

## LIFE AND TIME LINE OF ANNE, COUNTESS OF NEWBURGH

### Founding donor of St Richard's churches at Chichester and Slindon

(The timeline columns show, side by side, how local and national Catholic life progressed in Anne's lifetime)



### Anne's Life

Anne was born twenty five years before the first relaxation of anti-Catholic laws which had left the church depleted but with a core of recusant families who were ready to regenerate pastoral life.

She was twenty eight years old before Catholic churches could be opened.

Throughout her long life she witnessed the resurgence of Catholicism and made her contribution to the life of St Richard's parish. Two notable servant sisters also were donors.

Anne Henshaw and Mary were born at Easeborne about 1769 and 1775. They may also have worked for Anne.

**1763** Anne Webb born in Wiltshire "at nadir of Catholic life in England after years of persecution".

**1789** (aged 26) Married Anthony Radclyffe of Slindon, 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Newburgh, aged 32. (Jacobite sympathiser). After spell abroad they return to Slindon House.



**1814** Earl dies at age 57. No children. Catholic activity in Sussex increases.

Anne has chapel at Slindon House – Mass Centre for whole district. Chaplain is schoolmaster. Visitors include William Huskisson, local landowner, MP for Chichester (1812), and supporter of Catholic Emancipation.

**1840** Masses in Bedford hotel room, South St Chichester.

Anne leads conventional and active life of country gentlewoman – meeting and corresponding with leading Catholic families.

Anne plans churches for Slindon and Chichester.

(**1848** Writes to Robert Curzon of Parham: "I pray every day for the conversion of England" but Robert does not convert).  
Anne is now 88 years old.

### The State of the Catholic Church in England

Penal days had seen priests executed brutally at Broyle near Chichester. Landowners who refused to conform had been stripped of their possessions.

By the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century Catholics were penalised rather than executed or imprisoned, but there were notable exceptions -

**1642** Bl. Thomas Bullaker of Chichester hanged at Tyburn.

**1745** Jacobite rebellion fails to put Charles Stuart on throne.

As penal laws against Catholics were easing, bigoted violence was provoked.

**1780** Gordon Riots against "popery".

**1788** Catholic Relief Act – some easing of oppression.

**1788** French revolution – refugees flee to UK.

**1791** Catholic Relief Act – allows churches to open and permitted practices already tolerated in Sussex.

(1801 Newman born – later converts – Cardinal)

(1802 Wiseman born as Catholic, later 1st Cardinal)

(1808 Manning born - later converts - Cardinal)

**1813** Chichester Mayor and Corporation protest at further easing of anti Catholic laws.

*(influx of Irish workpeople swells Catholic population in England)*

**1829** Catholic Emancipation Act

**1840** Newman

found the Oxford Movement, leading many intellectuals and writers to Catholicism



**1841** Manning is Archdeacon (C of E) for Chichester but already sympathetic to Catholic beliefs.

**1845** Newman converts to Catholic Church.

**1850** English hierarchy restored. Wiseman first Cardinal.

**1851** Manning converts to Catholic church.

(Received by Fr Tierney, chaplain to Duke of Norfolk).

*Continued page 2*

## LIFE AND TIMELINE OF ANNE, COUNTESS OF NEWBURGH – 1852 ONWARDS

**1852** Anne's diary notes that Dr Grant, Catholic Bishop is frequent visitor – holds Confirmation. Also Dukes and Duchesses of Norfolk, Richmond.

**1855** St Richard's church at South St Chichester is endowed by gifts of two servant sisters, Mary Parsons (married) and Ann Henshaw with gift of land and money from Anne. Their will shows that this gift was made before Mary died in 1854 aged 82. Ann, unmarried, died aged 76.

**1858** Anne suffers seizure but recovers. Makes will endowing churches at Slindon and Chichester.

**1861** Anne dies. Is buried at St Richard's Chichester.

**1959** As new church is planned for Chichester, Anne's body is moved to St Richard's Slindon.

Memorial plaques in both churches record generosity of the three founders.



St Richard's Slindon



The church at South Street

**1865** Cardinal Wiseman dies, succeeded by Archbishop Manning, later (1875) Cardinal. Newman writes Dream of Gerontius (later set to music by Elgar). He is made Cardinal.

**1869** Arundel Catholic church built by 15<sup>th</sup> Duke of Norfolk.

**1965** Cathedral for Diocese of Arundel and Brighton.

*Compiled from records held at West Sussex Record Office,  
Catholic Encyclopaedia, History of Catholicism in Chichester  
by Alison McCann, Assistant County Archivist at WSRO.*

*In May 2008, St Richard's Parish celebrates the Golden Jubilee*

