‘to educate the intellect to reason well in all matters, to reach out towards the truth and grasp it’. He also identified the need for a respectful relationship between a university and the Church, each maintaining their independence.

“With such a scholarly and insightful background, we could not imagine a more appropriate name for a Catholic college set within a university campus,” Bishop James said.

## Franciscan Charism

Newman Catholic College will embrace a Franciscan charism based on the spirituality of St Francis and St Clare of Assisi who both lived in Assisi, Italy 800 years ago.

**St Francis** is one of the world’s most popular saints due to his contemporary relevance as the earliest ecologist and patron saint of animals. Francis loved and was deeply loved for his joy, his generous self-giving and his openheartedness. He was a mystic and a pilgrim who lived in simplicity and wonderful harmony with God, with others, with nature and with himself. Francis is also much loved by non-Christians.



**St Clare** lived in Assisi at the time of Francis. Clare was born into a very wealthy family but after hearing Francis preaching the Gospels, promoting “Peace and Good” and seeing Francis devoting his time to the poor and sick, Clare joined Francis and lived a life of prayer and service. Clare is recognised as the co-founder of the Franciscan movement.



“A Franciscan charism has particular relevance today in the example and teachings of Pope Francis,” Bishop Foley said.

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