



INTRODUCTION

Introduction

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This issue of *New Blackfriars* is the first to be published by Cambridge University Press. *New Blackfriars* was originally called *Blackfriars* and has a long history dating from 1920. With over a century of scholarship in its archive it is, therefore, one of the oldest religion journals currently published by Cambridge. It has had more than ten editors and has appeared in various formats with different publishers.¹ Now it has a new home, for which the English Dominican Province is extremely grateful.

New Blackfriars was founded by Fr Bede Jarrett OP (1881–1934). His aim was to provide English Dominicans and others with a place to publish quality articles and reviews on a wide range of questions relevant to theology, philosophy, social issues, and matters pertaining to culture and literature. More than a hundred years after it was launched, *New Blackfriars* is now accessible worldwide and retains the intention with which it began.

The first issue of the journal contained eight articles, only one of which was by a Dominican (Vincent McNabb OP). The most recent issue contained eleven articles, two of which were by Dominicans (Marc Millais OP and Michael Sherwin OP). This range of personnel among contributors to *New Blackfriars* reflects the lively interest in discussion and debate characteristic of Dominican scholarship for centuries. *New Blackfriars* welcomes articles dealing with a wide range of topics of concern to contemporary theologians and philosophers of religion. Additionally, the journal is open to publishing articles of interest to its broader readership, for it maintains a concern with current affairs and culture in general. Given its Dominican heritage, *New Blackfriars* also recognizes the historical and contemporary significance of St Thomas Aquinas. So, it welcomes articles dealing with the understanding and evaluation of his legacy.

Marking the centenary of *New Blackfriars* in April 2020, Fergus Kerr OP noted the circumstances under which the journal was first published, and he summarized the contents of its first issue.² He then rightly observed ‘How much the journal has changed over the century!’ Yet *New Blackfriars* has also displayed a notable continuity in

¹For an account of the journal and its progress over the years, see Allan White OP, ‘A History of *Blackfriars* and *New Blackfriars*’ (*New Blackfriars*, July 1996).

²Fergus Kerr OP, ‘Our Centenary’ (*New Blackfriars*, April 2020).

its concern to publish excellent, peer-reviewed essays of theological and philosophical significance. With the assistance of its distinguished new publisher, it hopes to continue with its business as usual.

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