

## THE SOCIETY FOR ECUMENICAL STUDIES

***John Henry Newman (Avery Cardinal Dulles SJ, Continuum 2002)***

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This book, written by America's most eminent veteran Catholic theologian, is an excellent introduction to Newman's theology. It is clearly and concisely written, enabling the non-specialist to access with the greatest of ease succinct summaries of Newman's position on a whole raft of theological issues.

The judgements in it are finely nuanced. While admitting that Newman had an influence on the fathers of Vatican II, Dulles also points out that 'the Council went considerably beyond Newman in its liturgical direction, its sacramental ecclesiology, its doctrine of episcopal collegiality, its understanding of the three fold office of the bishops and its ecumenical openness.' Though Dulles does not stress the fact, he gives ample evidence of Newman's degree of misunderstanding of certain other traditions, most notably his misapprehension, held in common with Pusey, that Methodism placed feeling in a position that threatened doctrinal orthodoxy, a point appropriately rebutted by Thomas Jackson in his pamphlet debate with Pusey. Newman also dismissed Orthodoxy as moribund.

The development of Newman's Mariology is succinctly traced. This book testifies both to Newman's greatness but also to his blind spots and in that balance renders a service to the churches as we seek to explore the exact significance of his heritage for us today.